

Weekly policy update from London Chamber of Commerce and Industry

A round-up of key policy changes from the past seven days – 2 September 2024

UK to join CPTPP by 15 December

- The UK has secured the final ratification required to trigger accession to the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) before the end of this year.
- CPTPP is a free trade area spanning five continents and almost 600 million people once the UK joins. The agreement will now officially enter into force by 15 December 2024.
- More than 99% of current UK goods exports to CPTPP members will be tariff-free once the deal enters into effect. By 2040, the Government says the agreement could boost the UK economy by around £2 billion annually.
- Six CPTPP members have ratified the terms of the UK's accession: Peru, Japan, Singapore, Chile, New Zealand and Vietnam. The agreement will come into force with those members by 15 December, and subsequently with other members as they ratify. The Government will continue to work closely with the remaining member countries who are in the process of ratifying the deal.
- More information can be found [here](#).

UK-Ukraine digital trade set to grow

- The UK-Ukraine Digital Trade Agreement (DTA) has entered into force as of 1 September 2024, allowing businesses on both sides to benefit from quicker and cheaper trade.

- The digital agreement is one of the first of its kind and opens the door to wider shifts to digital trading systems.
- Ukraine is one of the largest exporters of information technology services globally, with areas such as outsourcing, cybersecurity, artificial intelligence (AI) and mobile applications in rapid development before the war. The UK Government wants to aid Ukraine's post-conflict transition to a digital economy, with over half of British services exports to Ukraine already digitally delivered.
- More information on the UK-Ukraine DTA can be found [here](#).

Consultation on changes to planning framework

- A consultation has been launched on reforming the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The Government says that these proposed changes to the NPPF will:
 - Make the standard method for assessing housing needs mandatory, requiring local authorities to plan for the resulting housing need figure, planning for a lower figure only when they can demonstrate hard constraints and that they have exhausted all other options
 - Reverse other changes to the NPPF made in December 2023
 - Implement a new standard method and calculation for local plans
 - Broaden the existing definition of brownfield land, set a strengthened expectation that applications on brownfield land will be approved and that plans should promote an uplift in density in urban areas
 - Identify grey belt land within the Green Belt, to be brought forward into the planning system through both plan and decision-making to meet development needs
 - Improve the operation of 'the presumption' in favour of sustainable development, to ensure it acts as an effective failsafe to support housing supply, by clarifying the circumstances in which it applies; and, introducing new safeguards, to make clear that its application cannot justify poor quality development
 - Deliver affordable, well-designed homes, with new "golden rules" for land released in the Green Belt to ensure it delivers in the public interest
 - Make wider changes to ensure that local planning authorities are able to prioritise the types of affordable homes their communities need on all housing development and that the planning system supports a more diverse housebuilding sector
 - Support economic growth in key sectors

- Deliver community needs to support society and the creation of healthy places
- The consultation includes some proposals to reform the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) regime as well
- The NPPF consultation can be found [here](#) and will close on **24 September 2024**. If you have any views you wish to be represented in LCCI's response, please contact the Policy Team on policy@londonchamber.co.uk.

If you have any queries, please contact the LCCI Policy Team at policy@londonchamber.co.uk.

