

2020 (1 year) Spending Review Commitments on National Infrastructure

Summary provided by [Dods](#).

The **National Infrastructure Strategy** clearly sets out the government's long-term infrastructure ambitions:

- It provides a long-term perspective without ignoring shorter-term imperatives;
- It sets out clear goals and plans to achieve them, with more detail to come in some areas over the coming weeks and months;
- It announces multi-year funding commitments for many key infrastructure programmes; and
- It confirms the government's commitment to fundamentally change the way it considers and delivers infrastructure across the whole of the UK.

However, **this isn't the final word on the government's infrastructure plans** – it instead represents the first step of a multi-year process to transform the UK's infrastructure networks.

This Strategy will also be followed by a series of detailed publications setting out further details on key areas of infrastructure policy, including the Construction Playbook, Energy White Paper, English Devolution and Local Recovery White Paper, a refreshed Industrial Strategy, Union Connectivity Review and an updated National Infrastructure and Construction Pipeline.

Commitments:

Driving recovery and rebuilding the economy

- government investment in economic infrastructure will be £27 billion in 2021-22
- Spending Review 2020 delivers £100 billion total investment in 2021-22 to support the recovery.

Levelling up and strengthening the Union

- **£5 billion to support UK-wide gigabit broadband roll-out**, a Shared Rural Network extending 4G mobile coverage to 95% of the UK, and £250 million to ensure resilient and secure digital networks;
- £5 billion over this parliament for buses and cycling; and
- A new **£4 billion cross-departmental Levelling Up Fund** that will invest in local infrastructure in England (which will attract funding for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland in the usual way).
- Supporting the largest city regions outside of London with £4.2 billion intra-city transport settlements;
- Backing new **green growth clusters in traditional industrial areas**, with carbon capture and storage, offshore wind, port infrastructure and low carbon hydrogen;
- Bringing **jobs, investment and prosperity to some of the most deprived communities** across the UK through the freeports programme;
- Revitalising over 100 **town centres and high streets** through the Towns Fund;
- Restoring many of the rail services lost through the Beeching cuts of the 1960s

- Backing HS2 to deliver essential North-South connectivity, with an Integrated Rail Plan to deliver transformational improvements in the Midlands and the North;
- Record investment in strategic roads (over £27 billion), including the A66 between Penrith and Scotch Corner, Lower Thames Crossing, and the A303 Stonehenge;
- Delivering a Union Connectivity Review reviewing options to improve transport links across the four nations of the UK
- Increasing the UK government's ability to invest directly in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland through the UK Internal Market Bill;
- Changing the way projects are appraised to support levelling up through the Green Book Review;
- Expanding devolution within England, and **implementing the devolution deal in West Yorkshire**;
- **Relocating 22,000 civil servants** out of London and the South East by 2030.

Decarbonising the economy and adapting to climate change

- Significant **investment in offshore wind** and into modern ports and **manufacturing infrastructure** to expand the share of energy generation from renewables;
- Providing up to **£525 million to bring forward large-scale nuclear** and invest in the development of advanced nuclear technologies;
- £1 billion to support the establishment of carbon capture and storage in four industrial clusters;
- **Investing in hydrogen** to scale up the UK's capacity to produce both 'blue' and 'green' hydrogen;
- Investing £1.3 billion in charging infrastructure to accelerate the mass adoption of electric vehicles ahead of ending the sale of new petrol and diesel cars by 2030;
- Enabling heat decarbonisation by supporting the roll-out of existing technologies like heat pumps and development of emerging technologies like hydrogen;
- Funding to help England to meet its share of the Climate Change Committee's recommendations to plant 30,000 hectares of trees a year in the UK; and
- Investing £5.2 billion by 2027 to better protect 336,000 properties and boost resilience of communities to the increased risk of flooding and coastal erosion resulting from climate change.

Supporting private investment in infrastructure

- The government is **setting up a new UK infrastructure bank**, to co-invest alongside the private sector in infrastructure projects;
- The bank will operate UK-wide, be based in the North of England, and support the government's ambitions on levelling up and net zero;
- The bank will also be **able to lend to local and mayoral authorities** for key infrastructure projects, and provide them with advice on developing and financing infrastructure;

- The government is committed to the model of independent economic regulation, but will refine it to ensure it provides a clear and enduring framework for investors and businesses and delivers the major investment needed in decades to come, while continuing to deliver fair outcomes for consumers;
- The government will produce an overarching policy paper on economic regulation in 2021, which will consider regulator duties, how to inject more competition into strategic investments and the benefits of a cross-sectoral Strategic Policy Statement; and
- The government will continue to develop new revenue support models and consider how existing models – such as the Regulated Asset Base model and Contracts for Difference – can be applied in new areas, and remains open to new ideas from the market. The government will not reintroduce the private finance initiative model (PFI/PF2).

Accelerating and improving delivery

- Reform of environmental regulations to deliver a quicker and simpler framework for assessing environmental impacts and secure better outcomes for the environment;
- Landmark **reform of the planning system** including consulting on amending permitted development rights, to let schools and hospitals be expanded quickly;
- **Transforming the construction sector** to enable it to become more productive, more sustainable and more internationally competitive, with better use of data and modern methods of construction;
- Ensuring more effective decision making with **streamlined approval processes**, more emphasis on quality design, and better monitoring and evaluation;
- Embedding **good design** in all infrastructure projects through planning reforms; and
- Bringing about a step change in capability and leadership, accelerating investment in **major project expertise and delivery skills and improving the skills base across the country** to ensure every area can deliver the infrastructure it needs.