

ADEPT: Consultation Tracker September 2020

This document is tailored to provide a monthly overview of key consultations and committee inquiries relevant to the Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning and Transport.

Department consultations

Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

Designing the Green Heat Network Fund: call for evidence

To help us design a Green Heat Network Fund, we're seeking your initial views and evidence on:

- the state of the heat network market and the supply chain
- the financial, technological and consumer drivers for heat network decarbonisation
- the potential project pipeline for the fund
- examples of best practice in scheme design

We are also seeking data which will inform our analysis and modelling.

The call for evidence is open to everyone with an interest in this area.

This Pipeline questionnaire accompanies the call for evidence, and aims to find heat network projects that could potentially transition to low-carbon heat generation if support was available. We are also interested in projects that may be suitable for GHNF. We would be grateful if potential applicants for GHNF support could complete this alongside their response to the call for evidence.

Opens: 30 September 2020

Closes: 13 October 2020 (11.45pm)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/designing-the-green-heat-network-fund-call-for-evidence>

Draft Ecodesign and Energy Labelling Regulations 2021

This consultation sets out the government's intentions to:

- update ecodesign requirements for electric motors, household washing machines/washer-dryers, household dishwashers, household
- refrigeration and electronic displays
- introduce ecodesign requirements for welding equipment and commercial refrigeration
- introduce energy labelling requirements for commercial refrigeration

It includes:

- the ecodesign and energy labelling proposals themselves
- our assessment of the costs and benefits of these regulations, as set out in the consultation-stage Impact Assessments
- the intended timetables for reviewing the draft regulations after they come into force

The consultation is open to anyone but we anticipate it will be of particular interest to manufacturers, importers, trade bodies, consumer groups, environmental organisations and other civil society organisations, especially those with an interest in energy efficiency, resource efficiency, circular economy and climate change.

Following the consultation, we will consider whether revisions are needed to the draft regulations and will publish a final Impact Assessment alongside the final regulations.

Opens: 30 September 2020

Closes: 11 November 2020

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/draft-ecodesign-and-energy-labelling-regulations-2021>



Improving the energy performance of privately rented homes

The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy has opened a consultation on policy proposals to upgrade as many private rented sector homes as possible to Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) Band C by 2030, where practical, cost-effective and affordable.

Opens: 30 September 2020

Closes: 30 December 2020

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/improving-the-energy-performance-of-privately-rented-homes>

Warm Home Discount Scheme 2021 to 2022

The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy has published a consultation on the Warm Home Discount Scheme 2021 to 2022

Opens: 14 October 2020

Closes: 11 November 2020

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/warm-home-discount-scheme-2021-to-2022>

Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Local Air Quality Management Call for Evidence - Designation of Relevant Public Authorities

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has published a consultation on local air quality management.

This call for evidence seeks views on designation of Relevant Public Authorities under amendments to Part IV of the Environment Act 1995. Through the Environment Bill, we are amending the Environment Act 1995 to improve local collaboration by ensuring responsibility for tackling air pollution is shared amongst relevant parties. We intend to introduce a new power for the Secretary of State to designate Relevant Public Authorities who may then be required to act as 'Air Quality Partners' within the Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) Framework. "Air Quality Partners" may be required to co-operate with local authorities to reduce pollution levels where there are exceedances, or expected exceedances, of LAQM pollution limits. This new framework will result in all relevant authorities at local level taking effective, collaborative action to deliver air quality objectives.

Opens: 5 October 2020

Closes: 18 January 2021

<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/industrial-pollution-control/local-air-quality-management-call-for-evidence-des/>

Local air quality management: public authorities call for evidence

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs is seeking views and evidence on which public authorities should be considered for designation by the Environment Secretary as 'Relevant Public Authorities'. A relevant public authority may then be required to co-operate with local authorities acting as an 'Air Quality Partner' within the Local Air Quality Management Framework.

This is under a new power which we intend to introduce through the Environment Bill, amending Part IV of the Environment Act 1995.

In particular, we are looking to understand:

- the bodies' contribution to local air pollution
- the actions the bodies could realistically take to reduce the contribution in a local context
- the resource implications for the body

We welcome responses from local authorities and potential relevant public authorities.

Opens: 5 October 2020



Closes: 18 January 2021

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/local-air-quality-management-public-authorities-call-for-evidence>

UK Pollutant Release and Transfer Register: National Implementation Report 2021

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has opened a consultation on the UK Pollutant Release and Transfer Register.

Opens: 5 October 2020

Closes: 27 November 2020

<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/airquality/uk-prtr-2021-draft-nir/>

Aarhus convention national implementation report 2021

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has opened a consultation on local air quality management.

Opens: 5 October 2020

Closes: 27 November 2020

<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/eu/aarhus-national-implementation-report-2021/>

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

Impact of COVID-19 (Coronavirus) on homelessness and the private rented sector

The Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee has launched an inquiry into the impact of Covid-19 on tenants, landlords, rough sleepers and homelessness.

Opens: 16 October 2020

Closes: 27 November 2020

<https://committees.parliament.uk/work/271/impact-of-covid19-coronavirus-on-homelessness-and-the-private-rented-sector/>

Department for Transport

No updates

Department for Work & Pensions

Call for evidence and good practice on in-work progression

The Department for Work and Pensions has opened a consultation on in-work progression.

Opens: 12 October 2020

Closes: 20 November 2020

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/call-for-evidence-and-good-practice-on-in-work-progression>

HM Treasury

No updates

Current committee consultations & inquiries

Business Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee

Decarbonising heat in homes inquiry

The House of Commons Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee has launched an inquiry into decarbonising heat in homes.

Opens: 2 October 2020

Closes: 13 November 2020

<https://committees.parliament.uk/call-for-evidence/264/decarbonising-heat-in-homes/>

EFRA Committee



Tree Planting and Woodlands

The Government has promised a massive acceleration in the rate of tree planting to help offset greenhouse gas emissions. But questions have been raised about whether the targets are the right ones, whether the right types of trees will be planted in the right places, and whether enough is being done to protect existing woodlands.

The inquiry will examine these questions and what lessons can be learnt from the failure to meet previous tree planting ambitions in England. It will also consider how to balance the drive to plant more trees with the many other benefits for health, nature, and the economy derived from woods and forests.

Opens: 30th September 2020

Closes: 19th November 2020

<https://committees.parliament.uk/work/595/tree-planting-and-woodlands/>

Environmental Audit Committee

Technological Innovations and Climate Change: Heat Pumps

The Environmental Audit Committee has launched an inquiry into technological innovations and Climate Change: Heat Pumps

Opens: 13 October 2020

Closes: 6 November 2020

<https://committees.parliament.uk/work/684/technological-innovations-and-climate-change-heat-pumps/>

Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee

The future of the planning system in England

The Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee has launched an inquiry into the future of the planning system in England.

Opens: 8 October 2020

Closes: 30 October 2020

<https://committees.parliament.uk/work/634/the-future-of-the-planning-system-in-england/>

The Spending Review and Local Government Finance

The Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee has launched an inquiry into the spending review and local Government Finance. In this new inquiry, the Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee will consider what approach the Government should take to funding local government as part of the 2020 spending review. It will investigate the current financial health of local authorities and their ability to deliver services, including the additional pressures caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. In light of continued delays to the multi-year spending review, the Committee will also examine the impact of single year settlements on the ability of councils to plan and deliver services in the long-terms.

Opens: 27 October 2020

Close: 27 November 2020

<https://committees.parliament.uk/work/733/the-spending-review-and-local-government-finance/>

National Infrastructure Commission

No updates

Science and Technology Committee

No updates

Transport Committee

No updates



Treasury Committee

No updates

Misc of interest

The APPG for Ending Homelessness' inquiry into Housing First

The All-Party Parliamentary Group for Ending Homelessness has opened a consultation into Housing First, focusing on how it can be scaled up in England as part of a sustainable solution to homelessness.

Opens: 5 October 2020

Closes: 31 January 2020

<https://www.crisis.org.uk/ending-homelessness/appg-for-ending-homelessness/the-appg-for-ending-homelessness/>

Reforming the Green Book to achieve better outcomes from infrastructure investment

The Institution of Civil Engineers has opened a consultation on reforming the Green Book and helping to achieve net-zero.

Opens: 16 October 2020

Closes: 9 November 2020

<https://www.ice.org.uk/news-and-insight/policy/reforming-the-green-book-towards-better-outcomes>

UKGBC Consults on Renewable Energy Procurement and Carbon Offsetting Guidelines

The UK Green Building Council (UKGBC) has today launched a consultation inviting feedback from energy, carbon management and built environment professionals on guidance for procuring renewable energy and carbon offsets.

Opens: 27 October 2020

Closes: 17 November 2020

<https://www.ukgbc.org/news/ukgbc-consults-on-renewable-energy-procurement-and-carbon-offsetting-guidelines/>

Achieving government's long-term environmental goals

The Public Accounts Select Committee has opened the inquiry, 'Achieving government's long-term environmental goals'. In January 2018, government published its 25 Year Environment Plan, setting out its ambition to improve the natural environment in England within a generation: both for the direct benefits this would bring, as well as to support its influence overseas and position the UK as a global environmental leader. The plan included ten overarching goals covering issues such as clean air, clean and plentiful water, and thriving plants and wildlife. This inquiry will investigate how government is organised to deliver its environmental ambitions and how the government is managing the key risks to it achieving its environmental goals, and maximising value-for-money. The Committee will question senior officials at the Cabinet Office, Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the Environment Agency.

Opens: 22 October 2020

Closes: 25 November 2020

<https://committees.parliament.uk/work/730/achieving-governments-longterm-environmental-goals/>

Improving Broadband

The Public Accounts Committee has opened a new inquiry looking into improving broadband.



Improving. In 2010, the government Broadband announced its aim for the UK to have the "best superfast broadband network in Europe", and set up the Superfast Programme to subsidise broadband roll out to areas where it is not commercially viable for providers to reach.

In a report published in mid-October, the NAO finds that despite wide coverage, many people in the UK still experience poor broadband. Suppliers to the Superfast Programme were encouraged to prioritise roll out to the easiest to reach premises, which means there is a risk that those in the most rural and remote locations will be left further behind.

Opens: 21 October 2020

Closes: 4 November 2020

<https://committees.parliament.uk/work/709/improving-broadband/>

COVID-19: Government procurement

The Public Accounts Committee has opened the inquiry, 'COVID-19: Government procurement'.

COVID-19: Government procurement. In responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, public sector bodies have had to procure goods and services with extreme urgency.

Under emergency laws brought in at the start of the pandemic crisis, the Cabinet Office - which oversees government's buying policies - has changed some of the procurement rules for contracts relating to the government's response to COVID-19. Concerns have been raised about some of these procurements, including around a lack of transparency. This inquiry will look at the scale of Government's COVID-19-related contracting, how procurement rules have changed and how the government is managing the risks associated with these changes. For a chosen sample of these contracts it will look specifically at who bought what, from whom, and at what cost, during the pandemic - and whether this is delivering value for taxpayers money in the crisis. The Committee will question senior officials at the Cabinet Office and Department for Health and Social Care.

Opens: 22 October 2020

Closes: 2 December 2020

<https://committees.parliament.uk/work/731/covid19-government-procurement/>

COVID-19: Support for jobs

The House of Commons Public Accounts Committee has launched an inquiry into COVID-19 and support for jobs. In mid-November the Committee will question the most senior officials at the Treasury and HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) in its latest inquiry into the Government's response to the Covid-19: this time on the programmes to support jobs during the pandemic. The Government implemented the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme - widely known as the "furlough scheme" - and the Self Employment Income Support Scheme to help businesses and their employees, and the self-employed, cope with the COVID-19 pandemic. The combined value of these schemes is currently estimated to be around £75 billion.

This inquiry is based on the latest in the NAO's programme of work on Covid-19, which considers HM Revenue & Customs' and HM Treasury's implementation of the schemes so far, including how they have been set-up and whether they have reached the groups intended. The NAO's investigation will also report on how they are mitigating the risk of fraud in the schemes. In previous evidence to the Committee the Government has estimated fraud and error in the scheme may be as high as 10%.

Opens: 21 October 2020

Closes: 5 November 2020

<https://committees.parliament.uk/work/710/covid19-support-for-jobs/>

