

GOVERNMENT'S DRAFT LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMME 2009/10

Report by the Leader of the Council

Introduction

- 1 Each year at about this time, the Cabinet considers the Government's Draft Legislative Programme in time to submit a response before the consultation deadline which, this year, is 21 September 2009.
- 2 This year, there are eleven bills and five draft bills announced in the consultation document, published on 29 June 2009. This compares with 21 bills that were proposed for the 2008/9 session.
- 3 The programme is closely linked to the Prime Minister's 'Building Britain's Future' policy paper and forward programme. A briefing on this document is attached at **Appendix 2**.
- 4 Five bills are directly relevant to the County Council and are covered in the following paragraphs. Of the remaining eleven bills, four are not directly relevant but may be of interest. The remaining seven have no real relevance to local government. Details are given at **Appendix 1**.

Proposed bills that are directly relevant to Oxfordshire County Council:

Child Poverty Bill

- 5 This builds on legislation currently progressing through the Commons in the 2008/9 session.
- 6 The key proposals are:
 - (a) To enshrine in law the Government's commitment to eradicate Child Poverty by 2020;
 - (b) To establish a national child poverty strategy, including the creation of a new quango to oversee the strategy and targets;
 - (c) Defining success based around four key targets that aim to:
 - Reduce the proportion of children who are poor compared to the rest of society;
 - Ensure that no child experiences poverty for an extended period of time;
 - Ensure that the poorest families see their income increase over time;
 - Ensure adequate housing and a space to play or study.
 - (d) To establish an accountability framework to drive progress at a local and national level.
 - (e) County councils would be required to lead on local partnership initiatives.
- 7 Issues for the County Council are:
 - (a) Supporting the most vulnerable children in society is core business for the county council. However, proposals and best practice suggestions for more joined-up working are welcome.
 - (b) Commentators have expressed concerns about whether the targets in the bill as it stands are realistic, given the economic downturn.
 - (c) The County Council has consistently called for a reduction in the quango state. This represents a move in the opposite direction with yet another unaccountable quango added to a long list.

8 Recommended County Council response to Consultation:

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- (a) **Welcome the government's commitment to eradicate child poverty by 2020;**
- (b) **Oppose strongly the creation of yet another quango that is beyond the reach of the public it should serve and is unable to reflect local knowledge and experience;**
- (c) **Remind the government that there are many poverties. In addition to monetary poverty, there is poverty of ambition; poverty of opportunity; poverty of peer example; poverty of place; poverty of access. Nationally-imposed targets alone will not deliver an end to these poverties but locally responsive services, delivered by democratically accountable local councils have the best prospect to deliver real change.**
- (d) **Advise the government that its present obsession with high housing density is, according to the Commission for Architecture in the Built Environment, producing new housing with inadequate space for families and creating the potential slums of tomorrow.**

Energy Bill

9 The key proposals are:

- (a) The bill will introduce a financial incentive, funded by electricity suppliers, to support up to four Carbon Capture and Storage commercial-scale projects, to stimulate a move towards a low carbon economy.

10 Issues for the County Council are:

- (a) There has been public and professional interest in the development of the technology in the past and there may be a possibility of retrofitting existing infrastructure in Oxfordshire.

11 **Recommended County Council response to Consultation:**

- (a) **Welcome this proposal and highlight Oxfordshire as an ideal location with a strong community commitment to carbon reduction and green strategies and a high tech economy to stimulate initiatives.**

Flood and water management bill

12 This bill will implement the recommendations of Sir Michael Pitt's report 'Learning Lessons from the 2007 Floods'.

13 The key proposals are:

- (a) To define the roles and responsibilities of those involved in flood risk management and giving the lead to upper-tier authorities in managing the risk of all local causes of floods;
- (b) To place a duty on all relevant bodies to co-operate and share information in support of flood risk management;
- (c) To introduce an improved, risk-based approach to reservoir safety, extending to all reservoirs which could pose a risk to public safety if they were to fail; and
- (d) To require developers to include sustainable drainage wherever practicable in new housing and business developments.

14 Issues for the County Council are:

- (a) The detailed governance for how responsibilities will overlap is not clear. There are likely to be additional costs arising from the reallocation of duties and responsibility for flooding response and risk management, as the expertise for developing appropriate plans is not currently available in-house. However, our budget allocation for Fire &

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Rescue emergency response arising from 2007 floods has been utilised such that our equipment and practices should largely accord with any new standards;

- (b) Apart from the resource element, there are several implications arising from the enhanced responsibility for the county:
- The County Council will need to develop a coordinated response with the districts and with the Thames Valley Local Resilience forum;
 - Governance arrangements will need to reflect the proposed arrangements; and
 - Further requirements for new developments are likely to increase pressure on Section 106 agreements even further.
- (c) Oxfordshire is the most rural county in the South East Region. Flood alleviation schemes put forward for rural areas generally do not qualify under cost/benefit analysis because of the small number of residents involved. However, the overall percentage impact on a small rural community can sometimes be in the region of 80pc and for any individual that was flooded they cannot understand why funding for a small scheme cannot happen.

15 **Recommended County Council response to Consultation:**

- (a) **Welcome any legislation that improves the clarity of responsibility for dealing with flood risk, flooding and flood remediation, providing such legislation brings clarity of funding for the consequential work;**
- (b) **Welcome the fact that that upper tier authorities have been given the lead responsibility for flooding and to welcome the duty on all relevant bodies to co-operate and share information in support of flood risk management but to emphasise how important it is that this duty is fully and publicly enforceable.**
- (c) **Request that greater funding priority be given to small rural schemes that would deliver real benefits to a community but currently fail to qualify due to cost/benefit criteria that fail to take into account the overall hardship suffered by those communities.**

Improving schools and safeguarding children bill

16 This bill will implement the statutory framework for the proposals in the Schools White Paper, published on 30 June 2009.

17 The key proposals are:

(a) ***Schools***

- (i) Introducing a new set of guarantees to each child and their parents which would mean that each child should have access to schools with:
- A good standard of behaviour;
 - A broad and balanced curriculum;
 - Teaching delivered in a way that meets their needs;
 - The provision for sport and cultural activities.
- (ii) Requiring parents to sign up to behaviour standards on behalf of their children;
- (iii) Giving additional support to those children who fall behind;
- (iv) Backing head teachers to enforce good behaviour;
- (v) Developing an accountability framework, an early intervention strategy and school improvement strategies (expanding the role of School Improvement

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Partners) for all schools, underpinned by a new School Report Card (replacing school profiles. Achievement and Attainment tables);

- (vi) Giving parents a greater say over the range of schools in their local area, by gathering views on parental choice and producing an improvement plan if the majority of parents are dissatisfied;
- (vii) Clarifying the role of Ofsted and other inspectorates when assessing Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) and enable information sharing for LSCB purposes;
- (viii) The Government also wishes to encourage schools working in partnership, by:
 - Accelerating the Academies programme to 200 by September 2009, with a further 100 the next year;
 - Accelerating the Trusts programme;
 - Funding a national leadership and partnership support programme to manage the change;
 - By removing barriers to pooled budgets across schools partnerships; and
 - Also by making it clear that schools have responsibility for children living within their catchment area, as well as those who are actually attending that school.
- (ix) The Government will consider whether to allocate national deprivation funding to local schools with a proven need; and also to move to a national funding formula for 14-19 provision (in the longer term);
- (x) Improving monitoring arrangements for children educated at home.

(b) ***Safeguarding***

- (i) New powers of intervention in Youth Offending Teams that are considered to be failing; and
- (ii) Enabling the media to report the substance of family proceedings while protecting the identities of families and providing the courts with discretion to disapply this safeguard where it is in the public interest and safe so to do.

15 Issues for the County Council are:

(a) ***Schools***

- (i) Best practice guidance is welcome in principal but there is a risk that any new national framework will undermine local systems and increase the burden on local authorities and on schools. Quite frankly, the four “guarantees” listed are service standards most parents would expect as a right and it is difficult to see what difference these recently announced “guarantees” will make.
- (ii) Additional support to those children who are struggling is welcome, providing the proposals are fully funded.
- (iii) Backing head teachers to enforce good behaviour is precisely what is needed. However, many head teachers feel they are working with both hands tied behind their backs and both legs hobbled. The government needs to do more than publish hopeful words.
- (iv) The requirement for an early intervention strategy matches the County Council’s own ambitions although the County council will need to work closely with schools for it to be effective. There needs to be clarity about who triggers this and how?

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- (v) Providing extensive information to parents, while important to secure parental engagement and support, may introduce additional time/resource burdens on schools and/or the County Council which will require adequate resourcing.
 - (vi) The increased emphasis on schools partnerships and responsibility beyond those on roll matches the County Council's strategy. However, the significant expansion of Academies and the detail of the relationship between schools and councils proposed in the Schools White Paper (e.g. the acceleration of the Academy programme), moves schools further away from local authority influence and guidance. Promoting federations requires pump priming funding.
 - (vii) School Improvement Partners (SIPs) may be overburdened by these new responsibilities, reducing their effectiveness. It is unclear what the County Council's role will be in supporting SIPs in this role.
 - (viii) It is unclear how much regard the County Council must give to School Report Cards compared with Ofsted inspection results. There is potential for the two systems becoming overly bureaucratic or contradictory, making the County Council's role in monitoring performance ever more difficult.
- (b) ***Safeguarding***
- (i) New powers of intervention by Government could mean unnecessary interference in local services when preventative measures or peer support may be a more effective use of resources.

16 **Recommended County Council response to Consultation:**

- (a) ***Schools***
- (i) **Remind government that there are three key partners in providing effective teaching and learning. They are:**
 - **The local school and, most particularly, the school's senior management;**
 - **Parents who have the care of their children for six sevenths of their lives from age 4 to 16;**
 - **The local council with responsibility for schools which has more knowledge of the issues facing their schools than any quango or government department can ever have.**
 - (ii) **The County Council welcomes greater diversity in school provision and has supported trust, foundation and Academy provision in the County. This diversity needs to be matched by a supportive framework in which the local authority can manage the market as the democratically accountable local education authority.**
 - (iii) **Advise government that national targets, nationally-commissioned consultants and national quangos cannot provide the sensitive, locally focussed interventions that will bring about school improvement.**
- (b) ***Safeguarding***
- (i) **Remind the government that new powers of central intervention is likely to lead to unnecessary interference in local services when preventative measures or peer support will be a more effective use of resources.**

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Equality bill

17 This bill builds upon the Equality bill currently progressing through the Commons in the 2008/9 session.

18 The key proposals are:

- (a) To ban negative age discrimination by those providing services and public functions;
- (b) To place a new duty on key public bodies (including local government) to consider what action they could take to reduce socio-economic inequalities;
- (c) To place a new duty on public bodies to consider the impact on disadvantaged groups in the community when developing policies;
- (d) To introduce a requirement for private sector organisations of more than 250 employees to report on the gender pay gap; and
- (e) To extend the scope for employers to take positive action, including political parties.

19 Issues for the County Council are:

- (a) Preparations are already underway to comply with many of these requirements underway through work to achieve the Equality Standard for Local Government 'Level 3'.
- (b) However, changes arising from the various sections of equalities legislation could add up to a significant financial pressure. For example, the LGA believe there may be an increase in the number of judicial reviews, arising from more legislative duties in a complex area.

20 **Recommended County Council response to Consultation:**

- (a) **Advise the government that the County Council is proud to be close to securing Equality Standard Level 3.**
- (b) **Confirm that the County Council supports genuine equality of treatment of all of its citizens including the impact of its actions on disadvantaged groups;**
- (c) **Confirm that the County Council has the reduction of the cycle of deprivation as a cross-cutting priority and believes it is much better placed to achieve this than national government with nationally imposed but blunt targets or national quangos that are inaccessible to the citizens they are meant to serve;**
- (d) **State the County Council's complete opposition to even more complexity in the field of equalities at a time when the top priority has to be economic recovery;**
- (e) **State the County Council's complete opposition to any form of positive discrimination. This will only provoke rightful resentment if job opportunities are offered on any basis other than the best person for the job.**

Keith R Mitchell CBE
Leader of the Council

Information on bills that is not directly relevant to the County Council

Proposed bill	Summary	Any comments
Of interest to OCC		
Animal health responsibility and cost sharing draft bill	This bill will establish mechanisms and means of how responsibilities and costs can be shared between Government and the farming industry for animal disease control.	Although not the responsible body, we are involved in taking action on animal health issues so there may be implications for how the costs of any future response.
Civil law reform draft bill	This bill will bring forward a number of civil law reform measures, including several recommendations of the Law Commission making the law simpler and more up to date, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The law relating to damages ○ Reform of the Limitation Act 1980 	There are potential implications for the legal basis of our services depending on the final content of the bill, though as a draft bill this will not impact local authorities in the coming year.
Digital economy bill	Includes a number of proposals arising from the Digital Britain White Paper around national reforms to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ensure universal broadband access, of 2 Mbps, by 2012 (£200m centrally funded) ○ Target of 90% coverage for next generation broadband by 2017 (paid for by a supplemental tax on £6 p.a. on fixed telephone lines from 2010) ○ New duties for Ofcom to promote and assess UK digital infrastructure ○ New commissioning bodies for public service content ○ Ensure that all national radio broadcasts are digital by 2015 ○ Combat online copyright infringement 	The support for broadband infrastructure is key in the development of rural businesses and the sustainability of rural communities more generally. Increased bandwidth and connectivity also enables the wider use of virtual council services.
Immigration simplification draft bill	This draft Bill will replace all existing immigration legislation with a simplified legal framework.	This could have some negative impact on local authorities by increasing their workload without providing additional resources, though as a draft bill this will not impact local authorities in the coming year.
Policing, crime and private security bill	This bill aims to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cutting red police officer ‘red-tape’ ○ Adding certain pre-2004 offenders to the DNA database ○ Protecting women from violence, if there are any recommendations arising from the ‘Violence against women and girls’ 	There may be some relevant legislation for our Safer Communities services arising from the ‘Violence against women and girls’ consultation, which broadly asked if the Government was doing enough in this area.

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	consultation, to be published in Autumn 2009 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Giving greater support for parents struggling with their child's anti-social behaviour 	
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Proposed bill	Summary	Any comments
Not relevant to OCC services		
Antarctica draft bill	This draft Bill will help to ensure the future protection of the Antarctic environment.	
Bribery bill	This bill will reform the criminal law to provide a new, modern and comprehensive scheme of bribery offences that will enable the courts and prosecutors to provide a more effective response to bribery in the 21st century. Based on the draft bill published in March 2009.	
Cluster munitions prohibition bill	This bill will ban the use, development, production, acquisition, retention, transfer and stockpiling of cluster munitions in the UK.	
Constitutional renewal bill	This bill seeks to reform the House of Lords (including removing hereditary peers from the second chamber); reform the civil service code; limit the powers of the Attorney General and remove the Prime Minister from any involvement in judicial appointments.	
Financial services and business bill	The bill seeks to promote stability, efficiency and competition in financial markets; and ensure action is taken to reduce the frequency and impact of systemic financial crises. Builds upon the Banking Act enacted in the 2008/9 session.	There are wider benefits to a stable banking environment, particularly to our residents, however a less risky banking environment would be a benefit to our general financial operations and planning.
House of Lords reform draft bill	Building on the Constitutional renewal bill, this draft bill will set out proposals for a smaller and democratically constituted second chamber.	

**BUILDING BRITAIN'S FUTURE
IMPLICATIONS FOR OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

Introduction

- 1 This briefing note summarises the Government's *Building Britain's Future* policy document, published on 29 June 2009. The document brings together a number of departmental policies under a single brand. The briefing has been produced by County Council officers and offers a factual summary of the government's proposals.
- 2 Legislative proposals that impact on the County Council are covered in the body of the main report.

Principles

- 3 The document has wide policy ambitions, aiming to:
 - (a) Commit to a fairer society;
 - (b) Recognise that we need to protect the planet for future generations;
 - (c) Recognise that central and local government need to work together; and
 - (d) To ensure that both market and state are efficient and accountable.

Key policy proposals relevant to Oxfordshire County Council

Cleaning up politics

- 4 The proposals are not directly relevant to the county council, but the principle will affect our reputation. They include an independent regulator for parliamentary standards and reform of the House of Lords.
- 5 The implications for Oxfordshire are that there will continue to be pressure for greater accountability of politicians, whether national or local.

Jobs and skills

- 6 From next year, every young person under 25 who has been unemployed for a year will be required to take up a guaranteed job, work experience or training place.
- 7 This builds on the £1 billion Future Jobs Fund, which works with local authorities, social enterprises and the voluntary sector to create 100,000 jobs for young people and a further 50,000 jobs.
- 8 Adults who have been unemployed for six months will now receive access to jobs supported by recruitment subsidies, help setting up a business, skills training or volunteering opportunities.
- 9 The implications for Oxfordshire are:
 - (a) The County Council has bid for 120 jobs (80 for the County Council and 40 for the voluntary sector) through the Future Jobs Fund and has reached the second stage of assessment. These are not new jobs but opportunities to target existing job vacancies towards young, unemployed and unskilled job-seekers with early training opportunities. There may be further opportunities as the scheme expands.

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- (b) The County Council already gives some support through local schemes for the same objectives of setting up businesses, etc. However, there is scope for joining up these actions across organisations.
- (c) Finally, the LGA will lobby for the devolution of funding and strategic direction of adult skills to councils and groups of councils to enable services to be integrated. This would bring better local coordination of schemes and initiatives.

A new economy

- 10 A new, more active industrial policy to drive growth and create the high value jobs of the future.
- 11 Universal broadband access, of 2 Mbps, by 2012 (£200m centrally funded).
- 12 Target of 90% coverage for next generation broadband by 2017 (paid for by a supplemental tax on £6 p.a. on fixed telephone lines from 2010).
- 13 To support the key technology-based sectors of the future, the Government will establish a new £150 million Innovation Fund which aims to lever up to £1 billion of private sector funding in infrastructure and development.
- 14 The implications for Oxfordshire are:
 - (a) The support for broadband infrastructure is key in the development of rural businesses and the sustainability of rural communities more generally.
 - (b) Increased bandwidth and connectivity also opens up opportunities for the wider use of virtual council services.
 - (c) There may also be opportunities for collaborative work with the private sector in developing innovative new methods of delivering services and encouraging growth, funded by the Government and private investment.

More power for parents

- 15 This section summarises the proposals in the '21st Century Schools White Paper' published on 30 June, with forthcoming legislative components included in the 2009/10 'Improving schools and safeguarding children bill'. The ideas are broadly around greater choice for children and parents, greater accountability of schools performance and greater support for schools partnerships. Please see the Report on the Draft Legislative Programme summary for further details.

Investing in young people

- 16 Ensuring that, in time, every young person gives at least 50 hours of service to their community in their teenage years.
- 17 In future years, the Government will create new or refurbished youth centres or other facilities in every constituency to ensure that all young people have easy access to positive activities.
- 18 The implications for Oxfordshire are:
 - (a) There are several organisations, including ourselves, currently encouraging youth volunteering (as part of our LAA targets), these efforts will need to take account of this commitment.
 - (b) There has been little external comment on these proposals, possibly because there is little detail and no clear timescale. To put this into context, Oxfordshire already has over 20 full-time youth centres, almost fifty children's centres, plus mobile children's centres in some of the more rural areas. However, the County Council would, of course, welcome additional funding providing it did not create an ongoing burden on the revenue budget.

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Early years

- 19 To create local Sure Start Children's Centres in each constituency with 3,500 planned by 2010, and to extend free early learning for two year-olds.
- 20 All children will be entitled to start school in the September after their fourth birthday or be offered 25 hours of free early learning a week.
- 21 The Government is extending the right to request flexible working for parents of children aged under 16.
- 22 The implications for Oxfordshire are the resource implications, if any, of the proposals for earlier learning.

Affordable housing

- 23 The government's existing building programme will gain a further £1.5 billion over the next two years to deliver 20,000 additional energy efficient, affordable homes to rent or buy. The government state the package will enable local authorities to build 3,000 additional council homes over the next two years and 10,000 new homes for private sale on mixed tenure developments.
- 24 Housing finance reform - the government will consult on a dismantling of the council housing finance system.
- 25 Changes to the rules for allocating council and other social housing, meaning the ability to give more priority to local people and those who have spent a long time on waiting lists. Choice Based Lettings will be expanded to help residents move nationwide and support given to tenants who need to move to take up the offer of a new job.
- 26 The implications for Oxfordshire are:
 - (a) The LGA lobbied successfully for the additional £1.5 billion funding., meaning a four-fold increase. However, it will, of course, require sufficient infrastructure funding to support the new housing.

Crime and policing

- 27 There are two proposals relevant to the County Council (apart from police reforms such as minimum response times). These are:
 - (a) monthly meetings to shape local priorities and hold police to account and
 - (b) having the public's views taken into account in decisions on prosecutions and sentences.
- 28 The implications for Oxfordshire are:
 - (a) The County Council is proposing to take forward its own scrutiny of police crime statistics. This would be county-level scrutiny, whereas the 'beat' meetings are at neighbourhood level. The timescales for Government reform are also unclear but the County Council would need to discuss with Thames Valley Police colleagues the implications of this proposal when considering its own scrutiny arrangements to avoid duplication.
 - (b) There may also be considerations for the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (and thus the Safer Communities Unit), if local people are becoming increasingly involved in responding to community safety issues.

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A low carbon future

- 29 Commitment to cut emissions by 40% by 2020.
- 30 Investment in renewables, nuclear and clean coal technology
- 31 Electricification of the London to Oxford and London to Bristol/Swansea railway line; with proposals for a High-speed line between London and Birmingham announced recently
- 32 There will be incentives for the take up of low carbon buses and the development a National Cycle Plan to promote cycling as a mainstream form of personal transport.
- 33 The implications for Oxfordshire are:
- (a) Commentators have suggested that a 40% reduction is a challenging target for the country to meet. The County Council's strategy for managing the Carbon Reduction Commitment will need to take account of the 2020 target.
 - (b) Pilot projects for clean coal technologies have been announced. In the past, there has been interest in this as an option for retrofitting to existing infrastructure
 - (c) The electrification of the London to Oxford line will likely mean minor improvements to the Oxford to London via Reading service.
 - (d) The detail of the incentives for the take up of low carbon buses and any attached funding will dictate whether these are helpful in achieving our objectives or merely prove burdensome.

Other policy proposals not relevant to Oxfordshire County Council

- 34 More power for patients – ensuring patient rights to care
- 35 Immigration and citizenship – will require newcomers to earn the right to stay
- 36 International Leadership – leading on financial reform, fighting poverty and nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament

Future Publications related to Building Britain's Future

Summer:

Ageing Society Strategy: Setting out how we can seize the opportunities of ageing – through preparing better for later life; living well in later life; and providing the right support if required.
(Department for Work and Pensions/Department of Health/Cabinet Office)

Care and support Green Paper: Setting out how we will create a new system that is sustainable which will keep people as well as possible for as long as possible, allowing everyone who needs care to access it, and providing some support for all.
(Department of Health)

Consumer White Paper: Outlining new regulation to make the relationship between lenders and consumers fair and transparent.
(Department for Business, Innovation and Skills)

Development White Paper: Setting out how our development priorities will respond to challenges from conflict and fragile states, climate change and the economic crisis. (Department for International Development)

Energy and Climate Change White Paper: Setting out proposals on how we might adapt the UK's energy grid to link homes and businesses to new forms of power generation as well as proposals and policies to de-carbonise electricity generation and other energy supplies.
(Department for Energy and Climate Change)

The Road to 2010: Setting out our approach to the safe expansion of nuclear power in the UK and internationally, on non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament and on international institutional reform, in advance of the Review Conference for the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Conference in 2010.
(Cabinet Office)

Financial Services Regulation White Paper:
Outlining proposals for new regulations of financial markets.
(HM Treasury)

Higher Education Framework (timing to be confirmed): Setting out a 10 to 15 year vision for Higher Education.
(Department for Business, Innovation and Skills)

Life Sciences Blueprint: Setting out the action we have taken to support the UK life sciences industry since the creation of the Office for Life Sciences in January 2009. (Department for Business, Innovation and Skills)

Local Democratic Renewal Consultation: Setting out ideas and proposals for consultation on how we might offer stronger, clearly defined powers to local government and city regions and strengthen their accountability to local people.

Low Carbon Industrial Strategy: Providing a clear and credible long-term framework to encourage investment in the sector and to ensure the UK is the best place to locate and develop a low carbon business.
(Department of Business Innovation and Skills/Department for Energy and Climate Change)

Serious Organised Crime Strategy: Reviewing our response to organised crime, doing more to tackle it overseas and creating a more hostile environment for serious organised criminals within the UK.
(Home Office)

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Social Investment Wholesale Bank Consultation Paper: Setting out the vision, case and consultation on the function and design of a social investment wholesale bank.

21st Century Schools White Paper: Outlining the next stage of schools reform to deliver further improvements in the quality of our education.

(Department for Children, Schools and Families)

Autumn:

Active Transport Strategy: Setting out how we can encourage different ways of getting around that use less carbon, reduce congestion and promote health and wellbeing. (Department of Health/Department for Transport)

Families and Relationships Green Paper: Setting out how we are supporting all families to thrive and succeed.

(Department for Children, Schools and Families)

Getting Britain Back to Work White Paper: Outlining proposals to support the rapid return to full employment.

(HM Treasury/Department for Business, Innovation and Skills/Department for Work and Pensions)

National Cycle Plan: To further promote cycling as a mainstream form of personal transport outlining the role of local authorities, public transport providers, employers and schools.

(Department for Transport)

National Skills Strategy: Setting out how we plan to put in place an approach to skills policy which prepares Britain for the upturn, including how further and higher education can promote enterprise and provide clear routes into self employment.

(Department for Business, Innovation and Skills)

Policing White Paper: Setting out options for further reform of the police to ensure our communities are safer and police are responding to their local communities.

(Home Office)

Preventative NHS Strategy: Setting out plans to ensure investment in and focus on prevention of illness, on early intervention and on partnership with patients.

(Department of Health)