

Hull and East Yorkshire LEP Board
HEY LEP Queens Speech -Policy Update
Report by Andrew Hewitt, Senior Policy and Business Growth Manager
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Paper I

1. Summary

- 1.1. The Queens Speech was delivered to Parliament on the 10th May 2022.
- 1.2. The Speech sets out how the Government aims growing the economy to address the cost of living during this Parliament.
- 1.3. The Bills of primary interest to HEY LEP which where announced as part of the Queen Speech are the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill; The Transport Bill and the Energy Security Bill. The contents of these bills are summarised in this paper.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. That the Board;
 - notes the information included in the report.

3. Content of the Queens Speech

3.1. Levelling Up & Regeneration Bill

3.1.1. The stated aim of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill announced in the Queen's Speech is to drive local growth, empowering local leaders to regenerate their areas, and ensuring everyone can share in the United Kingdom's success. The planning system will be reformed to give residents more involvement in local development." The 'Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill' will be of key interest to LEPs and the Planning Bill seems to be subsumed into this proposed piece of legislation. This brings the key aspirations of the Levelling Up White Paper into legislation. The main elements of the Bill aim to:

- Level up the UK, grow the economy in the places that need it most and regenerate our towns and cities – giving people the opportunities they want, where they live.
- Improve the planning system to give communities a louder voice, making sure developments are beautiful, green and accompanied by new infrastructure and affordable housing.
- Laying the foundations for all of England to have the opportunity to benefit from a devolution deal by 2030 – giving local leaders the powers they need to drive real improvement in their communities.

- Improving outcomes for our natural environment by introducing a new approach to environmental assessment in our planning system. This benefit of Brexit will mean the environment is further prioritised in planning decisions.
- Capturing more of the financial value created by development with a locally set, non-negotiable levy to deliver the infrastructure that communities need, such as housing, schools, GPs and new roads.
- Simplifying and standardising the process for local plans so that they are produced more quickly and are easier for communities to influence.
- Placing a duty on the Government to set Levelling Up missions and produce an annual report updating the country on delivery of these missions.
- Creating a new model of combined authority: the 'County Deal' which will provide local leaders with powers to enhance local accountability, join up services and provide transparent decision making to rejuvenate their communities, increase their ability to reflect local preferences in arrangements including directly elected leaders' titles.
- Unlocking new powers for local authorities to bring empty premises back into use and instigate rental auctions of vacant commercial properties in town centres and on high streets.
- Giving residents more of a say over changing street names and ensuring everyone can continue to benefit from al fresco dining.

3.2. Transport Bill

3.2.1. The stated aim of the Transport Bill is to 'improve transport across the United Kingdom, delivering safer, cleaner services and enabling more innovations'. Legislation will be introduced to modernise rail services and improve reliability for passengers." The purpose of the Bill is to:

- Simplify the railways to ensure a better and more reliable service for passengers, to support economic growth across the country and ensure the survival of the railways.
- Keep the UK at the forefront of transport innovation, helping deliver the reforms we have promised to decarbonise transport, transform the way we travel, and better connect communities.
- Creating Great British Railways, which will deliver a better experience for passengers and freight customers with more punctual and reliable services.
- Enabling efficiencies and economies of scale across the rail sector, which is currently difficult to achieve in today's fragmented system.

- Enabling innovation in transport, improving safety and providing new choices for the public, whilst attracting investment to the UK.
- Enabling the installation of more electric vehicle charge points throughout the UK as part of the transition away from new petrol and diesel car and van sales by 2030 and building public confidence to switch to zero emission vehicles.
- Providing a new body, Great British Railways, with the powers it needs to act as the single national leader of the railways, with clear lines of accountability for decision-making and joined-up leadership to deliver a customer-focused railway, including by improving accessibility and promoting open data. Great British Railways will work within a clear mandate, goals and budgets set by the Government, who will reserve powers of direction.
- Transferring contracting powers for passenger services to Great British Railways, and ensuring we retain the best of the private sector by expanding its role under the new model, introducing new passenger service contracts focussed on getting the trains running punctually and reliably.
- Introducing new laws that safely enable self-driving and remotely operated vehicles and vessels, support the roll-out of electric vehicle charge points and enabling the licensing of London pedicabs.

3.3. Energy Security Bill

3.3.1. The government laid out the content of the new Energy Bill as part of the Queens Speech. The aim of this bill is to “deliver the transition to cheaper, cleaner, and more secure energy. This will build on the success of the COP26 Summit in Glasgow last year.” The purpose of the Bill is to:

- Deliver the commitments in the British Energy Security Strategy and the Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution to build a more secure, homegrown energy system that is cleaner and more affordable.
- Maintaining a safe and secure energy supply and helping to protect consumers against global price fluctuations. We will increase our energy security by supporting a low-carbon energy system and reducing our dependence on gas over the long term.
- Protecting consumers from unfair pricing. The energy price cap is the best safety net for millions, preventing suppliers from overcharging consumers. The Bill will enable the extension of the price cap beyond 2023, and it will regulate the heat networks sector.
- Attracting billions in private investment and supporting tens of thousands of new, skilled jobs across the UK. Developing Carbon

Capture Usage and Storage and low carbon hydrogen will create new industries, transforming our former industrial heartlands.

- Introducing state-of-the-art business models for Carbon Capture Usage and Storage transport and storage, low carbon hydrogen and industrial carbon capture which will fire the starting gun on new, low-carbon technologies.
- Reducing the risk of fuel supply disruption by giving Government the power to give directions to, require information from, and provide financial assistance to core fuel sector businesses to ensure resilience and continuity of fuel supply.
- Supporting industry to step up investment in growing the consumer market for electric heat pumps by providing for a new market standard and trading scheme. This will support innovation and help to lower the costs of heat pumps over time.
- Appointing Ofgem as the new regulator for heat networks, ensuring consumers get a fair price and a reliable supply of heat.
- Extending the energy price cap, preventing suppliers from overcharging consumers.
- Enabling the first ever large-scale hydrogen heating trial, allowing us to inform the role of hydrogen in heat decarbonisation in 2026.
- Introducing competition in Britain's onshore electricity networks, encouraging investment and innovation, and enabling savings.
- Creating a new pro-innovation regulatory environment for fusion energy.
- Establishing a new Future System Operator, providing strategic oversight across electricity and gas systems. It will drive progress towards net zero, energy security and minimising consumer costs.
- Facilitating the safe, and cost-effective clean-up of the UK's legacy nuclear sites, ensuring the UK is a responsible nuclear state.

4. Financial and resource implications

None at this stage.