


POLICY BRIEF - DECEMBER 2022

Growth and Infrastructure Overview and Scrutiny Committee



The information within this Brief is correct at the time of approval for publication and contains relevant recent announcements made by Government and its departments and regulators.

GOVERNMENT POLICY, LEGISLATIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEWS

Date of publication	Growth and Infrastructure Overview and Scrutiny Committee	 GOV
22 November 2022	Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities - The Government has set out proposals for how developers would pay to fix unsafe buildings. Developers will be expected to pay levy on new residential buildings meaning they, rather than leaseholders, will pay to fix unsafe buildings. The Government has begun consulting developers and other stakeholders on the plans. Views are being sought on the delivery of the levy, including how it will work, what the rates will be, who must pay, what sanctions and enforcement will apply and who is responsible for collecting the levy. The consultation closes on the 7 February 2023.	Planning and building
17 November 2022	HM Treasury – The Chancellor announced the Autumn Statement on Thursday 17 November which aimed to restore stability to the economy, protect high-quality public services and build long-term prosperity for the United Kingdom. Key points within the Chancellor’s statement relevant to this Committee include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Government will refocus the Investment Zones programme to catalyse a limited number of high potential clusters, working with local stakeholders, to be announced in the coming months. The existing expressions of interest will therefore not be taken forward. • Confirmation that the second round of the Levelling Up Fund will allocate at least £1.7 billion to priority local infrastructure projects. Successful bids will be announced before the end of the year. • The Energy Price Guarantee (EPG) will be maintained through the winter, limiting typical energy bills to £2,500 per year. From April 2023 the EPG will rise to £3,000. • The National Living Wage will be increased from £9.50 an hour for over-23s to £10.42 from April next year. • From 1 April 2023, business rate bills in England will be updated to reflect changes in property values since the last revaluation in 2017. • The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) judges the UK to be in recession, meaning the economy has slowed for two quarters in a row. It predicts growth for this year overall of 4.2%, but that the size of the economy will shrink by 1.4% in 2023. It predicts growth of 1.3%, 2.6%, and 2.7% in 2024, 2025 and 2026. 	Government efficiency, transparency and accountability
01 November 2022	Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs – UK aims to remove plastic pollution by 2040 The Environment Secretary has engaged with businesses, environmental groups, scientists and civil society on shaping a legally-binding global treaty that aims to end plastic pollution by 2040.	Environment
25 October 2022	Forestry Commission – A UK woodland natural flood management guide has been published which includes information on how woodland creation and management can reduce flood risk.	Environment

UPDATES TO RELEVANT LEGISLATION GOING THROUGH PARLIAMENT

Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill (introduced 11.05.22) – **Report Stage, next sitting 28.11.22 HoC**

The Bill lays the foundations for delivering the Government's levelling up agenda. On 18 November 2022, the Government put forward several key amendments which aim to:

- Tackle slow build out by developers
- Enshrine in law an obligation on water companies to clean up rivers
- Provide residents with a tool to propose additional development on their street
- Pilot Community Land Auctions
- Enhance powers for mayors to support them to managing their key route networks and increase transport connectivity across their area
- Help Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects be delivered more quickly, by enabling a small number of public bodies to charge for their statutory services.

Energy Bill (introduced 06.07.22) – **Committee Stage, next sitting TBC HoL**

The Bill aims to increase energy reliability, while supporting the UK's climate change commitments and minimising consumer costs, by leveraging investment in clean technologies and maintaining the safety, security and resilience of energy systems.

Procurement Bill (introduced 11.05.22) - **Report Stage, next sitting 30.11.22 HoL**

The Bill aims to simplify the procurement process and enshrine in law the objectives of public procurement including: delivering value for money, maximising public benefit, treating suppliers equally and without discrimination, and acting, and being seen to act, with integrity.

Northern Ireland Protocol Bill (introduced 13.06.22) – **Report Stage, TBC HoL**

The Bill aims to allow ministers to disapply parts of the Northern Ireland Protocol and relevant parts of the Withdrawal Agreement in UK law.

The Seafarers' Wages Bill (introduced 06.07.22) – **2nd Reading, TBC HoC**

The Bill aims to make provision in relation to the remuneration of seafarers who do not qualify for the national minimum wage.

Financial Services and Markets Bill (introduced 20.07.22) - **Report Stage, TBC HoC**

The Bill aims to make provision about the regulation of financial services and markets and will implement the outcomes of the Future Regulatory Framework Review.

UK Infrastructure Bank Bill (introduced 11.05.22) - **Report Stage, TBC HoC**

The Bill includes establishing the UK Infrastructure Bank in law with clear objectives to support regional and local economic growth and deliver net zero. It also provides the Bank with the necessary powers to lend directly to local authorities and the Northern Ireland Executive, enabling the Bank to play a key role in delivering public sector infrastructure projects.

Trade (Australia and New Zealand Bill) (introduced 11.05.22) - **Report Stage, TBC HoC**

The Bill is an important step in ratifying the negotiated Free Trade Agreements with Australia and New Zealand. The Bill will change the UK's rules on procurement which in turn will widen access for UK suppliers to procurement opportunities in Australia and New Zealand and allow their suppliers rights to access the benefits of the Agreements.

Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Bill (introduced 22.09.22) **Committee Stage, next sitting 29.11.22 HoC**

The Bill will sunset the majority of retained EU law so that it expires on 31 December 2023. The Bill aims to enable the Government to create regulations tailor-made to the UK's own needs and support businesses to invest, stimulating economic growth across the UK economy.