


POLICY BRIEF – MARCH 2023

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
7 February 2023	<p>Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has announced the creation of four new Government departments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Department for Energy Security and Net Zero • The Department for Science, Innovation and Technology • The Department for Business and Trade • A refocused Department for Culture, Media and Sport <p>Alongside this a reshuffle has also taken place:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lucy Frazer has been appointed Secretary of State in the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. • Michelle Donelan has been appointed Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology. • Grant Shapps has been appointed Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero. • Kemi Badenoch has been appointed Secretary of State for Business and Trade. • Greg Hands has been appointed Minister without Portfolio in the Cabinet Office. 	Cabinet Office
6 February 2023	<p>Department for Transport - £200 million to improve walking and cycling routes and boost local economies</p> <p>Active Travel England is inviting local authorities in England to apply for funding to make improvements that enable more people to choose active travel.</p> <p><i>Plymouth City Council will be submitting a bid. The details of the submission are currently in development.</i></p>	Transport
24 January 2023	<p>Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities – The Government has provided a response to a consultation covering the proposed changes to building regulations under part 4 of the Building Safety Act 2022. Further documents will be published in due course.</p> <p><i>The Council is aware of the publication and relevant matters. Work continues locally with key partners through the High Rise Building Team and feeds into national pieces of work to ensure local views are considered when informing national practice.</i></p>	Planning and building
18 January 2023	<p>Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy- Councils are able to bid for a share of £60 million from the Brownfield Land Release Fund 2. The funding intends to bring council-owned land back into use, by turning redundant industrial sites, disused car parks and derelict buildings into land for new homes.</p>	Planning and building

	<i>Applications for round two will close on the 31 March, with successful projects expected to be announced over the summer. The Council anticipates bidding into round 2 and our submission is currently under development. A further round is expected in 2024.</i>	
13 January 2023	Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy- The independent Net Zero Review of the Government's approach to delivering its net zero ambitions has been published.	Environment
9 January 2023	HM Treasury - The government has announced a new Energy Bills Discount Scheme for businesses, charities and the public sector The new scheme will mean all eligible UK businesses and other non-domestic energy users will receive a discount on high energy bills until 31 March 2024.	Business and industry
22 December 2022	Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities – A consultation on proposals to update the National Planning Development Framework has been launched <i>A single response will be submitted on behalf of the Plymouth and South Devon Joint Local Plan which represents Plymouth City Council, South Hams District Council and West Devon Borough Council.</i>	Planning reform
13 December 2022	Department for Work and Pensions - Helping people secure, stay and succeed in higher quality, higher paying jobs The government has published its response to the In-Work Progression Commission's Report – ' Supporting progression out of low pay: a call to action '.	Working, jobs and pensions

UPDATES TO RELEVANT LEGISLATION GOING THROUGH PARLIAMENT

[Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill](#) (introduced 11.05.22) – **Committee Stage, next sitting 20.02.23 HoL**

The Bill lays the foundations for delivering the Government's levelling up agenda. The Committee stage line by line examination of the Bill is scheduled to begin on 20 February 2023.

[Energy Bill](#) (introduced 06.07.22) – **Report 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 21.02.23 HoC**

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. This Bill was debated at second reading on the 9 January 2023 and has now been sent to a Public Bill Committee which will scrutinise the Bill line by line and is expected to report to the House by the 23 February 2023.

[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.

[Financial Services and Markets Bill](#) (introduced 20.07.22) - **Committee Stage, 20.02.23 HoL**

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) - **Consideration of Commons amendments, next sitting 14.03.23 HoL**

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, 14.03.23 HoL**

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 23.02.23 HoL**

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.