

POLICY INFORM:

Environment

Policy Inform- September 2017

The Policy Inform briefings will provide an overview of ongoing and recent national legislation, bills presented to Parliament and emerging policies.

The Policy Inform briefings have been produced specifically to inform Portfolio Holders and Elected Members and will be taken to the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committees for discussion.



CONTENTS

Contents	Page Number
Introduction	3
Queen's Speech 2017	5
EU Exit Bills	7
Good Quality Housing that meets the needs of residents	9
Leisure and Culture Opportunities for All	16
Wirral Residents Live Healthier Lives	18
Attractive Local Environment for Wirral Residents	21
Community Services are Joined up and Accessible	24
Wirral's Neighbourhoods are Safe	25
Sources	28

INTRODUCTION

The Wirral Plan:

A 2020 Vision which sets out a shared partnership vision to improve outcomes for Wirral residents.

The Plan focuses on three key theme areas:



The Wirral Plan Environment Theme states:

“Wirral has an attractive and sustainable environment, where good health and an excellent quality of life is enjoyed by everyone who lives here.”

Environment Policy Briefing:

This policy briefing focuses specifically on policies and legislation relating to the Environment Priority and is intended to provide Members of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee with the latest position on emerging policy and legislative developments to support the committees work programme and future scrutiny work.

The following table outlines the timetable for the preparation and reporting of policy briefing papers:

Overview & Scrutiny Briefings	
September 2017	This policy briefing will provide an overview of emerging policy and legislation outlined within the Queen’s Speech, with a particular focus on legislation emerging as a result of the UK’s exit from the European Union. This policy briefing will also provide an initial analysis of any opportunities and implications for Wirral as a result of emerging policy and legislation.
November 2017	This policy briefing will provide an update on policy and legislation and will consider relevant opportunities and implications for Wirral.
January	This policy briefing will provide an update on policy and legislation and will

2018	consider relevant opportunities and implications for Wirral.
March 2018	This policy briefing will provide an update on policy and legislation and will consider relevant opportunities and implications for Wirral.

The September policy briefing focuses on the key announcements from the Queen’s Speech and provides an overview of emerging policy and legislative developments that have been aligned to the Wirral Plan pledges for consideration.

The Committee may wish to identify specific policy areas to focus upon which are in line with the Committee’s work programme. Detailed briefing papers can be prepared for these subject matters at the request of the Committee which would be in addition to the regular policy briefing papers outlined above.

QUEEN'S SPEECH 2017

On Wednesday 21st June 2017, the Queens Speech was delivered, outlining the Government's programme of legislation and policies for the coming year.

Below is a list of each individual Bill that will have implications for local government that was announced during the speech, including those Bills carried over from the 2016-17 session. The list identifies the Overview and Scrutiny Committee remit that the legislation most closely aligns:

Legislative Plans	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Repeal Bill	EU Exit - All Committees
Customs Bill	EU Exit - All Committees
Trade Bill	EU Exit - All Committees
Immigration Bill	EU Exit - All Committees
Fisheries Bill	EU Exit - All Committees
Agriculture Bill	EU Exit - All Committees
Nuclear Safeguards Bill	EU Exit - All Committees
International Sanctions Bill	EU Exit - All Committees
Automated and Electric Vehicles Bill	Business
High Speed 2 Phase 2A Bill	Business
Good Mortgages Bill	Environment
Smart Meter Bill	Environment
Draft Domestic Violence and Abuse Bill	Children and Families
Courts Bill	Environment
Data Protection Bill	Business
Draft Patient Protection Bill	Care and Health

Draft Tenants' Fees Bill	Environment
--------------------------	--------------------

Additional Bills that have been announced are outlined below. These will be monitored in relation to any emerging implications for Local Government and reported to the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee as appropriate.

Additional Legislative Plans
Space Industry Bill
National Insurance Contributions Bill
Travel Protection Bill
Civil Liability Bill
Financial Guidance and Claims Bill
Armed Forces Bill

The Bills relevant to the Environment priority are discussed in further detail in this paper.

EU EXIT BILLS

This year's Queen's speech came in the wake of a General Election that left the Conservative Government without a majority. Below are the bills within the 2017 Queen's Speech which directly relate to the EU Exit.

REPEAL BILL

The Repeal Bill will be introduced to repeal the European Communities Act and provide certainty for businesses and individuals; this affects a wide range of laws from workers' rights to the environment. It will allow for a smooth and orderly transition as the UK leaves the EU. This will convert EU law into UK law, this will enable some continuity after what the bill calls "exit day". The UK Parliament will be free to make any future changes to its laws, and where appropriate the devolved legislatures.

It will create temporary powers for Parliament to make secondary legislation, allowing corrections to be made to the laws that do not operate appropriately after exiting the EU. It will also maintain the scope of devolved decision making power immediately after exit and replicate the common UK framework created by EU law.

The Bill includes a clause, "The charter of fundamental rights is not part of domestic law on or after exit day", it is thought this will be opposed by opposition parties. Both Scottish and Welsh governments have said they will try to block the bill, they do not have the power to block Brexit but refusing legislative consent would be difficult for the government.

The Repeal Bill could be an opportunity for local government, if shares of repatriated powers are devolved to local government there is an opportunity to shape legislation.

The Government recognises that the following fields will be particularly affected by Brexit and therefore more extensive legislative intervention will be required at the domestic level.

CUSTOMS BILL

The Customs Bill will ensure that the UK has a standalone UK customs regime on exit. It will establish a degree of flexibility to accommodate future trade agreements with the EU and others. The changes can be made to UK's VAT and excise regimes on exit from the EU, whatever the outcome of negotiations.

It will ensure the government can collect payments of customs duties, tackle duty evasion and administer the customs regime. It will also bring control over the UK's import and export of goods.

TRADE BILL

This Bill will put in place to allow Britain to strike free trade deals with countries around the world while ensuring domestic businesses are protected from unfair trading practices. It will establish an independent trade policy on exit from the EU. It will cement the UK as a leading trading nation, "driving positive global change through trade".

IMMIGRATION BILL

The Immigration Bill will end the free movement of people of EU nationals into the UK and allow the government to control the number of incomers from Europe. However the Bill would still allow the country to attract “the brightest and the best”.

It will allow for the repeal of EU law on immigration (primarily free movement), that will otherwise be saved and converted into UK law by the Repeal Bill. It will also ensure that the migration of EU nationals and their families are subject to relevant UK law upon exiting the EU.

FISHERIES BILL

The Bill will ensure the UK controls access to its waters and sets UK fishing quotas once it has left the EU. It will bring control of its waters back to the UK and allows the government to set its own fishing quotas after Brexit. It is claimed that this will “help ensure prosperity for a new generation of fishermen as well as preserve and increase fish stocks”.

AGRICULTURE BILL

The Agriculture Bill will ensure there is an “effective system” in place to support UK farmers and protect the natural environment after the UK leaves the EU, i.e. leaving the Common Agricultural Policy. It wants to bring about “stability” for farmers.

NUCLEAR SAFEGUARDS BILL

This Bill will ensure a nuclear safeguards regime is established as the UK leaves the EU and Euratom (Brexit may require the UK to leave the auspices of Euratom). The UK continues to meet its international obligations for nuclear safeguards, as applies to civil nuclear material through the International Atomic Energy Agency.

This Bill will give the Office for Nuclear Regulation the powers to take on the responsibilities to meet international nuclear rules.

INTERNATIONAL SANCTIONS BILL

This Bill will ensure that as a permanent member of the UN Security Council, the UK continue to play a central role in negotiating global sanctions to counter threats of terrorism, conflict and the proliferation of nuclear weapons, as well as bringing about changes in behaviour.

This Bill will establish a new UK framework to implement international sanctions on both a multilateral and unilateral basis. It will also return decision making powers on non-UN sanctions back to the UK.

WIRRAL PLAN ENVIRONMENT PLEDGES- POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE DEVELOPMENTS

GOOD QUALITY HOUSING THAT MEETS THE NEEDS OF RESIDENTS

A safe and secure home is vital to all Wirral residents. We are working to improve the quality and supply of Wirral's housing stock, providing more affordable homes and specialist housing solutions, including extra care homes and supported living accommodation

Our Pledge Ambition:

We will build and improve 7,000 houses over the lifetime of this five year plan. Our plans include building 3,500 new homes, improving 2,250 private sector properties and bringing 1,250 empty homes back into use by 2020. We will also continue to tackle the challenges and causes of homelessness in Wirral.

Outcome Strategy:

Wirral Housing Strategy Priorities: 1 Building more homes in Wirral to meet our economic growth ambitions 2. Improving the quality of Wirral's housing offer for our residents 3. Meeting the housing and support needs of our most vulnerable people to enable them to live independently



Associated Legislation:

Homes (Fitness for Human Habitation and Liability for Housing Standards) Bill

Reporting stage: The Bill is expected to have its second reading debate on Friday 19 January 2018.

The purpose of the Bill is to:

To amend the Landlord and Tenant Act 1985 to require that residential rented accommodation is provided and maintained in a state of fitness for human habitation; to amend the Building Act 1984 to make provision about the liability for works on residential accommodation that do not comply with Building Regulations; and for connected purposes.

Concerns and progress so far:

The Bill was presented to Parliament through the ballot procedure on Wednesday 19 July 2017. The Bill was presented by Ms Karen Buck, supported by Luciana Berger, Jess Phillips, Matthew Pennycook, Shabana Mahmood, Heidi Allen, Marsha De Cordova, Andy Slaughter, Alex Sobel, Kate Green, Diana Johnson and Clive Efford.

As a Private Member's Bill, it is unlikely to be enacted into legislation.

Associated Legislation:

Local Housing Authority Debt Bill

Report Stage: Second reading of the Bill is yet to be scheduled.

The purpose of the Bill is to:

A Bill to replace the current regime of limits on local housing authorities' debt with limits determined by the existing prudential regime for local authority borrowing for non-housing-related purposes.

Concerns and progress so far:

The Bill was presented to the House of Lords by Lord Sharkey on Tuesday 4 July 2017. It was read a first time and ordered to be printed.

Associated Legislation:

Goods Mortgage Bill

The purpose of the Bill is to:

Continue the Government's work to deliver a consumer credit market that functions well and delivers a good deal for consumers by modernising outdated, Victorian-era legislation.

The main benefits of the Bill (according to the Government's rationale):

- To provide increased protections to borrowers who have taken out a mortgage on goods that they own, such as their car (a "logbook loan"). Borrowers will be better informed about their loan and the Bill would provide safeguards if borrowers get into financial difficulty.
- To remove unnecessary burdens on firms that raise the cost of logbook lending.
- To create new opportunities for sole traders and partnerships to access finance by reforming goods mortgages and helping these businesses raise finance against their assets. It will also provide greater confidence to invoice financiers to lend to small, unincorporated businesses, and will make lending cheaper.
- Repealing the Victorian-era Bills of Sale Acts and replacing them with a Goods Mortgage Act which enables individuals to use their existing goods (such as a vehicle) as security for a loan, while retaining possession of the goods.
- Increasing protection for borrowers who get into financial difficulty, by introducing a new requirement for a lender to obtain a court order before seizing goods where a borrower has made significant repayments (where one third of the loan has been paid) and wants to challenge the repossession.

Associated Legislation continued:

Goods Mortgage Bill

The main elements of the Bill are:

- Helping borrowers in financial difficulty by giving borrowers the right to voluntary termination by handing over their vehicle or other goods to the lender.
- Providing protection for innocent third parties who buy a vehicle subject to a logbook loan that may be at risk of repossession, and making it clearer that borrowers who knowingly sell goods with a logbook loan attached could be committing fraud.

In line with the Law Commission's recommendations, the Bill would apply to England and Wales.

Associated Legislation:

Smart Meter Bill

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- Allow the Government to continue to support the effective and efficient completion of the smart meter rollout.
- Allow the Government to oversee implementation and ensure the successful realisation of the £5.7 billion of net benefits delivered by smart meters.
- Enable the continued secure provision of the national smart meter infrastructure in Great Britain.

The main benefits of the Bill (according to the Government's rationale):

- The successful rollout of smart meters, which puts consumers in control of their energy use, helping them understand their energy and bills, bringing an end to estimated billing and transforming the experience of pre-payment customers.
- Protecting the operation of the national data and communication service to safeguard smart services at all times.
- Deliver the manifesto commitment to ensure that "smart meters will be offered to every household and business by the end of 2020, giving people control over their energy bills that they have not had before" (p.57).

The main elements of the Bill are:

- To extend the Government's ability to make changes to smart meter regulations by five years, making sure the rollout is delivered effectively, and that benefits are maximised into the future.
- To introduce a Special Administration Regime which will provide insurance for the national smart meter infrastructure in the unlikely event that the company responsible for it were to become insolvent. The availability of a Special Administration Regime is standard practice for energy network companies, energy suppliers, and in other sectors such as water and rail.

Associated Legislation continued:

Draft Tenants' Fees Bill

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- Ban charging tenants 'letting fees' to improve transparency, affordability and competition in the private rental market.

The main benefits of the Bill (according to the Government's rationale):

- To increase competition in the private rental sector, resulting in lower costs overall and a higher quality of service for renters.
- Reduced upfront costs for tenants.
- To deliver on the manifesto commitment to "shortly ban letting agent fees" (p.59), and make renting fairer and more affordable for millions of tenants. Banning letting agent fees will improve transparency for renters – currently, these fees are not explained clearly, meaning tenants are charged very different, and sometimes very high, fees for similar services.

The main elements of the Bill are:

- Measures to ban landlords and agents from requiring tenants to pay letting fees as a condition of their tenancy.
- Measures to enforce the ban with provision for tenants to be able to recover unlawfully charged fees.

The ban would apply to England only. However, some minor amendments to the Consumer Rights Act 2015 may apply to England and Wales.

Associated Legislation – Royal Assent:

Neighbourhood Planning Act

Following agreement by both Houses on the text of the Bill it received Royal Assent on 27 April 2017. The Bill is now an Act of Parliament (law).

The purpose of the Bill is to:

A Bill to make provision about planning and compulsory purchase; and for connected purposes.

Summary:

The Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017 brings into law changes to neighbourhood planning, local development documents, compulsory purchase and planning conditions. The Act comes into force on such day as the Secretary of States appoints by regulations, apart from provisions set out in the Act.

Full details of the Act, including explanatory notes, are available at Legislation.gov.uk through the following link: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2017/20/contents/enacted>

Associated Legislation – Royal Assent:

Homelessness Reduction Act 2017

Following agreement by both Houses on the text of the Bill it received Royal Assent on 27 April 2017. The Bill is now an Act of Parliament (law).

The purpose of the Bill is to:

A Bill to make provision about measures for reducing homelessness; and for connected purposes.

Summary:

The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 enacts and amends legislation in respects to the following:

- meaning of “threatened with homelessness”
- advisory services
- assessment and plans
- duties to those who are homeless or threatened with homelessness
- failure to co-operate by an applicant for assistance
- local connection of a care leaver
- reviews of local housing authority decisions
- duty on public authorities in England to refer cases
- codes of practice, and suitability of accommodation.

The Act comes into force on such day or days as the Secretary of State may by regulations made by statutory instruments appoint.

Full details of the Act are available at Legislation.gov.uk through the following link:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2017/13/contents/enacted>

Associated Emerging Policy:

Investment in infrastructure for new housing

[Gov.uk, 04/07/2017](#)

Summary-

A £2.3 billion fund has potential to unlock 100,00 new homes in areas of high demand has been launched by Communities Secretary. The investment will help to fund vital physical infrastructure projects like the building of roads, bridges, energy networks and other utilities.

The Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) is now open for bids from local authorities. The HIF is part of the wider £23 billion National Productivity Investment Fund.

Sajid Javid said “by investing in local infrastructure, we can help unlock building thousands of new homes in the areas where they are needed most”.

The LGA commented “we’re pleased that the government has followed through on its commitment to invest in infrastructure linked to housing and that this to be led by Council’s.

Associated Emerging Policy:

Homelessness predicted to rocket

[The MJ, 10/08/2017](#)

Summary-

Research has found that rough sleeping is predicted to rocket by 76% in the next 10 years, according to Crisis. At any one time last year 9,100 people were sleeping rough while more than 37,000 households were living in hostels. More than 68,000 households were 'sofa surfing' while 12,000 were living in squats. The report claims that unless policies were changed, the most acute forms of homelessness are likely to keep rising.

Crisis claim that increased prevention work could reduce levels by 34% by 2036. A spokesperson for the LGA said "homelessness is everyone's business, and councils need the help of health, employment and housing partners to deliver ambitions to end it... Government needs to allow councils to borrow to invest in genuinely affordable housing and to keep all of their receipts from Right to Buy sales so that money can be reinvested into delivering genuinely affordable homes".

Chartered Institute of Housing said "homelessness has been steadily rising in all its forms since 2010, partly because of the pressures on the housing market but also some of the welfare changes that have come into force over the past few years".

Associated Emerging Policy:

Housing: State of the nation – Report of the Public Accounts Committee

[LGiU, 20/06/2017](#)

Summary-

The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) published results into effects of the continuing overall shortfall in housing supply including analysis of whether current government policy was addressing the problem. The Committee looked at housing policies and welfare benefits to establish if money spent on housing were delivering on government's stated aims.

Demand has increased since 1980's, housebuilding has not kept pace with this increase. Public sector housebuilding has fallen and private sector output has been variable. Between 2001 and 2010 an average of 144,000 new homes were completed annually, 100,000 fewer per year than in the 1970's. output needs to increase, current projections suggest at least 227,000 new households be formed each year between 2011 and 2021. There has been an increase in home ownership and private rented homes, reduction in social rented homes. However, around a third of homes in private rented sector are non-decent according to the government's 2001 definition of decency, compared with 14% in the social rented sector.

Associated Emerging Policy Continued:

Housing: State of the nation – Report of the Public Accounts Committee

[LGiU, 20/06/2017](#)

Summary-

Housing has become more affordable in recent years, but for first time buyers it has become less affordable. First time buyers need larger deposits (21% on average, compared with 13% in 1990) and have to borrow an average of 3.2 times income in 2014.

The total estimated government spending on housing in England was approximately £28 billion in 2015-16, £20.9 billion of total housing expenditure was for housing benefit. Two of the government's strategic objectives for this Parliament is to increase supply and increase home ownership. The Department's objective of delivering a million new homes by 2020 does not require a substantial change in the number of homes delivered in England each year.

Potential implications for the Wirral Plan as a result of emerging legislation and policy:

There are currently no potential implications as the emerging legislation is in the early stages of development.

The legislation will continue to be monitored and implications will be captured in the next Policy Inform paper which will be published in November 2017.

LEISURE AND CULTURE OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

We will encourage more people to enjoy the wide range of leisure, culture and sporting opportunities on offer across Wirral. We will listen to residents' ideas and requests, and by 2020, will have increased access to events and activities to all our residents, regardless of age or income.

Our Pledge Ambition:

We will review the borough's leisure and cultural offer to make it fit for the future, and optimise the use of public spaces, parks and gardens across Wirral as community assets.

Outcome Strategy:

Wirral Leisure Strategy Priorities: 1. Promote and celebrate Wirral's parks, coast and countryside for leisure activities 2. Encourage people to take part in sports, leisure and social activities 3. Increase pride in Wirral's communities and encourage more residents to volunteer

Wirral Culture Strategy Priorities: 1. Develop creative partnerships and a cultural events programme to promote arts, culture and heritage in Wirral 2. Increase resident and visitor participation in Wirral's arts, culture and heritage offer to promote its educational, social and wellbeing benefits 3. Promote Wirral on a global stage as part of the Liverpool City Region to attract world class arts, culture and heritage events and exhibitions 4. Maximise the contribution of the arts, culture and heritage to the local economy.



Associated Legislation:

Currently there is no emerging legislation aligned to this Wirral Plan Pledge. The Pledge will continue to be monitored for any developments.

Associated Legislation – Royal Assent:

National Citizen Service Act

This Act was granted Royal Assent on 27th April 2017.

Summary:

The National Citizen Service Act is designed to make sure NCS is delivered efficiently, effectively and transparently. The NCS programme brings young people from different backgrounds together and gives them the opportunity to take part in new experiences, develop skills and volunteer in communities across England. The Act will enable the staff and assets of the NCS Trust to transfer to a Royal Charter Body, allowing government to provide grant-in-aid funding to the NCS Trust. It will also promote NCS by giving Government the power to send a letter to young people as they turn 16 on behalf of the NCS Trust.

Associated Emerging Policy:

£15 million Northern Cultural Regeneration Fund to boost region's tech, creative and cultural industries

[Gov.uk, 04/08/2017](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/15-million-northern-cultural-regeneration-fund-to-boost-region-s-tech-creative-and-cultural-industries)

Summary-

Towns and cities across the North of England will be able to bid for a share of a new £15 million fund to help build a lasting regional legacy from the Great Exhibition of the North. The Northern Cultural Regeneration Fund will make grants up to £4 million available to support major culture and tech capital projects, the fund will pave the way for future investment in the Northern Powerhouse and build on next year's Great Exhibition.

Culture Secretary Karen Bradley said, "This £15 million fund is a fantastic change for towns and cities to develop inspirational projects that could have transformative local effect particularly in communities that have seen less cultural or creative investment in the past.

We want as many people as possible to benefit from the Great Exhibition of the North, and this fund will boost the Northern Powerhouse and help build a lasting legacy across the whole region".

The first round of bids will be coordinated by Local Enterprise Partnerships, with successful projects being announced in March 2018. Successful bids will encourage sustainable cultural and creative regeneration in the North of England and will benefit areas that have historically had low levels of cultural and creative investment.

Potential implications for the Wirral Plan as a result of emerging legislation and policy:

There are currently no potential implications as the emerging legislation is in the early stages of development.

The legislation will continue to be monitored and implications will be captured in the next Policy Inform paper which will be published in November 2017.

WIRRAL RESIDENTS LIVE HEALTHIER LIVES

We want all of our residents to have a good quality of life and lead healthy lifestyles in clean and safe environments

Our Pledge Ambition:

We remain committed to addressing health inequalities in Wirral through encouraging residents to lead healthier lifestyles, and promoting physical activity and healthy eating. We will also continue to reduce the prevalence of smoking amongst our residents and the level of alcohol related ill-health and anti-social behaviour through restricting availability of 'super-strength' alcohol. We want to see 30% of Wirral off licences retailers sign up to the council supports 'reduce the strength' campaign.

Outcome Strategy:

Wirral Healthier Lives Strategy Priorities: Reduce the number of smokers in Wirral 2. Reduce the impact of alcohol misuse on individuals and communities 3. Promote healthy eating 4. Support local people to take control over their own wellbeing.



Associated Legislation:

Currently there is no emerging legislation aligned to this Wirral Plan Pledge. The Pledge will continue to be monitored for any developments.

Associated Legislation – Royal Assent

Soft Drinks Industry Levy

The Soft Drinks Levy was granted Royal Assent on 27th April 2017.

Summary -

This is a new levy, under the Finance Act 2017, that applies to the production and importation of soft drinks containing added sugar. The levy applies to the producers and importers of these types of drinks; it entails a lower rate which will apply to added sugar drinks with a total sugar content of 5 grams or more per 100 millilitres and a higher rate for drinks with 8 grams or more per 100 millilitres, but will not apply to any drink where no sugar is added. Alcoholic drinks with an Alcohol by volume of up to 1.2% are also included in the levy.

Associated Emerging Policy:

Funding for 'new and novel' healthcare solutions

[Gov.uk, 02,08,17](#)

Summary:

The government announced on the 2nd August £12 million of funding for UK businesses for projects that support the development of healthcare technologies and processes, made available by Innovate UK and the Medical Research Council and under the scheme Biomedical Catalyst.

The funding has been put in place to support technologies and processes in areas such as disease prevention and proactive management of health and chronic conditions, earlier and better detection and diagnosis of diseases and tailored treatments that either change the underlying disease or offer potential cures, and is available to UK micro, small and medium-sized enterprises.

Associated Emerging Policy:

New roles to be created from mental health workforce plan

[Gov.uk, 31.07,17](#)

Summary:

The Health Secretary Jeremy Hunt announced on the 31st July a plan to expand the mental health workforce; to address the historic imbalance in workforce capacity in order to treat an extra one million patients by 2020 to 2021.

Jeremy Hunt's announcement also sets out his plan to provide mental health services 24 hours a day, 7 days and week and to integrate mental health and physical health services for the first time. These new roles will translate into an estimated 21,000 new posts in priority growth areas in order to deliver these improvements, as set out in the NHS's Five Year Forward View for Mental Health.

Associated Emerging Policy:

Hexavalent 6-in-1 vaccine to be made available to newborn babies

[Gov.uk, 01,08,17](#)

Summary:

Public Health England announced on the 1st August 2017 that all babies born on or after 1 August 2017 will be offered protection against hepatitis B as part of our universal childhood immunisation programme. In essence, this new hexavalent 6-in-1 vaccine will replace the 5-in-1 vaccine, providing continued protection against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio and Hib along with protection against hepatitis B.

This announcement follows the news that the UK government has signed up to the WHO global hepatitis strategy to work towards elimination of viral hepatitis as a major public health threat by 2030.

Potential implications for the Wirral Plan as a result of emerging legislation and policy:

There are currently no potential implications as the emerging legislation is in the early stages of development.

The legislation will continue to be monitored and implications will be captured in the next Policy Inform paper which will be published in November 2017.

ATTRACTIVE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT FOR WIRRAL RESIDENTS

We are committed to empowering residents to help them create great neighbourhoods where communities are proud of their area and love where they live. We will work with communities to develop locations, taking advantage of assets and local characteristics to create a sense of identity that people can relate to and want to uphold.

Our Pledge Ambition:

We want to increase residents' pride in their local communities, and increase personal responsibility to keep Wirral 'clean and green'. We will listen to local residents and act on their suggestions to ensure more residents see their quality of life improve over the five years of this plan by supporting communities to deal with local environmental issues such as litter, fly-tipping and dog fouling.

Outcome Strategy:

Wirral Environment Strategy Priorities: 1. Love where you live
2. Driving behaviour change 3. Put resources where they are needed
4. Tackle untidy land

Wirral Waste Strategy Priorities: 1. Waste Prevention and re-use; 2. Residual collections; 3. Kerbside Recycling; 4. Food and garden waste collections.



Associated Legislation:

Carbon Emission Reductions Bill

Second Reading Debate Stage: Second reading in the House of Lords is yet to be scheduled.

The purpose of the Bill is to:

A Bill to amend the target for reducing net carbon emissions in the UK to 100% by 2050.

Concerns and progress so far:

The Bill was presented to the House of Lords by Baroness Featherstone on Tuesday 18 July 2017. It was read a first time and ordered to be printed.

Associated Emerging Policy:

Think Tank report says Councils need to tackle 'killer fumes' in the North

[Local Gov, 18/07/2017](#)

Summary -

UK's regional cities are in breach of legal limits on air quality by up to 150%. [Gearing up for the transition: The role of transport in a Northern energy strategy](#), report by Think Tank IPPR North, warned that while London's air quality has risen on the political agenda, pollution in the North of England "threatens the lives of children and adults".

Around 40,000 deaths per year in the UK are attributable to exposure to outdoor air pollution with an estimated overall economic cost in excess of 3.7% of GDP. The Government has been under pressure to do more to tackle air pollution after the courts ruled previous plans to improve air quality were illegal. In response to this Whitehall published draft plans to introduce compulsory clean air zones in certain cities. This has been criticised that Government plans will fail unless more is done to tackle congestion. The report identified congestion as a serious issue in the north, it estimates the cost of congestion in Manchester and Liverpool alone in 2015 at £2 billion.

The think tank concluded their report by calling for Whitehall, local authorities and transport bodies to "radically improve" green public transport links, especially rail connections and hydrogen powered trains. Should also pledge to phase out diesel cars over the coming years and introduce a new car stoppage scheme. On current projections only 5% of UK cars will be powered by electricity rather than petrol or diesel by 2030.

IPPR North said, "this is one of the biggest problems of our time, but too little attention is paid to this key issue, especially outside the capital...To prevent more avoidable deaths, need to see big incentives for those buying a car to go electric".

Associated Emerging Policy:

Tree Planting Fund announced

[Local Gov, 21/07/2017](#)

Summary -

The Government has made a £13 million fund available to help Councils plant more trees and reduce the flood risk to communities. The Woodland Creation Grant is designed to protect wildlife, boost timber sector and reduce flood risk. The Grant will be open to local authorities, farmers, foresters and other land managers up to £6,800 per hectare to plant, wood and protect more trees. The Fund is part of the Countryside Stewardship scheme, it will help plant more than 3 million trees, creating 1,900 hectares of new woodland.

DEFRA minister, Therese Coffey, said "our forests and woodlands are vital for providing timber, improving the environment and protecting our wildlife".

Potential implications for the Wirral Plan as a result of emerging legislation and policy:

There are currently no potential implications as the emerging legislation is in the early stages of development.

The legislation will continue to be monitored and implications will be captured in the next Policy Inform paper which will be published in November 2017.

COMMUNITY SERVICES ARE JOINED UP AND ACCESSIBLE

We are already integrating public sector and community services to make sure they are fully joined up, but we will integrate more services with our partners, and work with voluntary and community groups to transfer local assets for them to manage directly, providing the services residents need.

Our Pledge Ambition:

We will enable our already thriving communities to realise their full potential and unlock the skills and expertise within them to deliver more for themselves.

Associated Legislation or Associated Emerging Policy:

At present there are no policy or legislative developments as associated with this pledge. We will continue to monitor any developments in legislation or emerging policy.



**Community Services
are Joined Up and
Accessible**



WIRRAL'S NEIGHBOURHOODS ARE SAFE

Unfortunately, the actions of a small minority can have a negative impact on the majority of residents. We are increasing our efforts to quickly and effectively deal with anti-social behaviour, including street drinking and neighbourhood noise issues.

Our Pledge Ambition:

Over the next five years we will place a greater emphasis on activities which will positively engage young people and communities to prevent anti-social behaviour, and support people that have been affected. We will also look at improving potential licensing and planning enforcement powers.

Outcome Strategy:

Wirral Safer Neighbourhoods Strategy Priorities: 1 Build stronger and more confident communities where people feel safe. 2. Improve Community Safety by tackling the cause and impact of crime and anti-social behaviour. 3. Protecting the most vulnerable people in our communities. 4. Deliver greater integration with all relevant partner agencies to achieve a Safer Wirral.



Associated Legislation:

Courts Bill

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- To end direct cross examination of domestic violence victims by their alleged perpetrators in the family courts and allows more victims to participate in trials without having to meet their alleged assailant face to face.
- Enables those charged with less serious criminal offences to plead guilty, accept conviction and pay a statutory fixed penalty to free up court time.
- Introduction of digital services that allow businesses to pursue cases quickly
- Better working environment for judges, allowing more leadership positions in the judiciary to be offered on a fixed term.

Concerns and Progress so far:

This Bill is looking to reform the Courts system in England and Wales and embrace more modern technology. The Bill applies to England and Wales and in part to Northern Ireland and Scotland.

Associated Legislation – Royal Assent:

Policing and Crime Act

The Policing and Crime Act became law on 31st January 2017. The main provisions of the original Bill made it to the statute book intact, despite criticism and attempted amendments from the opposition benches in both Houses. Changes to the Bill included extending to combined authority mayors the ability of Police and Crime Commissioners (PCC) to take on the function of Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRA).

The most high profile part of this Act is the 'Alan Turing Law' which provides a posthumous pardon for thousands of gay men prosecuted under historical homophobic legislation.

Key provisions:

- Collaboration agreements between emergency services;
- Police and Crime Commissioners taking on role of Fire and Rescue Authorities;
- Abolition of the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority;
- Police complaints;
- Police volunteers and powers;
- Mental Health;
- Others – changes to pre-charge bail, tightening of regulations regarding alcohol licensing and reform of Police Federation.

The main impact of this Bill will be the administration of the emergency services. The Act means a reduction of the role of local authorities in the administration of emergency services in favour of PCCs.

Associated Emerging Policy:

Powers to ban anti-social behaviour

[LocalGov, 31/07/2017](#)

Summary-

Councils have used new powers to curb a range of anti-social behaviour from begging to swearing. 107 local authorities issued a total of 189 Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPO) between March 2016 and June 2017.

Nineteen Councils have restricted begging, these include Coventry, Southampton and Wigan. Eighteen Councils have banned loitering or standing in groups and four have criminalised busking. Eleven Councils have restricted cycling or skateboarding in public spaces or streets. Thirty local authorities have restricted dog walking in the past 16 months.

Brief Analysis-

PSPO's allow Councils to create catch all crimes, such as the crime of standing in a group. This means that Council officials and police officers have the power to fine or disperse anyone they want.

Associated Emerging Policy:

New National Police Welfare Service

[Gov.uk, 12/07/2017](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-national-police-welfare-service)

Summary-

The Home Secretary has awarded £7.5 million of funding for a national police welfare service. Amber Rudd said that the professionalism of the police during the recent terrorist attacks had been “truly humbling” and emphasised the “massive impact” the police have had on crime and keeping the country safe.

The new service will complement the support already delivered at force level to serving police officers and staff, covering mental health advice and welfare support. Plans will be developed with the College of Policing, working closely with the Police Federation. The service will initially be tested in a pilot and if successful will be rolled out across the country between 2018 and 2020.

Potential implications for the Wirral Plan as a result of emerging legislation and policy:

There are currently no potential implications as the emerging legislation is in the early stages of development.

The legislation will continue to be monitored and implications will be captured in the next Policy Inform paper which will be published in November 2017.

SOURCES

Gov.uk, Press release: '£2.3 billion investment in infrastructure for new housing', July 2017. Available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/23-billion-investment-in-infrastructure-for-new-housing>

Gov.uk, News story: 'Thousands of new roles to be created in mental health workforce plan', July 2017. Available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/thousands-of-new-roles-to-be-created-in-mental-health-workforce-plan>

Gov.uk, Press release: '£15 million Northern Cultural Regeneration Fund to boost region's tech, creative and cultural industries', August 2017. Available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/15-million-northern-cultural-regeneration-fund-to-boost-regions-tech-creative-and-cultural-industries>

Gov.uk, Press release: 'Home Secretary awards £7.5 million for new national police welfare service', July 2017. Available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/home-secretary-awards-75million-for-new-national-police-welfare-service>

Gov.uk, News story: 'New and novel healthcare solutions: apply for innovation funding', August 2017. Available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-and-novel-healthcare-solutions-apply-for-innovation-funding>

Gov.uk, News story: 'Hexavalent 6-in-1 vaccine to be made available to new born babies', August 2017. Available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/hexavalent-6-in-1-vaccine-to-be-made-available-to-newborn-babies>

Local Gov, 'Councils must tackle 'killer fumes' in the north, report says', July 2017. Available here: <https://www.localgov.co.uk/Councils-must-tackle-killer-fumes-in-the-north-report-says/43452>

Local Gov, 'Whitehall announces multi-million pound tree planting fund', July 2017. Available here: <https://www.localgov.co.uk/Whitehall-announces-multi-million-pound-tree-planting-fund/43485>

Local Gov, 'Nearly half of councils using powers to ban anti-social behaviour', July 2017. Available here: <https://www.localgov.co.uk/Nearly-half-of-councils-using-powers-to-ban-anti-social-behaviour/43533>

LGIU, Briefing: 'Housing: State of the nation – Report of the Public Accounts Committee', June 2017. Available here: <http://www.lgiu.org.uk/briefing/housing-state-of-the-nation-report-of-the-public-accounts-committee/>

The MJ, 'Homelessness predicted to rocket', August 2017. Available here: <https://www.themj.co.uk/Homelessness-predicted-to-rocket/208523>

UK Parliament, Homelessness Reduction Act 2017. Available here: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2017/13/contents/enacted>

UK Parliament, Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017. Available here:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2017/20/contents/enacted>

UK Parliament, Homes (Fitness for Human Habitation and Liability for Housing Standards) Bill [HL] 2017-19. Available here: [http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-](http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/homesfitnessforhumanhabitationandliabilityforhousingstandards.html)

[19/homesfitnessforhumanhabitationandliabilityforhousingstandards.html](http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/homesfitnessforhumanhabitationandliabilityforhousingstandards.html)

UK Parliament, Local Housing Authority Debt Bill [HL] 2017-19. Available here:

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/localhousingauthoritydebt.html>

UK Parliament, Carbon Emission reductions Bill [HL] 2017-19. Available here:

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/carbonemissionreductions.html>