

Queen's Speech 2022

Purpose of report

For direction.

Summary

To update the Executive Advisory Board of the Local Government Association (LGA) on the May 2022 Queen's Speech and to seek approval on the Bills the LGA should prioritise, based on the organisation's business plan and advocacy priorities, for the purpose of its lobbying.

Recommendation

To discuss and agree the recommended prioritisation of the LGA's legislative lobbying for the next parliamentary session.

Action

To take forward the LGA's legislative lobbying.

Contact officer: Mel Haslam / Iredia Oboh

Position: Acting Head of Public Affairs and Stakeholder Management /
Public Affairs and Communications Manager

Phone no: 07766251752 / 07584234794

Email: melanie.haslam@local.gov.uk / iredia.oboh@local.gov.uk

Queen's Speech 2022

Background

1. The Queen's Speech announced the Government's agenda for the next Parliamentary session of 2022-2023. The Speech contained many measures that will be of relevance to councils and this paper seeks to summarise the key Government Bills that will come before Parliament and proposes a prioritisation for the LGA's engagement with them.
2. The Speech also made a series of policy announcements – particularly around a Women's Health Strategy and an Independent Football Regulatory White Paper – that are not covered in this paper as it focuses on how the Association will use parliamentary process to influence Bills which are set to come forward for scrutiny. The LGA continues to lobby on these and many other issues are important to the sector (this broader set of issues is addressed via the Headlines document and set out in our organisation's Business Plan). The LGA will of course also continue to use its parliamentary communications to provide thought leadership and influence parliamentary reports and debates in order to help our efforts to shape decision-making.
3. The [full Queen's Speech can be found on the Government's website](#) and our [briefing to member councils is available on the LGA website](#).

Issues

4. Following a Queen's Speech, the LGA uses its business plan to prioritise the legislation and key policy announcements that the organisation will seek to influence. This prioritisation is based on cross-party political direction to ensure that, by focusing our lobbying, the best results are achieved for local government. This also provides councils with an early view of Bills they may wish to work with the LGA on to influence. Following an assessment of the implications of the Government's agenda, we are using the following system of prioritisation:
 - 4.1. **High profile engagement:** For a Bill identified as high profile, the LGA lobbies at each stage of the Bill's passage through Parliament, works with our network of MPs and Peers to table any relevant amendments, uses media and stakeholder engagement to keep our priorities on the national agenda, and engages with the government department leading the legislation.

- 4.2. **Medium profile engagement:** For legislation which is important, but does not require as much active lobbying, we will seek to ensure – through constructive engagement with Ministers and officials – that the proposals do not negatively impact on local government. For the Bills managed under the medium profile category, our engagement is usually limited to advising on the detail of the proposals and a general briefing on key issues to Parliament, if it is required. Should the Bill be amended to have a more significant impact on local government, it can be reclassified into the ‘high’ category.
- 4.3. **Monitoring:** For legislation that has limited impact on local government, or are not captured by our corporate priorities as set out in the LGA business plan, we will seek to monitor progress. The status of Bills and policy categorised under ‘monitoring’ will be reviewed to ensure that any changes do not require more active participation and lobbying by the LGA.
5. We will also be exploring which Private Members Bills (PMBs) will be of interest to us and likely to carry enough support in Parliament to be passed. We will monitor these Bills and make decisions on whether to engage with them on a case by case basis, taking guidance from our policy boards as required.
6. We will also be identifying suitable opportunities to promote our priorities on issues not covered in the legislation. This includes remote meetings, publication of councillors’ addresses, and buses.
7. We will engage with other Green Papers, White Papers and strategies as they are brought forward, including the Health Disparities White Paper.
8. Set out below is the proposed prioritisation of legislation and policy announcements in the Queen’s Speech which have been identified as being of interest to councils. The Queen’s Speech briefing, which outlines the overview of these Bills and sets out an initial LGA view, is annexed.

High priority	Medium priority	Monitoring
Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill	Energy Security Bill	Public Order Bill
Schools Bill	Transport Bill	Brexit Freedoms Bill
Renters Reform Bill	Draft Mental Health Act Reform Bill	Draft Audit Reform Bill
Social Housing Regulation Bill	Online Safety Bill	UK Infrastructure Bank Bill
	Modern Slavery Bill	Boycotts, Divestment and Sanctions Bill
	Draft Victims Bill	Draft Digital Markets, Competition and Consumer Bill
	Draft Protect Duty Bill	High Speed Rail (Crewe – Manchester Bill) – <i>we do not plan to do any proactive engagement with this Bill, but we will highlight in our Communications and Parliamentary Network bulletin as it will be of interest to councils in the region</i>
	Animal Welfare (Kept Animals Bill)	
	Non-Domestic Rating Bill	
	Procurement Bill	
	Data Reform Bill	
	Product Security and Telecommunications Infrastructure Bill	

Implications for Wales

9. We anticipate that the territorial jurisdiction of the legislation we are set to engage with will be limited to England. We will however update WLGA as required, particularly if it becomes clear that a piece of UK Government legislation is significant for them.

Financial Implications

10. None.

Next steps

11. Executive Advisory Board to discuss and agree the LGA's priorities for its legislative lobbying in the next parliamentary session.