

POLICY BRIEF

Performance Finance and Customer Focus Overview and Scrutiny

22 January 2020


**Government policy, legislative announcements and news**Headlines

- The Queen's [Speech](#)
 - Outlines the Government's intentions over the next Parliament and sets out [29 bills](#).
- [Local Government finance settlement announced](#)
 - Plymouth's provisional finance settlement for 2020 to 2021 increases to £211,363,224. This is the Government's Core Spending Power allocation which is a measure of the resources available to local authorities to fund service delivery.
 - The Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government have released the [Provisional local government finance settlement 2020 to 2021 consultation](#) which closes 17 January 2020

Budget set for 11 March 2020

- At the Budget, the Chancellor will likely update the Charter of Fiscal Responsibility with new rules, take advantage of low interest rates and focus on keeping debt under control.
- The Budget will likely set out to prioritise the environment, boost spending on public services and tackle the cost of living. These include investing in new hospitals, new police officers, funding vocational education and increase the National Living Wages
- The launch of the Budget process means that individuals, interest groups and representative bodies can [now submit a Budget representation to HM Treasury](#) to comment on government policy and/or suggest new policy for inclusion in the Budget.

Policy, legislative and funding announcements of interest

Date of publication	Performance, Finance and Customer Focus Overview and Scrutiny Committee	 GOV
3 November	Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government. New police powers to criminalise unauthorised encampments - new powers to arrest and seize the property and vehicles of trespassers who set up unauthorised caravan sites . Closes 4 th March 2020	Open consultation
18 December	Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government Private rented sector: learning toolkit for local authorities	Publication
20 December	Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government. Provisional local government finance settlement 2020 to 2021 Closes 17 January 2020	Open consultation
23 December	Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government Flexible homelessness support grant and homelessness reduction grant	Funding
23 December	Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government Prime Minister pledges new action to eliminate homelessness and rough sleeping Press release on Housing First	Announcement
4 January	Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government Jenrick overhauls tenancy agreement to help end pet bans	Announcement

Date of publication	Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee	 GOV
24 October	Department for Education. Early years foundation stage reforms . Closes 31 st January 2020	Open consultation
19 December	Department for Education Local areas get breakdown in first stage of £14bn funding boost	Funding
22 December	Department for Education More funding to boost adoption support	Funding
3 January	Department for Education Multi-million-pound culture boost for children in schools	Funding
4 January	Department for Education Free meals and summer holiday activities for children	Announcement
7 January	Department for Education Struggling schools set for specialist support	
Date of publication	Brexit, Infrastructure and Legislative Change Overview and Scrutiny Committee	 GOV
4 November	Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs. Government launches new scheme to boost tree planting. £50 million Woodland Carbon Guarantee scheme	Funding
2 November	Department for Transport. New 'league table' reveals electric car charging availability across UK	Funding
16 December	Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government. The Future Homes Standard: changes to Part L and Part F of the Building Regulations for new dwellings . Closes 7 th February 2020	Open consultation
7 November	Planning Inspectorate. The Planning Inspectorate explains their approach to casework during the pre-election period	Announcement
Date of publication	Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee	 GOV
18 December	Department of Health and Social Care All nursing students on courses from September 2020 will receive a payment of at least £5,000 a year which they will not need to pay back.	Announcement
27 December	Department of Health and Social Care Free hospital parking for thousands of patients, staff and carers	Announcement
5 January	Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government Government confirms extra support for Troubled Families to succeed	Funding



Consultation Outcomes

Department	Consultation Response	Outcome
Regulator of Social Housing	Consultation on a new Rent Standard from 2020	Decision statement
Department for Education	Implementing mandatory minimum per pupil funding levels	Summary of consultation responses and government's response.
Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy	National Living Wage and National Minimum Wage: government response to the Low Pay Commission's Autumn 2019 recommendations	Government accepts commission's recommendations

The information contained within this Brief is correct at the time of publication (Friday 20th January 2020).