

POLICY BULLETIN – 21 July 2009

FEATURE TOPIC: Strengthening local democracy consultation

The Government have published for [consultation](#) a series of proposals to strengthen local democracy. The measures aim to put councils at the centre of local decision-making, giving them the power and responsibility necessary to ensure public services are delivered effectively and efficiently and fully meet the needs of their local communities. This will be achieved by:

- Broadening local authority scrutiny powers over spending and decisions of a wider range of local service providers (examples include fire and rescue authorities, probation authorities, utility companies, Jobcentre Plus);
- Examining the additional powers required by local authorities and/or barriers to utilising existing powers, as well as reducing bureaucracy and inspection burdens;
- Ensuring that councils have the powers and responsibilities needed to tackle climate change, for example through local carbon budgets;
- Exploring how the powers and responsibilities of sub regional structures should be matched by clear, democratic and accountable leadership;
- Having a clear central-local relationship that is transparent to citizens, including proposals for an ombudsman-style arrangement and a joint select committee of both Houses of Parliament.

The consultation runs until 2 October 2009.

THEMATIC UPDATE:

Children and Young People

2013 Diploma Entitlement

DCSF issue [guidance](#) on the 2012 diploma entitlement for 14-19 year olds.

Children's social work

LGA Group launch [publicity material](#) for [Respect and Protect campaign](#) aimed at boosting the image of children's social work.

Education White Paper

LGA publish [response](#) to the 'Your Child, Your Schools, Our Future: Building a 21st Century schools system' White Paper.

From Care2Work

New national [programme](#) announced to offer work experience and mentoring opportunities to young people leaving care.

Communities, Neighbourhoods and Social Inclusion

Ageing society

Government launches '[Building a Society for All Ages](#)' strategy, building on 2005 [Opportunity Age](#) strategy. The consultation closes on 12 October 2009. Read the [LGA Briefing](#).

Community cohesion

IcoCo publish '[Building Community Cohesion in Britain](#)' report examining the lessons learnt from local reviews between 2006 and 2008.

Economic and social cohesion

Sixth [progress report](#) on economic and social cohesion is published by the EU Commission. The focus of this report is creative and innovative regions.

Innovation in public services

Government publishes '[Power in People's Hands](#)' study of innovative public services from around the world.

Neighbourhood statistics and inequality

ONS produce [paper](#) demonstrating how neighbourhood statistics data can be used to analyse inequalities. Sheffield and the Yorkshire and Humber region have been chosen as example geographies.

Social housing and immigrants

EHRC commissioned [research report](#) examines social housing allocations and immigrant communities.

Sustainable development

SDC publish 'Where are we now: a [review](#) of progress on sustainable development'.

Democracy and Public Affairs

Reconnecting policy making

Government issues [response](#) to the Sunningdale Institute's 2009 study 'Engagement and Aspiration: Reconnecting policy making with front line professionals'.

The Economy and SNR

Economic and social cohesion

Sixth [progress report](#) on economic and social cohesion is published by the EU Commission. The focus of this report is creative and innovative regions.

Economic downturn

IDeA/LGA publish [case studies](#) (including Barnsley) on local approaches to the current economic climate.

Financial system reform

Government publishes '[Reforming financial markets](#)' report including analysis of the causes of the financial crisis, the actions taken so far and proposals for further reform.

Low carbon economy

Government launches '[The UK Low Carbon Industrial Strategy](#)'

WWF publish [report](#) on the opportunities and prospects for Europe of the low carbon economy.

Recession

CRC submit eighth rural economies recession [report](#).

Sustainable development

SDC publish 'Where are we now: a [review](#) of progress on sustainable development'.

Employment and Welfare

Children's social work

LGA Group launch [publicity material](#) for [Respect and Protect campaign](#) aimed at boosting the image of children's social work.

Employee engagement review

The [report](#) from the MacLeod review on enhancing performance through employee engagement is published.

Fair access to the professions

The final [report](#) by the Panel on Fair Access to the Professions has been published. The report contains 88 recommendations.

From Care2Work

New national [programme](#) announced to offer work experience and mentoring opportunities to young people leaving care.

Worklessness

Visit the IDeA website to watch the Barnsley [video case study](#) on how they are tackling worklessness and removal of barriers to work.

The Environment

Carbon trading

[Report](#) commissioned by the Prime Minister considers current cap and trade systems and sets out an approach for the future, including a global carbon trading network.

Development and coastal communities

Government consults on [new draft policy](#) to address the balance between economic prosperity and reducing consequences of coastal change on communities. The consultation closes on 12 October 2009.

Heat and Energy Saving Strategy consultation

Government publishes [responses](#) to the Heat and Energy Saving Strategy consultation.

Low carbon

Government publishes the 'UK Low Carbon Transition Plan: National Strategy for Climate and Energy' [White Paper](#), the [UK Low Carbon Industrial Strategy](#), the [Renewable Energy Strategy 2009](#) and the [Low Carbon Transport Plan](#).

WWF publish [report](#) on the opportunities and prospects for Europe of the low carbon economy.

LGA publishes local government [manifesto](#) for building low-carbon communities.

On-Shore Wind Energy consultation

Natural England [consults](#) on proposed guidance for assessing environmental capacity for on-shore wind energy. The consultation closes on 2 September 2009.

Quality of life and environmental challenges

EEA publish [report](#) on quality of life and the environmental challenges in Europe's towns and cities.

Renewable energy capacity and RSS

CLG commissioned [report](#) examines the potential renewable energy capacity as delivered through Regional Spatial Strategies.

Sustainable development

SDC publish 'Where are we now: a [review](#) of progress on sustainable development'.

Waste Framework Directive consultation

Defra issues [consultation](#) on the transposition and implementation of the revised Waste Framework Directive. The consultation period ends on 9 October 2009.

Europe and International

Economic and social cohesion

Sixth [progress report](#) on economic and social cohesion is published by the EU Commission. The focus of this report is creative and innovative regions.

European Parliament

Final [membership](#) of the European Parliament committees announced.

Innovation in public services

Government publishes '[Power in People's Hands](#)' study of innovative public services from around the world.

Low carbon economy

WWF publish [report](#) on the opportunities and prospects for Europe of the low carbon economy.

Quality of life and environmental challenges

EEA publish [report](#) on quality of life and the environment challenges in Europe's towns and cities.

White Paper on International Development

The Government sets out its vision for international development in [Eliminating World Poverty: Building our Common Future](#).

Health and Social Care

Care and Support Green Paper

Government publishes 'Shaping the future of care together' [Green Paper](#). The closing date for responses is 13 November 2009. Read the [LGA Briefing](#).

Dementia advisers

Demonstrator [sites](#) announced to pilot dementia advisers (includes Bradford, Kirklees) and other types of support networks (includes Leeds and Wakefield).

Fair access to care services consultation

DoH [consults](#) on revised fair access to care services guidance. The closing date for responses is 6 October 2009.

Housing and Regeneration

Gypsies and Travellers

CLG produce good practice [guide](#) on managing Gypsy and Traveller sites.

Inspection score

[Leeds Federated Housing Association](#) rated as 'fair' one star with 'promising' prospects for the improvement.

Quality of life and environmental challenges

EEA publish [report](#) on quality of life and the environment challenges in Europe's towns and cities.

Social housing and immigrants

EHRC commissioned [research report](#) examines social housing allocations and immigrant communities.

'Supporting People' Programme

An independent [report](#) by Capgemini finds that the housing support programme has led to financial savings for other services.

Legislation

Business Rate Supplements Act 2009

The Business Rate Supplements Act 2009 received Royal Assent on 2 July. The Act gives powers to councils to levy a local supplement on the business rate and use the proceeds to invest in projects to support economic development.

Planning Act 2008 consultation

Government [consults](#) on examination procedures for nationally significant infrastructure projects. The closing date for responses is 5 October 2009.

Performance, Partnerships and Assessment

Comprehensive Area Assessment

AC [extend](#) period local partnerships will have to ask for a review of their area assessment red flags (now 10 days).

Inspection score

[Leeds Federated Housing Association](#) rated as 'fair' one star with 'promising' prospects for the improvement.

LAAs and economic development

CLG [study](#) examines the factors behind adoption of economic indicators as part of Local Area Agreements, and links to local economic development. Sheffield is one of the 10 chosen localities.

Police Authority Inspection

AC and HMIC publish [new inspection framework](#) for police authorities – effective from July 2009.

Planning

Development and coastal communities

Government consults on [new draft policy](#) to address the balance between economic prosperity and reducing consequences of coastal change on communities. The consultation closes on 12 October 2009.

Eco-towns

Joint [report](#) by BioRegional and CABE on 'What makes an eco-town?' provides guidance for agencies developing proposals.

CLG issue location decision [statement](#) on eco-towns.

CLG publish [summary](#) of responses to the consultation on the draft Planning Policy Statement on eco-towns, and the [Planning Policy Statement](#) on eco-towns.

On-Shore Wind Energy consultation

Natural England [consults](#) on proposed guidance for assessing environmental capacity for on-shore wind energy. The consultation closes on 2 September 2009.

Planning permissions

[Options study](#) for a new approach to minor material changes to planning permissions is published.

Renewable energy capacity and RSS

CLG commissioned [report](#) examines the potential renewable energy capacity as delivered through Regional Spatial Strategies.

Sustainable development

SDC publish 'Where are we now: a [review](#) of progress on sustainable development'.

Police and Criminal Justice

Burglary and robbery programme

£3m [Vigilance](#) programme announced to tackle burglary and robbery. Nine CDRPs in Yorkshire and Humber are taking part in the programme.

Police Authority Inspection

AC and HMIC publish [new inspection framework](#) for police authorities – effective from July 2009.

Police Use of Resources

AC release [results](#) of 2007-08 police use of resources (PURE) assessments.

Reducing re-offending

MOJ undertake [evidence review](#) of the effectiveness of interventions in reducing re-offending behaviour of persistent and prolific offenders.

Procurement

Innovation guide

Government issues [guide](#) on innovation through public procurement.

Rural and Coastal Issues

Development and coastal communities

Government consults on [new draft policy](#) to address the balance between economic prosperity and reducing consequences of coastal change on communities. The consultation closes on 12 October 2009.

Recession

CRC submit eighth rural economies recession [report](#).

Third Sector

Third sector commissioning

OTS announce [second phase](#) of the National Programme for Third Sector Commissioning. The programme will be delivered by IDeA and run until March 2011.

Transport

Draft noise action plans consultation

Defra has published draft noise action plans for 23 agglomerations, major roads and railways for [consultation](#). The closing date for responses is Wednesday 4 November.

Local Transport Plans guidance

Dft publish [summary](#) of response to the consultation on Draft Local Transport Plan Guidance. Final [guidance](#) on producing Local Transport Plans is published.

STATISTICAL UPDATE:

Air quality

[2008 data](#) for air quality indicator released by Defra.

Citizenship survey

Data from the [Citizenship Survey 2008-09](#) is released.

Crime

Home Office [statistics](#) and analysis for 2008/09 comparing findings from the British Crime Survey and police recorded figures.

Neighbourhood statistics and inequality

ONS produce [paper](#) demonstrating how neighbourhood statistics data can be used to analyse inequalities. Sheffield and the Yorkshire and Humber region have been chosen as example geographies.

Public expenditure

Government publish updated [Public Expenditure Outturn data](#) for 2008-09 and earlier years.

Regional trends

ONS publish [2009 Regional Trends](#). This year's annual report includes articles on children and young people, women's employment and a portrait for Yorkshire and Humber region.

This policy bulletin provides a round-up of key policy documents, announcements, publications and research relevant to the work of Local Government Yorkshire and Humber. It provides links to the source information for further consideration. We hope you find the information useful.

The briefing is produced by:

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Local Government Yorkshire and Humber (LGYH) is the regional partnership of local authorities, including fire and police authorities across the region. It brings local authorities together on key issues, supports the improvement of service delivery, lobbies Government on the future of local government, promotes good employment practices, and works with local authorities to improve the public perception of local government.

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