

Queen's Speech

Purpose of Report

This report provides members with an overview of legislative programme for the new government as set out in the Queen's Speech (27 May).

Summary

The LGA's On the Day briefing on the Queen's speech is attached at appendix 1. This provides a summary of the bills announced and the initial LGA responses. Bills of particular interest to the Board are:

- **Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill** will provide the legal basis to implement the Government's 'northern powerhouse' ambitions, which will devolve powers to cities with elected 'metro mayors' and will empower towns and counties by building on the Growth Deals.
- **Buses Bill** will allow combined authorities with directly-elected mayors to take on responsibility for local bus services, promoting an integrated transport system. The legislation will provide the option to franchise bus services.
- **Housing Bill** will extend the Right to Buy to 1.3 million housing association tenants. The legislation will also allow for 200,000 starter homes available for under-40s at a 20 per cent discount. The Bill will introduce a statutory register for brownfield land and simplify the neighbourhood planning system.

LGA officers are now working to understand further details of the bills and will provide an update at the Board meeting.

Recommendations

To discuss implications of the legislative programme for future areas of focus for the LGA (future housing policy is a separate item for discussion on the meeting agenda).

Action

As directed by the Board.

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