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The Government's legislative programme for the new parliamentary year has been announced today in the Queen's Speech. Around thirty measures were introduced, though most re-affirming commitments already made.

The speech focused on how the Government will use a strengthening economy to deliver security for working people, to increase life chances for the most disadvantaged and to strengthen national defences.

The headlines will be around education and prison reforms, but the speech was also used to secure a legacy of social reform for David Cameron.

The speech re-affirmed the Government commitment to homeownership and the building of a further 1 million new homes.

It also re-affirmed its commitment to devolution and the further development of the Northern Powerhouse, though no further deals for Combined Authorities were announced.

Legislation will be put in place to deliver Cameron's 'life chances' agenda, tackling deep social problems such as adoption, social care, poverty, debt, addiction and the introduction of new indicators to measure impact.

Other measures in the Speech include:

- New legislation for jobs and apprenticeships
- A higher education bill to get more people into university
- A legal right to fast broadband connections for every household
- Promoting technology and the development of electric and driverless cars
- Improving opportunities for children in care
- NHS services over 7 days a week
- A tax on sugary soft drinks from April 2018
- Help to save scheme and for low income families



The Queen made only the briefest of direct references to the EU Referendum.

[You can find more detail and the full contents of the speech here](#)

The Service Matters team will monitor any further announcements and detail over the coming weeks.

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