

POLICY BRIEF

Performance, Finance and Customer Focus Overview Scrutiny Committee

17 February 2021



GOVERNMENT POLICY, LEGISLATIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEWS

Announcements of note to this committee over the last few weeks.

Local Government

[May 2021 polls including local elections and Police and Crime Commissioner elections in England delivery plan](#)

The May 2021 polls will take place in a similar way to previous polls, but there will be differences as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. This document describes how they will proceed in the COVID-19 context, from announcement to results, and then covers the four major areas that we are addressing:

- public health and social distancing
- nominations and campaigning
- voting
- the delivery of elections

[Provisional local government finance settlement: England, 2021 to 2022](#)

The local government finance settlement is the annual determination of funding to local government. This collection covers the provisional local government finance settlement for 2021 to 2022. The final 2021 to 2022 settlement was laid before the House of Commons on 10th Feb 2021. This year has clearly been defined by the COVID-19 pandemic, and this year's settlement should be seen alongside the [Covid support being provided to local government](#).

Covid-19

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): emergency funding for local government in 2020 to 2021 and additional support in 2021 to 2022](#) (updated)

Allocations of additional funding to local authorities in financial year 2020 to 2021 and additional support for local government in financial year 2021 to 2022.

[Government announces £50 million to support students impacted by Covid-19](#)

New funding will go to universities to help students facing financial difficulties arising from the impact of coronavirus.

[Coronavirus and the social impacts on Great Britain: 8 January 2021](#) (ONS)

Indicators from the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey covering the period 23 December 2020 to 3 January 2021 to understand the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on people, households and communities in Great Britain.

Community Safety

[Extra £40m to help victims during pandemic and beyond](#)

Victims of rape and domestic abuse will be helped by a major £40m funding boost for specialist support services, the Government has confirmed today (01 February).

Housing and homelessness

[Launch of £46 million 'Changing Futures' scheme to support vulnerable people](#)

A £46 million scheme to provide more effective and coordinated support for some of the most vulnerable people in our communities has been launched by Minister for Rough Sleeping and Housing Kelly Tolhurst. The government is inviting local organisations such as councils, health bodies, police, probation services, and voluntary and community organisations to form partnerships and bid for a share of the funding to better support those who experience multiple disadvantages including homelessness, substance misuse, mental health issues, domestic abuse, and contact with the criminal

justice system. More information can be found [here](#). The deadline for expressions of interest is 21 January 2021.

[Extra Covid-19 protections for rough sleepers and renters](#)

Extra support to house rough sleepers, and the ban on bailiff-enforced evictions is extended.

- Extra support to house rough sleepers across all councils in England backed by an additional £10 million in funding.
- Ban on bailiff-enforced evictions extended until at least 21 February
- Confirmation of court support for landlords and renters, and launch of a mediation pilot.

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) emergency accommodation survey data: November 2020](#)

New management information about the support for rough sleepers and those at risk of rough sleeping during the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Government announces £7.5 million funding to tackle loneliness during winter](#)

Funding will help provide immediate and targeted relief to those most at risk of loneliness during the coronavirus pandemic

- Support will target sectors that bring people and communities together, including the arts, libraries, charities and radio
- Grants will be administered via Arts Council England, the Government's Loneliness Fund and two radio funds
- The move follows £4 million Local Connections Fund that will deliver over a thousand small grants to local community projects across the country

Brexit

[Brexit transition: new rules for 2021](#)

The Withdrawal Agreement Joint Committee oversees the UK and EU implementation, application and interpretation of the Withdrawal Agreement. This contains information relating to [Access guidance on the new rules for businesses and citizens from 1 January 2021](#).

Public Health

[Chief Medical Officer's annual report outlines health challenges in England](#) (new)

There is wide variation in health outcomes across the country and between different groups of people, much of which is avoidable.

- There are higher levels of ill-health and disease in deprived areas, a longstanding issue which is clear across a wide range of health indicators
- More people are suffering from multiple chronic conditions, which particularly affects rural parts of the country that have large elderly populations and less accessible health facilities

Community

[National Leisure Recovery Fund opens](#)


Sport England have announced the launch of the National Leisure Recovery Fund to support publicly owned leisure facilities through the pandemic. Funded through £100 million in Government investment, the Fund will be open for applications from 14 December – 8 January, with eligible councils able to submit an expression of interest form until 21 December.

Climate Emergency

[Government powers up electric vehicle revolution with £20 million chargepoints boost](#) (new)

Transport Secretary announces funding to increase the number of electric vehicle chargepoints. In a letter to councils across Britain, Transport Secretary Grant Shapps has today (02 February 2021) announced that funding for the [On-Street Residential Chargepoint Scheme \(ORCS\)](#) will continue into 2021/22, allowing residents without private parking to reliably charge their vehicle.

OPEN CONSULTATIONS

Date of publication	Committee/Department	 GOV
15 th Dec 2020	Cabinet Office - Green Paper: Transforming public procurement The proposals in this Green Paper are intended to shape the future of public procurement in this country for many years to come. The government's goal is to speed up and simplify our procurement processes, place value for money at their heart, and unleash opportunities for small businesses, charities and social enterprises to innovate in public service delivery. Ways to respond Email to: procurement.reform@cabinetoffice.gov.uk	10 th March 2021
17 th Dec 2020	Provisional local government finance settlement 2021 to 2022: consultation This consultation seeks views on proposals for the local government finance settlement for 2021 to 2022.	16 th Jan 2021