

There is no dedicated mayoral policy team in the Department. The work on implementing the Government's Mayoral policy is primarily undertaken by staff in the Democracy Division within the Local Government Policy and Productivity Directorate. Staff in certain other Divisions, in particular the Legal Division and the Localism Bill team, have also undertaken significant work in connection with this policy.

In addition to implementing the Mayoral policy, staff within the Democracy Division have a wide range of responsibilities which extend across maintaining and developing the framework for accountable local governance and reinvigorating local accountability and participation. This includes supporting the Government's policy on standards of conduct, local government structures, parishes, boundaries, governance and scrutiny, electoral and ceremonial issues, and representing local government interests at the Council of Europe. It also included supporting Ministers in taking forward provisions on these matters now included in the Localism Act.

Since May 2010, and for the 2010-11 financial year, the Division incurred expenditure of just over £1.3m in pay and non pay running costs and had an average complement of just under 28 staff in each month (ranging from 26 in May 2010 to 31 in March 2011), although following the Government's announcement in August 2010 on the future of the Audit Commission, some of these staff then became part of a team dedicated to implementing that policy. In the 2011-12 financial year to October, the Division's staff numbers excluding the audit team have averaged 21, and our outturn expenditure for the year is anticipated at around £1.1m. I am afraid I am unable to provide you with a separate figure attributable to the Division for the cost of centrally provided services.