
Decentralisation and Localism Bill

- Laid before Parliament on the 13th December
- 2nd Reading 17th January
- Currently at Committee Stage
- 405 Pages, 208 clauses, 24 Schedules



Headlines

Community Empowerment

- Right to approve or veto excessive council tax rise
- Community right to Challenge (to run services)
- Community right to buy assets of community value
- Local Referendums on any local issues.

Decentralisation and strengthening local democracy

- General Power of Competence for LA's, some Parish Councils
- Local Authority Governance (return to Committee system)
- Directly elected Majors
- Predetermination
- Abolish Standards Board regime



Headlines Continued...

Reform of the Planning System

- Abolition of Regional Strategies
- Community Infrastructure Levy – funds to be passed to neighbourhoods
- Local Plan Reform – More control for LA;s, less control by the inspectorate
- Neighbourhood Planning – Neighbourhood Plans and Development Orders
- Community right to Build – 50% support from local community
- Pre-application consultation with local communities.
- Abolition of Infrastructure Planning Commission



Headlines Continued...

Social Housing Reform

- Social Housing Allocations reform – LA's to set waiting list policies.
- Reform of Homelessness legislation – bring homelessness duty to an end
- Social Housing Tenure Reform – Fixed length tenures (min 2 yrs)
- Reform of Council Housing Finance – Rental income to be retained but LA's
- National Homeswap scheme – mutual exchange service
- Home Information Packs (suspended 21 May 2010)



Issues to resolve

- Real localism?
- A strategic vacuum?
- Capacity for communities?
- Role of elected Councillors?
- Resources?
- What is a neighbourhood?
- What about partners?



Questions

