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National Infrastructure Assessment:

- The **National Infrastructure Commission (NIC)** has among its core responsibilities – as enumerated in its [Charter](#) – that it must “produce a *National Infrastructure Assessment* once in every parliament, setting out the NIC’s assessment of long-term infrastructure needs with recommendations to the government.”
- The NIA covers all key sectors of economic infrastructure encompassing: transport; energy; water and sewerage; flood risk; digital; and waste. It is guided by the Commission’s objectives to support sustainable economic growth across all regions of the UK, improve competitiveness and improve quality of life.
- It has been announced by the chair of the NIC, Sir John Armitt - Honorary Fellow of the Association for Project Management - that the first NIA will be published on Tuesday 10 July 2018. The NIA will analyse the UK’s long-term infrastructure needs, outlining a strategic vision to 2050 and setting out recommendations to strengthen the nation’s infrastructure.

For more information about the NIC, the NIA, and APM’s submission to the NIA consultation, please read APM’s policy briefing [here](#).

National Infrastructure Assessment (NIA) event – Institute for Government/ APM: How to build a long-term plan for infrastructure:

On Wednesday 18 July 2018 from 09.00–10.00am, the **Institute for Government (IfG)** will host an event in collaboration with APM examining the following:

- the key messages from the NIA;
- how the government should respond; and
- how to ensure that the NIA is a catalyst for a more long-term and strategic approach to infrastructure planning.

The panel will be comprised of:

- **Nick Davies**, programme director at the **Institute for Government**, and lead on the infrastructure programme;
- **Sir John Armitt**, chair of the **National Infrastructure Commission (NIC)**;
- **Stephen Hammond**, MP for Wimbledon; and
- **Sara Drake**, chief executive of the Association for Project Management.

The event will be live-streamed via [this](#) link.

Heathrow airport expansion:

This month the government won the backing of MPs by 415 votes to 119 – a majority of 296 votes – for its [national policy statement](#) for the expansion of Heathrow airport. The result was welcomed by the Confederation of British Industry who hailed the result as “a truly historic decision that will open the doors to a new era in the UK’s global trading relationships.”

Opposition to the result:

Four local authorities affected by the airport expansion – Wandsworth, Richmond, Hillingdon and Hammersmith and Fulham – will however launch a juridical review against the plans, in partnership the mayor of London, Sadiq Khan. DAC Beachcroft also indicated that they will challenge the *national policy statement* as they say it wrongly calculated the capacity of the extended runway option after a mistake by the Airports Commission, thus erroneously finding the third runway option had a higher capacity.

APM's reaction:

"Now that parliament has given the green light to the Heathrow expansion it will require world-class project management to sit at the heart of the programme. The insights and skills of the projects profession will be vital to ensuring the successful delivery of the agreed expansion plan. It is imperative government listens carefully to the chartered profession and does so before announcements or decisions are made.

The expansion of Heathrow is a project that has major environmental and stakeholder challenges. High levels of scrutiny will demand exemplary economic and social return on investment and new benefits that are enjoyed well into the future.

Findings from the DfT's early assurance review, conducted by Costain, highlighted the complexities that lie ahead for the project and reinforce the need for broad range of project professional skills:

"If the scheme proceeds, the HEP (Heathrow Expansion Plan) would be one of the largest infrastructure projects ever to be delivered in the UK. It is a complex project which will be undertaken within a constrained, safety-critical, operational airport site and its delivery will have a direct impact on a wide range of stakeholders (including communities, transport users, and airport customers and employees) during the construction phase."

This is a strategically important project to public and private sector alike, so it is important that it is well planned and managed from the outset, and that 'lessons learnt' are adopted to guarantee the expansion delivers the benefits and connectivity needed for a key transport hub in this globalised economy.

Expansion of Heathrow is government's chance to showcase a joined-up approach to project delivery and the benefits it offers. We believe this expansion's success and viability requires the project profession at its heart."

Latest apprenticeship statistics:

- The latest apprenticeship starts figures have been [published](#) by the **Department for Education (DfE)**. The figures show that there have been 261,200 apprenticeship starts (reported to date) between August 2017 and March 2018 for the 2017/18 academic year. This compares to 362,400 and 346,300 starts reported in the equivalent period in 2016/17 and 2015/16 respectively – a decrease of 28 per cent.

Apprenticeship levy update:

- From April 2018 employers with funds in their *apprenticeship service accounts* have been able to transfer funds to one other employer of their choice – including apprenticeship training agencies (ATAs) – up to a maximum of 10 per cent of annual funds. This month however, the minister of state for apprenticeships and skills, Anne Milton, announced that from July 2018, levy-paying employers will now be able to make transfers to *as many other employers as they choose* (though still up to a maximum of 10 per cent of annual funds).

Reports, publications, and events across Westminster and Whitehall:

- The [latest register](#) of all-party parliamentary groups was published.
- The **House of Commons** high speed rail (West Midlands-Crewe) bill committee published the [First Report of Session 2017–19](#).
- The **House of Commons environmental audit committee** published its report [Greening Finance: embedding sustainability in financial decision making](#).
- The **Department for Exiting the EU (DExEU)** published its [update](#) on progress of negotiations on the draft agreement on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from the European Union and the European atomic energy community.
- The **environment, food and rural affairs committee** published its [report](#) on the government's proposals for farming after Brexit.
- The **House of Commons defence committee** published a preliminary report [Beyond two per cent: A preliminary report on the modernising defence programme](#).
- The **House of Commons defence committee** published its report on [The government's proposals for a future security partnership with the European Union](#) – posing 16 questions to the government.
- The **House of Commons public accounts committee** published its [report](#) on the higher education market in addition to a [report](#) on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) initiatives.
- The **APPG for excellence in the built environment** published its report [Better redress for homebuyers: how a new homes ombudsman could help drive up standards in housebuilding and improve consumer rights](#).
- The **House of Lords EU committee** published its [report](#) on post-Brexit UK-EU relation acknowledging that from the UK's perspective, "the greater the benefits sought from the new relationship, the greater the compromises that will be needed."

- The **House of Lords economic affairs committee** published its report [Treating students fairly: the economics of post-school education](#) decrying the “monoculture” which has developed around the primacy of the undergraduate degree “which has crowded out other options which are perceived as inferior.” Among the reforms proposed by the report, reversing the decline of part-time study and abolishing the target of three million apprenticeships.
- **Innovate UK** announced that UK organisations can apply for a share of up to £50 million through a funding competition to develop a network of centres of excellence in digital pathology and medical imaging technology. This competition is part of the [Industrial strategy challenge fund](#) in the challenge area: from data to early diagnosis and precision medicine. The funding – which is provided by [UK Research and Innovation](#) and delivered by Innovate UK – will maximise the UK’s potential to diagnose diseases earlier and identify the best interventions for patients, as well as developing new treatments.
- London Mayor **Sadiq Khan** launched London’s first ever [skills for Londoners strategy](#) to “increase the supply, accessibility and quality of skills training on offer to Londoners, and ensure employers are centre-stage in defining our skills needs.” The strategy focuses on post-16 education and skills support, and how London can take advantage of the £300m adult education budget when it is devolved to City Hall next year.
- Sellafeld Limited’s spend on major projects in 2017–18 stands at £483 million.
- The sunk costs of three major projects cancelled at Sellafeld since 2012 after the NDA says it found more cost-effective strategies totalled £586 million.
- **Sellafeld Ltd’s head of development and community relations**, Jamie Reed, former MP for Copeland, was a key speaker at an **Industry and Parliament Trust (IPT)** event on regional development/supporting economic growth. Mr Reed told the parliamentary audience how Sellafeld recently signed up to the northern powerhouse initiative to provide the opportunity to work with other partners on key strategic themes, such as improving connectivity and transport, skills, science and innovation.
- The **Office for Nuclear Regulation** published its [annual report](#) highlighting the extent of its regulatory activities.
- **Policy Exchange** published its report on the importance of design and style of new housing entitled [Building more, building beautiful: how design and style can unlock the housing crisis](#).
- Think-tank **Onward** published its report [Green, pleasant and affordable: why we need a new approach to supply and demand to solve Britain’s housing problem](#).

Reports and publications – professional bodies/think-tanks/other:

- The **National Audit Office (NAO)** published its report on [Rolling out universal credit](#) examining the **Department for Work & Pensions’** progress in implementing universal credit and describing the evolution of the universal credit programme (since the reset) as well as providing an evaluation of the Department’s future plans.
- The **NAO** also published its report [The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority: progress with reducing risk at Sellafeld](#). Some key facts from the report include:
 - The NDA is responsible for operating, decommissioning and cleaning up 17 nuclear sites under the Energy Act 2004.
 - Eight of the 10 most hazardous facilities on the NDA estate are at Sellafeld.
 - The estimated undiscounted total cost of the NDA’s clean-up mission up to 2120 stands at £121 billion, of which Sellafeld accounts for £91 billion.
 - There has been a 70 per cent reduction in radioactive content in the pile fuel storage pond after Sellafeld Limited completed the removal of nuclear fuel from the pond in March 2016.
 - There are 14 major projects at Sellafeld with expected lifetime costs of more than £100 million each (or that are novel or contentious).
 - The total expected spend on major projects currently in design or under construction at Sellafeld is £6 billion.
- At the end of May, Sir John Armit, chair of the **national infrastructure commission (NIC)**, announced five finalists in the NIC’s [Roads For the future](#) competition in a [speech](#) – launched in conjunction with Highways England and Innovate UK to “find the best ideas to address issues such as road design, traffic management and how the rules of the road may need to be adapted to take account of new technology.” The competition sought to find the best way to change the UK’s roads to maximise the benefits of connected and autonomous vehicles.
- The **Institute for Government (IfG)** published its report on the first five years of NHS England in collaboration with the **King’s Fund** entitled [The world’s biggest quango](#). The IfG also published reports on the [Irish border and Brexit negotiations](#) and [How to fix the funding of health and social care](#) in addition to publishing its most recent addition to the ‘Brexit series’ entitled [Preparing Brexit: how ready is Whitehall?](#)
- The **Institute of Fiscal Studies (IFS)** published its report [The use of wealth in retirement](#). Among the report’s findings are that wealth is held very unequally – with the least wealthy 10 per cent of individuals having “essentially no wealth” on average, while the richest 10 per cent on average “have in excess of £1m.” Financial wealth is held even more unequally than wealth in general. It accounted for 26 per cent of wealth among the wealthiest 10 per cent of individuals (mean of £400,000), compared with 12 per cent of wealth among individuals in the fifth decile (mean £27,000).
- The **Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA)** published the latest paper in its current controversies series [Avoiding the risk of regulatory red tape: Insurance regulation for the 21st century](#).

- The **Office of National Statistics (ONS)** published the [latest figures](#) for monthly construction output for Great Britain, seasonally adjusted by public and private sector. Figures show that construction output increased 0.5 per cent month-on-month in April but that output was, however, 3.3 per cent lower compared to April 2017, and on a rolling three-month basis contracted by 3.4 per cent – the largest fall since August 2012.
- The **London Assembly environment committee** published its [report](#) on electric vehicles in London. In addition to finding that there is scope for electric vehicle infrastructure and delivery to be “much more joined-up” across London, the report found that 60 per cent of Londoners don’t have a garage or driveway and would rely on chargers on street if they wanted to charge an electric vehicle.
- **Policy Exchange** published its report [The smart state: redesigning government in the era of intelligent services](#).
- **Open Europe** published its report [Striking a balance: a blueprint for the future UK-EU economic partnership](#) proposing a model somewhere between the so-called Canada and Norway arrangements framing the UK political debate.
- The European economic think-tank **Bruegel** published its working paper [The impact of industrial robots on EU employment and wages: A local labour market approach](#) finding that one additional robot per thousand workers reduces the employment rate by 0.16–0.20 percentage points.
- The **Chartered Management Institute (CMI)** and **British Chambers of Commerce (BCC)** published a joint [10-point plan](#) to “make the apprenticeship levy work for all”. The 10 points equate to five asks of government and five asks of employers to reform apprenticeships.
- The **children’s commissioner** and the **Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS)** published a [report](#) on public spending on children in England 2000 to 2020.
- The **Resolution Foundation (RF)** published a briefing [Healthy finances? Options for funding an NHS spending increase](#) stating that “faced with no outright majority in parliament, and reduced immediate pressure on the deficit, the government is almost certain to deliver any increase in NHS spending of the order of £20 billion in 2022–23 partly by utilising the headroom the chancellor has against his fiscal targets to increase borrowing.”
- Chief economist and executive director for Monetary Analysis, Research and Statistics at the **Bank of England**, Andy Haldane, delivered a [speech](#) at the Guild Society, University of Oxford entitled *Ideas and Institutions – a growth story*. The speech looked back at 1,000 years of economic history to understand the challenges and opportunities we face now.
- The **Institution of Civil Engineers'** publication *New Civil Engineer* reported that the first set of contracts for building parts of the first phase of HS2 are being estimated at £1.2bn over the target price 18 per cent over budget. The figures reported by *New Civil Engineer* would put the forecast £6.6bn bill for one element of phase one of HS2 at £7.8bn.
- The **Commission on Fake News and Teaching of Critical Literacy Skills in Schools** – part of the National Literacy Trust – published its [report](#) on child literacy skills and fake news. Among its findings are the following:
 - Only two per cent of children have the critical literacy skills they need to tell if a news story is real or fake.
 - Half of children (49.9 per cent) are worried about not being able to spot fake news.
 - Two-thirds of children (60.6 per cent) now trust the news less as a result of fake news.
 - Two-thirds of teachers (60.9 per cent) believe fake news is harming children’s well-being, increasing their anxiety levels.
 - Half of teachers (53.5 per cent) believe that the national curriculum does not equip children with the literacy skills they need to identify fake news.
- **EuroRAP (European Road Assessment Programme)** published its [third report](#) in the series *Roads that cars can read* examining the relationship between road infrastructure and safety for conventional and increasingly-autonomous vehicles (AVs) and providing a framework for infrastructure safety investment.
- **SSE Ltd** published its report [Creating value in a sustainable way](#).
- **LEGO®** has teamed up with the [Year of Engineering](#) and the **Institution of Engineering and Technology** for the [Engineers of the future roadshow](#) to give schoolchildren from across the UK the opportunity to meet engineers and to experience hands-on learning with [LEGO® education](#) solutions.

Reports, publications, and activity from the world of project management:

- There is an International Project Management Conference in Ulyanovsk taking place from 3–5 July: [State, Digital Economy, Infrastructure](#).
- There is a [call for papers](#) for the **ProMAC2018 conference** in Thailand. The deadline for abstract submission is 17 July 2018.
- **Agile Alliance** is hosting its Agile2018 conference in San Diego, California from 6–10 August 2018. See [here](#) for more information and to register.
- The **Digital PM summit 2018** takes place from 4–6 September 2018 in Memphis, Tennessee. For more information and to register, see [here](#).

APM events/research & policy outputs:

- Two APM Research Summaries were published in this period including *The Unsettling of Settled Science* and *Project Studies: What is it, where is it going?*
- Booking has now opened for the 2018 APM national conference for Women in Project Management (WiPM) in this the 25th year of the APM Women in Project Management SIG. The conference, sponsored by BAE Systems, will be held on Tuesday 25 September 2018 at the Grand Connaught Rooms, London.

APM forthcoming:

- There will be a joint APM and MPA event/webinar on *Project closure and handover* on 31 July 2018 – more information available soon.
- There will be an APM Research publication on the relationship between Project management and productivity. This will be available later in July 2018.
- In collaboration with APM, the Institute for Government (IfG) will produce a report in mid-July entitled *How to be a minister: making decisions on infrastructure*. This report will draw upon the findings of a panel debate held in April and will draw upon the IfG's Ministers Reflect Series and research into how government can make better decisions on infrastructure