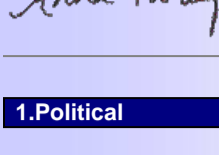




November 2009

This month saw the venerable tradition of the [Queen's Speech](#) announcing the Government's legislative programme for the forthcoming session. The proposed Bills were inevitably viewed through the [prism](#) of an imminent General Election, and there was scepticism about how much could actually be enacted in time.

Nonetheless, there were some interesting implications for local government which will require further examination. For example, we saw a duty on local authorities to deal with [child poverty](#), and an Equality Bill which will see a [public sector duty to reduce gap](#) between rich and poor and to use commissioning to tackle inequality. There was also a [Children Schools and Families Bill](#) which pledges to guarantee school entitlements to children and their parents and a Crime and Security Bill which sees [mandatory parenting assessment](#) to accompany asbos. Other measures of interest to local government included the [Flood and Water Management Bill](#) and the [Digital Economy Bill](#) on digital infrastructure. The [Personal Care at Home Bill](#) will implement the move towards a National Care Service.



1. Political

David Cameron has outlined a new policy focus on tackling the benefits trap. 27 October: [Click Here](#)

In a keynote speech to the National Housing Federation, Shadow Housing Minister Grant Shapps is to announce plans to give social tenants the chance to move around the country for the first time. 9 November: [Click Here](#)

Radical new powers will be given to local residents to protect community assets from closure and allow local people to take over the running of public buildings and community assets, Conservatives announced today. 19 November: [Click Here](#)

2. Departmental

CLG

Local Government Minister Rosie Winterton announced further new measures on council salaries and services. Ms Winterton pledged to introduce new legislative rules before the end of the year that will require councils to publish the pay and perks of their highest earning 2,500 posts. 22 October: [Click Here](#)

John Denham is to change the rules that require councils to get Whitehall permission if they want to create local byelaws or revoke ones not needed. 27 October: [Click Here](#)

Housing Minister John Healey finalised a £450m funding package to kickstart work on over 150 stalled housing developments. 29 October: [Click Here](#)

Communities Secretary John Denham today announced plans to recruit 175 green-fingered apprentices to get parks and gardens growing in some of the country's most deprived areas. 4 November: [Click Here](#)

The Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill received Royal Assent. The Act aims to strengthen the democratic role of councils to support local people and businesses to rebuild the local economy, increase jobs and skills, tackle housing shortages and improve infrastructure. 13 November: [Click Here](#)

John Denham will announce that the public will have more access to Ordnance Survey maps from next year. The Government and Ordnance Survey, Great Britain's national mapping agency, will open up its data relating to electoral and local authority boundaries and postcode areas. 17 November: [Click Here](#)

John Healey launched measures to cut carbon emissions by amending the planning system. In proposals homeowners, developers and businesses will be able to install their own on-site wind turbines, and air source heat pumps without the expense and red tape of planning permission. 17 November: [Click Here](#)

The majority of business rate bills will fall next year as a result of revaluation, the Government confirmed. The Government will not collect any extra revenue as a result of the 2010 revaluation. 17 November: [Click Here](#)

HMT

It has been announced that the Pre-Budget report will be delivered by the Chancellor on Wednesday 9th December at 12:30.

Cabinet Office

Responding to challenges facing front-line groups during the recession, the Minister for the Third Sector has announced today that all £750,000 allocated into the Campaign Research Programme will now be transferred into the Hardship Fund to support third sector organisations provide front line services during the recession. 13 November: [Click Here](#)

Home Office

The level of authorisation required by local authorities to sign off investigatory techniques will be raised to prevent them being used for trivial matters. Following a public consultation of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA), a senior executive now has to approve how and when the techniques are used to protect the public and fight crime. 4th November, [Click Here](#)

DCSF

Schools Secretary Ed Balls has today announced that a further 114 schools will given the green light to join the Trust Schools Programme. Trust Schools join with one or more external organisation to draw on their expertise and energy to help raise standards. 22 October: [Click Here](#)

Ed Balls launched a new careers information, advice and guidance (IAG) strategy. The new strategy aims to modernise careers education to make it fit for the 21st century, to improve mentoring, and to increase work experiences for the most disadvantaged. 26 October: [Click Here](#)

The first ever myplace project marks a milestone in the Government's £270 million programme to deliver world-class youth facilities across the country. 27 October: [Click Here](#)

A report from the Official Schools Adjudicator, published after an unsuccessful attempt by Harrow Council to prosecute a parent, recommends additional sanctions 'probably through the courts' has found thousands of families are employing elaborate lies to cheat their way into top state schools. 3 November: [Click Here](#)

Children's Secretary Ed Balls announces the 'From Care2Work' programme. All care leavers are now given a guaranteed opportunity to get training, mentoring and access to jobs. 16 November: [Click Here](#)

DCMS

The competition to become the UK's first City of Culture in 2013 has entered its next phase with 22 cities submitting their Outline Proposals by last month's deadline. 6 November: [Click Here](#)

Seven coastal resorts across the country are receiving a grant under the government-funded "Sea Change" programme, designed to invigorate England's seaside towns through investment in culture and heritage. 16 November: [Click Here](#)

BIS

Ministers gave further backing for British manufacturing excellence today with Business Minister Pat McFadden announcing an increase of Government funding to £40 million for a new manufacturing technology centre (MTC). 29 October: [Click Here](#)

Lord Mandelson has delivered a statement on the government's skills strategy and their role in the country's future economic growth. 11 November: [Click Here](#)

Two further Sector Skills Councils (SSCs) have been relicensed, Business, Innovation and Skills Secretary Lord Mandelson announced today, on behalf of the UK Government and the Devolved Administrations. 12 November: [Click Here](#)

The Government set out how it intends to invest in the skills critical to economic recovery. The Skills Investment Strategy 2010 -11 underpins the priorities announced in the recently published national skills strategy, Skills for Growth. Total Government investment in further education and skills for 2010-11 will be £4.4 billion. 16 November: [Click Here](#)

DOH

The draft Regulations, issued under the Health and Social Care Act 2008 detail the new framework against which the Care Quality Commission will regulate health and adult social care. 29 October: [Click Here](#)

The Prime Minister delivered a press conference at which he announced plans to develop a patient centred National Health Service including the guarantee that anyone between 40 and 74 will have the legal right to a five-yearly NHS Health Check. 10 November: [Click Here](#)

Summary Care Records containing key medical information which will be accessible wherever patients are treated are being rolled out across London. The scheme is taking off across England over the next year as part of a national roll-out of the programme. 17 November: [Click Here](#)

A cross-government action plan to improve the health of offenders in prison and in the community, was launched by Care Services Minister Phil Hope. 17 November: [Click Here](#)

DT

A consultation on a new distribution of £223m funding for the hugely popular free bus pass that will be fairer for councils was announced by the Department for Transport today. 4 November: [Click Here](#)

Transport Secretary Andrew Adonis has launched a new £50m fund for improvements to ten key stations in England as he welcomed the independent Station Champions' report on the state of facilities for passengers across the country. 17 November [Click Here](#)

The UK's streets and car parks could see thousands more charging points for electric and plug-in hybrid cars thanks to £30 million of Government funding. Transport Secretary Andrew Adonis today invited cities and businesses to join together to bid for the money which will help fund the installation of charging points on streets, car parks and in commercial, retail and leisure facilities. 19 November: [Click Here](#)

3. Parliament

Written Ministerial Statements

Minister for Policing, Crime and Counter-Terrorism (Mr. David Hanson) on the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) 4 November: [Click Here](#)

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Phil Hope) about the discovery of a backlog of conduct cases identified by the General Social Care Council 4 November: [Click Here](#)

Oral Questions

Oral Questions to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on 27 October [Click Here](#)

New Select Committee Enquiries and Calls for Evidence

SOUTH WEST REGIONAL COMMITTEE Subject: Transport in the South West, Oct 26th

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT Subject: Beyond decent homes, Oct 26th

LORDS ECONOMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE Subject: Inquiry into Private Finance Projects and off-balance sheet debt, 3rd November

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT Subject: Beyond Decent Homes, Nov 10th

YORKSHIRE AND HUMBER REGIONAL COMMITTEE Subject: The Work of Yorkshire Forward, Nov 10th

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE Subject: Low Carbon Technologies in a Green Economy, Nov 11th

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS Subject: Train to Gain: Developing the Skills of the Workforce, Nov 11th

HEALTH Subject: Social Care, Nov 12th

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT Subject: Beyond Decent Homes, Nov 23rd

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT Call for Evidence - New Inquiry into Fire Control, 17th Nov

Acts of Parliament

13 Bills became Acts of Parliament on 12 November, the final Bills enacted during the 2008-09 parliamentary session. 13 November [Click Here](#)

4. Consultation

Ed Miliband has announced the launch of a public consultation on a draft national policy statement on energy infrastructure which included the announcement of 10 suitable sites for nuclear power stations. 9 November [Click Here](#)

The Secretary of State for Health (Andy Burnham): The Department of Health has today published the consultation document—"The NHS Constitution: a consultation on new patient rights". 10 November: [Click Here](#)

5. Other

Cities are losing thousands of pupils a year as families move out when their children reach school age, according to new figures from the Office for National Statistics. 25 October: [Click Here](#)

A wide-ranging review of who gets paid what at the top of the public sector - and why - was called for yesterday by Sir Gus O'Donnell, the Cabinet Secretary, as he acknowledged that some salaries may be too high. 29 October: [Click Here](#)

Thousands of polling stations would be closed and voting hours reduced under plans from the Ministry of Justice to cut the cost of elections. October 30: [Click Here](#)

Thousands of families could lose out on free pre-school education due to a funding crisis that is causing state-run nurseries to lay off staff, increase class sizes and in some cases close. 2 November: [Click Here](#)

Four out of 10 households get housing benefit in the parts of Britain most blighted by benefits dependency, figures revealed by the Conservatives show. 3 November: [Click Here](#)

English councils look set to unveil the lowest council tax increases for more than a decade, according to a survey by the Local Government Chronicle. Of the 81 councils that replied, the average increase is set to be 1.6 per cent - barely half the 3 per cent for this year - with 34 planning a freeze or cut. 5 November: [Click Here](#)

The amount of household rubbish recycled by local authorities in the last year has increased to 37.6 per cent while waste sent to landfill decreased by 1.2 million tonnes, according to new figures. 5 November: [Click Here](#)

Hospitals, schools, leisure centres and housing organisations could be allowed to take control of their own affairs if staff and users voted in favour. The John Lewis-style partnerships could form a radical central plank of Labour's general election manifesto. 12 November: [Click Here](#)

The Lord Chief Justice, Lord Judge, has expressed his preference for people to receive information about their local authority from independent sources rather than through council-run newsletters or local newspapers. 17 November: [Click Here](#)

PLEASE E-MAIL ANY FEEDBACK OR COMMENTS TO INFO@NLGN.ORG.UK

NEW LOCAL GOVERNMENT NETWORK
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