

General Election 2017: status of Government policies

The following analysis identifies Government policy initiatives and projects relevant to local government, provides an assessment of their status given the General Election. It also provides an update on the status of key legislation.

Policy	Status (correct at time of writing)
LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE REFORM	
The Local Government Finance Bill and Business Rates Retention	<p>The Local Government Finance Bill will not complete its passage through Parliament. It will be for the new Government to decide its priorities after the general election and decide whether or not to reintroduce the Bill. Central government work on the Fair Funding Review and further business rates retention is on hold. The joint DCLG/LGA steering group and working groups will not be meeting and all meetings of these groups have been cancelled.</p> <p>The current consultation process continues as normal. The consultation will close, as planned, on 3 May and we encourage local authorities to submit responses.</p>
Fair Funding Review	Government work on the Fair Funding Review is on hold and the technical working group will not be meeting. It will be for the new Government to decide whether and how to continue with the review.
Check, Challenge, Appeal system for business rates appeals	The regulations for Check, Challenge and Appeal are now in force, including fees for submitting appeals, as are the regulations for the Valuation Tribunal. However the regulations putting in place the fines system have not yet been laid before Parliament.
Discretionary Business Rates Relief Fund	The Government has confirmed the allocations of this fund are as consulted upon.
Business rates relief for pubs	The Government has not yet published guidance on eligibility and application of the relief. It will fall on the next Government to decide whether and how to implement this policy.
20 per cent increase to planning fees	The Government's Housing White Paper included a commitment to allow local authorities to increase planning fees by 20 per cent from July 2017. This requires secondary legislation to be implemented. The next Government will have to decide whether and how to take this process forward.

Policy	Status (correct at time of writing)
DEVOLUTION, ECONOMY, ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT	
Devolution	<p>There will be no further Government announcements on English devolution deals. While we understand work was underway to develop proposals for devolution in two-tier areas, this will now be a matter for the next Government to consider.</p> <p>Similarly, it will be up to the next Government to decide on how it progresses the February 2017 White Paper on The United Kingdom's exit from and new partnership with the European Union.</p>
The Industrial Strategy	The consultation has now closed. It will be for the new Government to decide whether and how to take the strategy forward.
Sale of Higher Value Housing Assets	This element of the Housing and Planning Act requires secondary legislation to be implemented. The next Government will have to decide whether and how to take this policy forward.
Starter Homes	This element of the Housing and Planning Act requires secondary legislation to be implemented. The next Government will have to decide whether and how to take this policy forward.
Neighbourhood Planning Act	The Act has reached Royal Assent. Parts of the Act will require further secondary legislation before provisions commence. The next Government will decide whether and how to take this process forward.
Homelessness Reduction Act	The Act has reached Royal Assent. Parts of the Act will require further secondary legislation before provisions commence. The next Government will decide whether and how to take this process forward.
Bus Services Act	The Act has reached Royal Assent. Parts of the Act (such as open data provisions) will require further secondary legislation before commencing. The Government has already consulted on guidance for bus franchising and the new partnership arrangements, but the next Government will decide whether and how to take this process forward.
The Digital Economy Act	The Act has reached Royal Assent. The next Government will now decide on whether and how to introduce the secondary legislation to determine the specification of the Broadband Universal Service Obligation (for example, the minimum download and upload speed etc.)
Digital connectivity announcements in the spring 2017 Budget	At the last Budget the Government announced a new £200 million programme of local projects to test ways to accelerate market delivery of new full-fibre broadband networks. It also planned to create a series of 5G testbeds and trials across the country. It will now be up to the new Government to determine whether to continue with these programmes going forward.
Clean Air zones	The current Government has committed to implementing a mandatory clean air zones policy and at the time of writing it is not clear whether it will publish its clean air plan before the General Election. The next Government will have to decide whether or how to introduce the secondary legislation.

Policy	Status (correct at time of writing)
ADULT SOCIAL CARE	
Adult Social Care Green Paper	It will be for the new Government to decide whether and how to take this review forward.
Improved Better Care Fund grant	<p>The Government has already published allocations and revised calculations of core spending power to reflect the announcement of additional funding in the Spring 2017 Budget.</p> <p>The official section 31 grant determination notice for the improved Better Care Fund in 2017/18, setting out the payment profile and final conditions on spending, has not yet been formally sent to councils.</p>
Carers' Strategy	It will now be for the new Government to decide whether and how to take this review forward.
Funding reform for supported housing services	It will now be for the new Government to decide whether and how to implement this policy.
Disabled Facilities Grant	The Government has sent out the grant determination notice for the Disabled Facilities Grant to individual councils, confirming funding allocations for 2017/18.
Application of the National Living Wage to sleep-in home care services	There will be no further announcements on this matter until the General Election.
CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE AND EDUCATION	
Children and Social Work Act	The Act has reached Royal Assent. All parts of the Act will require further secondary legislation before provisions commence. The next Government will decide whether and how to take this process forward.
Other children's social care matters	<p>It will be for the next Government to decide how to proceed on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The fostering stocktake; - Funding arrangements for the centre of expertise on child sexual abuse and the CSE response unit; - A new national commissioning model for secure children's homes; - A What Works Centre on Children's Social Care.
School funding reform	<p>The Government's response to the consultation on school funding is unlikely to be published until after the General Election.</p> <p>The current Government has made decisions on Early Years' funding reforms, including provision of 30 hours of free childcare. However, implementation will now be subject to decisions of the next Government.</p>
Selective schools	The Government's response to its Green Paper, including proposals on academic selection, will not be published until after the General Election. It will be for the next Government to decide whether and how to implement this policy.

Other announcements that are affected by the General Election

- Implementation of a £5 million fund for projects to celebrate the centenary of voting rights being extended to women for the first time in 1918
- Cap on officer exit payments
- Response to the consultation on Medical Examiners
- Confirmation of successful bids to the National Statement of Expectations on domestic abuse Service Transformation Fund
- Revised statutory guidance for Anti-Social Behaviour tools and powers
- Revised statutory and best practice guidance for taxi and Private Hire Vehicle licensing
- The Government's response to House of Lord Select Committee report into the Licensing Act 2003
- Consultation on recommendations following the recent review of gaming machines and social responsibility measures in the industry
- Prevent guidance for local authorities
- Building a stronger Britain together funding awards
- Announcement on the Fire Service inspectorate
- The Museums Review
- The Government's response to Communities and Local Government Select Committee inquiry into public parks