Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Annex A – Government response to letter and update to recommendations

For ease, the response has been sectioned into the following:

Coastal Town Strategy

Question	Response
1.The Committee welcomed the Government's acknowledgement that more needs to be done by all stakeholders to bring change to coastal towns. It was the Committee's belief that such change must be top down from central Government as well as bottom up from local communities. Would the Government re-evaluate the progress made by local industrial strategies to ensure that they can be relied upon to form the coherent bedrock of any regeneration strategy? **This response serves as an update on recommendations 27 and 28 in the original report on the Future of Seaside Towns**	Government's focus remains on the immediate public health response to coronavirus and continuing to support the economy. Places have been developing their own thinking on local economic recovery. We are working with LEPs, MCAs and other local partners to ensure places build on priorities identified through the Local Industrial Strategy (LIS) process and address new issues which have arisen as a result of the crisis, which LISs were not designed to consider. This intelligence, combined with ongoing analysis of the impacts of the health crisis, should guide strategic recovery thinking. We will continue to work on the levelling up agenda, building on the strengths of places. We are encouraging places to consider key sectors, assets and clusters they want to support to foster their long-term growth ambitions, building on the strong evidence base and the brilliant work done to date by places across the country on the design of Local Industrial Strategies. Levelling up all areas of the country remains at the centre of Government's agenda, empowering our regions by devolving money, resources and control away from Westminster. Later this year we will publish a Levelling Up White Paper setting out how bold new policy interventions will improve likelihoods across the country as we recover from the pandemic. This will build upon the success of the directly elected combined authority mayors who are driving local economic growth across their functional economic areas.
2. **i) The Committee recognised the work of the Government through the Coastal**	**Tourism Zones** The Government has published a post-COVID Tourism Recovery, which also sets out next steps with the Tourism Sector Deal.

Communities Fund. Can the Government provide details on the five piloted Tourism Zones and what assessment has been made on their efficacy for improving coastal areas? **ii) The Committee's report argued that Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) prioritised attention on economically stable areas. Will Tourism Zones and Local Industrial Strategies be supported by the Government to bring investment to areas of higher risk, such as coastal towns, to provide innovative growth opportunities to deprived areas?**	The pandemic has required a short-term focus on immediate support available for the sector; however, we continue to recognise a need to plan for longer-term recovery and innovation. The Prime Minister reaffirmed the Government's commitment to publishing a Tourism Recovery Plan in the Roadmap to Recovery in the Spring. As a programme that would need funding certainty over multiple years, we would need to make sure any Tourism Zone policy not only aligned with the recently announced Government capital investment in places such as the Levelling Up fund, but also with Government funding plans over a multi-year period. In addition, in March 2021 the Government announced an independent review of Destination Management Organisations (DMOs) in England. The review will make recommendations as to how best to structure and, if needed, support DMOs at a local and regional level in order to deliver the Government's tourism policy priorities and support economic growth and increased productivity in local visitor economies. As mentioned in response to question 1, we are working with LEPs, MCAs and other local partners to ensure places build on priorities identified through the Local Industrial Strategy (LIS) process and address new issues which have arisen as a result of the crisis, which LISs were not designed to consider. This intelligence, combined with ongoing analysis of the impacts of the health crisis, should guide strategic recovery thinking. We will continue to work on the levelling up agenda, building on the strengths of places. We are encouraging places to consider key sectors, assets and clusters they want to support to foster their long-term growth ambitions, building on the strong evidence base and the brilliant work done to date by places across the country on the design of Local Industrial Strategies.

3. **i) What details can the Government provide on the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and the proportion of funding directed towards coastal areas?** **ii) Will the next Spending Review return the ratio of Crown Estates revenue allocated to the Coastal Community Fund (or equivalent) back to 50% rather than the revised 33%?** **This response serves as an update on recommendations 31 & 32 in the original report on the Future of Seaside Towns**	**UK Shared Prosperity Fund** The UK Shared Prosperity Fund will, from 2022, help to level up and create opportunity across the UK in places most in need, such as ex-industrial areas, deprived towns and rural and coastal communities, and for people who face labour market barriers. The UK Government is also providing an additional £220m funding through the UK Community Renewal Fund to help local areas prepare for the launch of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund in 2022. **Coastal Communities Fund** The current round of CCF has now finished. A new round for 2021-2023 has now been launched in Wales. There are currently no plans for there to be further rounds of the Fund in the rest of the UK. The Government is committed to levelling up, to ensure no community is left behind. The Department has recently announced new levelling up and community investments that you can find out about here. The Department has also announced a £56m Welcome Back Fund for our high streets and coastal communities which you can find out more about here.
4. **The Committee acknowledged the £39.5m Town Deal provided to Blackpool as part of the wider Towns Fund. The Committee visited areas of severe need, such as Clacton on Sea.** **i) When will seaside towns such as Fleetwood, St Austell, South Tyneside**	**Towns Fund** In September 2019, we announced the initial 101 places invited to develop Town Deal proposals as part of the £3.6 billion Towns Fund. These include towns that are birthplaces of industry, that have been centres of commerce for centuries and that are bastions of the maritime economy along our coastline. Towns that did not receive investment from the Towns Fund will be able to apply to the new Levelling Up Fund, which will invest in infrastructure that improves everyday life across the UK, including regenerating town centres and high streets, upgrading local transport, and investing in cultural and heritage assets. The LUF

and Southend be considered for this funding? **ii) Can the Government assure the Committee that it recognises the necessity for growth in the local economy?**	prospectus and Technical Guidance set out how local areas can submit bids for the first round of funding for projects starting in 2021-22. **Growth in the local economy** Levelling up all areas of the country remains at the centre of Government's agenda, empowering our regions by devolving money, resources and control away from Westminster. That is why we will publish a Levelling Up White Paper later this year, setting out how bold new policy interventions will improve the livelihoods across the country as we recover from the pandemic. As set out at Spending Review 2020, the government's capital spending plans next this year (2021-22) will total £100 billion, a £30 billion cash increase compared to 2019-20. This is part of the government's plan to deliver over £600 billion in gross public sector investment over the next five years, delivering the highest sustained levels of public sector net investment as a proportion of GDP since the late 1970s. The £4.8 billion Levelling Up Fund will invest in infrastructure that improves everyday life across the UK, including regenerating town centres and high streets, upgrading local transport, and investing in cultural and heritage assets.
5. **i) Can the Government detail what the balance is between revenue and capital spend in the Town Deal fund?** **ii) Can the Government reassure towns that revenue bids are welcome for transformative projects?**	**Towns Deal Funding** An overview of the capital and revenue allocation of the Towns Fund is detailed in the Further Guidance published in June 2020. Each of the 101 towns has convened a Town Deal Board, generally with a private sector chair. The board is responsible for producing a Town Investment Plan. This will inform the Town Deal and the amount of investment secured through the Towns Fund. **Collaborative Town Deal arrangements**

iii) Has the Government encouraged collaborative Town Deal arrangements to maximise the potential benefits for the sub-regional area? **This response serves as an update on recommendation 36 in the original report on the Future of Seaside Towns**	There is provision for local places to produce a joint Town Investment Plan. This is dependent on towns selected in the list of 101 towns agreeing to work collaboratively and sharing both a Town Deal Board and Town Investment Plan. It is for the local area to decide whether a case can be put to Government on the benefits of clustering towns together.
6. **i) How will the Stronger Towns Funding, Future of the High Streets Fund, the Levelling-Up Fund, and the UK Shared Prosperity Fund be coordinated to provide a coherent strategy for tackling coastal deprivation?** **ii) How centralised is Government control of the town regeneration strategy?** **iii) How will the use of civil service hubs affect the connection between local and central Government in the coordination of regeneration plans?** **This response serves as an update on recommendations 29, 30, 33 & 35 in the original report on the Future of Seaside Towns.**	**Coordinating of funding** Levelling up is central to the Government’s agenda and we are working with local leaders to ensure every region, city and town will recover from Covid-19 and ultimately level up. Our coastlines are a key part of this commitment, and will be supported by Town Deals, the Future High Streets Fund, the Levelling-Up Fund and the UK Shared Prosperity Fund: • The objective of Town Deals is to drive the economic regeneration of towns to deliver long-term economic and productivity growth through land use, economic assets including cultural assets, skills and enterprise infrastructure, and connectivity. • The Future High Streets Fund will support areas to recover from the pandemic and help transform underused town centres into vibrant places to live, work and shop as part of the Government's levelling up agenda. • The £4.8 billion Levelling Up Fund will invest in infrastructure that improves everyday life across the UK, including regenerating town centres and high streets, upgrading local transport, and investing in cultural and heritage assets. • The UK Shared Prosperity Fund will, from 2022, help to level up and create opportunity across the UK in places most in need, such as ex-industrial areas, deprived towns and rural and coastal communities, and for people who face labour market barriers.

	• The UK Government is also providing an additional £220m funding through the UK Community Renewal Fund to help local areas prepare for the launch of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund in 2022. The aim of our £3.6 billion Towns Fund is to unleash the economic success of towns and high streets across the country, levelling up opportunity to ensure everyone can contribute to and benefit from economic growth, and making them more attractive, vibrant places to live, work and visit. **Town Regeneration Strategy** The Towns Fund has been designed to encourage local partners to come together and work with central Government to develop ambitious proposals in the form of Town Investment Plans. The Towns Fund, which includes the Future High Streets Fund, is supporting the long-term social and economic regeneration of over 150 towns across England as well as their immediate recovery from COVID-19. The UK-wide Levelling Up Fund will enable the Government to provide support to communities across the UK as we build back better from Covid and to take a strategic approach across the whole of the UK, allocating funding irrespective of administrative borders. **High Street Task Force** The High Streets Task Force (HSTF), established in 2019 by government to support local leaders in their work on high streets, announced in March 2021 70 local authorities that will receive targeted, in-person support from high street experts. This is in addition to 14 places supported as part of the Task Force's pilot of its services, with the Task Force sending experts to over 150 local authorities before the conclusion of the programme in 2024. Places to receive support have been selected by a combination of IMD and retail exposure at a local authority level and more will be announced later in the programme.

	By way of identifying, collating and disseminating examples of best practice in regeneration projects, this bespoke support will include a one-day diagnostic visit by a Task Force expert and, depending on the result of this diagnostic, may then include further support through expert advice on a specific issue, such as planning or design, workshops to develop a high street's vision, and mentoring or training. This builds on the Task Force's offer to all local authorities and place leaders, which includes online training modules, webinars and a repository of best practice and research at https://www.highstreetstaskforce.org.uk/. All local authorities in England will also receive at least one data dashboard for a high street in their area. This dashboard will use footfall data to help those engaged in place management to understand the performance of their town centre or high street. **Use of Civil Service Hubs** As part of the levelling up agenda, the Government has committed to ensuring that the administration of Government is less London-centric with 22,000 civil service roles relocating to the regions and nations of the UK by 2030. This at the heart of delivering the government's agenda for a Civil Service that is representative of the communities it serves, bringing more diversity of thought into policy-making. We want to ensure much of the UK benefits from the relocation of Civil Service roles. Our aim is that having decision makers based in locations will create and distribute opportunity, jobs and investment across the country, maximising collaboration and ensuring Government is better connected to the communities it serves. MHCLG has joint teams with the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, who work closely with local authorities across the whole of the UK on their regeneration and growth plans.

	LEPs – as update to recommendation 30 in the original report on the Future of Seaside Towns. We are hugely grateful for the work LEPs have done over the last ten years to support their local economies, through the Local Growth Fund, Growth Hubs and giving valuable insight to local and national government. Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) support the government's levelling up agenda by helping to improve understanding about their local economic areas, bringing together the business sector with the public sector to determine local economic priorities, and undertaking activities to drive economic growth and job creation, improve infrastructure and raise workforce skills in the local area. LEPs are playing a key role in economic recovery from Covid-19, including through their role in coordination and delivery of schemes such as the £900 million Getting Building Fund. The Budget set out significant changes to the way we support local growth investments, decentralising power and working more directly with local government across the United Kingdom, while being clear that local government should consider the interests of businesses in their area in prioritising investments. We recognise that this has significant implications for LEPs and are determined to ensure businesses continue to have clear representation and support as we drive the recovery and build back better. We look forward to working with local partners and will set out more detail on our plans for engagement soon. Ministers are looking to announce more detailed plans ahead of Summer recess.

7. **i) What are the coastal specific plans for 'Tourism Action Zones'? What resources are being channelled to support the growth in home grown tourism?** **ii) Given the likelihood of predominantly domestic tourism this summer because of the Covid-19 pandemic, how is the Government looking to support seaside towns to respond to this increased demand?** **This response serves as an update on recommendations 3, 4 & 5 in the original report on the Future of Seaside Towns**	**Tourism Action Zones** This has been covered in response to question 2 (i). **Tourism Coastal Support** This year, for the first time, the world-class products developed by the £45m Discover England Fund were promoted to domestic visitors, to build on the strong domestic performance seen in summer 2020. These include the England's Coast projects, which provides bookable customised coastal itineraries and experiences, and the England's Great Walking Trails project, which promotes the South West Coast Path and the Cleveland Way in the North East. In addition, in March the Government announced the £56m Welcome Back Fund, which will help councils encourage tourism through campaigns, events, and signage, and includes specific funding for all coastal resorts across England to help them welcome domestic visitors this summer. The Government will also work with VisitBritain, VisitEngland and local partners to champion the UK's diverse tourism offer once again - just as it did last summer with the *Enjoy Summer Safely* and *Escape The Everyday* campaigns.
8. Has the Government reviewed its decision on cutting VAT on tourism-related activities? **This response serves as an update on recommendation 6 in the original report on the Future of Seaside Towns**	**VAT cut for tourism-related activities** In July 2020, the Government announced a reduced rate of 5% VAT for goods and services supplied by the tourism and hospitality sectors. The Government has extended the temporary reduced rate of 5% VAT for the tourism and hospitality sectors until 30 September 2021. To help businesses

	manage the transition back to the standard 20% rate, a 12.5% rate will apply for the subsequent six months until 31 March 2022. Further expanding the scope of the temporary VAT reduction would come at a considerable cost to the Exchequer. The Government is committed to a tax system that supports investment and growth, and the Chancellor keeps all taxes and reliefs under review to ensure they continue to meet these objectives.
Policy update on policy included in original government response	
Strategic coordination **This response serves as an update on recommendation 34 in the original report on the Future of Seaside Towns:** **We recommend that the Government takes a more strategic approach to the coordination of coastal communities' policy at official-level across different government departments. Reinstating the cross-Whitehall official level meeting to discuss coastal communities would be a first step in achieving this. (Paragraph 326)**	The cross-Whitehall official level meeting to discuss coastal communities has been re-established and the first meeting was held on 18 November 2019. Unfortunately, as the Government's priorities have focussed on managing the pandemic no further meetings have been held since then. We are continuing to engage across Whitehall on coastal issues as we ensure every region, city and town will recover from Covid-19 and ultimately level up.
UKSPF **This response serves as an update on recommendation 33 in the original report on the Future of Seaside Towns:**	The UK Shared Prosperity Fund is the domestic successor to the EU Structural Fund programme. It will maximise the benefits of leaving the EU through quicker delivery of funding, better targeting, better alignment with domestic priorities and by cutting burdensome EU bureaucracy. The Spending Review in November 2020 set out the main strategic elements of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund in the Heads of Terms.

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund should seek to reinforce interventions from the Local Enterprise Partnerships and from the Coastal Community Fund. The development of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund should be used as an opportunity to evaluate where the areas of greatest need lie. A genuine and extensive consultation with neglected seaside towns should take place to ascertain the most effective distribution of the Fund. The Fund should prioritise long-term place-based solutions for areas where there has been persistent deprivation, including disadvantaged coastal communities. (Paragraph 322)	The UK Shared Prosperity Fund will help to level up and create opportunity across the UK in places most in need, such as ex-industrial areas, deprived towns and rural and coastal communities, and for people who face labour market barriers. It will invest in people, communities and local business. The Fund will operate UK-wide, using the new financial assistance powers in the UK Internal Market Act 2020. We are working to ensure that there is a seamless transition from current EU structural funding arrangements to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, as EU structural fund investment tails off over the coming years. The Government will publish a UK-wide investment framework in 2021 and confirm funding profiles at the next Spending Review.

Freeports and Coastal Planning

Question	Response
9. Will the Government commit to removing the barriers which prevent the productive development of land on port sites? **This response serves as an update on recommendation 7 in the original report on the Future of Seaside Towns**	**Permitted Development Rights** We have recently laid in parliament regulations which come into force on 21 April 2021. These regulations amend an existing permitted development right, expanding the scope of development that can take place at ports, and by whom, aligning their rights with similar rights for airports as committed to in the *Freeports: Response to the Consultation (October 2020)*. *Planning for the Future White Paper* was published in August 2020 it included proposals to speed up the end to end planning process and ensure that the planning system works for everyone.

10. The Government has indicated that the first Freeport locations are set to be announced in 2021. **i) Can the Government provide greater clarity on the proposed announcement date?** **ii) Can the Government give greater detail on the decision-making process for allocating Freeports?** **iii) How are the socio-economic vulnerabilities of port areas incorporated within this process?**	**Freeports Announcement** At Budget, the Chancellor announced the eight successful Freeport locations to progress to the next stages of Freeport designation (East Midlands Airport, Felixstowe & Harwich, Humber, Liverpool City Region, Plymouth & South Devon, Solent, Teesside and Thames). The Government is currently working with the Freeports to support delivery of the policy, with the first planned to open for business in late 2021. Subject to business case appraisal, they will be able to access a share of £175 million of seed capital funding. **Decision making process** On the 17th March 2021, we published the English Freeports Selection Decision-Making Note. This outlines the process and rationale for the selection of the successful freeport locations in England announced at Budget. The note is available here: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/freeports-bidding-prospectus/english-freeports-selection-decision-making-note. The Government remains committed to establishing at least one Freeport in Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales as soon as possible. **Incorporating Socio-Economic vulnerabilities of port areas** We acknowledged in the Freeports Bidding Prospectus that no two local economies or ports are the same. To meet the ambition of Freeports, bidders needed to reflect on these characteristics, fully utilise their assets, tackle their weaknesses and set out a strategy for growth founded on the three main Freeports objectives set out by Government. These objectives are: to establish Freeports as national hubs for global trade and investment across the UK; to promote regeneration and job creation (the lead policy objective) and to create hotbeds for innovation.

Policy update on policy included in original Government response	
Enterprise Zones: We recommend that the Government, in consultation with coastal local authorities and Local Enterprise Partnerships, reviews the current Enterprise Zone scheme to build a distinct package of measures aimed at supporting struggling seaside towns in promoting local economic activity. **This response serves as an update on recommendations 37 and 38 in the original report on the Future of Seaside Towns**	MHCLG continuously monitors and reviews the performance of the 48 Enterprise Zones operating across England. This includes gathering self-reported evidence of the benefits, outputs and progress made against the Enterprise Zone original bid. Learning from the Enterprise Zones programme has supported the design of the Freeports model as well as being fed into the development of new local growth funding programmes including the £4.8 billion Levelling Up Fund, the £220 million UK Community Renewal Fund and the £150 million Community Ownership Fund. There are currently no plans to create new Enterprise Zones. However, learning from the Enterprise Zones programme has supported the design of the Freeports model as well as being fed into the development of new local growth funding programmes including the £4.8 billion Levelling Up Fund, the £220 million UK Community Renewal Fund and the £150 million Community Ownership Fund. In addition, the Towns Fund and Future High Streets Fund will help create jobs and build more resilient local economies and communities as we begin to recover from the impact of coronavirus.
Coastal Protection Schemes **This response serves as an update on recommendations 25 & 26 in the original report on the Future of Seaside Towns:** **We recommend that DEFRA reviews and revises the approach taken to**	**Coastal Flood Risk Investment** The government has doubled the amount it invests in the flood and coastal defence programme in England from 2021 to £5.2 billion over six years. This will provide around 2,000 new defence schemes to better protect a further 336,000 properties, including homes and non-residential properties. This aims to reduce national flood risk by up to 11% by 2027 helping to avoid £32 billion of wider economic damages – benefitting every region of the country.

coastal flood risk investment decisions in order to give greater account to the protection of non-residential properties and assets, including business and public infrastructure. (Paragraph 255) **We recommend that development and planning processes for future coastal protection schemes should include an appraisal of how designs might benefit the wider economy and the public realm. (Paragraph 262)**	The government uses the Partnership Funding policy to allocate this investment as grant in aid for flood and coastal erosion risk management projects. This provides a fair and consistent basis for allocating grant in aid. The amount of funding a project can attract will depend on the damages it will avoid and the benefits it will deliver. The benefits that determine the grant in aid available for a project include benefits to people and property that result from reduced flood and coastal erosion risk, in addition schools, hospitals, transport links and utility sites. The Government published its Flood and Coastal Erosion policy statement on 17 July 2020 https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flood-and-coastal-erosion-risk-management-policy-statement .This includes a commitment commitments to review the current mechanisms – including legal powers – which coastal erosion risk management authorities can use to manage the coast. We have also committed to considering options to expand and promote the use of local powers which local authorities can access to secure additional funding to manage flood and coastal erosion risk (e.g. business improvement districts), and explore the availability and role of financial products or services that can help people or businesses to achieve a managed transition of property and infrastructure away from areas at very high risk of coastal erosion. The Government recently published a Call for Evidence to explore how we can strengthen our flood and coastal defence investment programme through better assessment of local circumstances, including how potential changes to the funding formula could provide further benefit to frequently flooded communities. It will also look at further ways to increase the uptake of property flood resilience measures to enable householders and businesses to better prepare for flooding. The Call for Evidence has now closed we are currently analysing the responses. **Coastal Protection Schemes**

	Integrated Coastal Zone Management should be pursued across local authority and land/sea boundaries to ensure effective alignment of the terrestrial and marine planning regimes. The National Planning Policy Framework is clear that where an area has been identified as a Coastal Change Management Area, any area likely to be affected by physical changes to the coast, development will be appropriate only where it is demonstrated that; it will be safe over its planned lifetime and not have an unacceptable impact on coastal change, the character of the coast including designations is not compromised, the development provides wider sustainability benefits; and the development does not hinder the creation and maintenance of a continuous signed and managed route around the coast. At an individual project level, appraisal of flood and coastal protection schemes includes all benefits, not only those from damages avoided. These other benefits include economic growth when this growth is national and results in a net increase in the UK economy rather than displaced growth from elsewhere in the UK.

Transport

Question	Response
11. **i) Will the Government consider a detailed review of the coastal transport network in areas of greatest need?** **ii) The Government's response argued that DfT used the Rebalancing Toolkit to steer strategic investment. How does the Government ensure that the areas of greatest need, but also low productivity, are not ignored by spending decisions?**	**Supporting the coastal transport network** We fully recognise the role of transport in growing and levelling up the economy. A number of the Department for Transport's existing programmes support improved connectivity and accessibility of places, including that of coastal communities. In addition to the Department for Transport's investment to improve the national road and rail network, it also has a significant programme of local transport investment, including the Government's £5bn commitment to transform bus and cycling across the UK as well as funding for local roads. At the Spending Review, the new Levelling Up Fund was announced. It will invest £4.8bn in infrastructure that improves everyday life across the UK, including upgrading local transport.

This response serves as an update on recommendation 8 in the original report on the Future of Seaside Towns	**Transport spending decision making** The Department for Transport is also seeking to ensure its decision-making processes support transport investment in areas of greatest need. The Green Book Review recommendations emphasised that business cases should capture evidence of contributing to strategic objectives such as levelling up. Furthermore, the Rebalancing Toolkit, applicable when there is an objective of spreading growth across the country, should be used to capture the strategic context of an area, including productivity measures such as GVA per head. This provides a consistent evidence base to ministers which can help consider objectives such as levelling up. Given our focus on towns, the Government has also asked the National Infrastructure Commission to make recommendations on how to maximise the benefits of infrastructure policy and investment for towns in England, including coastal towns. We anticipate recommendations will be made by September 2021.
12. The Committee recognised the Government's support for over-16s travel affordability policies. Can the Government comment on how this matter is being taken forward, and what progress has been made?	**Over-16 travel affordability** In 2019, the Department for Transport introduced a wider 16-17 Saver to encourage the affordability of rail use. The card, which can be purchased for just £30, offers all 16- and 17-year olds 50% off standard class rail fares across England and Wales. There is no minimum fare and discounts are available on season tickets, so people can travel to education and training. The recently published National Bus Strategy (Bus Back Better) also outlines an invention to encourage Bus Service Improvement Plans to consider youth fare initiatives. Youth fares were successfully implemented in Merseyside and contributed to increased patronage, and there is potential for this to be

	replicated across the country. Local authorities and bus operators signing up to either enhanced partnerships or franchising during the transitional / recovery period will be required to submit their Bus Service Improvement Plans by Autumn 2021 which will outline which areas intend to launch a youth flat fare.
13. Will the Government consider the possible benefits to transport connectivity and prosperity in seaside communities of reversing some of the lost rail lines cut after the Beeching Report? This is especially pertinent to Lincolnshire and Cornwall which were particularly disadvantaged by the cuts.	**Restoring transport connectivity after the Beeching report** The Restoring Your Railway fund is fulfilling the 2019 manifesto commitment, providing £500m to restore rail lines and stations that closed in the Beeching era. The fund aims to level up and reconnect communities and prioritises schemes that clearly meet these objectives. In little over a year, the Restoring Your Railway Ideas Fund has conducted two funding rounds and is supporting the development of 26 early-stage ideas to restore rail lines and stations. A third funding round is in progress, which has received over 85 bids sponsored by 136 MPs. As part of these funding rounds, 13 bids have been received for schemes in Lincolnshire and Cornwall, and funding has been awarded to one scheme in each area. This includes for example, £50k being awarded to support early development of schemes to restore or improve rail links in coastal regions: between Truro and Falmouth, Wareham and Swanage, Totton and Fawley, Preston and Fleetwood, Preston and Blackpool South, and on the Isle of Wight.
14. **i) What progress has been made by the Government in that 2019 election promise to advance a £500m development programme to rebuild rail lines cut after the Beeching Report?**	**Progress to advance £500m development programme** As evidenced above, significant progress has been made against the 2019 election promise to rebuild rail lines through the Restoring Your Railway programme. These schemes have the potential to bring socio-economic benefits to seaside communities by improving connections to jobs and education opportunities.

ii) Would the Government consider linking this funding to the 'levelling-up agenda' funds including the Town Deals Fund and UK Shared Prosperity Fund? **iii) Given that the £500m election promise would not be sufficient funding to reverse significant parts of the Beeching Report, how could the Government target funding to either reconnect remote areas by rail or roll out an initial reconnection strategies for coastal communities?**	The programme should therefore be seen in the context of other Department for Transport policies which contribute to the Department's wider strategic priority of growing and levelling up the economy. **Linked up funds** While there are no current plans to directly link with the £3.6 billion Towns Fund or the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, it is recognised that there needs to be a coherent and strategic place-based approach across areas different policy areas, including transport. **Transport regeneration across coastal communities** We are working across Government to ensure the Restoring Your Railway programme is complementary to our wider regeneration plans, with some areas such as Blackpool and Blyth benefiting from both Restoring Your Railway and Towns Fund deals.

Digital Connectivity

Question	Response
15. The Government's digital strategy has shifted since 2019. The strategy first set out to cover the UK with Fibre-to-the-Premises (FTTP) infrastructure by the end of 2025. This was revised to 'gigabit capable' coverage by 2025. However, this was changed again to aim for a 'minimum' of 85% UK coverage by the end of 2025, and as close to 100% as possible thereafter. Can the Government reassure coastal communities that	**Digital Connectivity in coastal communities** The Government wants to become a world leader in connectivity and increase the UK's productivity and competitiveness. This is why this Government has set an ambitious target of a minimum of 85% gigabit-capable broadband coverage by 2025, with an ambition to get as close to 100% as possible. This target is based on extensive engagement with telecoms suppliers and is what we believe that the industry will be able to deliver by 2025 at this stage.

despite their often remote location, they will not be forgotten by the Government's shifting connectivity objectives? **This response serves as an update on recommendation 9 in the original report on the Future of Seaside Towns**	The Spending Review 2020 provided further details on our £5 billion Project Gigabit programme, including our planned capital spend to March 2025, which totals £1.2 billion. We remain committed to investing £5bn in bringing gigabit coverage to the hardest to reach areas and will continue to work with suppliers to accelerate this investment. We are already delivering on our ambitions. 40% of UK premises now have access to gigabit-capable broadband - up from just 10% in 2019. We have already subsidised the build of gigabit-capable broadband to over half a million homes and businesses since 2018 through our existing Superfast, Local Full Fibre Networks and Rural Gigabit Connectivity programmes. In March 2021, we published a delivery plan for the first phase of Project Gigabit which will see the first 1 million premises targeted with our £5 billion for Project Gigabit. The Government recognises that hard to reach and remote coastal regions are in need of next generation gigabit-capable broadband to avoid being left behind. The first phase of Project Gigabit procurements demonstrates the Government's commitment to connecting remote coastal regions. In England, planned procurement areas include West Cumbria, East and West Cornwall, parts of Essex and Dorset, and large swathes of the North East coast. These areas have a relatively high proportion of premises without access to an existing superfast connection and have a high percentage of hard to reach premises. Hard to reach and remote coastal communities are benefiting from broadband delivery programmes across all of the United Kingdom and we are in active discussions with the devolved administrations, local authorities and suppliers about how the UK Gigabit Programme can best work alongside their current rollout plans. For example, Project Gigabit funding is extending Scotland's R100 programme. The UK Government's existing Superfast Broadband Programme is currently continuing to deliver in Wales. In Northern Ireland, Project Stratum, supported by

	significant UK Government investment, has started delivering the first live connections. The Government is determined to explore all possible options for improving broadband connectivity for the very hardest to reach premises in the UK. For this reason, we have launched a call for evidence, to develop our understanding of these areas and seek more information on demand, benefits, barriers and future technology approaches.

Education, Skills & Employment

Question	Response
16. The Committee recognised the Government's decision to extend the Opportunity Area programme beyond August 2020. **i)What analysis of the programme is being undertaken by the Government?** **ii) Will this programme be extended beyond 2021?** **This response serves as an update on recommendation 10 in the original report on the Future of Seaside Towns**	**Evaluation of the Opportunity Area programme** There is a comprehensive, independent evaluation programme for the OAs, looking at the overall impact of the programme in particular areas as well as the impact of individual projects. While early results need to be treated with a bit of caution, they are on a positive trajectory: • early years outcomes for disadvantaged pupils have improved in 9 of the 12 OAs; • phonics results for all pupils have improved in 10 of the 12 OAs; and • Key Stage 2 combined attainment data for all pupils has improved by more than the national rate in 10 of the 12 OAs. We are working hard to ensure we share the lessons from these programmes with other areas. Each OA has been 'twinned' with an area facing similar challenges, to share their expertise. We are also publishing a series of best practice guides to share our learning with other areas, on key issues such as teacher recruitment, careers advice and guidance, and improving early years teaching. **Future of the programme**

	The Opportunity Area programme has been extended again, up to the end of August 2022.
17. **i) Given the changing nature of learning and the dramatic growth of online teaching during the Covid-19 pandemic, how is the Government supporting all children and young adults to access virtual learning opportunities?** **ii) Is the Government conducting any research into the changing nature of the job market and how education needs to adapt to meet these changes?** **iii) Would the Government consider interconnecting HE and FE services in coastal areas to improve educational opportunities?** **This response serves as an update on recommendations 11 & 12 in the original report on the Future of Seaside Towns**	**On virtual learning** During Covid-19 the Government has invested in supporting children and young people's access to digital learning, invested in developing online resources, supported teachers to access training to build skills and confidence in delivering online learning and developed minimum standards for the provision of remote education: • Over 1.3 million laptops and tablets have been distributed to schools, trusts, local authorities and further education providers for disadvantaged children and young people as part of a £400 million government investment to support access to remote education and online social care services. We have partnered with the UK's leading mobile operators to provide free data to help over 30,000 disadvantaged children and young people in schools, sixth forms and FE institutions to get online as well as delivering over 75,000 4G wireless routers for students without connection at home. • We developed minimum remote education expectations for schools and FE institutions, setting out the requirements we expect schools and colleges to meet in delivering remotely in order to help ensure quality provision • A comprehensive package of support continues to be available to schools and FE Institutions to help them meet these expectations. This can be accessed via the Get Help with Remote Education page on gov.uk.

	• The Government has invested in free CPD from the Education and Training Foundation to support further education teachers to develop their online teaching skills. • In March we published ten case studies documenting remote and learning practice in FE colleges. Each case study sets out detail of practice relating to an aspect of remote and blended delivery and signposts to associated tools and resources. The case studies can be accessed through gov.uk. • We have also invested in new high-quality digital curriculum content through the College Collaboration Fund. Last summer we confirmed funding for seven projects that will develop hundreds of hours of new digital content for a wide range of vocational subjects, PSHE and English and maths. This content is now available through the Get Help With Remote Education page on gov.uk. • A new application round for the College Collaboration Fund (CCF) to opened on Monday 19th April to continue to support colleges to collaboratively address quality improvement challenges and produce resources to share with the wider FE sector. The CCF is a national program of competitive grant funding open to all statutory FE colleges and the current application round will end on 21st May 2021. In addition, the Further Education White Paper (Skills for jobs: lifelong learning for opportunity and growth - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)) made clear that we "want to build on the online learning delivered by the further education sector during the coronavirus pandemic…." And made clear that we will ensure that adult education budget funding rules continue to allow a mix of face-to-face learning and online education to support providers to capitalise on the potential of digital learning. It

	also committed to learning from the digital teaching and learning resources created through the College Collaboration Fund during the coronavirus pandemic and continuing to invest in development of quality-assured digital resources from entry to higher technical levels. We are continuing to work with the further education sector to learn from the experience of remote and blended learning during covid and considering how we can support the sector to capitalise on successful innovation using digital remote and blended learning to meet student's needs. This includes working with the further education sector on how quality-assured digital resources are best shared to deliver a coordinated and scalable approach to digital delivery across the further education sector and support further education providers to share, tailor, and integrate resources without reinventing them. **On the changing job market** The Secretary of State for Education has established the Skills and Productivity Board to provide independent expert advice on skills, skills mismatches and their impacts on productivity across the country including coastal areas. The Skills and Productivity Board has 3 key research questions for 2021 including: • Which areas of the economy face the most significant skills mismatches or present growing areas of skills need? • Can the board identify the changing skills needs of several priority areas within the economy over the next 5-10 years? The results of this research will be published in due course. **On interconnecting FE and HE services**

	The Government is introducing employer-led Local Skills Improvement Plans, starting in 2021 in a small number of Trailblazer areas. The Plans will enable a more strategic approach to technical skills provision, tailored to the challenges and opportunities most relevant to local areas. They will bring colleges and other providers together, including higher education institutions that deliver technical education and training, to agree how gaps can best be filled. This will help to shape local skills provision so it provides learners with the best chance of securing meaningful employment, as well as upskilling the existing workforce. Our Strategic Development Funding will be able to support colleges and other providers with this change in 2021-22 in a number of pilot areas. The Government already funds Institutes of Technology, which are collaborations between local FE providers, HE providers and employers and focus on technical education in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths subjects at Level 4 and 5, extending to degree level and above. Of the 12 Institutes of Technology announced in April 2019, five (led by Weston College, University of Exeter, University of Lincoln, York College and New College Durham) include coastal communities in their catchment areas. They can play a role in helping to regenerate seaside towns by equipping young people and in-work adults with the skills they need to access opportunities as well as businesses. **Careers and Enterprise Company** The Enterprise Adviser Network and Careers Hubs established by The Careers & Enterprise Company connect employers to schools and colleges with the objective of delivering world-class careers education to prepare and inspire young people for the fast-changing world of work. Careers Hubs build on the tried and tested model of partnership and collaboration where the virtual Hub is the centre

	point of a localised careers offer, accessible to all state-maintained schools and colleges across that geography. Careers Hubs lead partnerships of schools, colleges, Local Enterprise Partnerships, local authorities, local businesses and careers providers, helping young people connect closely to local skills and economic need through a tailored careers education programme In conjunction with The Careers & Enterprise Company's work with Opportunity Areas, many LEPs in coastal areas have seen continuous improvements in careers provision and there are many examples of good practice and partnerships between business and education that have impacted on seaside towns and communities. For example, Coast to Capital LEP has established a Careers Hub this academic year, including 35 schools and colleges. The newly established Hub already has nine Cornerstone Employers committed to support it and the Hub has benefitted from extensive employer engagement, with live careers talks offered by a range of STEM employers. **Post 18 Education and Funding** Starting this year, the Government is investing £2.5bn (£3 billion when including Barnett funding for devolved administrations) in the National Skills Fund. We have integrated the previously announced National Retraining Scheme into the National Skills Fund, as it became clear that Government's ambitions go further than the remit of the National Retraining Scheme and alongside our ambitious FE reform agenda, Government should look to transform the landscape of adult skills and training. From this April, we are investing £95m from the National Skills Fund in Free Courses for Jobs to support adults to progress to level 3 and £43m to extend the Skills Bootcamps, which are substantial investments in adult skills. We will build on this, and plan to launch a consultation in the spring to further develop a fund that delivers a step change in adult learning, preparing adults for the economy of the future.

18. **i) Will the Government's Skills for Jobs White Paper (2021) grant access to HE and FE to geographically marginalised students on the coast?** **ii) How will the Government overcome the transport and financial barriers that currently prevent students in coastal communities engaging with HE and FE?** **This response serves as an update on recommendation 13 in the original report on the Future of Seaside Towns**	**Skills for Jobs White Paper** The 'Skills for Jobs' White Paper, published on 21st January 2021, sets out our blueprint to reform post-16 education and training. It is focused on giving people the skills they need, in a way that suits them, so they can get great jobs in sectors the economy needs and boost this country's productivity. Through these reforms, we are ensuring people have opportunities to study by delivering the Prime Minister's Lifetime Skills Guarantee, set out in his speech in September 2020, to help everyone to get the skills they need at every stage in their lives, wherever they live in the country. This includes a lifelong loan entitlement from 2025, which will fund people for their first advanced level (A Level equivalent) course, and short, flexible ways to train through our employer-led Skills Bootcamps. Through our Lifetime Skills Guarantee we will invest in top-quality provision, funding upgrades to further education colleges across the country and improving our already successful apprenticeships so that young people and adults can access the high-quality provision they and the economy need. Building on the success of our flagship apprenticeships programme, we are putting employers at the heart of the system so that technical education and training meets their needs. By 2030, we will align the vast majority of post-16 technical education and training to standards that have been designed by employers. This will mean that young people and adults, wherever in the country they study or train, will have confidence that their qualifications will prepare them for work.

	We are giving employers a central role in identifying skills needs and helping to shape local provision through the Skills Accelerator programme which launched in April 2021 and will start with a small number of trailblazer areas later in the year. These plans will bring employers, colleges and other providers, and local stakeholders together to make technical skills training more responsive to employers' skills needs, and can be tailored to the challenges and opportunities most relevant to the country's rural areas, towns and cities. The new £65 million fund will facilitate changes to provision that have been endorsed by local employers, and empower providers and employers to work together to increase the level of skills in the workforce. We will expand on our existing reforms to increase the number of people studying high-quality technical education. This includes expanding our flagship Institutes of Technology programme to every part of the country by the end of this Parliament, to spearhead the increase in higher-level technical skills in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Maths. We will also continue to roll out T levels which offer young people a high-quality, advanced technical equivalent to A Levels. As well as increasing the amount of high-quality provision on offer, we are clamping down on low-value courses that do not lead to good outcomes for learners. We will also continue to offer education and training for those who are further away from the labour market and need additional support, including learners with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. To support colleges and other providers to deliver these reforms, we will consult on how to reform funding and accountability – we will provide great clarity and predictability of funding for providers and more autonomy for how that funding is used to respond to local and national skills needs.

We will also support outstanding teaching by launching a national recruitment campaign for teachers in Further Education setting, and through improved training and development, to ensure that providers can recruit, retain, and develop the teaching staff they need to deliver the best possible education to young people and adults.

On transport and financial barriers in Higher Education

All higher education providers wanting to charge higher level fees must have an Access and Participation Plan agreed by the Office for Students (OfS), in which they set out the measures they intend to take, to help students from disadvantaged backgrounds and under-represented groups to access and succeed in higher education.

Through the plans HE providers deliver a range of activities such as schools outreach, attainment-raising activity, summer schools, financial support, and support targeted at key groups such as those from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Through our recent guidance letter to the regulator for higher education, the Office for Students (OfS) we have asked that their work to improve access and participation in higher education should include a focus on white working-class boys who are currently the least likely group to progress to higher education.

On transport and financial barriers in Further Education

As you are aware, the participation age has been raised so that young people are now required to continue in education or training until their 18th birthday. Young people can do this through full-time education, a job or volunteering combined with part-time study, or by undertaking an apprenticeship or traineeship. These options available mean that young people travel to diverse

	and widespread locations and it would not be financially feasible for the local authority to fund every young person's post-16 transport. The statutory responsibility for transport to education and training for 16-to-19-year-olds rests with local authorities. This enables them to make decisions that best match local needs and circumstances. Local authorities must publish a policy statement each year setting out the support available. They are expected to make reasonable decisions based on the needs of their population, the local transport infrastructure, and resources they have available. This doesn't, however, have to include free of subsidised transport. We recognise that the cost of transport can be an issue for young people, particularly those living in rural areas, and the 16 to 19 Bursary Fund is allocated directly to schools and colleges to support young people who may need additional support with costs such as transport. Further information on this can be found at: www.gov.uk/1619-bursary-fund. We recommend that young people and parents get in touch with their place of education to discuss whether they are able to provide support with travel costs. Parents and students also have the right to appeal if they are unhappy with the arrangements that their local authority put in place, of which details can be found in their post-16 transport policy statement. These can be viewed by entering a postcode at the following address, www.gov.uk/subsidised-college-transport-16-19. We also recommend that young people and parents get in touch with their local authority to discuss options for transport in rural areas. **Rail and Bus Fares** As announced in January 2019, the 16 and 17-year-old railcard was made available in August 2019 offering half price rail fares to those in further education and to apprentices. However, de-regulation means that it is not possible to

	introduce a national discount in the same way for bus travel. The National Bus Strategy, published in March 2021, has committed to supporting the integration of bus and rail ticketing schemes and as part of a fares reform, we want local authorities and operators, who create the Bus Service Improvement Plans, to consider youth fares initiatives in their plans.
19. **i) What assessment has the Government carried out of the efficacy of Skills Advisory Panels in their ability to tackle localised challenges in the job market such as: youth unemployment, graduate talent leaving the locality and skill shortages?** **ii) Has the Government undertaken its review of 'cold spots' in the Institute of Technology programme?** **iii) What was the outcome of the Level 4 and 5 Higher Level Technical Education review in relation to upskilling individuals from remote seaside areas?** **iv) Has the Government succeeded in its desire for all places to develop Local Industrial Strategies by spring 2020?** **This response serves as an update on recommendations 12 and 17 in the**	**Skills Advisory Panels** 36 Skills Advisory Panels have now been established across England bringing together local employers and skills providers to pool knowledge on skills and labour market needs, and to work together to understand and address key local challenges, including those affecting seaside towns. Each Skills Advisory Panel is supported by £75k funding from DfE for local-level skills analysis. Among other things, the analysis will help SAPs better understand the outcomes and destinations of learners in their areas. In spring 2021, Skills Advisory Panels published Local Skills Reports, which set out their local skills needs, and their strategies and action plans for meeting those needs. Local Skills Reports are available here: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/skills-advisory-panels. The Government is introducing employer-led Local Skills Improvement Plans, starting in 2021 in a small number of Trailblazer areas. The Plans will enable a more strategic approach to technical skills provision, tailored to the challenges and opportunities most relevant to local areas. They will bring colleges and other providers together, including higher education institutions that deliver technical education and training, to agree how gaps can best be filled. This will help to shape local skills provision so it provides learners with the best chance of securing meaningful employment, as well as upskilling the existing workforce. Our Strategic Development Funding will be able to support colleges and other providers with this change in 2021-22 in a number of pilot areas.

original report on the Future of Seaside Towns	**Institute of Technology** Further to the first 12 Wave 1 Institutes of Technology, our 2019 Manifesto committed to eight more IoTs bringing the total to 20 across the country. The IoT Wave 2 competition is currently underway and was open to proposals from any LEP areas that are currently not covered by an IoT, to enable every region in England to apply for a high-quality Institute of Technology. We expect the outcome of the competition to be announced in the Autumn. **Level 4 and 5 Technical Education review** Following the Level 4 and 5 review, the Department for Education published the government response to the Higher Technical Education (HTE) consultation in July 2020. This sets out our vision to make HTE a more high-quality, prestigious and popular choice that meets employer needs across the country. Our reforms aim to level up opportunities across all areas of England, including remote seaside areas, for learners progressing from Level 3 as well as those looking to upskill or retrain later in life: • We have introduced a national approval scheme to show which Higher Technical Qualifications provide the skills employers need. Approved qualifications will be rolled out across technical education routes over a multi-year period, starting with the digital route in September 2022. • We will support providers across the country to grow and improve the quality of higher technical provision. As part of that, we have launched a new £18 million Growth Fund to support further and higher education providers to grow and expand high-quality Higher Technical Education. The fund will help providers to invest in the industry-standard equipment and develop the business links they need to offer first-rate training that will meet the growing employer demand for skills in sectors including Digital, Construction, Health and Science.

	• We will raise the national profile of HTE as part of targeted campaigns and improved information, advice and guidance. • In line with the Lifetime Skills Guarantee, we want to make it as easy to get a loan for a high-quality higher technical course as it is for a degree. The Skills for Jobs White Paper (January 2021) also sets out plans to address gaps local skills provision and make provision more responsive to local labour market needs, including through Local Skills Improvement Plans. Ensuring high-quality higher technical provision is part of this offer will be crucial. **Local Industrial Strategies** The Government has formally agreed seven Local Industrial Strategies for the following areas: the West Midlands; the Greater Manchester; the Oxford-Cambridge Arc, consisting of Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire & Peterborough, Oxfordshire and South East Midlands; and the West of England.
20. Has the Government conducted an analysis of the skills drain faced by coastal areas as highly skilled individuals relocate away from these areas?	The Government has not conducted an analysis of the skills drain faced by coastal areas, however the Department for Education has set out plans to address gaps in local skills provision in the Skills for Jobs White Paper published in January 2021. The *Skills for Jobs White Paper* sets out how we will reform the skills system to provide the high value skills that individuals, employers and the country need. These reforms include the introduction of employer-led Local Skills Improvement Plans across England. Local Skills Improvement Plans will be developed by employer representative bodies in collaboration with colleges and other providers and through engagement with key local stakeholders; they will build on the work that Local Enterprise Partnerships, Mayoral Combined Authorities and their Skills Advisory Panels have done so far. Local Skills Improvement Plans will provide a framework to help colleges and other providers reshape their offer to tackle skills

	mismatches and ensure they are responding effectively to local labour market needs. The employer representative body leading each Local Skills Improvement Plan will be able to access funding to help them develop their plan and build their organisational capacity to deliver their new responsibilities. In 2021-22 a Strategic Development Fund will provide capital and revenue funding for collaborative projects that will build providers' capacity to meet locally agreed skills priorities. This could be by enhancing higher skills provision for learners; developing strategic employer engagement, including through the establishment of College Business Centres; or repurposing or upgrading facilities, equipment, hardware, or software. The Strategic Development Fund will empower providers and employers to work together to increase the level of skills in the workforce, stimulating demand for better jobs and leading to increased innovation and productivity.
21. The Committee welcomed the Government's pilots to attract teachers to deprived coastal areas. **i) How many teachers have been directly channelled into coastal areas?** **ii) Have the two initiatives named in the Government's response, specifically reimbursing loan repayments and early career payments, been rolled out across the country?** **This response serves as an update on recommendation 14 in the original report on the Future of Seaside Towns**	**Channelling Teachers to Coastal Areas** We are continuing to encourage early-career teachers to teach in deprived coastal areas through targeted retention payments. The coastal areas targeted by the Teachers' Student Loan Reimbursement and Early-Career Payments Pilots have not changed as these pilots have not been rolled out further, pending full external evaluations to assess their impact. As these evaluations are ongoing it is not yet possible to draw conclusions regarding their influence on the mobility of teachers. We will consider our future retention offer, including how this may be targeted at disadvantage, in light of the evaluation findings. Additionally, while we are no longer running targeted regional ITT marketing, all ITT providers are able to access a Marketing Toolkit, which can be helpful where they are finding recruitment challenging and/or want to align with the national ITT marketing campaign.

	Teacher recruitment and retention projects have been run in a number of the Opportunity Areas (OAs), including Bradford, Stoke-on-Trent, Ipswich, and Fenland and East Cambridgeshire. We are due to publish details of all these projects so that areas across the country can learn from them. This shows the value of the OAs in trialling new ideas and then sharing the learning from them. For example, many Opportunity Areas (OAs) have found that applications only came from teachers already in that area of the country – so filling a post at one school often created a vacancy elsewhere in the area. To address this, the North Yorkshire Coast OA launched an innovative project where teacher recruitment was centralised through a single consultancy service. The OA funded a bespoke marketing campaign to promote the area as a great place to live and work, and schools received support from a recruitment expert with extensive experience in the industry. Financial incentives were offered for some hard-to-fill posts (English Baccalaureate subjects and primary school leadership posts), along with a relocation package to applicants from outside of the area. The project has been a resounding success – filling 207 teacher and support role vacancies across 43 schools. Of particular note is the fact that 38 of those teachers and support professionals, and 13 new Teach First trainees, came from outside the area. The project has greatly reduced the overall level of spend on supply and agency staff over the past 18 months.
22. The Government's response to the Committee's recommendation of targeted investment in schools was highly dependent on the Teaching and Leadership Innovation Fund. This scheme has now closed. **i) What will the Government do to replace the Teaching and Leadership Innovation**	**Teaching Leadership Innovation Fund** The Teaching and Leadership Innovation Fund was a three-year funding programme (from Sept 2017 to March 2020), which invested over £24 million in total to support high-quality professional development for teachers and school leaders in schools in England that need it most, including Opportunity Areas and Local District Authorities category 5 and 6 areas. Delivering on the commitments set out in the Teacher Recruitment and Retention Strategy, the Department is transforming the training and professional

Fund which supported schools in coastal areas? **ii) What partnership is the Government pursuing with the organisation Teach First which supplies graduates into teaching opportunities within deprived areas?** **This response serves as an update on recommendation 15 in the original report on the Future of Seaside Towns**	development teachers receive at every stage of their careers. Each programme is underpinned by carefully aligned evidence-based frameworks that build on one another as a teacher progresses through their careers. Together these reforms will help all teachers and leaders feel more confident and in control of their careers, elevate the quality of teaching across the country, especially in the most disadvantaged communities, and positively influence pupil outcomes. New trainee teachers will be entitled to at least 3 years of support in the first years of their career. Starting with our revised Initial Teacher Training (ITT) Core Content Framework through to the implementation of the Early Career Framework (ECF) reforms which will entitle all early career teachers to a structured two-year induction. The ECF reforms will be backed by over £130 million a year once fully rolled out to provide the solid foundations for a successful career in teaching. Building on this, a reformed suite of National Professional Qualifications (NPQs) will provide training, support and practical guidance for teachers and leaders at all levels, helping them to become more effective teachers and leaders inside and outside the classroom. Over £40 million of scholarships funding has been made available between 2017 and 2020 to support teachers and leaders in the areas of the greatest need to take up a National Professional Qualification (NPQ). World class teacher development requires world class delivery. That is why we are introducing Teaching School Hubs (TSHs) which will be centres of excellence for delivering these teacher development reforms and will be vital to their success. 81 new TSH were announced on 10 February 2021, in addition to the six existing test & learn TSH who were appointed in January 2020, for the first time giving nationwide coverage and ensuring all schools in England will now have access to

	a local teacher training centre delivering high-quality, evidence-based continuous professional development to teachers and leaders at all stages of their careers. The new institute of teaching (the Institute) will be a new flagship training and development provider, designed to showcase delivery of the ITT Core Content Framework, Early Career Framework and reformed National Professional Qualifications giving a new generation of teachers and leaders the expertise they need to drive up standards in our schools. Opening in September 2022, it will be the first organisation of its kind, designing and delivering a coherent teacher development pathway from trainee through to executive headship. **Teach First** We continue to fund the High Potential Initial Teacher Training programme, currently delivered by Teach First. The programme has an annual recruitment target of 1,750 participants and delivers high-calibre teachers directly into challenging schools serving low income communities with high numbers of disadvantaged and low attaining pupils. It is an employment-based route into teaching with trainees currently completing a two-year leadership training programme with the award of Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) at the end of year one and a Postgraduate Diploma in Education (PGDE) at the end of year two. The programme is helping to recruit more teachers across England and place them in some of the most challenging schools, including in Opportunity Areas. Since its founding in 2003, the programme has recruited over 15,000 teachers.
23.	**Opportunities Through Apprenticeships – Torbay** As part of the Opportunities Through Apprenticeships project Torbay focused on three main strands to encourage more apprenticeship opportunities in high value

i) What was the Government's analysis of the Torbay 'Opportunities Through Apprenticeships' project? **ii) What level of uptake did the scheme receive and will similar programmes be projected to other coastal communities?** **This response serves as an update on recommendation 16 in the original report on the Future of Seaside Towns**	occupations; filling local apprenticeship vacancies; promoting apprenticeships to SMEs; and working with large employers to support levy transfers to smaller employers. Torbay developed its own Young Apprentice Ambassador Network (YAAN). It held an apprenticeship 'takeover' of Torbay Business Forum and launch of Torbay's YAAN, which was attended by 70 SMEs. There was also a South Devon College apprenticeship awards ceremony, which was attended by 230 people. Torbay held two apprenticeship fair events which saw footfall of over 900 people, and during National Apprenticeship Week 2020 five schools, and over 600 students, were engaged with on local apprenticeship opportunities. Torbay has since continued to build on the work undertaken through the project and has maintained a focus on apprenticeships. **Support for Apprentices** We have continued to monitor the impact of the apprenticeship reforms and how they are supporting employers to meet their skills needs and individuals to start and progress in their careers. We are implementing further changes to improve how apprenticeships work for employers and apprentices. Employers who do not pay the Apprenticeship Levy now use the apprenticeship service to manage their apprenticeships and their funding (from 1 April 2021). They can now choose a training provider from the Register of Apprenticeship Training Providers rather than a smaller number of training providers who had contracts with the Education and Skills Funding Agency, giving them more control over there apprenticeship choices.

In September 2020 the Prime Minister set out his ambition to make apprenticeships more portable, reflecting the varied and flexible models of employment that we see in some sectors. In the *Skills for Jobs: Lifelong Learning for Opportunity and Growth* White Paper the Government set out proposals for further improvements to apprenticeships, including developing more flexible models of apprenticeship delivery:

- enabling employers to 'front-load' training. This will embed key skills early on so that apprentices can hit the ground running from day one in the workplace;
- enabling apprentices with relevant skills and experience to do accelerated apprenticeships and complete their training more quickly
- developing portable apprenticeships, enabling apprentices to move between employers and step on and off their apprenticeship in industries or professions where short-term contracts are the norm.

To support our ambitions for portable apprenticeships, in the March 2021 Budget the Chancellor announced that we will launch a £7 million fund in July 2021 to create new flexi-job apprenticeship schemes and expand the best existing models. Building on the Apprenticeship Training Agency model, employers will be able to come together and access funding to create new or expand existing schemes to boost the use of apprenticeships in sectors with non-traditional employment patterns. In this way these schemes will help to overcome some of the structural challenges limiting employers in certain sectors or professions in making greater use of apprenticeships. We launched a consultation on this in April 2021 and are currently analysing the feedback.

We are making further improvements to levy transfers so that unspent funds can be used more easily to support apprenticeships, and particularly in smaller employers. We are simplifying the transfers process, enabling employers to make strategic decisions over where their levy funds are spent. From August 2021 employers will be able to pledge funds for transfer, and we will introduce a new national online matching service, making it quicker and simpler for levy-payers to find employers that share their business priorities to transfer funds to. This will

	give organisations the opportunity to reduce skills gaps within their sector/location by enabling them to easily identify other employers who wish to take on apprentice with transferred funds. Following the outbreak of COVID-19 in March 2020, we introduced a number of flexibilities to support apprentices and employers to continue with, and complete, their programmes. We encouraged providers and assessment organisations to deliver training and assessments flexibly, including remotely, to enable this. In August 2020, we introduced the Redundancy Support Service for Apprentices (ReSSA) which provides clear, accessible advice and guidance to individuals on the impact of redundancy, their options and next steps. As part of this service, we also launched a vacancy sharing service to help redundant apprentices find new apprenticeship opportunities with employers. Apprentices can also search for additional opportunities and set up vacancy alerts on Find an Apprenticeship. We also amended legislation to enable more apprentices to complete their apprenticeship in the event of redundancy. In addition to funding an apprentice's training to completion if they have less than six months of their apprenticeship remaining at the point of redundancy, we have extended this provision to include any apprentice who has completed 75% or more of their apprenticeship at the point of redundancy. This applies to apprentices made redundant after 15 October 2020, meaning more people can complete their apprenticeships, maximising the value of public and employer investment in their training, and putting them in a stronger position to secure new employment. To support employers in making apprenticeships available as new employment opportunities, as part of the Plan for Jobs in July 2020 the Government announced that employers would be eligible for a £1500 incentive payment for all apprentices they hire as new recruits between 1 August 2020 and 31 March 2021, rising to £2000 for apprentices aged under 25. Almost 53,000 incentives had been claimed by employers by the start of May 2021, and evidence suggests that

	these incentives have effectively supported smaller businesses with apprentice recruitment. This incentive payment has been increased to £3000 for all apprentices recruited as new hires between 1 April 2021 and 30 September 2021. The increased payment makes it a great time for employers to offer new apprenticeship opportunities, take advantage of existing flexibilities to train apprentices in a way that suits their needs, and contribute to a skills-led recovery.
24. The Government did not acknowledge the opportunity that 6-month seasonal employment brings to young people. Can the Government provide details on how training and upskilling can be provided to young people in seasonal employment for the 6-months that they are not in a job? **This response serves as an update on recommendation 16 in the original report on the Future of Seaside Towns**	**Traineeships** For the right young people, traineeships are an option with proven positive outcomes for the 6-months they are not in a job. Traineeships are a learning programme aimed at getting young people (16 to 24 or 25 with an Education, Health and Care Plan) 'job ready'. They provide work preparation skills, English, maths and digital skills if needed, an unpaid work experience placement with optional occupational learning. If seasonal employment has given young people the knowledge, skills, behaviours and experience employers look for, they will not need to learn those skills and a traineeship will not be an option. They could look at other options, such as Kickstart. If, however, they want to move into an apprenticeship or other job they are not ready for, a traineeship could be tailored to meet their needs in the 6 months they are not in a seasonal job. Progression into an apprenticeship or other job would be the planned outcome. Young people qualified up to Level 3 are now eligible for traineeships, opening them up to more young people who need the support to progress into sustained employment.

	The Government has invested significantly in traineeships - £111 million to provide 30,000 places in 2020/21 and a further £126 million for 43,000 places in 2021/22. This includes a new £1,000 incentive for employers providing work placements. We will explore how we can better understand and report on how the Government's investment in traineeships is leading to opportunities and outcomes for young people in coastal towns.

Housing Wellbeing & Built Environment

Question	Response
25. **i) What was the outcome of DWP and MHCLG's meeting to assess the scale and impact of population transience in and out of coastal areas?** **ii) Did this collaboration include input from DHSC on the steps that Government could take to tackle the disproportionately high levels of people claiming sickness and disability benefits in coastal towns?** **iii) In June 2019, the Government was undertaking a review into the relative needs and resources of local authorities in England. What actionable recommendations did this review produce and what impact did the review have on**	**Population transience** In the period of 2019 after the recommendation was made, the relevant policy and analytical resources in department were heavily focussed on work supporting the UK leaving the EU, meaning this meeting was not able to take place. DWP officials assessed there was insufficient population and mobility data available to assess impacts of people moving in and out of coastal towns. It was therefore not possible to make conclusions about the issue of population transience and its possible relationship to coastal towns having higher levels of people claiming sickness benefits. **Local Authority funding** As announced last year, the Government did not proceed with reform in 2021-22, including the implementation of the Review of Relative Needs and Resources (the Fair Funding Review), 75% business rates retention or a business rates retention growth reset.

baseline funding levels for seaside communities? **This response serves as an update on recommendations 1, 2, 12 & 18 in the original report on the Future of Seaside Towns**	Allowing Local Government to focus on its COVID-19 response, rather than the complex Local Government finance reform package has been the right judgement, and aligns with our whole approach to the Local Government sector at this spending review. Looking to 2021-22, in determining next steps for the Local Government finance reform proposals, we will need to consider the impact the pandemic has had on both the demand for public services across councils and their access to local resources. We will then revisit discussions around the priorities for finance reform, taking account the assessment of relative needs, the future of rates retention and how best to organise and finance adult social care, at the forthcoming Spending Review. As the Local Government finance system moves into a more stable position, we will set out the timetable for our proposed way forward.
26. **i) What impact has the Covid-19 crisis had on funding received by coastal local authorities?** **ii) Will the next budget provide increased funding for coastal towns struggling with a lack of trade and increased demand on local services?**	**Impact of Covid-19 on funding for coastal local authorities** Coastal local authorities have shared in the over £8 billion the Government has allocated directly to councils since the start of the pandemic. At the Spending Review the Chancellor announced that local authorities will receive over £3 billion of additional support for COVID-19 in 2021-22. This takes the total support committed to all councils in England to tackle the impacts of COVID-19 to over £11 billion. As part of our support package, Councils have access to a compensation scheme for lost income from sales, fees and charges, which has been extended to June 2021, through which the Government will cover local councils for 75% of losses beyond the first 5%.

	Future budget We expect there to be a multiyear Spending Review taking place in the Autumn which will appraise all funding requests.
27. **i) Will the Government review the local housing allowance rate calculation to ensure that areas of high-density HMOs have accurately reflected local market rents?** **ii) Will the Government investigate whether tax relief could be provided to private landlords to incentivise improving their rental properties?** **This response serves as an update on recommendations 20, 21 & 23 in the original report on the Future of Seaside Towns**	**Local Housing Allowance rates** Local Housing Allowance rates are set within Broad Rental Market Areas (BRMAs), of which there are 192, and each one must contain a variety of property types and tenures, sufficient privately rented accommodation and access to facilities such as Health, Education, Recreation, Banking and Shopping. The boundaries of BRMAs are set by rent officers. If rent officers decide that a boundary should be moved they must carry out a review, consulting with affected local authorities among others, and then submit a recommendation to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions to decide. Local Housing Allowance rates are reviewed annually taking account of local rental data collected by rent officers. The data collected is of actual private market rents charged to those not in receipt of housing support in each broad rental market area. **Local Authority powers to regulate HMOs** We have given local authorities a range of robust powers to regulate standards and management of existing HMOs. Local planning authorities can limit the proliferation of HMOs by removing the national permitted development right where it is necessary to protect the amenity or wellbeing of an area. **Tax Reliefs**

	From April 2016, the Government introduced the replacement of domestic items relief that allows all residential landlords to deduct actual costs incurred on replacing furnishings when calculating their property income chargeable to income tax. The Government thinks that landlords should be allowed to claim tax relief on genuine expenses that they incur, such as replacing carpets or curtains, when maintaining the property for their tenants. This relief should encourage landlords to maintain their properties and lead to improvements in tenancy conditions. The Government also maintains a 5% rate of VAT for some residential renovations, which if certain conditions are met, private landlords could benefit from. For example, a landlord could benefit from this reduced rate of VAT on building services and materials in renovating a property that has been empty for two or more years prior to the renovation. Property owners, including private landlords, can also benefit from a reduced rate of VAT on the installation of various environmentally friendly home improvement materials, such as insulation and draught stripping, when certain conditions are met. The Government does not currently have evidence that further tax relief would be effective in incentivising private landlords to make improvements to their properties and is not considering introducing further relief at this time. It is also worth noting from a capital gains tax perspective that property owners, including landlords, will not be worse off for making improvements to their properties as they can already deduct the costs of improving a property from their capital gains tax calculation, if the expenditure is incurred wholly and exclusively in enhancing the property’s value.
28.	**Homes England**

i) What remit and funding has Homes England been given to tackle the quality of housing in coastal areas? **ii) We have been made aware of several Town bids that were unable to secure funding for the housing needs that they face. Can the Government outline the allocation of housing funding within the Town Deals?** **This response serves as an update on recommendations 22 in the original report on the Future of Seaside Towns**	There are a several programmes administered by Homes England which contribute to the Government improving the quality of housing in coastal areas: **Affordable Housing Programme** The Government is committed to increasing the supply of affordable housing and are investing over £12bn in affordable housing over 5 years, the largest investment in affordable housing in a decade. This includes the new £11.5bn Affordable Homes Programme, which will leverage up to £38 billion of private finance and provide up to 180,000 new homes across the country, should economic conditions allow. We're committed to delivering affordable homes of a variety of tenures so that we can support a range of people in different circumstances and stages in their lives. **Housing Infrastructure Fund** Through the Housing Infrastructure Fund, we have allocated around £340m to local authorities to unlock nearly 40,000 homes in coastal areas of England. This will ensure the right infrastructure is in place before people move in to these new homes. **Land Assembly Fund (part of the National Housing Building Fund)** The £1.3bn Land Assembly Fund enables Homes England and the GLA to work alongside private developers to acquire and de-risk sites and make them attractive for private sector firms to rapidly build out homes. These sites would not have come forward for development without this interventions.

	• The Fund aims to contribute to the Government aspirations to address the worsening homes affordability gap. • Homes England have invested in 15 sites under the programme to release land with housing capacity for over 13,000 homes. This includes sites in areas of high affordability pressure, such as Burgess Hill in West Sussex, and Rushcliffe in Nottinghamshire. • In London the GLA has invested in 5 sites to support the delivery of over 5,500 homes' **Local Authority Accelerated Construction (part of the National Housing Building Fund)** • Under the £385m Local Authority Accelerated Construction grant programme we are unlocking surplus public sector land for up to 33,500 additional homes by supporting local authorities with land remediation and delivery of small scale infrastructure work where needed. • The programme also aims to diversify the housing market by encouraging the use of Modern Methods of Construction at build-out stage and increasing the number of participants in the house-building sector. • Over £168m of grant investment has been allocated to local authorities supporting 54 sites outside of London and enabling delivery of over 12,600 homes across England. • In London we are working with the Greater London Authority, who are delivering the programme in the capital. • To date, 4 projects for £76m have been contracted in London under the Local Authority Accelerated Construction. Exceeding the expectations, these will jointly deliver over 2,000 homes. **Community Housing Fund**

	The principal way in which the Government has supported the community-led housebuilding sector in England in recent years was through the Community Housing Fund, making available £163m in grants over 2018/19 and 2019/20. A Homes England programme, comprising revenue and capital grants to a wide range of eligible organisations was launched on 2 July 2018 to directly support community-led housebuilding projects across England outside London. £38m was made available to the GLA to launch a similar programme in London. The Community Housing Fund aimed to support an increase in housing supply in England by increasing the number of additional homes delivered by the community-led housing sector; to provide housing that is affordable at local income levels and remains so in perpetuity; and to deliver a lasting legacy for the community-led housing sector in the form of an effective and financially self-sustaining body of expertise within the house building industry in England. Through this fund, housing will be delivered where the mainstream market is unable to deliver and will be tailored to meet specific local needs. It will help sustain local communities and local economies and help raise the bar in design and construction standards. The Homes England Community Housing Fund programme has been successful in building up a pipeline of community-led housebuilding projects. Homes England reported in May 2020 that its programme held live applications from projects anticipating the delivery of 10,780 new homes, 4,347 of which were within approved applications. Research undertaken by the Department in 2019 indicated a potential pipeline of some 16,700 homes over the next few years. The Homes England CHF programme closed for new applications in March 2020. Departmental budgets for 2021/22 have been confirmed at the recent Comprehensive Spending Review and £4m in revenue grant funding has been made available to reopen the Community Housing Fund. Officials are currently considering how these funds should be most effectively deployed. In addition,

	organisations that are registered as providers of social housing may seek capital funding from the Shared Ownership and Affordable Homes Programme operated outside London by Homes England. **Towns Fund** As part of the Towns Fund and working as part of the Towns Hub, the Towns Fund Delivery Partners will be uniquely placed to work closely with towns in the development of their proposals, providing advice across a range of core services and different subject topics including housing where appropriate. There are no allocations within the overall Towns Fund programme budget for specific intervention areas; it is for towns to decide the projects they wish to include as part of their Town Investment Plan proposals. The Towns Fund Further Guidance includes a comprehensive intervention framework that can be found in Annex A. It sets out: • The spatial focus of interventions; • A broad set of acceptable outputs which should guide the design of specific interventions; • Policies and strategies that interventions should align with; and • The list of outcomes that we would expect interventions to target, along with a set of possible indicators that will be used to measure progress and success
Policy update on policy included in original Government response	
Supporting Vulnerable People: We recommend that funding for the receiving coastal local authorities should reflect the financial impact of providing adequate services to support the needs of vulnerable people.	Depending on local decisions, the 2020-21 Local Government finance settlement confirmed that Core Spending Power in England may rise from £49 billion in 2020-21 to up to £51.3 billion in 2021-22, a 4.6% increase in cash terms. If councils do decide to take up the entirety of the increase on offer, they will see an increase in line with last years. This recognises the resources councils need to meet their pressures and maintain current service levels. Furthermore, the

This response serves as an update on recommendations 19 in the original report on the Future of Seaside Towns	settlement will provide access to an additional £1 billion of funding for Adult and Children's Social Care which includes £300 million in grant and a 3% Adult Social Care Precept. We have also confirmed that we will roll forward last year's £1.41 billion of Social Care Grant and continue the 2020-21 improved Better Care Funding at £2.1 billion. In addition, local authorities are expected to receive over £3 billion of additional support for COVID-19 in 2021-22, responding both to additional expenditure pressure and to loss of income. This takes the total support committed to councils in England to tackle the impacts of COVID-19 to over £13 billion. The Government has committed to review Local Government funding for statutory flood and coastal erosion risk management functions, and as part of SR21 is considering the priorities for Local Government finance reform, including how we allocate funding to councils. The department will report to the Public Accounts Committee by July 2021 to provide an assessment of local authority resources and private sector contributions for flood and coastal erosion risk management, recognising that councils do not receive direct funding for flood and coastal erosion risk management, but unringfenced funding which they can spend on local priorities as they see fit. As announced last year, the Government will not proceed with reform in 2021-22, including the implementation of the Review of Relative Needs and Resources (the Fair Funding Review), 75% Business Rates Retention or a Business Rates Growth Reset. The Government's decision to postpone reform has been taken in the interest of creating stability for local authorities and has allowed both the Government and councils to focus on meeting the immediate public health challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Given the impact of the pandemic, we will need to consider whether our previous thinking for reform remains valid. we will work with Local Government to understand the lasting impact on both service demands and revenue raising to ensure that we arrive at the best way forward. We will then revisit discussions

	around the priorities for finance reform, taking account the assessment of relative needs, the future of rates retention and how best to organise and finance adult social care at the next Spending Review.
Housing Action Zones: We recommend that the Government pilots the introduction of Housing Action Zones, which might comprise of the proposed recommendations outlined above, and be delivered as a comprehensive package of measures to support housing regeneration in coastal areas. (Paragraph 221) **This response serves as an update on recommendations 24 in the original report on the Future of Seaside Towns**	**Housing Zones** Housing Zones focused on unlocking brownfield land to deliver additional housing. They enabled local partners to unlock land through a combination of long-term investment funding, planning simplification (e.g. local development orders), determined leadership and brokerage. Government designated 26 Housing Zones outside of London, including three Housing Zones in Poole, Grimsby and Cleethorpes, and Weston-Super-Mare. In some circumstances, local partners also chose to set up housing zone type interventions as part of a wider economic regeneration package. For example, in July 2018, Government announced a Town Deal with Greater Grimsby to support the regeneration of Greater Grimsby including a comprehensive package of measures to fast track housing delivery. **Estate Regeneration** Estate regeneration creates opportunities for places. The Government encourages ambitious plans that deliver higher quality homes, improved public realm, green space, and amenities. Estate regeneration schemes can contribute to National and local priorities linking to Levelling up, town centre development and broader urban regeneration **Estate Regeneration National Strategy** In December 2016 the Government launched the Estate Regeneration National Strategy. This sets out Government expectations for estate regeneration schemes and highlights the importance of engaging and protecting residents and

	the key role of local authorities in leading place-making, with their communities. Funding was also made available with £32m of enabling and commercial capacity building grant, distributed to 105 estates in 2017 to encourage community involvement, good design and work with private partners. Funding also included £290m of recoverable loan finance.