

ADEPT: Parliamentary monitoring May 2019

This document is tailored to provide a monthly overview of key activity, debates, questions, reports, PMQs, speeches and bills relevant to the Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning and Transport.

Key dates

23 May – 4 June Whitsun recess
 20-21 June: EU Summit
 2 July: New European Parliament meets
 31 October: Date UK due to leave the EU
 No further recess dates announced

Planning – Housing

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
20/05/19	Papers	HoC	Permitted Development Rights. Read here.

Industrial Strategy & Local Industrial Strategies

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
07/05/19	Oral evidence	Treasury committee	Impact of Business Rates on Business, HC 1944. Read here.
08/05/19	Press Release	Confederation of British Industry	Business rates system is entrenching regional inequalities - CBI President. Read here.
08/05/19	Written Q&A	BEIS	<p>Retail Trade: Written question - 249204</p> <p>Asked by Mr Jim Cunningham To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what steps his Department has taken to promote the retail industry through the Government's Industrial Strategy.</p> <p>Answered by: Kelly Tolhurst At Autumn Budget 2018, my rt. hon. Friend Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer announced the Future High Streets Fund, which aims to invest £675m in England to support local areas to develop and fund plans to make their high streets and town centres fit for the future. Autumn Budget also announced a cut in business rates by one third for the next two years for all retailers in England with a rateable value below £51,000, worth</p>

			<p>almost £1bn to retailers.</p> <p>The industry-led Retail Sector Council has agreed its priority work areas for the next two years, focusing on: costs to business, skills and lifelong learning, employment protections, the circular economy, consumer protections, and retail and the Industrial Strategy.</p> <p>A senior industry figure is leading each of these work groups and will bring proposals for action for both industry and government back to the Council for consideration. The Industrial Strategy workstream is led by Sir Charlie Mayfield, Chairman of the John Lewis Partnership and member of the Industrial Strategy Council, and will look at how the Industrial Strategy can work to the benefit of the retail sector.</p> <p>As part of the Industrial Strategy, and following the Taylor Review of Modern Working Practices, the Government responded with the Good Work Plan, which will bring forward legislation to extend workers' rights, including for people who work in the retail sector. This includes the introduction of new guidance to support the interpretation of holiday pay rules, as well as the biggest ever increase to the National Living Wage. An awareness campaign will be launched, targeted at both individuals and employers, to boost awareness and understanding to help ensure all workers are benefiting from their paid entitlement to leave. All these measures will improve the wages and working contracts of many of those working in the retail sector.</p>
08/05/19	Papers	HoC	<p>Non-Domestic Rating (Preparation for Digital Services) Bill 2017-19</p> <p>Full briefing can be accessed here: https://bit.ly/2Vvk6Upq</p>
09/05/19	Statistics	BEIS	<p>BEIS Public Attitudes Tracker: Wave 29</p> <p>The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy has published statistics on the BEIS Public Attitudes Tracker: Wave</p>

			29: https://bit.ly/2H3tdWc
09/05/19	Statistics	DfT	Biofuel statistics: Year 11 (2018), report 3 The Department for Transport has published statistics on Biofuel statistics: Year 11 (2018), report 3: https://bit.ly/2YkysrL Statistics for year 11 (report 3), from 15 April 2018 to 31 December 2018.
10/05/19	Press Release	Renewable UK	Tidal wave of MPs unite to urge Energy Minister to support marine power. Read here.
16/05/19	Ministerial Statement	BEIS	BEIS: Industrial Strategy Update The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy has published a written ministerial statement on an Industrial Strategy Update: https://bit.ly/2VHbwWQ
16/05/19	Press Release	LEP Network	First Local Industrial Strategy published. Read here.
16/05/19	Press Release	WSP	WSP Response to West Midlands Combined Authority Local Industrial Strategy. Read here.
16/05/19	Press Release	West Midlands Combined Authority	First Local Industrial Strategy to Drive Growth Across the West Midlands. Read here.
16/05/19	Speech	BEIS	BEIS: Speech by Business and Industry Minister, Andrew Stephenson launching the West Midlands Local Industrial Strategy at the Advanced Propulsion Centre (16 May 2019). Read here.
21/05/19	Debate	HoC	British Steel: Gill Furniss (Sheffield, Brightside and Hillsborough) (Lab) (Urgent Question): To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy if he will make a statement on the discussions he has had with British Steel regarding its future. Read here.

NPPF – Land value capture

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
			No updates

Energy – Local authority projects

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
			No updates

Digital – Broadband & mobile

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
08/05/19	Papers	HoC	Non-Domestic Rating (Preparation for Digital Services) Bill 2017-19 Full briefing can be accessed here: https://bit.ly/2Vk6Upq
14/05/19	Debates	HoC	Non-Domestic Rating (Preparation for Digital Services) Bill. Read here.

Economy – Fair funding review

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
01/05/19	Debate	HoC	District Council Finances. Read here.
14/05/19	Committee Summary	MHCLG	Local Government Finance and the 2019 Spending Review - Committee Summary. Oral Evidence: read here.
29/05/19	Press Release	Institute for Fiscal Studies	England's council funding system is unsustainable – and big choices loom. Read here.

Transport – Investment strategy

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
01/05/19	Written Q&A	DfT	Roads: Capital Investment:Written question - 247674 Asked by Dr Matthew Offord To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, if he will publish an update on the Roads Investment Strategy; and if he will make a statement. Answered by: Jesse Norman The first Road Investment Strategy (RIS1), covering the period 2015 to 2020, was announced in December 2014. Highways England published a Delivery Plan for RIS1 and have issued

			<p>annual updates on progress which show the current status of each project. They expect to publish the next delivery update this summer. Towards the end of the year the Government expects to announce the second Road Investment Strategy, covering the period 2020 to 2025.</p>
14/05/19	Written Q&A	DfT	<p>Roads: Repairs and Maintenance: Written question - 251397</p> <p>Asked by Andy McDonald To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what assessment he has made of the merits of Highways England's decision to reduce the number of road upgrades in the 2015-2020 Road Investment Strategy by 10 per cent.</p> <p>Answered by: Jesse Norman In delivering the road investment strategy, Highways England routinely reviews its delivery plans to ensure that proposed road schemes will deliver value for money and minimise disruption for motorists. Highways England publishes its annual Delivery Plan each year to provide details of its planned work programme for the next 12 months and beyond. The next regular update of this is scheduled to be published this summer.</p>
15/05/19	Written Q&A	DfT	<p>Roads: Capital Investment: Written question - 252613</p> <p>Asked by Priti Patel To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, how much funding available for Road Investment strategy 2 is (a) already committed to schemes and (b) not committed to schemes.</p> <p>Answered by: Jesse Norman The Government expects to make £25.3 billion available to Highways England during the second Road Period (2020-2025). Of that, about 40% will fund the completion of projects included in the first Road Investment Strategy. The remainder will fund</p>

			operations, maintenance and renewals on the strategic road network plus new enhancement schemes. The Government intends to announce its decisions on the distribution of this funding later this year.
28/05/19	Written Q&A	DfT	<p>Transport: West Midlands: Written question - 256278</p> <p>Asked by Shabana Mahmood To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what plans he has to increase spending on transport infrastructure in the West Midlands.</p> <p>Answered by: Andrew Jones The Government is investing heavily in better transport infrastructure for the West Midlands. We have committed around £115 million to two 'large local major' schemes, which are now under construction – the A4440 Worcester Southern Relief Road (Carrington Bridge) and the Birmingham Centenary Square tram extension - with more than £400m committed to a further nine road and public transport schemes in the West Midlands. HS2 is already playing a huge part of the Midlands' success story, with work well under way at over 60 sites including major development at Curzon Street and Washwood Heath. It will put Birmingham at the heart of Britain's new high speed network, including two stations within the Birmingham area. We have allocated £321.5m from the Transforming Cities Fund to West Midlands Combined Authority who are using it to build the Brierley Hill tram extension. On the strategic road network, Highways England has just started construction on widening the A500 Etruria Valley, a £17.5m investment. In Rail Control Period 5, we funded a number of schemes in the West Midlands, including the redevelopment of Birmingham New Street, upgrade</p>

			<p>and electrification of the Chase Line, and extension of the Cross City Line from Longbridge to Bromsgrove. We also provided £5m to Midlands Connect to develop a strategic outline business case for the Midlands Rail Hub programme. We expect this to be submitted to the Department in June 2019.</p> <p>In November 2018, the Infrastructure and Pipeline Authority published their Analysis of the National Infrastructure and Construction Pipeline. The regional analysis of the pipeline shows that over the period of 2018/19 - 2020/21, the West Midlands will receive £255 per person on average each year of planned central government transport investment, which is the 4th highest of the 9 regions and ahead of London.</p>
--	--	--	---

Transport – Major road network

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
14/05/19	Statistics	DfT	<p>Road lengths in Great Britain: 2018 Department for Transport has published statistics on Road lengths in Great Britain: 2018 Full statistics can be accessed here: https://bit.ly/2VXgCxx Road length statistics for publicly maintained roads in Great Britain for the year 2018. This covers all centrally and locally managed roads.</p>
15/05/19	Written Q&A	DfT	<p>Roads: Capital Investment: Written question - 252613</p> <p>Asked by Priti Patel To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, how much funding available for Road Investment strategy 2 is (a) already committed to schemes and (b) not committed to schemes.</p> <p>Answered by: Jesse Norman The Government expects to make £25.3 billion available to Highways England during the second Road Period (2020-2025). Of that, about 40% will fund the completion of projects</p>

			included in the first Road Investment Strategy. The remainder will fund operations, maintenance and renewals on the strategic road network plus new enhancement schemes. The Government intends to announce its decisions on the distribution of this funding later this year.
16/05/19	Consultations	Highways England	Green light for £1 billion trans-Pennine transformation. Read here.
22/05/19	Press Release	Transport select committee	Government must set out bus strategy to halt decline in bus use A lack of co-ordinated Government policy and squeezed funding for local authorities is driving bus use into decline, says the Transport Committee . The full report can be found here: https://bit.ly/2K1rC6J

Transport – Sub-national Transport Boards (STBs) – (TfN, TfSE)

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
02/05/19	Press Release	TfN	Response: Prime Minister recognises importance of Transport for the North. Read here.

Transport – Automated electric vehicle bill

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
			No updates

Transport – rail

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
01/05/19	Press Release	RIA	Williams Rail Review: Rail suppliers should be central to delivering a better rail network in the future. RIA's submission to the Williams Rail Review can be found here: https://bit.ly/2UTrnM
02/05/19	Oral Answers	DfT	Rail Punctuality Patrick Grady (Glasgow North) (SNP) 10. What discussions he has had with Cabinet colleagues on improving rail punctuality. [910683] Read here.
03/05/19	Press Release	Hs2	HS2 Ltd and TSSA sign recognition agreement. Read here.

08/05/19	Debate	HoC	East Midlands Rail Franchise. Read here.
08/05/19	Committee Summary	Transport Committee	Update with the Rail minister. Read here.
10/05/19	Press Release	Hs2	Birmingham's transformation as HS2's work programme gathers pace. Read here.
13/05/19	Press Release	Govia	2,000 more Thameslink seats for Cambridge and Brighton commuters. Read here.
14/05/19	Early Day Motion	HoC	<p>UNLOCKING THE NORTH'S GROWTH POTENTIAL EDM #2384</p> <p>That this House notes that Leeds train station is already the busiest station in the North of England serving over 31 million passengers a year; further notes that Leeds station's peak usage will increase by 49 per cent by 2023, making it busier than King's Cross Station is now; supports plans to re-develop Leeds station to accommodate HS2 Phase2b and Northern Powerhouse Rail and improve connectivity for millions of people across Yorkshire, the North and the UK; considers that this is critical to the projected growth for Leeds City Region which is set to double in the next 25 years, generating a significant economic boost to towns and communities across the North; and therefore calls on the Government to support the strong economic and business case made for the Leeds Integrated Station Masterplan which will not only transform Leeds station but also help unlock the North's full growth potential.</p> <p>Signatures (5)</p> <p>1 Benn, Hilary Labour 13 May 2019 Primary</p> <p>2 Reeves, Rachel Labour 13 May 2019</p> <p>3 Sobel, Alex</p>

			Labour 13 May 2019 4 Jenkyns, Andrea Conservative 13 May 2019 5 Burgon, Richard Labour 13 May 2019
15/05/19	Press Release	Taxpayers Alliance	The Great British Transport Competition. The report can be read here: https://bit.ly/2JjGBck
15/05/19	Reports	Economic Affairs Committee	HS2 needs a major rethink, says Lords report. Read here. Full report here.
29/05/19	Consultations	ORR	ORR: Access to rail service facilities: revisions to guidance Summary Seeks feedback on revised guidance about access to rail service facilities including stations, light maintenance depots, freight terminals and other sites. Consultation description The Office of Rail and Road (ORR) is asking for views on revised guidance about access to rail service facilities (including stations, light maintenance depots, freight terminals and other sites). The European Commission 's Implementing Regulation (EU) 2017/2177 on access to service facilities and rail-related services, will come into force on 1 June 2019. The ORR is updating its guidance modules to reflect this legislation. We are updating our guidance for Northern Ireland Railways separately. Opens: 29 May 2019 Closes: 23 June 2019 Office of Rail and Road: http://bit.ly/2Qv0CO1

Devolution deals

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
07/05/19	Press	Institute for	Devolution at 20. Read here.

	Release	Government	
05/05/19	Oral Answer	HoC	<p>Yorkshire: Devolution</p> <p>Lord Kirkhope of Harrogate To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to proceed with a devolution process for Yorkshire which takes into account (1) rural and urban interests, and (2) the services and industrial sectors, and reunites the historic Yorkshire Ridings. Read here.</p>
16/05/19	Papers	HoC	<p>Devolution to local government in England Published Wednesday, May 15, 2019 This Commons Library briefing paper summarises the main developments regarding the process of devolution of powers to local government within England since 2014. Read here.</p>
22/05/19	Written Q&A	MHCLG	<p>Devolution: Yorkshire and the Humber: Written question - HL15627</p> <p>Asked by Lord Grocott To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth on 7 May (HL Deb, col 1140), with regard to combined authorities in England with directly elected mayors (1) what powers those authorities have in common, (2) what powers are specific to individual combined authorities or to groups of combined authorities, (3) what are the dates of the next elections for each mayor, and (4) what was the turnout in each combined authority in the most recent election for each directly elected mayor.</p> <p>Answered by: Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth 1) All eight mayoral combined authorities (MCAs) in England - Cambridgeshire & Peterborough, Greater Manchester, Liverpool City Region, North of Tyne, Sheffield City Region, Tees Valley, West of England and West Midlands- have the following functions in common:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated transport functions • Bus improvement powers including bus franchising • Economic development and regeneration powers • Power to borrow for transport functions

			<p>They also all have a power of competence over areas where they have had functions conferred. In the case of Cambridgeshire & Peterborough and West of England this is the General Power of Competence that principal local authorities have.</p> <p>2) Each MCA has a different set of functions conferred on them, reflecting the bespoke nature of devolution deals as shown below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Power to raise a precept on council tax to fund mayoral powers - all MCAs except West of England. • Power to pay grant - all MCAs except Sheffield City Region. • Power to establish Mayoral Development Corporations - all MCAs, apart from Cambridgeshire & Peterborough and Sheffield City Region • Power to borrow for any combined authority function - all MCAs except North of Tyne and Sheffield City Region • Adult education functions - all MCAs except North of Tyne and Sheffield City Region • Homes England powers around regeneration - all MCAs except Cambridgeshire & Peterborough, Tees Valley and Sheffield City Region. • Power to raise a business rates supplement - Cambridgeshire & Peterborough. Liverpool City Region, West of England and West Midlands. • Strategic planning powers - Greater Manchester, Liverpool City Region and West of England • Police & Crime Commissioner functions - exclusive to Greater Manchester. • Fire & Rescue Authority - exclusive to Greater Manchester • Public health functions - exclusive to Greater Manchester • Powers in relation to combined authority roads, as defined in legislation - exclusive to West Midlands. <p>3) The dates for the next mayoral election in each MCA are as follows: 7 May 2020: Greater Manchester, Liverpool</p>
--	--	--	--

			<p>City Region, Tees Valley, West Midlands</p> <p>6 May 2021: Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, West of England</p> <p>5 May 2022: Sheffield City Region</p> <p>2 May 2024: North of Tyne</p> <p>4) The turnout for the inaugural mayoral election in each combined authority is as follows:</p> <p>4 May 2017:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cambridgeshire and Peterborough - a turnout of 33.57% • Greater Manchester - a turnout of 28.93% • Liverpool City Region - a turnout of 26.1% • Tees Valley - a turnout of 21.31% • West of England - a turnout of 29.72% • West Midlands - a turnout of 26.7% <p>3 May 2018</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sheffield City Region - a turnout of 25.82% <p>2 May 2019</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North of Tyne - a turnout of 32.3%
--	--	--	---

Environment – 25 year environment plan

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
01/05/19	Debates	HoC	Environment and Climate Change. Full debate available here .
09/05/19	Press Release	Environment Agency	Environment Agency Chair calls for new approach to flood and coastal resilience. Read here .

Environment – Waste

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
14/05/19	Press Release	DEFRA	Gove steps-up government action to cut food waste at landmark 'Step up to the plate' gathering. Read here .

Environment – Air Quality

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
01/05/19	Written Q&A	BEIS	<p>Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme: Air Pollution: Written question - 247755</p> <p>Asked by Bill Grant</p> <p>To ask the Secretary of State for Business,</p>

			<p>Energy and Industrial Strategy, with reference to the Government's January 2019 Clean Air Strategy, what assessment he has made of the (a) effect on air quality of the Renewable Heat Incentive programme and (b) implications of that effect for the future of that programme.</p> <p>Answered by: Kelly Tolhurst</p> <p>Biomass Boilers supported under the RHI scheme must meet strict air quality and feedstock sustainability rules. The air quality requirements ensure applicants for both RHI schemes with a biomass boiler (including Combined Heat and Power) will need to have emissions levels no higher than 30 grams per gigajoule (g/GJ) net heat input for particulate matter (PM) and 150g/GJ for oxides of nitrogen (NOx), which are the two main pollutants.</p> <p>In the Clean Air Strategy, the Government committed to consult on removing Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme support for new biomass installations in urban areas which are on the gas grid. The Government published the consultation Renewable Heat Incentive: Biomass Combustion in Urban Areas in May 2018, seeking views on a number of proposals including the removal of RHI support for some or all new biomass boilers in urban areas, imposing geographical restrictions on biogas combustion and introducing regular maintenance checks on existing biomass boilers under the RHI. The consultation also contains an assessment of the impacts of this policy change. We will be publishing a government response to this consultation shortly.</p>
23/05/19	Press Release	DfT	Vital local bypass gets green light

Brexit – BEIS, Defra, HCLG, DExEU & committees

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
			No updates