



LEP Network Summary Conservative Party Policy Update 6 December 2019

Conservative Party Cabinet (Key Members)

Leader:	Boris Johnson	Chancellor :	Sajid Javid
Foreign:	Dominic Raab	Home Secretary:	Priti Patel
Justice:	Robert Buckland	DExEU:	Steve Barclay
Defence:	Ben Wallace	Health/Social Care:	Matt Hancock
BEIS:	Andrea Leadsom	International Trade:	Elizabeth Truss
Work & Pensions:	Therese Coffey	Education:	Gavin Williamson
DEFRA:	Theresa Villiers	MHCLG:	Robert Jenrick
Transport:	Grant Shapps	DCMS:	Nicky Morgan
International Development:	Alok Sharma	Scotland:	Alister Jack
Housing:	Esther McVey	Local Growth/NP:	Jake Berry
Business and Clean Energy:	Kwasi Kwarteng	DExEU:	Brandon Lewis

CONSERVATIVE GE2019 MANIFESTO

The Conservative Party [GE 2019 Manifesto](#) ‘*Get Brexit Done – Unleash Britain’s Potential*’ was launched on 24 November – key points include:

Education

- Raising teachers’ starting salaries to £30,000.
- Delivering “more school places for children with complex Special Educational Needs.”
- Intervening in schools “where there is entrenched underperformance.”
- Building more free schools.
- Offering an ‘arts premium’ to secondary schools “to fund enriching activities for all pupils.”
- Reviewing the care system “to make sure that all care placements and settings are providing children and young adults with the support they need.”

Crime

- Putting the **Police Covenant** into law.
- Empowering a new court order “to target known **knife carriers**.”
- Introduce “**tougher sentencing** for the worst offenders and end automatic halfway release from prison for serious crimes.”
- Tackling **drug-related crime** “with a new approach to treatment.”
- Creating a **prisoner education** service “focused on work-based training and skills.”
- Strengthening the accountability of elected **Police and Crime Commissioners** and expand their role.
- Expanding **electronic tagging**.
- “Toughening” **community sentences**.

- Adding "10,000 more **prison places**".
- Creating a new national **cyber crime** force.
- Conducting a **review** of the **parole** system.
- Legislating to "make the UK the safest place in the world" to be **online**.

Immigration

- Introducing "a firmer and fairer Australian-style **points-based** immigration system".
- Creating "bespoke visa schemes" for new migrants "who will fill shortages in public services", including the 'NHS Visa', 'student visas' and 'start-up visas.'
- People coming into the country will need a clear **job offer**.
- **Overhauling** the current immigration system.
- "Boosting" English language teaching.
- Requiring new arrivals "to contribute to the funding of the NHS".
- Backing the **National Citizen Service** and promoting it in schools.
- Ensuring new **GP and school places** are delivered ahead of people moving into new housing developments.

Local Economy

- Cutting taxes for small **retail businesses** and for local music venues, pubs and cinemas.
- Investing £500 million in new **youth clubs and services**.
- A new **Safer Streets Fund** will "invest in preventative measures like new CCTV or community wardens".
- Working with local universities "to do more for the education, health and prosperity of their local areas".
- Establishing a £150 million **Community Ownership Fund** "to encourage local takeovers of civic organisations or community assets that are under threat".
- Through the **Cultural Investment Fund**, "support activities, traditions and events that bring communities together".
- Investing £100 billion in additional **infrastructure spending** – on roads, rail "and other responsible, productive investment".
- Building **Northern Powerhouse Rail** between Leeds and Manchester "and then focus on Liverpool, Tees Valley, Hull, Sheffield and Newcastle".
- Investing in the **Midlands Rail Hub**, strengthening rail links including those between Birmingham, Leicester, Nottingham, Coventry, Derby, Hereford and Worcester.
- Improving **train lines** to the South West and East Anglia.
- Giving **city regions** the funding to upgrade their **bus, tram and train services** "to make them as good as London's".
- Ending the **franchising model** and "creating a simpler, more effective rail system, including giving **metro mayors** control over services in their areas".
- Making a £28.8 billion investment in **strategic and local roads**.
- Invest £1 billion in completing a **fast-charging network**.
- Phasing out the sale of new conventional **petrol and diesel cars**.
- "Considering" the findings of the Oakervee review into costs and timings of **HS2** and "work with leaders of the Midlands and the North to decide the optimal outcome."

- Restoring “many of the Beeching lines” reconnecting smaller towns.
- Investing in **superbus networks**.
- Creating a new £350 million **Cycling Infrastructure Fund**.
- “Building on Britain’s work in **electric and low-carbon flight**.”
- The third runway at **Heathrow** proposals must “demonstrate that it can meet its air quality and noise obligations, that the project can be financed and built and that the business case is realistic. The scheme will receive no new public money.”
- “Intending to bring **full fibre** and **gigabit** capable **broadband** to every home and business across the UK by 2025.”
- Remaining “committed to **devolving power** to people and places across the UK. The “ambition” is for **full devolution** across England, “building on the successful devolution of powers to city region mayors, Police and Crime Commissioners and others.” An **English Devolution White Paper** would be published next year.
- Bodies like the Northern Powerhouse, Western Gateway and Midlands Engine “will drive greater levels of **foreign investment** into the UK”. As part of plans for **full devolution** Conservatives would “**invite proposals** from local areas for similar **growth bodies** across the rest of England, such as the Oxford-Cambridge Arc.

Housing

- “Encouraging a new market in long-term **fixed rate mortgages**”.
- Offering more **homes** to local families.
- Maintaining a **Right to Buy** for all council tenants.
- Simplifying **shared ownership** products
- Bringing in a “Better Deal for **Renters**.”
- Introducing a **Social Housing White Paper** setting out further measures “to empower tenants and support the continued supply of social homes”.
- Renewing the **Affordable Homes Programme**.
- Building “at least a million more homes, of all tenures, over the next Parliament”.
- Making the **planning** system simpler for the public and small builders.
- Amending **planning rules** so that the infrastructure – roads, schools, GP surgeries – “comes before people move into new homes”.
- “Protecting and enhancing” the **Green Belt**.

Business

- Introducing a new £3 billion **National Skills Fund**.
- A review of the **Business Rates** system.
- increase the **Employment Allowance** for small businesses.
- Having 80 per cent of **UK trade** covered by free trade agreements within the next three years.
- Creating “up to ten” **freeports** around the UK.
- Supporting **start-ups** and **small businesses** via government procurement.
- Creating a **single enforcement body** and to “crack down on any employer abusing employment law.”

- Ensuring that workers have the right to request a more **predictable contract** and other reasonable protections.
- Expanding **start-up loans**.
- Helping employers invest in **skills** and looking at improving the working of the **Apprenticeship Levy**.
- Increasing the **R&D tax credit** rate to 13 per cent and **reviewing** the definition of R&D.
- “Reviewing and reforming” **Entrepreneur’s Relief**.
- The **UK Shared Prosperity Fund** “will be used to bind together the whole of the United Kingdom, tackling inequality and deprivation in each of our four nations. It will replace the overly bureaucratic EU Structural Funds – and not only be better targeted at the UK’s specific needs, but at a minimum **match the size of those funds in each nation**.”

Skills

- Requiring significant numbers of new **UK apprentices** for all big new infrastructure projects.
- Creating a new **National Skills Fund** “worth £3 billion over the next Parliament” providing matching funding for individuals and SMEs “for high-quality education and training.” A proportion will be reserved for “further strategic investment in skills” which will be widely consulted on.
- Ensuring “that £500 million of the **UK Shared Prosperity Fund** is used to give disadvantaged people the skills they need to make a success of life.”
- Investing “almost £2 billion to upgrade the entire **further education** college estate.” There will also be 20 **Institutes of Technology**.
- The Augar Review made recommendations on **tuition fee** levels, the balance of funding between universities, further education and apprenticeships and adult learning – a Conservative government will “consider them carefully.” They will also “look at interest rates on loan repayments with a view to reducing the burden of debt on students.”
- Investing in **local adult education** and “requiring the Office for Students to look at universities’ success in increasing access across all ages.”

Rural & Coastal Economies

- Moving from **CAP** to a system “based on public money for public goods”.
- Guaranteeing the current **annual budget to farmers** every year of the next Parliament.
- Increasing the annual quota for the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme.
- Maintaining funding for **fisheries** across the UK’s nations throughout the Parliament.
- Rolling out **gigabit broadband** across the country by 2025, and “provide greater mobile coverage across the country.”
- Investing in the **bus network**.
- A new **Environment Bill** “will guarantee that we will protect and restore our natural environment”.
- Setting up a new independent **Office For Environmental Protection**.
- Establishing a £640 million new **Nature for Climate fund**.
- Creating a **Great Northumberland Forest**, and aiming for an additional 75,000 acres of **trees** a year by the end of the next Parliament.
- Creating new National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

- Introducing a new levy to increase the proportion of recyclable **plastics** in packaging.

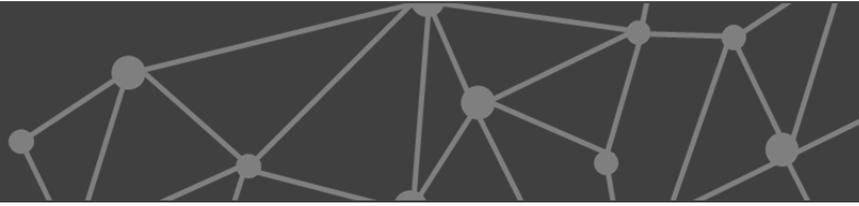
Environment

- Delivering a target of **Net Zero** greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.
- Establishing a new £500 million **Blue Planet Fund**.
- Their first Budget will “prioritise the environment”: investing in **R&D; decarbonisation** schemes; new **flood defences**, which will receive £4 billion “over the coming years”; **electric vehicle infrastructure** including a national plug-in network and gigafactory; and **clean energy**.
- Delivering two million “new high quality jobs in clean growth”.
- Offshore wind industry to reach 40GW by 2030.
- Investing £800 million to build the first fully deployed **carbon capture storage** cluster by the mid-2020s.
- Investing £500 million to help **energy-intensive industries** move to low-carbon techniques.
- Not supporting fracking unless “the science shows categorically that it can be done safely”.
- Investing £9.2 billion in the **energy efficiency** of homes, schools and hospitals.
- Consulting “on the earliest date” to phase out the sale of new conventional petrol and diesel cars.

Research & Innovation

- Increasing domestic public **R&D spending**, including in basic science research to meet a target of 2.4 per cent of GDP being spent on R&D across the economy.
- Making the UK “the leading global hub for life sciences.”
- Using the £1 billion Ayrton Fund to “develop affordable and accessible clean energy.”
- Reforming the science funding system.
- Investing in world-class computing and health data systems.
- Using government procurement to support new ideas and new companies.

For a full copy of the Conservative and Unionist Party Manifesto please [see here](#).



OTHER POLICY ANNOUNCEMENTS

4 DEC: 100 Days – The Conservatives announced what they would do “in the first hundred days of government”. They include:

- Passing of “the Prime Minister’s Brexit deal.”
- A Queen’s Speech to introduce key domestic legislation covering law and order and health.
- Delivering a post Brexit Budget in February.
- Launching a review of UK “defence, security and foreign policy.”
- A “funding increase” for schools.
- “Cross party talks to find an enduring solution to the challenge of social care.”
- Finalising an agreement with mobile phone operators to improve mobile service in the countryside.
- Gigabit capable broadband “across the UK.”
- Introduce legislation for “future schemes for trade, agriculture, fishing and the environment” on leaving the EU.

28 NOV: Education – The Conservatives announced further education policy points, including:

- Giving **Ofsted** “greater powers and more money to improve discipline in classrooms and bolster school standards”.
- Increasing the **length of inspections** in secondary schools and large primary schools from two to three days.
- Piloting a ‘**no-notice**’ **inspection** scheme where the requirement to notify schools at lunchtime the day before is waived.
- £10 million additional **funding** to back Ofsted.
- End of ‘**outstanding**’ **exemption** - changing the rules so that ‘outstanding schools’ are also subject to routine inspections.

27 NOV: Infrastructure - The Conservatives announced that in the first 100 days of a government they will “finalise a £1 billion agreement with **mobile phone operators** to pool existing phone masts, and build new ones, bringing dramatically improved mobile service to the countryside”.

They set out plans for a “**Shared Rural Network**” which “would see new masts built and existing infrastructure shared between the four mobile phone providers – 02, Three, Vodafone and EE”. Areas that have coverage from only some of the four providers “will also be almost entirely eliminated”. Operators “will pay up to £530 million to get rid of partial not-spots”. A further “£500 million to build new infrastructure in rural areas that are not commercially viable” would also “be made available”.

21 NOV: Housing – The Conservatives announced their housing policy commitments, including:

- Delivering at least another million **homes** in the next five years, making further progress towards the target of **300,000 new houses** a year by the mid-2020s.
- Helping **renters** buy. A new market in long-term fixed rate **mortgages**, requiring only 5% deposits, will make it easier for them to buy.
- Provide discounts for local **first-time buyers**. Under a new **First Home scheme**, homes will be sold at a 30 per cent discount to local first-time buyers.
- Renters will be able to have **Lifetime Rental Deposits** which can be transferred from one rental property to another.
- Introducing a higher rate of **stamp duty** for those buying property who are not UK tax residents. The **Stamp Duty Land Tax** surcharge will be levied at 3% and apply to companies as well as individuals.

20 NOV: Rural Economy – The Conservatives announced their policy on supporting the agricultural economy, including:

- A guarantee to match the current **annual budget** available to farmers in every year of the next Parliament.
- Replacing **CAP** with ‘public money for public goods’ – establishing a seven-year transition period so that changes can be introduced gradually.
- Establishing an **Environmental Land Management scheme**.
- Encouraging people to ‘**Buy British**’.

20 NOV: Crime – Conservatives announced commitments to increasing protection for victims of crime, including:

- Supporting **rape victims** – with a £15 million cash investment.
- Protecting domestic abuse victims by passing a **Domestic Abuse Bill** by Spring 2020.
- Enshrining the rights of victims in law - with a new **Victims’ Law**.
- Boosting funding for **specialist victim services** – with a victim surcharge on convicted offenders.
- Reforming the **parole system** – with a review of prisoner release arrangements.

19 NOV: Crime – The Conservatives announced a range of measures as part of their policy on crime. These include:

- Changing the law so that adults who murder children will be **imprisoned for life** without parole.
- A doubling of the number of **prisoners in employment** six weeks after their release.
- A dedicated **Prison Education Service** to oversee the education and skills training offered across all jails.
- **Prisoners** to be offered more hours of work whilst in jail to provide them with the opportunity to learn new skills.

- More **prison workshops** where prisoners can be employed in dedicated workspaces
- A dedicated **work coach** in every prison to link inmates with local jobcentres ahead of their release.
- Anyone caught unlawfully with a **knife** will be immediately arrested, charged within 24 hours and in court within a week.
- Police to target known knife carriers with a **new court order**.
- Investing £35 million in eighteen **Violence Reduction Units** next year to enable them to implement a long term, multi-agency, preventative approach.

18 NOV: Business – Boris Johnson set out the Conservatives **business agenda** at the CBI conference. Key points:

- A cut in **business rates** as part of “a fundamental review” in the first budget.
- Raising the **Employment Allowance** to £4,000.
- Increasing the **Structures and Buildings Allowance** from 2 per cent to 3 per cent
- **National insurance** contributions will be cut by £1,000 “for over half a million employers.”
- **Tax relief** on the purchase, building or leasing of a structure will be increased by 1%.
- A review of the scope of **R&D tax credits** and a 1% increase in the rate.
- Postponing a proposed cut in corporation tax.

17 NOV: Immigration – The Conservatives set out further details of the UK's immigration system after Brexit. Key points:

- The “vast majority” of people will need a **job offer** to come to the UK to work, regardless of where they are from.
- There will be “a small number of **exceptions**”, including “high skilled scientists and those who want to come to the UK to start a business.”
- Access to benefits will be **equalised** between EU nationals and those from the rest of the world.
- An end to **child benefit** being sent abroad to support children who don't live in the UK.
- An increase to the **international health surcharge** of £625 and extending it to all foreign workers, including EU migrants after Brexit
- Serious criminals will not be allowed into the country as happens now under EU rules.
- £20 million (this year) to strengthen **borders** and reduce illegal immigrants.

16 NOV: Environment – Conservatives announced a **£640m Nature for Climate Fund** and pledged to work with the Devolved Administrations to “triple UK tree-planting rates to 30,000 hectares every year” – resulting in “at least 30 million more trees” – in line with recommendations from the independent Committee on Climate Change.

- Existing **woodland** like the Northern Forest and Northumberland Forest would be expanded.

- New **forests** would be created across the country.
- Towns and cities would see “more **trees** planted in urban areas to improve air quality.”
- The fund would also be used to restore degraded **peatland** across the country.
- A **£500 million Blue Planet Fund**, resourced from the International Aid budget, to “protect our oceans and support the people whose livelihoods rely on the seas.”
- Strengthening governance to protect **marine environments**.
- Strengthening **science, research and innovation** to help other countries protect the oceans that are so vital to all of us.
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15 NOV: Towns & Local Communities – Boris Johnson announced an “ambitious package” to “keep the **high streets** open for business” – with an investment to support towns and communities across Britain, and building on the Government’s **Towns Fund**. Key pledges include:

- Extending the **retail discount on business rates** to 50 per cent next year - for businesses with a rateable value of less than £51,000, this will increase the retail discount from 33 per cent to 50 per cent in 2020/21.
- Extending the **retail discount** to cinemas and music venues.
- Introducing a new £1,000 **business rates relief** for pubs. This new £1,000 rates relief will be an £18 million tax cut for pubs next year and will keep their costs down.
- ‘Beefing up’ the rights of **community groups** to acquire assets like pubs and post offices, allowing them to be nominated as ‘**assets of community value**’. Conservatives will make the process simpler for community groups to engage with and increasing the moratorium period to nine months.
- Providing **support to community groups** minded to make a bid for an asset.
- A **£150 million fund** which will help groups with the cost of preparing a bid, whether legal, commercial or planning-related, and co-fund some deserving purchases.
- Establishing a **£500 million Beeching Reversal Fund**. This fund will rejoin many of the towns cut off by Beeching cuts to the network, connecting their residents to employment and education and encouraging commuters to move there.
- Reversing many of the Beeching rail cuts of the 1960s, reconnecting towns that have suffered since their **railways** were removed. Areas for the new fund include; Ashington, Seaton Delaval, Blyth, Skelmersdale, Thornton-Cleveleys, Fleetwood, Willenhall, and Darlaston.
- Increasing investment in **cycling and walking** - creating a new £350 million cycling infrastructure fund and tough new design standards which must be followed to receive any money.

14 NOV: Immigration - Conservatives put more flesh on their **immigration policy** and pledged to introduce an Australian-style points-based system to decide “who comes here based on what they have to offer – not where they come from.” The principles are as follows:

- Can live and work using the English language

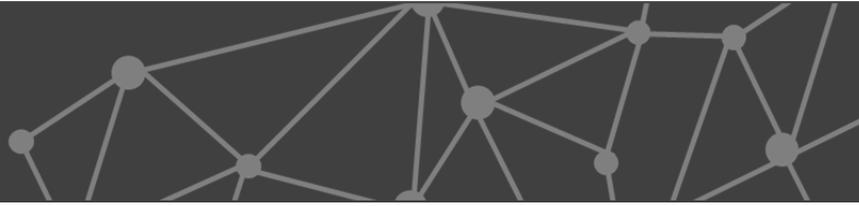
- Are coming to do “important work, including in priority industries.”
- Are setting up businesses “that would employ and invest in British people and pay taxes in the UK.”
- Have been law abiding citizens in their own countries.
- Have the skills the country needs.
- The system will “welcome people who meet our criteria. We will end the preferential treatment of EEA-migrants so that we can attract the brightest and the best from all over the world.”

13 NOV: Speech on Green Industrial Revolution - Boris Johnson gave a key speech in Coventry at the London Electric Vehicle Company (LEVC). It reiterated much of the “get Brexit done” narrative – but key **policy highlights**:

- Said the electric taxis were “a symbol of my type of Conservative politics...and the **approach** I want to take.”
- Spoke of “a new industrial revolution, a **green industrial revolution** creating thousands of jobs of environmentally sustainable technologies.”
- Pledged to invest in the **skills** “that will drive up productivity and drive up wages.”
- Pledged “biggest increase in the **Living Wage** to £10.50.”
- “Our ambition is to unlock the whole nation’s potential through **infrastructure**, better **education** and **technology**, not just to close the opportunity gap between rich and poor but also between the **regions** of this country.”
- “We are boosting **per pupil funding** so that each pupil gets a minimum of £4000 in primary school and a minimum £5000 in secondary schools, we are putting £780m more into **special educational needs**, we are putting £2bn into rebuilding our **Further Education** colleges.”
- “We will insist that all big new public sector projects must hire British **apprentices**.”
- Pledged to “modernise **roads and junctions** that have become bottlenecks and sources of massive local frustration and economic inefficiency, better **bus services**, better **cycleways**.”
- “We want every home, every business in the country to have the confidence and convenience that comes with **gigabit broadband**, and **5G and 6G** mobile telephony.”
- He said they would “invest more to support **electric vehicle technology**, we will double funding for **research and development** to £18bn in the next parliament.”

11 NOV: Defence - Conservatives announced a package of measures to support **military personnel** including:

- ‘Wraparound’ **childcare** for armed forces families for working parents of children aged 4-11.
- A **guaranteed job interview** for veterans for any public sector role they apply for.
- A proposed **tax cut** for every business that employs veterans by scrapping employer National Insurance contributions for a year for every new employee who has left the armed forces.



- A new rail card for veterans, which would grant holders a third off train fares, in recognition of their service to the country.

9 NOV: Health - Secretary Matt Hancock announced that there will be “50 million more appointments in **GP surgeries** every year under a Conservative majority Government.” “These additional appointments, by 2024-25, will be made possible by the delivery of **6,000 more GPs** and **6,000 more nurses**, physiotherapists and pharmacists.”

The Conservatives said they will also support practices to reduce **waiting times** through “**modernising systems** and adopting best practice, and ensure reforms to address doctors’ pensions, which cause many GPs, senior hospital doctors and senior nurses to turn down extra shifts ”

8 NOV: Immigration/Trade - The Conservative Party focused on **immigration and trade issues** in relation to Brexit and Northern Ireland. The key points from today’s announcement and speeches:

- The Conservative Party will introduce an "NHS visa" as part of a promised "**points-based immigration system**".
- Reiterated their plan to **end free movement of workers** from EU countries when the UK leaves the EU - they have promised this will happen on 31 January if they are returned to power on 12 December.
- They would introduce a "**points-based system**" for migrant workers from EU and non-EU countries before the planned introduction of the points-based system in 2021. Further details on how this will work have yet to be published – but extra points will be awarded for coming to work in the NHS.
- They announced a ‘**fast-track visa route**’ to attract specialists in science, engineering and technology.
- They are considering scrapping the **minimum salary requirement** of £30,000 for skilled migrants seeking five-year visas.

7 NOV: Infrastructure - Sajid Javid gave a campaign speech in Manchester airport on infrastructure investment, making various references to his [2019 CSR](#). Main policy points to note:

- “New fiscal rules” to control borrowing, debt, and debt interest will allow increase in **public borrowing**, long-term investment, and “levelling up” of funding across the country.
- Investment in long term projects like **road and rail** will not exceed 3% of GDP. Meaning “billions of £” will be spent on the “**infrastructure revolution** this country needs”.
- Extra £22bn of public sector net investment a year (FT), for “a **new economic plan** for a new economic era” targeted at **infrastructure projects** such as roads, railways, and **broadband** which mirrors the CSR narrative.

6 NOV: Launch - The official 2019 General Election campaign kicked off after the dissolution of Parliament. Conservative leader Boris Johnson announced the Conservative Party general election campaign outside No10 on the theme of “Get Brexit Done” and “Unleash Britain’s Potential.” He said: “we can take back control of our laws so that we can do things differently and better if we choose. From **freeports** to free **trade deals**.”

He also spoke of “An **infrastructure revolution** we're planning in **rail and road** – from electric **buses** to new **green cycle schemes**. **Gigabit broadband** in every home...levelling up with **infrastructure, education and technology**”.

2019 Queen’s Speech

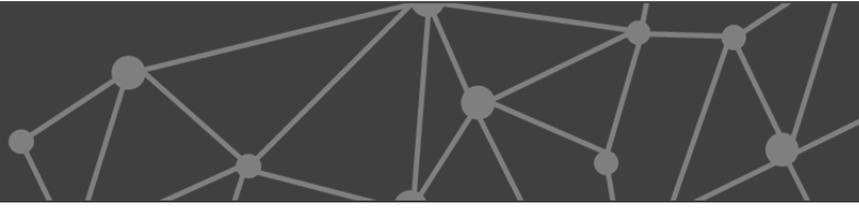
The Conservative government at the time set out their key priorities in a Queen’s Speech on 14 October. A summary of LEP related polices from that speech is available [here](#), and includes:

Regional Devolution:	plans for Devolution Bill
Further and Technical Education:	extra £400 million for 16-19 year-old education next year, additional investment in T-Levels.
National Infrastrucutre Strategy:	a National Infrastructure Strategy was due “later in the autumn” to improve the nation’s digital, transport and energy infrastructure.
Broadband:	new legislation planned to accelerate the delivery of fast, and secure broadband, and aims to roll out gigabit capable broadband across the UK.
Aviation:	proposed a new aviation bill to “better manage UK airspace.”
Rail:	a white paper is proposed on rail reform and franchising. Also proposes new powers to build and operate the next stage of HS2.
Space & Science:	increased investment in science with a new funding agency, and a national space strategy.

Policy Papers

29 OCT: **SoS Robert Jenrick** launched a Centre for Policy Studies paper on 29 October - ‘[A Rising Tide: levelling up left-behind Britain](#)’. It is of note for one particular reference to LEPs:

*“Finally, the role of **Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs)** should be re-examined. Undoubtedly there have been some successful LEPs, but even their most ardent supporters admit they have been inconsistent at best in terms of performance – and accountability remains a concern. The publication of a new framework offers an opportunity to consider whether the powers and funding currently vested in LEPs could more appropriately be held at the combined authority, unitary or county level – or by other bodies entirely.”*



It's not clear if Robert Jenrick backs another "re-examination" of LEPs. The report has one other passing reference to LEPs – saying the better ones "could be used to channel devolved funds."

"These funds could be controlled by local promotional organisations, the better performing LEPs, the Chambers or pan-regional bodies like the Northern Powerhouse and the Midlands Engine. But the most important element is to ensure local voices – including business voices – get a say in the allocation and proper spending of these funds."

MTD