

## Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport

### Climate Change and Environment

1. **Local Net Zero Forum.** The Board has worked hard on encouraging the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero to lead an impactful Local Net Zero Forum. There has been some progress over the year, including further meetings and agreements to focus on certain elements of the net zero agenda, and in having the first political level Forum meeting co-chaired by the Minister and the LGA Chair, and including Lead Members of the Board.
2. **Fuel poverty and energy efficiency.** The Board led calls for greater support for people in fuel poverty because of the energy crisis. In particular calling for new investments in energy efficiency measures and advice to households on how to reduce their energy costs, as well as promoting the work of councils, and supporting them through the cost of living hub. Our research was widely covered in the media, including the [Guardian](#).
3. **Climate change adaptation.** We worked with Local Partnerships and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) on a project to determine what local government needs from the update to the Third National Adaptation Programme (NAP3). The final report [Accelerating Adaptation Action](#) was launched on 8 June with a range of recommendations we hope to see reflected in the NAP published later this year. The [press release](#) of the report was widely covered by the media, including the [Mail](#), Express, and Independent newspapers. The project builds on LPs [climate change adaptation toolkit](#) and engagement with the Government via the Local Adaptation Advisory Panel.
4. **Neighbourhood net zero.** In November we published [our report](#) on Neighbourhood approach to decarbonisation and held a webinar to present the findings. The report is central to evidencing the critical role of local government in engaging and building trust in communities to support them to lead local climate action, which can often be overlooked in Whitehall.
5. **Partnership building.** The Board has focused on building wider and deeper partnerships on the climate agenda, in particular with the energy sector. This has led to a range of new opportunities for influence. For instance, on 10 January the LGA joined Energy UK, Federation of Master Builders and the National Housing Federation at a Parliamentary event engaging with dozens of MPs on the importance of local energy efficiency.
6. **Independent Net Zero Review.** On 13 January Chris Skidmore MP published his final report [Mission Zero, Independent Review of Net Zero](#), it is a comprehensive and detailed report. The LGA [submitted evidence](#) in October 2022, followed by a meeting between the

Climate Change Task Group and Chris Skidmore MP, and officer meetings with the review team. The final report references the LGA on multiple points, including around the need for funding reform.

7. **Green heat project.** The LGA worked with the Energy Systems Catapult to design an approach whereby local and central government would work together to further enable decarbonisation of heat and buildings. [Green Heat: heat and buildings decarbonisation up to 2050](#) outlines a new approach to enabling councils to lead on retrofit and fuel poverty. The report was launched with a [press release](#), widely covered in the national media such as the [Independent](#) and local media such as [Evening Standard](#).
8. **Renewable energy.** We are working with Local Partnerships to review and update the LGAs [Renewable Energy Good Practice Guidance](#), which supports councils to explore options for taking forward renewable energy projects. The final report will be launched at LGA Annual Conference alongside research examining the number of renewable energy projects with planning permission and waiting to be built.
9. **Local government and the future of the electricity system.** The Board has spearheaded the sectors engagement on this critical issue for the economy and net zero. This includes working with Ofgem and partners on the potential reforms to governance to give councils a greater role in shaping grid investments, responding to [consultations](#) on this issue, and bringing [electricity partners and councils together](#) to discuss a way forward.
10. **Climate Change Task Group.** The Board has participated in meeting of the CCTG, including with Minister Lord Callanan and Minister Rowley.
11. **Events.** The Board has led several events across the year. Including a Smith Square Debate on climate change, webinars on adaptation, on energy efficiency and fuel poverty, an in-person event on the future of the grid, and others.

#### **Environment and waste**

12. **Waste and recycling reforms.** The Board has continued to engage in the detail of the proposed waste and recycling reforms, including the Extended Producer Responsibility and collection consistency. There have been some successes, for instance that the EPR scheme administrator will be a public body and involve local government. However, we continue to press for progress. Our representations to emphasise the importance of local flexibility in waste services are frequently covered in the media, for instance the [Daily Mail](#), as well as some of our concerns around the delays to reforms, such as the [Guardian](#). The board has also led work on proposals to prevent councils from charging for [DIY waste](#) at Waste and Recycling centres, and [fly tipping](#).
13. **Chemicals in the waste stream.** The Board continues to be involved around the issues relating to the implementation of new regulations on the disposal of fabric covered seating

containing harmful chemicals (persistent organic pollutants). The LGA [responded to consultation on changes to the POPs regulations](#) recommending that Defra, the Environment Agency and the LGA work together on a long-term strategy to deal with a conveyor belt of new chemicals being added to the list of POPs. The previous Board Chair met with Minister Pow to discuss this issue.

14. **Nutrient and water neutrality.** The LGA's Inquiry into nutrient and water neutrality concluded in March with the publication of the [final report and recommendations](#). A press release accompanied the publication of the report setting out the need for urgent action and funding so that 20,000 homes on hold due to nutrient and water neutrality can be built. It was welcome to see that the Government has recognised the need for upfront funding and has invited councils impacted by nutrient neutrality to submit evidence and put forward an [expression of interest for additional funding for projects](#) to unlock housing.
15. **Coastal landfill.** An LGA press release and webinar on 12 January highlighted the need for urgent action on the coastal landfill timebomb, featuring research from the LGA's Coastal Special Interest Group (SIG) into the extent of the problem, which affects 26 coastal authorities. The project was widely covered across the media, including [BBC](#) and the [Guardian](#).
16. **Bio-diversity Net Gain.** The Board continues to engage Defra officials on the implementation of BNG, including raising several issues around the detail and on funding. The Board will likely write to Ministers on this issue as BNG is due to come in November 2023 for large sites. In promoting the policy, the LGA joined forces with Natural England and the Berkely Group to host a conference on the issue.
17. **Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRSs).** The Board has continued to engage with Defra on the development of LNRSs, including on details of new burdens, guidance, and regulations. The LNRS process is also experiencing delays causing councils a number of challenges and is still unclear in a number of ways including the link with the planning system.
18. **Environmental targets.** Following the introduction of the Environment Act, Defra has set out more details of the Environment targets introduced by the Act. The LGA [responded to consultation on environment targets](#) and the [draft air quality control programme](#), which also follows on from the air quality chapter of the Environment Act.
19. **Flooding.** The Board ran a webinar on the unpredictable risk of surface water flooding, with presentations from the Environment Agency, Severn Trent Water in partnership with Mansfield Council and the Greater London Authority.

## Economic Growth

20. We commissioned Green Economy to produce a report highlighting the social and economic benefits of having businesses located in a local authority area that provide low carbon and environmental goods and services. The report is evidence based with case studies and suggests measures councils can take to make their area more attractive for these businesses to locate in. Focus will be on the supply of goods and services required for the Net Zero transition.
21. We commissioned The Retail Group to produce a report highlighting the social and economic opportunities and benefits of repurposing shopping centres to reflect the needs of the town centre, the community, the local authority, and the businesses located within their area. The report will be evidence based with case studies and the provider will suggest measures and approaches councils can take to repurpose shopping centres or support the repurpose of shopping centres where their ownership lies solely in the private sector.
22. LGA officials took part in discussions with DLUHC officials in shaping Government proposals to introduce high street rental auction powers. The Government is currently consulting on this. Our view is that such powers could be a useful additional tool in the 'high streets toolbox' to protect, revive and repurpose our town centres if the powers are simple and cost effective for councils to use.

## Housing, planning and homelessness

23. **Planning reforms and the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill** – We responded to a number of Government consultations including the infrastructure levy, increases to planning fees, reforms to the national planning policy framework and Environmental Outcomes Reports. We briefed Cllr Jamieson to present oral evidence on the proposed reforms to the Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Select Committee.
24. **Permitted Development Rights** – We responded to the Government's consultation on introducing a new use class and associated permitted development rights for short-term lets. We also submitted evidence to the APPG for Ending Homelessness and Housing Market & Delivery inquiry into Housing Solutions for Homeless Households – Rethinking Conversions.
25. **Social rent cap.** The Government [recognised](#) the impact that a rent increase below CPI+1% would have on the ability of councils to invest in new and existing social housing and provide decent homes and services to tenants. The impact was robustly evidenced in the LGA's [response](#) to the consultation. Whilst still going ahead with a rent ceiling below

CPI+1%, it decided on a 7% ceiling, rather the Government's previously preferred option of 5%.

26. **Renters Reform.** The Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Select Committee launched a written inquiry and an oral evidence inquiry into reforming the private rented sector, in August and September respectively. The purpose of the inquiry was to examine the Government's proposals set out in its White Paper, published in June 2022. We submitted [written evidence](#) and Councillor Darren Rodwell (Vice-chair for the LGA's EEHT Board) gave evidence at the oral evidence session on behalf of the LGA.
27. **Decent Homes Standard in the private rented sector.** The LGA [responded](#) to the Government's consultation to extend the Decent Homes Standard to the private rented sector. Our response broadly welcomed the introduction of the standard, but councils need to be provided with adequate and upfront new burdens funding to regulate the standard.
28. **Exempt accommodation.** We have [briefed](#) parliamentarians throughout the passage of the Supported Housing (Regulatory Oversight) Bill. We have been broadly supportive of the bill but have expressed concern around resourcing issues which will need to be adequately funded in order for the bill to be successfully implemented.
29. **Building Safety Levy (BSL)** - We responded to the Government consultation on the design and the implementation of the BSL. We also wrote to Michael Gove MP, Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities urgently asking the department to reconsider their proposed approach. Officers continue to work with DLUHC on the design and implementation of the levy.
30. **Local Authority Housing Fund.** We worked with DLUHC on the design of the £500 million Local Authority Housing Fund which will run over financial years 2022-23 and 2023-24. The capital fund is aimed at supporting local authorities to provide move on and settled accommodation for people from Ukraine through the Ukraine Family Scheme and Homes for Ukraine Scheme, and the Afghans who worked alongside the British Government. The Government has recently confirmed an additional £250 million fund with the majority of the additional funding used to house those on Afghan resettlement schemes (ARAP/ACRS) currently in bridging accommodation and the rest used to ease wider homelessness pressures. The LGA has created an [online forum](#) to facilitate discussion and shared learning between local authorities participating in LAHF.
31. **Housing Revenue Accounts (HRA).** Working with the Association of Retained Council Housing and the National Federation of ALMOs, we jointly commissioned Savills to undertake a [research project](#) to assess the recent and emerging pressures to HRAs. The overarching project objective was to understand and assess how effectively the HRA self-financing model is operating in relation to meeting expenditure needs. We also supported DLUHC to host a Ministerial roundtable with Rachel Maclean MP, Minister for Housing and Planning, and Baroness Scott to discuss financial pressures on local authority HRAs.

32. **Right to Buy.** The LGA has long called for councils to be able to retain 100% of their right to buy receipts. The Government announced that councils would be able to do so for the years 2022-23 and 2023-24 in March 2023. We continue to call on the Government to make these changes permanent and to allow councils to set discount rates locally.
33. **Compulsory purchase – compensation reforms.** We [responded](#) to the Government consultation on amending the compensation provisions in relation to the assessment of prospective planning permission where land is acquired by compulsion.
34. **Social housing regulation bill.** We have [briefed](#) on the Social Housing Regulation Bill as it goes through the House of Lords and House of Commons, emphasising our key messages. The LGA has also supported a number of key amendments – a list of which can be found [here](#). We secured an amendment that specifies that the Regulator must give consideration to appointing representatives from a variety of councils when making appointments to the Advisory Panel. We have also run two webinars to update councils on the upcoming regulatory changes to social housing and one on improving tenant experience.
35. **Other parliamentary activity.** We have briefed for debates on: the future of social housing; homelessness among Ukrainian refugees in the UK; planning policy; and the Government’s white paper (a fairer private rented sector).
36. **Housing Sector Professionalisation.** The Government has tabled an amendment in the Social Housing (Regulation) Bill, which aims to professionalise housing management, by requiring relevant staff to complete qualifications up to a certain level. In advance of a Government consultation and stakeholder roundtables, the LGA surveyed councils to form a snapshot of how this amendment might affect the sector.
37. **Consequential Changes to Homelessness Legislation** - The [LGA responded to the Government’s technical consultation on consequential changes to the homelessness legislation](#) in January 2023. We highlighted that councils were most supportive of Option 1 in the consultation, meaning councils must consider that someone is threatened with homelessness if they will become homeless within 56 days, as required under the prevention duty in Section 4 of the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017. The Government agreed with Option 1, setting out its [response](#) on 17 May and through the [Renters Reform Bill](#).
38. **Out of Area Placement Guidance.** The LGA published the [Out of Area Placement Guidance](#) in January 2023. It sets out best practice and procedure on out of area placements in another local authority area within England. This applies to accommodation used to meet the duties set out in homelessness legislation, as well as when a local authority is supporting a child under Section 17 of the Children Act 1989, where this support includes provision of accommodation.



39. **Homelessness Prevention Grant Consultation Submission.** We [responded to the Government's technical consultation](#) on changing the funding formula for the Homelessness Prevention Grant. We submitted our response at the end of August which was generally supportive of a move towards simplified, multi-year funding but was critical of certain elements such as the use of Area Cost Adjustments and data such as population, which didn't necessarily reflect housing pressures.
40. **Rough Sleeping Strategy.** The Government published its [Rough Sleeping Strategy](#) in September 2022. It included longstanding LGA policy asks, including: better access to mental health, drug and alcohol support; a commitment that no one leaving a public institution will end up on the street; more supported housing and Housing First nationally; and embedding the voices of lived experience into policymaking.
41. **Making the Case for Investing in Homelessness Prevention.** The LGA worked with Local Partnerships, Leeds City Council and Cornwall Council to produce a report, [Making the Case for Investing in Homelessness Prevention](#), that looks at what approaches have worked in homelessness prevention, how much they cost, costs that have been avoided, and some of the benefits accrued by their implementation. A tool has also been developed that councils can use to calculate their own savings.
42. **Kerslake Commission on Homelessness and Rough Sleeping.** The Kerslake Commission published a [Progress Report](#) in September 2022. We submitted information on the LGA's progress and the progress of local authorities on its recommendations.
43. **Houses in Multiple Occupancy.** The Government has introduced a Statutory Instrument to temporarily exempt asylum accommodation from Houses in Multiple Occupancy (HMO) licensing requirements. We set out our position through this [briefing](#) to Lords, which was referenced several times and picked up by media outlets. Following this, the Government committed to engage with the LGA and councils to successfully implement any changes.
44. **Media activity.** We issued proactive press releases on: [planning fees](#); [right to buy](#); [temporary accommodation](#); [social rent caps](#); [right to buy](#); [social housing management peer challenge](#).
45. **Leadership Essentials.** The 2022/23 Housing course took place at Warwick Business School from 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> January 2023. 100% of the 14 participants said that the course had improved their ability to carry out their role.
46. **Housing Advisers Programme.** The 2022/23 programme awarded grants of up to £20,000 to 94 councils across 21 projects. Project areas include homelessness, green homes, housing strategy, housing supply, planning and the private rented sector. An online survey of participants of the programme in 2020/21 and 2021/22 found that:

- 42.1 83% of participants in 2020/21 and 100% of participants in 2021/22 indicated that the HAP had enabled them to make progress towards their key goals,
- 42.2 83% of participants in 2020/21 and 100% of participants in 2021/22 would definitely recommend the programme if asked,
- 42.3 83% of participants in 2020/21 and 100% of participants in 2021/22 felt that HAP has had or will have a positive impact on their capacity to deliver housing, homelessness services provision and/or place making
- 42.4 100% of participants in both cohorts stated that the support they received through HAP has had a positive impact on their ability to meet local housing needs.

## Transport

### **A high quality, well managed, low carbon local road network**

- 47. **Dealing with highways obstruction.** Following representation by several member councils, the Board agreed for the LGA to undertake research in support of councils' ability to deal with obstructions on the highway, specifically to align powers to issue Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) as is the case in London. A [survey](#) was undertaken, and the findings were also shared with DfT officials, ministers and sympathetic partners, such as Sustrans and Living Streets. Further work has been commissioned to highlight the challenges of improving accessibility on our footways to promote the case to Government for further reform.
- 48. **EV charging infrastructure.** Following extensive lobbying by the LGA, the Government committed to a step change in funding and support for local authorities to promote the planning and delivery of local EV charging infrastructure for residents without off-street parking. Subsequently, LGA officers have been involved in shaping the £450 million Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure ([LEVI](#)) fund, helping to ensure that councils have flexibility in how they can use the funding and that expert support is available. The LGA has worked in partnership with OZEV and partners to support member councils in accessing the LEVI fund via a webinar.
- 49. **Highways maintenance.** An independent DfT commissioned study reported that current levels of funding to local authorities will result in a gradual decline in the condition of local roads. The LGA further [highlighted](#) how inflation and spending pressures would risk accelerating the speed of decline; we also highlighted the wide gulf in Government spending on maintenance for local roads [compared to the strategic roads network](#).
- 50. **Freight.** Building on the report on the [future of last-mile freight](#) commissioned by the board last year, officers have been engaged in an advisory role for an ESRC project looking at



developing a framework for local drone deliveries. We have also agreed to advise on another proposed research project look at supporting local decision making to deliver Net Zero last-mile freight.

### **Transport - A high quality alternative to driving every journey**

51. **Buses.** The LGA has continued to push Government to fully commit to its own national bus strategy following the disappointment in the levels and allocation of funding that was made available via Bus Service Improvement Plans (BSIPs). We had written to Transport Committee's inquiry into progress of the national bus strategy and met with the chair of the committee. Many of our concerns were reflected in the final [findings](#).
52. The LGA welcomed the Government's investment in the £2 fares cap and extensions in support for protecting bus services following the pandemic, but continued to call for continued commitment to bus service reform and funding as set out in the national bus strategy, [Bus Back Better](#).
53. **Active Travel.** This year saw the establishment of Active Travel England – an arm's length government body created to meet the vision set out by national Government for half of all journeys in towns and cities to be walked, wheeled or cycled by 2030. The LGA sought to strengthen its relationship with ATE and to develop its understanding of local government, inviting their Chief Executive, Danny Williams, to a board meeting to discuss the operational work of the new organisation and how it would work with local authorities and its role as a statutory consultee for large planning applications. The LGA were also invited to input into the National Audit Office's report into Active Travel England. We also [expressed disappointment](#) with the recent £200 million reduction in planned expenditure, calling for the decision to be urgently reversed.
54. **Shared Micromobility.** As part of the LGA's ongoing work to support local transport improvement and in particular decarbonisation, the EEHT Board commissioned a [report](#) exploring shared micromobility in the UK. The report highlighted that the current UK micromobility regulation has not caught up with the speed of development of new types of micromobility vehicles. The UK Government has delayed its plans to introduce a Transport Bill which aimed to provide greater regulatory clarity on new forms of micromobility vehicles including e-scooters and other types of light electric vehicles.
55. **Drones** – Drones and Unmanned aircraft are expected to become a common feature across public and private/ commercial services. The Government are working with industry on this agenda and it is vital that local government is involved in shaping future plans. The LGA is represented on the ministerial [Future of Flight Industry Group](#), which is chaired by the aviation minister, Baroness Vere. The Group's purpose is to support the delivery of a Future of Flight Plan to maximise the benefits of such technologies while ensuring their emergence is safe and secure, and accepted by the public.

### **Transport - A high quality alternative to making the journey**

56. **Supporting councils to manage demand for private car use.** Officers supporting the EEHT Board worked with colleagues in the LGA's improvement arm to shape our [Decarbonising Transport Action Learning Sets programme](#). The programme enabled a small group to tackle similar transport related challenges and meet on a regular basis, with these sessions creating a safe space for relationships to be built, best practice to be shared, and challenges to be overcome. The groups included 10 councillors, split into two groups and 20 officers, split into three groups, from across England; with each session designed to increase the understanding of, introduce examples of, and appreciate the barriers and solutions to decarbonising transport.
57. **Local Transport Plans (LTP)** – LGA officers have taken part in discussions with DfT officials with regards to their planned refresh of LTP guidance. LTP is a statutory transport plan deriving from the Transport Act 2000. The guidance would include a shift in the approach for developing an LTP with a focus on a framework of priority outcomes for local transport; making existing modal plans (buses and cycling/walking plans) a part of a suite of support documents to the LTP. These would include a requirement for an EV charging strategy to be published as a detailed supporting document to the LTP itself; and incorporate decarbonisation into the planning process via Quantifiable Carbon Reduction (QCR) measures. The LGA has said this approach needs to be accompanied by reductions in competitive bidding and consolidation of funding streams with greater local flexibility to meet local priorities.
58. **Car share.** Car sharing and car clubs have the potential to reduce congestion and carbon emissions and other harmful emissions. The LGA published a [good practice report](#) and webinar to support councils who want to promote the concept in their areas.
59. **Road pricing/ future of motoring taxes.** We have used the research undertaken by Mott MacDonalds on behalf of the LGA to [push the Government](#) to make progress on identifying a replacement for the fuel duty and to involve local government when making that decision.
60. **Parking.** We have continued to call for the Government to make progress on pavement parking following its consultation in 2020 and raised this with the local transport minister. At the moment different rules continue to apply outside of London, whereas in the capital there is a default ban on pavement parking.
61. We also supported research being led by the British Parking Association (BPA) and Parking and Traffic Regulations Outside London (PATROL) with regards to the current levels of parking and traffic penalty charges and how they are impacting and impeding councils in managing and enforcing their road networks. Outside of London there has been no formal review of parking penalty charges in England and Wales since 2008.

## Looking Forward

62. At their meeting on 22 May 2023, Informal Group Leaders asked officers to review the portfolios of the Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport (EEHT), Resources, City Regions and People and Places Boards with a view to
- 62.1 Potentially reshaping the portfolios in order to give greater focus to the economy, devolution and climate change/net zero
  - 62.2 Clarifying responsibilities and reducing some duplication
63. A report and recommendations will be brought to the LGA Board on 19 July. The reforms are very likely to have an impact on the relevant Boards' terms of reference and this makes it more challenging to anticipate the work programme from September 2023.
64. However, in considering future work a number of factors will come into play, including the LGA's Business Plan, the Government's policy and legislative agenda and also, where appropriate, continuity with the Board's current work programme.
65. **The LGA's business plan** for 2022 to 2025 was published in October 2022 and it sets out the vision for the organisation to be ***the national voice of local government*** with the purpose to ***promote, improve and support*** local government. The Business Plan sets out four policy and campaigning priorities
- 65.1 A sustainable financial future
  - 65.2 Stronger local economies, thriving local democracy
  - 65.3 Putting people first
  - 65.4 Championing climate change and local environments
66. The Business Plan does not include everything that the LGA does, but elements of the Board's work are prominent, particularly housing supply, housing quality and climate change. These are areas of work that will need to continue.
67. **The Government's legislative agenda** contains a number of Bills that relate directly to the work of the Board; in particular: the Energy Bill; the Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill (which has a large section on planning); the Renters Reform Bill; and the Social Housing regulation Bill. The Board has been active in promoting the interests of local government in relation to these Bills. These areas of work will remain important for the Board either because they are still going through the legislative process or because they have received Royal Assent and are being implemented.
68. **The work of the Board:** as can be seen above, the Board has done a considerable amount of work over the last year and has sought to recognise the interconnectedness of its individual themes. On the environment and Net Zero the work explicitly recognises that future growth is dependent on the economy transitioning to a sustainable footing and that

there are substantial short to medium term advantages in gearing up the workforce and businesses to deliver decarbonisation of buildings and transport, and in delivering a localised and devolved energy system.

69. Without the expansion of the Grid and investment to address nutrient pollution and water neutrality, it will be much harder to deliver the homes that our communities need. Housing is one of the key pillars of our economy and building the homes of the right type, the right quality and in the right place will help to contribute directly to growth and address social and financial challenges, such as homelessness and the ever-growing housing benefit bill.
70. Our economy is also dependent on a high quality, well managed, low carbon local road network. However, this must be supported with the provision of high-quality alternatives to driving every journey, including public transport and active travel options and other measures to manage demand on the network.
71. Many of the determinants of growth are place dependant and local authorities are in the best position to understand their area's needs. The Board will draw on the knowledge of LGA members to present the case to Government for policy development and implementation across its themes.
72. A draft outline work programme will be brought to the Board at its first meeting of the new session in September 2023.

### Implications for Wales

73. We will continue to work with the Welsh LGA to share good practice and information.

### Financial Implications

74. There are no immediate financial implications

### Equalities implications

75. The Board seeks to ensure that the equalities implications of policy developments are explored across all its themes of interest. All of the areas of policy that the Board oversees have significant impacts on individuals and communities. [The general equalities impacts were outlined in a paper to the Board in February 2021](#) and each of the Board's reports explore the equalities implications of any specific policy proposals.

### Next steps

76. A draft work programme for 2023/24 will be brought to the Board in September and this will reflect any comments made by Members at the Board meeting.