

Summary of legislation announced in King's Speech of 17<sup>th</sup> July 2024 impacting local government

**Planning and housing**

- **Planning and Infrastructure Bill** – accelerate the delivery of high-quality infrastructure and housing, including through planning reform to speed up and streamline the planning process. The Bill will include modernising planning committees and increasing the capacity of local planning authorities.
- **Renters' Rights Bill** – greater rights and protections for renters, including ending no fault evictions and reforming grounds for possession. The Bill will include abolishing Section 21 evictions, applying Awaab's Law to the whole sector and strengthening local authorities' enforcement powers.
- **Draft Leasehold and Commonhold Reform Bill** – reform for leasehold and commonhold. The Bill will include increasing leaseholder rights to make it easier for them to extend and buy their lease and regulating ground rents for leaseholders.

**Devolution**

- **English Devolution Bill** – give new powers to metro mayors and combined authorities which will support local growth plans. The Bill will include enhanced powers, the ability for local leaders to formally request 25 additional powers, a new 'right to buy' for community assets and a simpler process for creating new Combined and Combined County Authorities.
- **Better Buses Bill** – allow local leaders to take control of their local bus services through franchising and lifting the restriction on new publicly owned bus operators. The Bill will include removing the barriers that limit bus franchising powers to metro mayors and giving local leaders more control and flexibility over bus funding.

**Education, skills and training**

- **Children's Wellbeing Bill** – raise standards in education and promote children's wellbeing. The Bill will include strengthening multi-agency child protection and safeguarding, a duty on local authorities to maintain a Children Not in School register and provide support to parents home-educating, and requiring all schools to cooperate with local authorities on place planning, admissions and SEND inclusion.
- **Skills England Bill** – establish Skills England, a new partnership between businesses, providers, unions, Mayoral Combined Authorities and national government. The Bill will transfer some of the functions of the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education (IfATE) to Skills England.
- The apprenticeship levy will also be reformed to become the Growth and Skills Levy.

## Health

- **Mental Health Bill** – modernise the Mental Health Act so it is fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, ensuring mental health is given the same attention and focus as physical health.
- **Tobacco and Vapes Bill** – progressively increase the age at which people can buy cigarettes and impose limits on the sale and marketing of vapes.
- There will also be legislation to restrict the advertising of junk food to children and the sale of high caffeine energy drinks to children.

## Energy

- **Great British Energy Bill** – establish Great British Energy, which will help to accelerate investment in renewable energy. Local authorities expected to be a key partner.

## Safety

- **Crime and Policing Bill** – strengthen community policing and give the police greater powers to deal with anti-social behaviour. The Bill will include a duty for local partners to co-operate on tackling anti-social behaviour, including an anti-social behaviour lead in every local authority area, and local Young Futures prevention partnerships to bring together services to support at-risk teenagers.
- **Victim, Courts and Public Protection Bill** – strengthen support for victims.
- **Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Bill** – improve the safety and security of public venues from threats of terrorism.

## Other

- **Draft Equality (Race and Disability) Bill** – enshrine the full right to equal pay in law. The Bill will include mandatory ethnicity and disability pay reporting for larger employers (250+ employees).
- **Employment Rights Bill** – ban exploitative working practices and enhance employment rights. The Bill will include a Fair Pay Agreement in the adult social care sector.
- **Digital Information and Smart Data Bill** – the Bill will include a National Underground Asset Register of pipes and cables.
- There are also plans to strengthen the integrity of elections and encourage wide participation in the democratic process.