

ADEPT: Parliamentary monitoring April 2021

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

13 April: House returns
 11 May: Queen's Speech – State Opening of Parliament
 27 May: Whitsun recess (tbc)
 7 June 2021: House returns (tbc)

Devolution deals

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
09/04/21	Report	Centre for Cities	New polling finds the public overwhelmingly back more devolution to their cities. Report here

Digital – Broadband & mobile

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
20/04/21	Press release	DCMS	New laws to wipe out rural mobile 'not spots' and speed up rollout of next-generation 5G technology. Here
20/04/21	Written statement	DCMS	The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport has published a written ministerial statement on Supporting the deployment of 5G and extending mobile coverage - Planning Update, Statement here

Economic recovery & renewal

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
13/04/21	Press release	LGA	Building an inclusive society in the post-pandemic world - steps that national and local government will need to take to achieve an inclusive society in the UK. Here
14/04/21	Debate	HoC	Inclusive society - Vol 811 Baroness Lister of Burtesett : To move that the Grand Committee takes note of the case for building an inclusive society in the post-pandemic world; and the steps that national and local government will need to take to achieve an inclusive society in the United Kingdom. My Lords, I am grateful for the opportunity to introduce this debate. At a time when

			<p>talk is of a gradual return to some semblance of normality, there is a danger that what is often called the “new normal” simply reverts to an old normal. In the old normal, thanks to austerity, our threadbare public services left our society, and in particular its most marginalised members, acutely vulnerable to Covid's impact. The pandemic has caused so much suffering; we have to learn lessons from it. It is therefore time to start a national conversation about what this new normal should look like and how we build a more inclusive society. More here</p>
19/04/21	Written question	MHCLG	<p>Devolution - UIN 180508 Steve Reed, Croydon North (Lab): To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, when he plans to publish the proposed recovery and devolution White Paper. Luke Hall, Thornbury and Yate (Con): Levelling up all areas of the country remains at the centre of government's agenda. We want to devolve and decentralise to give more power to local communities, providing an opportunity for all places to level up. That is why we intend to bring forward a White Paper in due course, setting out our plans for devolution and detailing how the UK government will partner with places across the UK to build a sustainable economic recovery. Here</p>
20/04/21	Debate	HoL	<p>Covid-19: Economic Recovery – Vol 811 Moved by Baroness Penn: That the Grand Committee takes note of the steps taken to protect jobs and livelihoods as the economy recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic. My Lords, it is a privilege to introduce today's debate on behalf of the Government. Given the challenges that the Government have faced this last year and that they continue to face, this is an important opportunity to review their approach to what we all understand has been a grave shock: a health emergency and an economic emergency. I am pleased to have this opportunity to debate and discuss the measures that we are introducing to protect jobs and livelihoods, as the economy recovers from the Covid-19 pandemic—as we are all determined it will. More here</p>
28/04/21	Press release	Covid Recovery Commission	<p>Covid Recovery Commission sets out blueprint for a National Prosperity Plan to boost growth and living standards over the next decade. Here</p>

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Climate change – Air quality

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
21/04/21	Written question	Defra	<p>Air Pollution: Standards - UIN 180501 <u>Jim Shannon, Strangford (DUP)</u>: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what plans his Department has to put in place stricter guidelines to ensure that the UK meets its Clean Air Target.</p> <p><u>Rebecca Pow, Taunton Deane (Con)</u>: Our Clean Air Strategy sets out an ambitious programme of action for England to reduce air pollution from a wide range of sources. Our Environment Bill makes a clear commitment to set a legally binding target to reduce fine particulate matter and enables local authorities to take more effective action to tackle air pollution in their areas. We have also put in place a £3.8 billion plan to tackle roadside nitrogen dioxide concentrations. Air quality is a devolved matter and each of the Devolved Administrations have their own policy programmes in place. <u>Here</u></p>
22/04/21	Oral answers	Defra	<p>Toxic Air Pollutants: Local Authorities - UIN 914629 <u>Tony Lloyd, Rochdale (Lab)</u>: What discussions he has had with local authorities on preventing toxic air pollutants from affecting children's health.</p> <p><u>Rebecca Pow (The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs)</u>: Ministers regularly engage with local authorities to discuss air quality and assess their air-quality plans. I recently met elected representatives from Greater Manchester, Bath and North East Somerset, Newcastle-under-Lyme and Stoke, and we have made £225 million available to local authorities, via the active travel fund, to deliver safe cycling and walking routes, including school streets. As we review the air-quality strategy, we will include measures specifically to protect children from pollution. <u>More here</u></p>
24/04/21	Press release	Efra Select committee	<p>Government 'failing to demonstrate ambition' on clean air targets. <u>Here</u></p>
27/04/21	Written question	Defra	<p>Air Pollution - UIN 185785 <u>Geraint Davies, Swansea West (Lab)</u>: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what</p>

			<p>steps he is taking to reduce levels of particulate air pollution to within the limit set in the World Health Organisation's recommendations in the Prevention of Future Deaths report, published on 21 April 2021.</p> <p><u>Rebecca Pow, Taunton Deane (Con)</u>: Our thoughts continue to be with Ella's family and friends. We will carefully consider the recommendations in the Prevention of Future Deaths report and respond in due course.</p> <p>We know that air pollution is the single greatest environmental risk to human health, and although air pollution has reduced significantly over the last decade, there is more to do. The World Health Organization has praised our Clean Air Strategy as "an example for the rest of the world to follow". We know there is a strong case for taking ambitious action on PM 2.5 as it is the pollutant that has the most significant impact on health. We have already taken action on a major source of PM 2.5 by legislating to phase out the sale of house coal, small volumes of wet wood and high sulphur manufactured solid fuels for domestic burning, but further action is needed. This is why we are introducing a duty to set a PM 2.5 target – alongside at least one additional long-term air quality target - in the Environment Bill. We have always been clear that we will consider the World Health Organization's guidelines for PM 2.5 as part of this process. <u>Here</u></p>
27/04/21	Debate	HoC	<p><u>Air Pollution: London - Vol 693</u></p> <p><u>Munira Wilson, Twickenham (LD)</u>: I beg to move, that this House has considered air pollution in London... No one can fail to be moved by the big, beautiful, beaming smile of Ella Adoo-Kissi-Debrah, whose life was so tragically taken at the age of just nine as a result of London's poor air quality. I pay tribute to Ella's mother Rosamund, who, in the face of such a personal tragedy, has campaigned relentlessly for the true cause of her daughter's death to be recognised. The landmark verdict from the inquest recording the cause of death as air pollution has reverberated around the country and marks a silent public health crisis unfolding in the capital city and beyond. As a London resident and MP,</p>

			but also as the mother of two young children, living close to Heathrow airport and half a mile from a busy dual carriageway on which several local schools and a college are located, I have a moral and personal duty to act. We must ensure that future generations do not die prematurely because of the air that they breathe. More here
28/04/21	Debate	HoC	<p>Draft Air Quality (Legislative Functions) (Amendment) Regulations 2021</p> <p>The Parliamentary Under- Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Rebecca Pow: I beg to move, that the Committee has considered the draft Air Quality (Legislative Functions) (Amendment) Regulations 2021.</p> <p>As ever, it is a pleasure to see you here with us, Sir Christopher. The regulations, which were laid before the House on 22 March, make amendments to a piece of retained direct European Union law on pollutant release transfer registers, otherwise known as PRTR. The legislation, which originated in the EU, would otherwise be left partially inoperable, now that the transition period has ended, because the powers to make changes to PRTR legislation previously sat with the European Commission. More here</p>
29/04/21	Written question	Defra	<p>Air Pollution - UIN 185479</p> <p>Ruth Jones, Newport West (Lab): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, with reference to the recommendations of the coroner in the Prevention of future deaths report in the case of Ella Kissi-Debrah, if he will take steps to ensure that the WHO 's guidelines on particulate matter are used as minimum requirements in the setting of targets on tackling air pollution.</p> <p>Rebecca Pow, Taunton Deane (Con): Our thoughts continue to be with Ella's family and friends. We will carefully consider the recommendations in the Prevention of Future Deaths report and respond in due course. We know that air pollution is the single greatest environmental risk to human health, and although air pollution has reduced significantly over the last decade, there is more to do. The World Health Organization has praised our Clean Air Strategy as "an example for the rest of the world to follow". We know there is a strong case for taking ambitious action on PM2.5 as it is the pollutant that</p>

			<p>has the most significant impact on health. That is why we are introducing a duty to set a PM2.5 target – alongside at least one additional long-term air quality target - in the Environment Bill. We have always been clear that we will consider the World Health Organization's guidelines for PM2.5 at part of this process.</p> <p>Defra provides a wide range of air quality data and air quality information on the online UK Air Information Resource, known as UK-AIR, including a five-day forecast from the Met Office on predicted air pollution levels, allowing members of the public, particularly those who are most likely to be affected by such pollution, to take action. UK-AIR also provides the most up-to-date information on measured pollution levels via the national network of air pollution monitors and provides Public Health England advice on practical actions and steps people can take to minimise the impact of these events. However, it is clear that there is a lack of awareness about the availability of this information and we need to consider how to address this.</p> <p>Evidence submitted to the Coroner to assist his inquiry cannot be disclosed without his permission. We will work with the Coroner to consider what evidence can be published with the Government's response to the Prevention of Future Deaths Report. We welcome Asthma UK and the British Lung Foundation 's (BLF) report and senior officers recently met with Asthma UK and the BLF to discuss its findings and wider air quality issues. Here</p>
29/04/21	Written question	Defra	<p>Air Pollution: UIN 185478 Ruth Jones, Newport West (Lab):To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what estimate his Department has made of the number of medical centres that are located in areas with fine particulate matter over levels recommended by the World Health Organisation; and what steps he is taking to protect patients and healthcare professionals using and working in those centres. Rebecca Pow, Taunton Deane (Con):We have not made such estimations. However, we recognise that air pollution poses the biggest environmental risk to</p>

			<p>public health and is a particular threat to vulnerable groups, including the elderly, the very young, and those with existing health issues. That is why through the Environment Bill we are committing to set new air quality targets, including a new concentration target for PM 2.5 which will act as a minimum standard across the country. Setting and subsequently meeting these ambitious targets will deliver very significant public health benefits.</p> <p>Additionally, as we review our Local Air Quality Management Framework, we will outline specific measures to protect those most vulnerable to the effects of air pollutants. Here</p>
29/04/21	Written question	Defra	<p>Air Pollution - UIN 188161</p> <p>Ruth Jones, Newport West (Lab): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what assessment he has made of the potential merits of bringing forward standalone legislative proposals on clean air.</p> <p>Rebecca Pow, Taunton Deane (Con): One of the key commitments in our Clean Air Strategy was to bring forward new legislation on air quality, and the Environment Bill – the first Environment Bill in over 20 years - is a key part of delivering this. The air quality chapter in the Bill makes a clear commitment to set a new target for fine particulate matter, the pollutant of most harm to health, alongside at least one further long-term air quality target. It also ensures that local authorities have a clear framework and simple to use powers for tackling air pollution in their areas, and it addresses a crucial regulation gap by providing government with new powers to enforce environmental standards for vehicles and non-road mobile machinery.</p> <p>Alongside this, we recently passed legislation to phase out the sale of the most polluting fuels, helping to tackle a major source of fine particulate matter emissions in the UK. We have also recently brought forward the Air Quality (Legislative Functions) (Amendment) Regulations 2021, which will enable us to keep our Pollutant Release and Transfer Register legislation up to date with any technical, scientific or international Protocol advances. Here</p>

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Climate change & net zero – Build back better/infrastructure

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
21/04/21	Written question	BEIS	<p>Industry: Carbon Emissions - UIN 180555 <u>Martyn Day, Linlithgow and East Falkirk (SNP):</u> To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what plans his Department has to support industrial decarbonisation now that the Non-Domestic Renewable Heat Initiative has closed to new applicants.</p> <p><u>Anne-Marie Trevelyan, Berwick-upon-Tweed (Con):</u> The Government is committed to supporting industry with the ambitious decarbonisation needed to deliver on the Net Zero target. The Industrial Decarbonisation Strategy, published in March, explains our approach. We will align the UK Emissions Trading Scheme cap to be consistent with Net Zero, and are considering mechanisms to further strengthen the UK ETS and the Climate Change Agreements scheme. We are also investing in decarbonisation technologies through the £1bn CCUS Infrastructure Fund, £289m Industrial Energy Transformation Fund and £240m Net Zero Hydrogen Fund. We continue to develop business models to incentivise industrial CCUS and low-carbon hydrogen. We will also propose new measures to support the growth of the market for low carbon products. The NDRHI closed to new applicants on 31st March 2021. However, several hundred projects will continue to be built, with commissioning deadlines of 31st March 2022. Here</p>
21/04/21	Written question	BEIS	<p>Renewable Energy - UIN 180556 <u>Martyn Day, Linlithgow and East Falkirk (SNP):</u> To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what plans his Department has to support the development and roll-out of (a) bioenergy with carbon capture and storage and (b) other negative emissions technologies.</p> <p><u>Anne-Marie Trevelyanm Berwick-upon-Tweed (Con):</u> The Government's priority is to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases from human activities and adapt to those impacts that are unavoidable. Negative emissions from technologies such as bioenergy with carbon capture and storage (BECCS) may be required to</p>

			<p>balance residual emissions from some of the most difficult to decarbonise sectors, such as agriculture and aviation. The Climate Change Committee (CCC) recommend deploying BECCS in the UK at a potential rate of 53 MtCO₂/yr by 2050.</p> <p>Through the Carbon Capture and Storage Infrastructure Fund, the UK Government will provide at least £800 million pounds to establish carbon capture and storage in at least two UK clusters, one by the mid-2020s and another by 2030. We are taking action to support innovation and strengthen our understanding of GGRs before moving forward with deployment. In June 2020, my Rt. Hon. Friend the Prime Minister committed up to £100 million funding to research and develop Direct Air Capture technologies in the UK. As part of this, BEIS launched phase 1 of the Direct Air Capture and other GGRs innovation competition in November, which seeks to support the development of GGR technologies to help them achieve commercialisation. Here</p>

Climate change & net zero - Housing

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
01/04/21	Report	Institute for Government	Decarbonising heating at home. The report sets out a series of recommendations ahead of the publication of the government's much-delayed Heat and Buildings Strategy – which must provide a clear roadmap for achieving the government's clean heating goals. Here
01/04/21	Written answers	HoL/BEIS	<p>Local Government: Buildings - UIN HL14416</p> <p>Lord Porter of Spalding: To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the resources local authorities will need to replace fossil fuel heating in their buildings and housing stock to meet the Government's net zero carbon emission targets.</p> <p>Lord Callanan: The Government recognises that Local Authorities have an important part to play in tackling climate change, including in heat and buildings decarbonisation. Meeting our net-zero target will require virtually all heat in buildings to be decarbonised, and heat in industry to be reduced to close to zero carbon emissions. Local Authorities can play a number of important roles in heat and buildings decarbonisation, including</p>

			<p>decarbonising heat in their own buildings and raising awareness of the support available to increase voluntary uptake of low carbon heat and energy efficiency measures. Local Authorities are able to apply for funding to decarbonise heat in their buildings through the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme.</p> <p>We also work closely with Local Authorities to support heat pump and heat networks deployment through schemes such as the Local Authority Delivery scheme and Local Energy Hubs, as well as providing funding through the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund to improve the energy performance of social homes. In addition, the Government is providing funding and prioritising support for councils to tackle climate change as part of the annual Sector Support Programme delivered by the Local Government Association in 2021/22. The upcoming Heat and Buildings Strategy will set out further details on how we plan to work with local authorities to meet our ambition on heat and buildings decarbonisation. Here</p>
09/04/21	Press release	Sanctuary Group	Leading housing associations form pioneering partnership to tackle climate change. Here
21/04/21	Written question	BEIS	<p>Energy: Conservation - UIN 179041 Bob Blackman, Harrow East (Con): To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what plans he has to introduce a new scheme to incentivise energy efficiency measures in homes to help meet the Government's net zero by 2050 target.</p> <p>Anne-Marie Trevelyan, Berwick-upon-Tweed (Con): The Government will be expanding its funding commitment in financial year 21/22 for both the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund and the Local Authority Delivery element of the Green Homes Grant scheme with £300million of new funding and up to £100million of recycled funding from the Green Homes Grant Vouchers, depending on take up. Here</p>

Climate change & net zero – Planning

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
19/04/21	Debate	HoL/MHCLG	Planning: Net Zero Emissions Targets - Vol 811

			<p><u>Baroness Sheehan:</u> To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to revise planning rules to ensure that all planning decisions are aligned with the United Kingdom 's net zero emissions targets.</p> <p><u>Lord Greenhalgh (The Minister of State, Home Office and Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government):</u> My Lords, our Planning for the Future White Paper committed the Government to ensuring that the reformed planning system will support our efforts to combat climate change and help bring greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050. We are currently analysing the 40,000 responses to the consultation; we will publish a response later in the year, which will set out our decisions on the proposed way forward.</p> <p><u>More here</u></p>
28/04/21	Written answers	HoL/MHCLG	<p>Planning - UIN HL15191</p> <p><u>Baroness Scott Of Needham Market:</u> To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Lord Greenhalgh on 19 April (HL Deb, col 1639), what discussions have been held by (1) ministers, and (2) civil servants, about the role of planning policy in helping the UK to meet legally binding (a) domestic, and (b) international, (i) climate, and (ii) biodiversity, targets.</p> <p><u>Lord Greenhalgh:</u> Ministers are regularly involved in cross-Government discussions about domestic and international climate and biodiversity targets, and how to meet them. Civil servants across departments and arm's-length bodies also meet regularly to discuss these issues and the relationship between planning policy and meeting our environmental goals. This involves targets such as net zero emissions by 2050 and delivering biodiversity net gain. Tackling climate change is a top priority for the Government, and in the Planning for the Future White Paper, we committed to ensuring the planning system supports our efforts to combat climate change and maximises environmental benefits. Our response to the White Paper will be published in due course.</p> <p>Civil servants from across Government engage with stakeholders including the Local Government Association and local authorities to ensure that planning policy can support our domestic and international climate and biodiversity targets. This includes discussions between ministers,</p>

			stakeholders and officials as to how planning policy can be a vehicle for achieving our biodiversity targets. Here

Climate change & net zero – Transport

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
06/04/21	Press release	Rural Services Network	Multimillion-pound scheme to roll out zero emission buses across England launched. Transport Secretary Grant Shapps has launched a multimillion-pound scheme to enable local transport authorities to roll out zero emission buses, as the Government continues to build back greener. Here
22/04/21	Written question	Defra	Delivery Services: Environment Protection – UIN 180399 Mr Barry Sheerman, Huddersfield (Lab) : To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what recent discussions he has had with fleet delivery companies on minimising the environmental impact of fleet delivery vehicles. Rebecca Pow, Taunton Deane (Con) : This Government is committed to tackling climate change, delivering our net zero commitment and improving our air quality across the UK. Over the past year we have engaged with a broad range of stakeholders, including delivery companies, via multiple channels to seek views and evidence in support of the development of the Transport Decarbonisation Plan (TDP). The TDP will be published this Spring and will take a holistic and cross-modal approach to decarbonising the entire transport system, setting out a credible and ambitious pathway to cut emissions. One of the strategic priorities in the Plan will be to examine how we get our goods and the decarbonisation of “last mile” deliveries. Here
26/04/21	Written question	Dft	Trains: Carbon Emissions - UIN 185491 Jane Stevenson, Wolverhampton North East (Con) : To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what recent discussions he has had with train manufacturers on meeting net-zero carbon emission targets through the use of green technologies. Chris Heaton-Harris, Daventry (Con) : Departmental ministers and officials meet with train manufacturers regularly and discuss decarbonisation and our net zero target. As well as recent meetings with individual manufacturers, on 22 April I have

			supported the establishment of the Sustainable Rail Executive, and on 28 April I will be giving a speech at the Rail Industry Association Innovation Conference, where rail decarbonisation will be a key theme. Here
26/04/21	Written question	DfT	Transport: Carbon Emissions - UIN 184388 Dame Diana Johnson, Kingston upon Hull North (Lab) : To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, pursuant to the Answer of 19 April 2021 to Question 175754 on Rolling Stock: Diesel Engines, how much funding the Government has allocated to deliver its commitment of a net-zero transport system by 2050. Chris Heaton-Harris, Daventry (Con) : Our forthcoming Transport Decarbonisation Plan (TDP) will set out the scale and pace of rail decarbonisation necessary to deliver a net zero transport system by 2050. Decisions on funding for decarbonisation schemes and subsequent allocations will be made in the usual way to ensure that they are value for money and affordable. Here
27/04/21	Written answers	HoL/DfT	Aviation: Exhaust Emissions - UIN HL15132 Lord Berkeley : To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to their announcement on 20 April that international shipping emissions will be included within UK net zero targets, whether they will make a similar commitment in relation to international aviation emissions. Baroness Vere of Norbiton : As announced on 20 April, we have set the Sixth Carbon Budget to include both international aviation and shipping emissions, as recommended by our independent climate advisors, the Climate Change Committee. Here
28/04/21	Written answers	HoL/DfT	Airports: National Policy Statements - UIN HL15188 Baroness Scott Of Needham Market : To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Lord Greenhalgh on 19 April (HL Deb, col 1639), what assessment they have made of the need to review the Airports National Policy Statement to bring it into line with domestic and international climate targets. Baroness Vere of Norbiton : On 16 December 2020, the Supreme Court overturned the earlier Court of Appeal decision and declared that the Airports National Policy Statement is lawful. We are

			carefully considering the Court's judgement. The Government have always been clear that Heathrow expansion is a private sector project which must meet strict criteria on air quality, noise and climate change, as well as being privately financed, affordable, and delivered in the best interest of consumers. In the coming months, we will launch a consultation setting out the steps to reach net zero aviation emissions by 2050. Here

Climate change & net zero – Misc.

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
08/04/21	Written answers	HoL/BEIS	<p>Climate Change - UIN HL14626</p> <p>Lord Bourne Of Aberystwyth: To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to ensure that measures (1) to mitigate the impact of climate change, and (2) to promote COP26, are taken account of in their levelling up agenda.</p> <p>Lord Callanan: Many of the actions we need to take to mitigate the impact of climate change and reach net zero emissions will support both our recovery from COVID-19 and the future growth of our economy, including levelling up our regions. My Rt hon Friend the Prime Minister 's Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution will mobilise £12 billion government investment across the UK to accelerate the net zero transition, support up to 250,000 green jobs and reinvigorate our industrial heartlands, helping to level up the country.</p> <p>As part of the Ten Point plan, we will for example, invest £1 billion to support the establishment of CCUS in at least four industrial clusters. Developed alongside Hydrogen, we can create transformative 'SuperPlaces' in areas such as central and north-eastern Scotland, south Wales, the Humber, Teesside and Merseyside. Over the coming months, ahead of COP26, we will bring forward further bold proposals, including a Net Zero Strategy, to cut emissions and create new jobs and industries across the whole country – going further and faster towards building a stronger, more resilient future and protecting our planet for this generation and those to come. Here</p>

12/04/01	Report	IPPR	The climate commons: How communities can thrive in a climate changing world. Report here
14/04/21	Written question	COP26	Climate Change - UIN 172105 Wera Hobhouse, Bath (LD) : To ask the President of COP26, what steps he is taking to ensure that the formulation of his policy is evidence based. Alok Sharma, Reading West (Con) : All climate-related work for COP26 is informed by the best available science, encapsulated in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reports. The IPCC reports are the primary tool for providing the best available science to the UNFCCC. The first part of the IPCC's 6th Assessment Report is due to be released this year, and its findings will inform the negotiations and the wider COP26 conference. We are also working with leading experts including a global group of Friends of COP, who are sharing their expertise in support of a successful summit. Here
15/04/21	Oral answers	COP26	Covid-19: Green Recovery - UIN 914039 Fleur Anderson, Putney (Lab) : What steps the Government are taking to promote climate action and a green recovery from the covid-19 pandemic ahead of COP26. The COP26 President, Alok Sharma : The Prime Minister's 10-point plan sets out our blueprint for a green industrial revolution—a plan to invest in green technologies and industries, leveraging in billions of pounds of private sector investment, supporting up to a quarter of a million green jobs and levelling up across the UK. It is a clear plan to build back greener from the covid pandemic. More here
14/04/21	Written question	COP26	Biodiversity Loss and Climate Action - UIN 914045 Mr Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi, Slough (Lab) : What steps he is taking to promote action on biodiversity loss alongside climate action as part of COP26 preparations. Anne-Marie Trevelyan, The Minister for Business, Energy and Clean Growth (Con) : Climate change and biodiversity loss are inextricably linked, which is why the UK has made nature a core priority of our COP26 presidency. We pioneered and launched the leaders' pledge for nature in September last year, and we are also driving global action to protect and restore critical ecosystems such as forests and accelerating our transition towards

			sustainable agriculture while mobilising the finance to support this. More here
15/04/21	Oral answers	COP26	<p>Virtual Participation in COP26 - UIN 914042 Martyn Day, Linlithgow and East Falkirk (SNP): What plans he has to arrange for remote virtual participation in COP26 in the event of ongoing restrictions due to the covid-19 pandemic.</p> <p>The COP26 President Alok Sharma (Con): We are working very hard to ensure that we deliver an in-person COP that allows all countries to participate on an equal footing. That is incredibly important, as many parties feel strongly that negotiations must be in person. We continue to explore how technology and other innovations can make the summit more resilient, safe and inclusive. More here</p>
15/04/21	Oral answers	COP26	<p>UN Sustainable Development Goals - UIN 914043 Mr Barry Sheerman, Huddersfield (Lab/Co-op): What steps he is taking to encourage towns, cities and communities to deliver the UN sustainable development goals at local level in the run-up to COP26.</p> <p>Anne-Marie Trevelyan, The Minister for Business, Energy and Clean Growth (Con): Thank you, Mr Speaker. That is a new title. I was happy with international champion, but I am sure vice-president is acceptable, too. The actions we are taking to tackle climate change support the delivery of a range of UN sustainable development goals. Through the Together for Our Planet campaign and Race to Zero, we are encouraging towns, cities and communities to drive climate action at a local level. This is supported by the COP26 UK mayors and regions advisory council, which includes West Yorkshire Combined Authority and Kirklees Council, and it has set itself an ambitious target of being net zero by 2038. More here</p>
16/04/21	Written answers	BEIS	<p>Local Government: Carbon Emissions - UIN 174918 Helen Hayes, Dulwich and West Norwood (Lab): To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, with reference to the role of local government in COP26, what plans the Government has to provide funding and resources to local government to support the development of a framework for local delivery of the national net zero target.</p> <p>Anne-Marie Trevelyan, Berwick-upon-Tweed (Con): Over £20million has been</p>

			invested in the Local Energy Programme to date, including £1.6m which has funded all 38 Local Enterprise Partnerships to develop local energy strategies. Here
16/04/21	Written answers	COP26	<p>Local Government: Carbon Emissions – UIN 174187</p> <p>Helen Hayes, Dulwich and West Norwood (Lab): To ask the President of COP26, what recent meetings he has had with (a) councils and (b) local government organisations on the role of local government in meeting the national net zero target; and how that role is planned to be articulated at COP26.</p> <p>Alok Sharma, Reading West (Con): Local authorities and leaders have a key role to play in tackling climate change and meeting net zero targets. That is why I have set up the UK Mayors and Regions Advisory Council with mayors and local authority leaders from across the UK to engage them in COP26. We met most recently on 15 March to discuss how mayors and local authorities could contribute to the Together for our Planet Campaign, and I look forward to engaging further with the group as part of our preparations for COP26. Here</p>
16/04/21	Written answers	COP26	<p>Local Government: Carbon Emissions – UIN 174185</p> <p>Helen Hayes, Dulwich and West Norwood (Lab): To ask the President of COP26, what assessment he has made of the importance of promoting the role of local government in delivering the national net zero target at COP26.</p> <p>Alok Sharma, Reading West (Con): Local authorities and leaders have a key role to play in tackling climate change and meeting net zero targets. That is why I have set up the UK Mayors and Regions Advisory Council with mayors and local authority leaders from across the UK to engage them in COP26. We met most recently on 15 March to discuss how mayors and local authorities could contribute to the Together for our Planet Campaign, and I look forward to engaging further with the group as part of our preparations for COP26. Here</p>
16/04/21	Report	BEIS	The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy has published a report on the annual statement of emissions for 2019: here
19/04/21	Early Day Motion	HoC	Carbon emissions labelling - EDM 1747 Primary Sponsor, Daisy Cooper (LD) : That this House notes with concern the lack of information available to consumers on the

			<p>environmental impact of the goods and food products they buy; recognises the growing urgency of the climate emergency facing the planet as a result of carbon emissions; acknowledges that the public would welcome the opportunity to make environmentally informed decisions on their purchases; encourages manufacturers and retailers to collaborate to introduce a standard eco-labelling scheme that would make the carbon footprint of individual products transparent; notes with disappointment that previous plans by major supermarkets to introduce such a system for food have been abandoned; calls on the Government to work with industry to support the introduction of such a nationwide eco-labelling scheme; and further calls on the Government to consider the merits of introducing financial incentives to businesses who adopt eco-labelling to help offset the implementation costs. Here</p>
20/04/21	Press release	BEIS	<p>UK enshrines new target in law to slash emissions by 78% by 2035. Here</p>
21/04/21	Debate	HoL	<p>Net-Zero Carbon Emissions – Vol 811 Moved by Lord Teverson: That the Grand Committee takes note of the case for the integration of policy-making in (1) national, and (2) local, government to achieve net zero carbon emissions in the United Kingdom. My Lords, I declare my interests as a director of Aldustria Ltd, a trustee of the Green Purposes Company that holds the green share in the Green Investment Bank, and an honorary president of the Major Energy Users' Council. Beyond the pandemic, two emergencies confront us: climate change and biodiversity loss. Both are real and, like Covid, both can be fatal to our economy and society. Members and Ministers in this House are all good at fine words when it comes to these crises, and I am sure there will be many admirable ones in this debate, but what counts is action. This debate should focus on how we deliver our climate goals most effectively and certainly. To do that, almost before anything else, we have to closely co-ordinate work between government departments and between Whitehall and our devolved nations, combined authorities and local authorities. With climate change, there is no room for silos in decision-making or inaction—if there is, we lose. More here</p>

22/04/21	Report	Treasury Select Committee	Treasury Committee publishes 'Net Zero and the Future of Green Finance' report. Here
22/04/21	Press release	PM's office	PM warns world leaders not to 'throw away chance to preserve our planet'. Here
22/04/21	Debate	HoC	Draft Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Kyoto Protocol Registry) Regulations 2021. Here
22/04/21	Speech	PM's office	Speech by the Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, at the Leaders' Summit on Climate. Here
26/04/21	Written question	BEIS	<p>Hydrogen: Carbon Emissions: UIN 185264 Dr Alan Whitehead, Southampton, Test (Lab): To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what assessment he has made of the level of carbon emissions produced via the production of (a) green hydrogen and (b) blue hydrogen.</p> <p>Anne-Marie Trevelyan, Berwick-upon-Tweed (Con): The greenhouse gas emissions associated with different hydrogen production methods depend on a wide range of factors such as the feedstock energy, the efficiency of the hydrogen production plant and the CO 2 capture rate for carbon capture utilisation and storage (CCUS) enabled blue hydrogen production.</p> <p>BEIS is working with industry, academia and regulators on understanding and comparing options for an emissions standard that will define low carbon hydrogen. As part of this work, we have been assessing emissions associated with a range of hydrogen production methods, including CCUS enabled blue hydrogen and electrolytic green hydrogen. We will be releasing further detail on this work in the coming months and intend to consult on a UK Low Carbon Hydrogen Standard alongside the UK Hydrogen Strategy. Here</p>
26/04/21	Written question	MHCLG	<p>Local Government: Carbon Emissions - UIN 184465 Steve Reed, Croydon North (Lab): To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what steps his Department is taking to support local government to play a full role in the Net Zero transition as recommended by the Committee on Climate Change in the Reducing UK emissions Progress Report to Parliament, published in June 2020.</p> <p>Eddie Hughes, Walsall North (Con): The Government is committed to tackling climate change, and local authorities have</p>

			<p>a vital contribution to make. Their unique insight into local opportunities and priorities, their role as place-shapers, and their convening power enable them to drive carbon emissions reductions and develop climate resilient services across their whole area, with co-benefits for better public health and thriving local economies</p> <p>Tackling emissions at a local level will make an important contribution to the decarbonisation of transport, energy and buildings. As such, many parts of Government work closely with local government to deliver national strategies for carbon reduction effectively at the local level. In 2020 the Government launched the Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery Scheme, the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme and the Public Sector Low Carbon Skills Fund. In March we announced a further £300 million under the Green Homes Grant, to help lower income households cut emissions and save money on bills: https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-boosts-energy-efficiency-spending-to-13-billion-with-extra-funding-for-green-homes. The Local Energy programme also supports Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs), local authorities and communities in England to play a leading role in decarbonisation and clean growth. The Government's wider plan to work with local government to deliver national strategies for carbon reduction will be set out in our forthcoming net zero strategy</p> <p>The Government will also publish a bold and ambitious Transport Decarbonisation Plan which will set out how to achieve net zero emissions across all modes of transport, and a Heat and Building Strategy setting out how local authorities can contribute to reducing emissions from household heating. Different decarbonisation solutions will be required and will work best in different places across the UK, and we have engaged with local government at all levels in developing these strategies. The Government will continue to work closely with local authorities, now and over the course of the net zero transition. Here</p>
29/04/21	Written question	BEIS	Aviation and Shipping: Carbon Budgets - UIN 187192

			<p><u>Caroline Lucas, Brighton, Pavilion (Green)</u>: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, with reference to the Government's acceptance of the Climate Change Committee's recommendation on the Sixth Carbon Budget to reduce emissions by 78 per cent by 2035 compared to 1990 levels, whether he plans to bring forward legislative proposals to include international aviation and shipping in that target under the Climate Change Act 2008.</p> <p><u>Anne-Marie Trevelyan, Berwick-upon-Tweed (Con)</u>: The Government has laid legislation for the UK's sixth carbon budget and this marks a decisive step towards net zero by 2050. It builds on the series of ambitious plans we have announced since committing to net zero emissions in law, including through my Rt. Hon. Friend the Prime Minister 's Ten Point Plan and our new UN climate target to reduce emissions in 2030 by at least 68% compared to 1990 levels – the highest reduction target made by a major economy to date. We have committed to include international aviation and shipping emissions in the Sixth Carbon Budget and will bring forward legislative proposals in due course. Here</p>

25 year Environment Bill

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
01/04/21	Written question	Defra	<p>Nature Conservation: Property Development - UIN 171729</p> <p><u>Daisy Cooper, St Albans (LD)</u>: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what assessment he has made of the extent of damage to Local Wildlife Sites by prospective developers, prior to applications for planning permission being submitted.</p> <p><u>Rebecca Pow, Taunton Deane (Con)</u>: My department has not undertaken such an assessment. National planning policy expects local plans to identify and map Local Wildlife Sites and to include policies that not only secure their protection from harm or loss but also help to enhance them and their connection to wider ecological networks. Defra requires local authorities to report annually on the proportion of Local Wildlife Sites where positive conservation management has been or is being implemented. In 2018/19, 47% of Local</p>

			<p>Wildlife Sites across England were in positive conservation management.</p> <p>The Environment Bill contains important new measures for reversing nature's decline. These include strengthening the existing biodiversity duty, to require all public authorities to take action to conserve and enhance biodiversity. Local Authorities will also be required to produce 5-yearly Biodiversity Reports setting out the action they have taken and its impact as part of this duty. Additionally, the Environment Bill introduces a new biodiversity net gain requirement for development. This includes measures that allow planning authorities to recognise any habitat degradation since January 2020 and to take the earlier habitat state as the baseline for the purposes of biodiversity net gain. Here</p>
08/04/21	Report	NALC	<p>National Association of Local Councils: Tree charter. Report here</p>
22/04/21	Written question	MHCLG	<p>Environmental Impact Assessment - UIN 183217</p> <p>Helen Hayes, Dulwich and West Norwood (Lab): To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what steps he plans to take to ensure that changes to environmental assessment regulations do not undermine the (a) Government's 25 Year Environment Plan, (b) other environmental objectives and (c) targets set under the forthcoming Environment Bill.</p> <p>Christopher Pincher, Tamworth (Con): As part of wider reforms of the planning system as set out in the 'Planning for the Future' White Paper, the Government has committed to reviewing the current systems of environmental assessment to make them more accessible, easier to understand, simpler to execute and with fewer unnecessary delays. At the same time the Government has been clear that this reformed system will maximise environmental benefits, recognising the importance of our domestic and international obligations for environmental protection.</p> <p>MHCLG and DEFRA officials worked closely together on the development of Environment Bill policies, and this close co-operation is continuing in the reforms to environmental assessment. The</p>

			Government sees these reforms as a key way of ensuring that the planning system will be fit and able to contribute to the achievement of its 25 Year Environment Plan, the targets that are being developed as set out in the Environment Bill, and other existing environmental targets. The Government is currently working on its response to the 'Planning for the Future' consultation, and will release more information on environmental assessment and the wider planning reforms. Here
29/04/21	Written question	Defra	<p>Nappies: Waste Disposal - UIN 188178</p> <p>Alex Davies-Jones, Pontypridd (Lab): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps his Department plans to take to reduce single-use nappy waste by 2042 as part of the 25 Year Environment Plan.</p> <p>Rebecca Pow, Taunton Deane (Con): In line with the 25 Year Environment Plan, and our Resources and Waste Strategy, we are considering the best approach to minimise the environmental impact of a range of products, including nappies, taking on board the environmental and social impacts of the options available. Potential additional policy measures include standards, consumer information and encouraging voluntary action by business. We are seeking powers, through the Environment Bill, that will enable us to, where appropriate and subject to consultation, introduce ecodesign and consumer information requirements. This could include labelling schemes that provide accurate information to consumers, to drive the market towards more sustainable products.</p> <p>The previous Life Cycle Assessment of disposable and washable nappies dates from 2005, and was updated in 2008. To take account of the latest technological developments we are now funding a new environmental assessment of disposable and washable absorbent hygiene products (AHPs) with the primary focus on nappies. This is in progress and is looking at the waste and energy impacts of washable products, disposal to landfill or incineration, and recycling options. It will be published later this year following peer review and will help inform possible future action on AHPs by Government and industry. In order to complete this study and explore feasible options going forward, information is being</p>

			gathered from industry. I have met with representatives of the Nappy Alliance, and will be meeting with the Absorbent Hygiene Product Manufacturers Association and disposable nappy business representatives shortly. Here
			<p>Buildings: Air Pollution - UIN 187121 Geraint Davies, Swansea West (Lab): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what provisions on indoor air quality will be included in the Environment Bill; and how those provisions will be enforced.</p> <p>Rebecca Pow, Taunton Deane (Con): We recognise the importance of national leadership on the issue of indoor air quality, and we are working across Government with the Chief Medical Officer and the Government Chief Scientific Advisor to coordinate further action, as well as with the Department of Health and Social Care and Public Health England who are taking the lead on this area. Our Clean Air Strategy also includes measures to reduce emissions from key sources which contribute to indoor air pollution, including measures to reduce emissions of fine particulate matter from domestic solid fuel burning, which are in part delivered through the Environment Bill.</p> <p>However, we consider that building our evidence base is a key first step to ensure that any future interventions are appropriately targeted and effective and that is what we are now focusing on. For example, our Air Quality Expert Group, with support from members of the Committee on the Medical Effects of Air Pollution, will be producing a report on indoor air quality, focusing on fine particulate matter and volatile organic compounds as the air pollutants which are prevalent in indoor environments. Here</p>
29/04/21	Written question	Defra	<p>Ella Kissi-Debrah - UIN 187119 Geraint Davies, Swansea West (Lab): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, whether he plans to bring forward legislative proposals in the Environment Bill in response to the recommendations of the coroner's report following the inquest into the death of Ella Kissi-Debrah.</p> <p>Rebecca Pow, Taunton Deane (Con): Our thoughts continue to be with Ella's family and friends. We will carefully consider the</p>

			<p>recommendations in the Prevention of Future Deaths report and respond in due course. We know that air pollution is the single greatest environmental risk to human health, and although air pollution has reduced significantly over the last decade, there is more to do. This is why the Government is continuing to take urgent action to curb the impact air pollution has on communities across England through the world-leading Clean Air Strategy, the landmark Environment Bill, and the delivery of the £3.8 billion plan to clean up transport and tackle nitrogen dioxide pollution at the roadside.</p> <p>We know there is a strong case for taking ambitious action on PM 2.5 as it is the pollutant that has the most significant impact on health. That is why we are introducing a duty to set a PM 2.5 target – alongside at least one additional long-term air quality target - in the Environment Bill. We have always been clear that we will consider the World Health Organization's guidelines for PM 2.5 at part of this process. Here</p>

Environment – Waste

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
16/04/21	Written question	Defra	<p>Fly-tipping - UIN 179159 Colleen Fletcher, Coventry North East (Lab): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps his Department is taking to tackle fly-tipping in (a) Coventry North East constituency, (b) Coventry and (c) England ; what (i) economic and (ii) other support he is providing to (A) local police forces and (B) local authorities to help tackle fly-tipping; and what assessment he has made of the effect of the covid-19 outbreak on trends in the level of fly-tipping in (1) Coventry North East constituency, (2) Coventry and (3) England .</p> <p>Rebecca Pow, Taunton Deane (Con): Fly-tipping is a crime which blights local communities and the environment, and we are committed to tackling this unacceptable behaviour. The role of central Government is to enable and support local action by providing a clear legal framework of rights, responsibilities</p>

			<p>and powers and setting national standards. Local authorities are responsible for keeping relevant public land (as defined in the Environmental Protection Act 1990) clear of litter and refuse. We expect local authorities to investigate all incidents of fly-tipping, prosecute fly-tippers when there is sufficient evidence and recover clearance costs where possible.</p> <p>Whilst the police may support multi-agency investigations into serious and organised incidents of waste crime, including fly-tipping, fly-tipping investigation and enforcement is the responsibility of local authorities, and the Environment Agency in certain circumstances. Local authorities have flexibility in deciding how to allocate funding based on their local priorities. This year, Core Spending Power in England will rise by up to 4.6% in cash terms, from £49.0 billion in 2020-21 to up to £51.3 billion in 2021-22.</p> <p>For Coventry, this corresponds to an increase of up to £13.88 million, or 5.09%. This real-terms increase recognises the resources councils need to meet their pressures and maintain critical services. The Settlement is unringfenced to ensure local areas can prioritise based on their own understanding of the needs of their local communities.</p> <p>In recent years we have bolstered local authorities' powers to tackle fly-tipping, such as by introducing the power to issue fixed penalty notices and to stop and seize vehicles of suspected fly-tippers. Our 2018 Resources and Waste Strategy set out our strategic approach to prevent, detect and deter waste crime. We committed to strengthen sentences for fly-tipping and to develop a fly-tipping toolkit to help local authorities and others work in partnership to tackle this crime. We also committed to increasing penalties for fly-tipping in our manifesto.</p> <p>Budget 2020 allocated up to £2 million to support innovative solutions to tackle fly-tipping. We launched an invitation to tender on 9 March 2021 for a research project considering the drivers, deterrents</p>
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			<p>and impacts of fly-tipping. We are exploring additional funding opportunities and priorities, including considering the role of digital solutions. We are also preparing a number of legislative reforms to tackle waste crime, which will help to tackle fly-tipping. We are taking forward the commitment in the Resources and Waste Strategy to develop proposals for the reform of the waste carrier, broker, and dealer regime. We are working with industry and the regulator and we intend to consult later this year. We also intend to consult on the introduction of mandatory electronic waste tracking. This will help to ensure that waste is dealt with appropriately and to reduce the incidence of waste crime and fly-tipping.</p> <p>The Environment Bill also includes several measures to help tackle waste crime. The Bill will ensure agencies and authorities can work more effectively to combat waste crime through better access to evidence and improved powers of entry. These new powers will help ensure waste criminals, such as illegitimate waste operators reliant on fly-tipping for income, are held accountable for their actions. The Government has not made any assessment of the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic on trends of fly-tipping. However, Defra publishes annual fly-tipping statistics for England, available at https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/fly-tipping-in-england. Data for the period April 2020 to March 2021 will be published in due course. Here</p>
16/04/21	Written question	Defra	<p>Take-away Food: Litter - UIN 174129 Dan Jarvis, Barnsley Central (Lab): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy on reducing littering in and around drive-through services in the UK.</p> <p>Rebecca Pow, Taunton Deane (Con): Defra does not think it would be appropriate to require take-away food vendors to implement a vehicle registration number printing and tracing system for packaging, due to the additional burden this would place on these businesses and those who would be responsible for enforcement. Data</p>

			<p>protection issues have also been raised. The Litter Strategy sets out how we intend to work with the relevant industries to tackle certain types of problematic litter, including fast-food packaging.</p> <p>To this effect, I held a roundtable in September 2020 with large fast-food retailers, many of whom are associated with 'drive-through' type restaurants, to understand what action they are taking now to tackle the litter created by their products. It was encouraging to hear about the initiatives they are working on and, more importantly, that they are committed to delivering lasting change by working together to tackle what is an industry wide issue. We are watching closely to see how their commitments translate into action.</p> <p>The Secretary of State has regular discussions with Cabinet colleagues on litter. Defra has had no discussions with the Department Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy on reducing littering in and around drive-through services in the UK. Our recently published EPR packaging consultation proposes that producers who make or handle consumer-facing packaging should fund the full net-costs associated with the collection, sorting and treatment of the packaging they place on the market, once it becomes waste. We are also proposing that these fees could cover the costs of consumer information campaigns on recycling packaging waste and litter-related costs. We will continue to engage with producers as these measures come forward. The Environment Bill will provide the powers necessary to introduce such an extended producer responsibility scheme via secondary legislation. Here</p>
19/04/21	Debate	HoL/Defra	<p>Single Use Carrier Bags Charges (England) (Amendment) Order 2021 - Vol 811 Moved by: (a) Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park That the Grand Committee do consider the Single Use Carrier Bags Charges (England) (Amendment) Order 2021. Relevant document: 46th Report of the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments (Special attention drawn to the instrument)</p>

			<p>(a) Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park (The Minister of State, Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office) My Lords, the statutory instrument before the Committee today was laid before this House on 4 March 2021. The Government are committed to eliminating plastic waste and the terrible effect it has on the environment. The use of single-use plastic items and their inappropriate disposal continue to raise significant environmental issues. More here</p>
20/04/21	Written question	Defra	<p>Litter: Coronavirus - UIN 180413</p> <p>Sir Greg Knight, East Yorkshire (Con): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps he is taking to discourage littering in (a) tourist and (b) other areas as covid-19 lockdown restrictions are eased and outdoor socialising increases; and if he will make a statement.</p> <p>Rebecca Pow, Taunton Deane (Con): We know that people's health, wellbeing and resilience can be improved by spending time in the natural environment and there has been an encouraging increase in the number of visitors accessing the countryside. We are clear, however, that everyone should follow the recently updated Countryside Code, which is available on gov.uk. A key part of the Government's strategy is to get clear and consistent messages to the media, which promote better behaviour in the countryside and encourage a partnership response. We continue to campaign to raise awareness of the impacts of littering.</p> <p>In response to Covid-19, Defra developed a 'Respect the Outdoors' campaign to encourage people to follow the Countryside Code and to highlight the impacts of littering. This has been promoted both online and in locations across the country near to urban parks, beaches and national parks. We also supported, and provided funding for, Keep Britain Tidy's Love Parks campaign, which encouraged people to treat our parks with respect. I recently spoke at the launch of Keep Britain Tidy's 2021 Great British Spring Clean, encouraging everyone to get involved. By doing so, we are setting the tone for the summer</p>

			<p>ahead, by showing that litter is not acceptable, and that people care deeply about protecting their local environment.</p> <p>It is an offence to drop litter, and councils have legal powers to take enforcement action against offenders. Anyone caught littering may be prosecuted in a magistrates' court, which can lead to a criminal record and a fine of up to £2,500 on conviction. Instead of prosecuting, councils may decide to issue a fixed penalty (on-the-spot fine) of between £65 and £150. To support councils to meet their duties in keeping land clear of litter and refuse and maintaining public bins, the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) has recently published guidance on the provision of litter bins, available at https://wrap.org.uk/content/binfracture-right-bin-right-place. In support of this guidance, WRAP has recently run a grant competition, funded by Defra, for local authorities in England to apply for grants of between £10,000 and £25,000 to purchase new litter bins. In total, 44 applications were approved, worth almost a million pounds. Here</p>
21/04/21	Written question	Defra	<p>Waste Disposal: Parks - UIN 180396 Mr Barry Sheerman, Huddersfield (Lab): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps his Department has taken to ensure that there is a sufficient volume of refuse space for use in public parks.</p> <p>Rebecca Pow, Taunton Deane (Con): Principal Litter Authorities such as local councils or crown authorities are responsible for keeping their relevant land clear of litter and refuse. This includes public parks, national parks and royal parks. It is up to the respective authorities to decide how best to meet this statutory duty. Litter authorities may choose to install bins in public places and have a duty to make arrangements for the regular emptying and cleansing of any litter bins that they provide or maintain.</p> <p>On behalf of Defra and MHCLG, the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) have recently published guidance for local authorities and Business Improvement Districts in England on the</p>

			<p>provision of litter bins. The Right Bin in the Right Place guidance is available at https://wrap.org.uk/content/bininfrastructure-right-bin-right-place. In support of this guidance, the Litter Bininfrastructure Grant scheme provided local authorities in England with the opportunity to apply for capital grants of £10,000-£25,000 to support the purchase of new litter bins. The scheme, which is being managed by the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) and funded by Defra, was open from 17th December 2020 until 10th March 2021. In total 77 applications were received, with £983,000 being awarded to local authorities across 44 grants.</p> <p>We also continue to campaign to raise awareness of littering issues. Last summer, in response to Covid-19, Defra developed a 'Respect the Outdoors' campaign to encourage people to follow the Countryside Code and to highlight the impacts of littering. This was promoted both online and in locations across the country near to urban parks, beaches and national parks. We also supported, and provided funding for, Keep Britain Tidy's Love Parks campaign, which encouraged people to treat our parks with respect. Preliminary evaluation of these campaigns indicated that they had a positive influence on the target audience's intended disposal of PPE litter, with anecdotal reports from local authorities that the intervention resulted in a markedly beneficial outcome. Here</p>
22/04/21	Oral answers	Defra	<p>Plastic Waste - UIN 914625 Jacob Young, Redcar (Con): What steps he is taking to tackle plastic waste. Rebecca Pow, Taunton Deane (Con): We are committed to tackling plastic pollution. We have introduced a ban, with a few very specific exemptions, on the supply of plastic straws, stirrers and cotton buds, and reduced single-use plastic carrier bag usage by 95% in the main supermarkets through the 5p charge. This is a great day, and I am pleased my hon. Friend has chosen to raise this subject today, because we are debating increasing the charge to 10p and extending it to all retailers, and we are seeking powers in the Environment Bill to</p>

			charge for single-use plastic items, making recycling more consistent. More here
28/04/21	Written question	Defra	<p>Incinerators - UIN 184485 Dr Lisa Cameron, East Kilbride, Strathaven and Lesmahagow (SNP): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what the Government's policy is on waste incineration.</p> <p>Rebecca Pow, Taunton Deane (Con): Waste is a devolved area of policy. Government's ambition for the future of waste management in England, as set out in the Resources and Waste Strategy, is to ensure that we preserve material resources through a reduction in the generation of waste and by moving towards a circular economy. We also want to manage any residual waste in a way that maximises its value as a resource whilst minimising environmental impacts.</p> <p>Our view is that waste incineration with energy recovery should not compete with greater waste prevention, re-use or recycling, however, it does play and should continue to play an important role in diverting waste from landfill and is generally the best management option for most residual waste. The Resources and Waste Strategy also set out an ambition to increase the efficiency of energy from waste (EfW) plants, by encouraging use of the heat the plants produce and working with industry to increase the number of EfW plants that are formally recognised as achieving recovery status. Here</p>
29/04/21	Written question	Defra	<p>Litter: Tobacco UIN 188108 Jim Shannon, Strangford (DUP): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps his Department is taking to tackle tobacco waste litter.</p> <p>Rebecca Pow, Taunton Deane (Con): We believe that the tobacco industry must take responsibility for the litter created by their products. Our most recent composition survey found cigarette butts represent 66% of all littered items, and preliminary research has shown an estimated cost to UK local authorities and other duty bodies of £40 million per year for the collection and disposal of littered cigarette butts, rising to £46 million when including those disposed of in public bins.</p>

			<p>Last year, I met with tobacco industry representatives and asked them to consider what more they could do to address smoking related litter and whether a voluntary producer responsibility scheme could be developed for tobacco waste products. Having considered further evidence, the Government has now decided that a regulatory approach may now be required to ensure that the industry takes sufficient financial responsibility for the litter created by its products and to prevent them from undermining public health policy.</p> <p>We plan to commission new research into regulatory options this year, including consideration of extended producer responsibility principles. The Environment Bill will allow us to legislate for extended producer responsibility schemes, which could be applied to tobacco products. Cigarette and tobacco product packaging is already covered by the proposed packaging producer responsibility scheme, which is currently undergoing a second phase of consultation. Here</p>

Industrial strategy & local industrial strategies

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
26/04/21	Oral answers	HoL/BEIS	<p>Industrial Strategy: Local Growth – Vol 811 Baroness Thornhill: To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the Annual Report by the Industrial Strategy Council, published on 23 March, which recommended the development of local strategies to deliver sustainable local growth.</p> <p>Lord Callanan, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy: The work of the Industrial Strategy Council to date has been pivotal for the success of the industrial strategy. As we begin to transition into our plan for growth, the work of the council, including reflections in its annual report, will be taken into account. We are working with local enterprise partnerships, mayoral combined authorities and other local partners to build on the priorities identified through local industrial strategies. We will</p>

			also address new issues which have arisen since their publication. More here

Planning

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes

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

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
27/04/21	Written question	DfT	<p>Transport for the North: Finance - UIN 184392</p> <p><u>Dame Diana Johnson, Kingston upon Hull North (Lab):</u> To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, pursuant to the Answer of 25 March 2021 to Question 172921 on Transport for the North: Finance, what assessment his Department made of the future spending plans and outgoing costs of Transport for the North as part of the decision to reduce its core funding allocation in response to Transport for the North having high reserves.</p> <p><u>Andrew Stephenson, Pendle (Con):</u> The decision to adjust Transport for the North 's core funding grant for 2020/21 and 2021/22 was based on an assessment of the funding required for them to effectively undertake their statutory functions. Here</p>