

Department for Communities and Local Government Structural Reform Plan Monthly Implementation Update	October 2011
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1) Actions due to be completed in October 2011

Section	Action	Status
2.4(v)	Run a second bidding round for the Regional Growth Fund and announce successful bids.	Complete (Early)
2.5(iv)	Complete Regional Development Agency projects (stand-alone ongoing major programmes) or transfer to other bodies.	Complete (Early)
2.5(v)	Manage out Regional Development Agency functions, assets, commitments and liabilities in an orderly fashion or transfer to other bodies.	Complete (Early)
2.15	Undertake a public consultation into the issue of restrictive covenants on community pubs, with a focus on the impact they have on local communities.	Complete (Early)
3.3(iv)	Work with Cabinet Office to ensure that councils are included in any measures introduced to drive a culture of transparency in the public sector.	Complete (Early)
4.5(vi)	Seek up to date data from local authorities on their council housing stock.	Complete
4.8(viii)	Include a section on empty homes in the wider housing strategy.	Delayed
4.14	Publish a housing strategy setting out the overall approach to housing policy, including how we are supporting an increase in the supply and quality of new private and social housing, helping those seeking a home of their own, whether to rent or buy.	Delayed

(2) Actions due to be started by end October 2011

Section	Action	Status
2.1(iv)	Develop and put in place a targeted programme of support to help communities understand their new rights and support take-up of community ownership of assets and services (end April 2012)	Work Started (Early)
4.10 (iii)	Transfer regulatory functions to the Homes and Communities Agency (end April 2012)	Work Started (Early)
5.1(vii)	Prepare and introduce secondary legislation as necessary (end May 2012)	Work Started (Early)
1.1(vii)	Develop and introduce proposals to implement Tax Increment Financing, working with HM Treasury, so that local authorities can raise funds against future uplift in their business rates base provided by an investment in infrastructure (end Apr 2013)	Work ongoing
1.1(viii)	Lead the localisation of Council Tax Benefit, working with Department for Work and Pensions, to enable local authorities to develop local rebate schemes for the most vulnerable people in society. Consider what flexibilities local authorities should have to keep overall levels of Council Tax down (end Apr 2013)	Work ongoing
1.2(i)	Develop proposals for directly elected Mayors, including significant transfer of power to areas that choose a Mayoral system (end Dec 2011)	Work ongoing
1.3(iv)	Develop and implement a process for managing new data requirements from departments, and from their associated inspectorates and regulators (end April 2012)	Work ongoing
1.4(v)	In parallel, deliver proposals for the future development of Community Budgets, in phase 2 of the Local Government Resource Review (end Apr 2013)	Work ongoing

1.7	In line with the Red Tape Challenge bring forward proposals to reduce and reform the stock of statutory instruments and regulations for which the Department has overall responsibility (end Dec 2012)	Work ongoing
2.1(iii)	Prepare, introduce and pass secondary legislation as necessary to support implementation of the Localism Bill (end Apr 2012)	Work ongoing
2.2(v)	Work with each new local enterprise partnership to enable them to establish their roles and functions (end Apr 2012)	Work ongoing
2.4(vi)	Run a third bidding round for the Regional growth Fund if required, subject to review in Sep 2012 (end Apr 2013)	Work ongoing
2.9(ii)	Develop and implement a new local audit regime where all such audits will be regulated within a statutory framework, with oversight by the profession and the National Audit Office (end Dec 2012)	Work ongoing
2.9(iii)	Disband the Audit Commission, considering options for moving its in-house practice into the private sector, including through mutualisation (end Dec 2012)	Work ongoing
2.10(i)	Develop and introduce legislation so that officials who ban events on health and safety grounds should put their reasons in writing. The Local Government Ombudsman may award a settlement where it is not possible to reinstate an event (end May 2012)	Work ongoing
2.10(ii)	Develop and introduce legislation so that local authorities conduct an internal review of all refusals on the grounds of health and safety (end May 2012)	Work ongoing
3.2(iii)	Publish data in line with public sector transparency, moving progressively to fully open formats (end Apr 2012)	Work ongoing
3.2(iv)	Support the Cabinet Office in its reviews of government use of data (end Mar 2012)	Work ongoing
3.6	Work with local authorities to make spending data more comparable and explore ways to identify spending to the voluntary and community sector (end May 2012)	Work ongoing
4.4(iii)	Through engagement on Community Right to Build and during the passage of the Localism Bill, continue to encourage farmers to participate to deliver homes or other community facilities for the benefit of their community (end Nov 2011)	Work ongoing
4.7(vii)	Pass the Localism Bill and associated regulations to ensure that the Community Infrastructure Levy incentivises neighbourhoods to go for growth (end Apr 2012)	Work ongoing
4.10(iv)	Prepare for transition of staff and functions from Tenant Services Authority to the Homes and Communities Agency and abolition of the Tenant Services Authority (end Apr 2012)	Work ongoing
4.12	Scope and start to pilot elements of the land auctions approach on publicly owned land during 2011-12 in order to test the land disposal elements of the model and report to Ministers on early findings (end Apr 2012)	Work ongoing
4.13(iii)	Make changes through the Localism Bill to give local authorities greater freedom to make better use of good quality private sector accommodation to provide suitable accommodation for households accepted as homeless (end Nov 2011)	Work ongoing
4.13(iv)	Report on the tenancies created and sustained in the first year of a scheme led by the voluntary sector to improve access for single homeless people to the private rented sector (end Jul 2012)	Work ongoing
5.1(iv)	Work with a small number of places to develop neighbourhood plans using existing powers (end Apr 2012)	Work ongoing
5.2(i)	Produce the national planning framework with an ambition to complete by end 2011 (end Apr 2012)	Work ongoing
5.2(ii)	Introduce as part of the national planning framework a strong presumption in favour of sustainable development (end Apr 2012)	Work ongoing
5.5(ii)	Publish new designation to protected areas of particular importance to locals	Work

	communities (end Apr 2012)	ongoing
5.6(i)	Consultation on proposals to support housing growth by the removal of unnecessary planning application processes to allow for easy change of use from business to residential use (end Dec 2011)	Work ongoing
5.6(ii)	A wider review of the Use Classes Order and associated permitted development, working with partners to promote more imaginative use by local communities and authorities of existing deregulatory powers in respect of waiving the need for planning applications (end Dec 2011)	Work ongoing
5.7(ii)	Consult on proposals to simplify the information required to support planning applications, particularly at the outline stage (end Nov 2011)	Work ongoing

(3) Explanation of missed and delayed deadlines

In October 2011, missed the following deadlines:

Deadline missed	Reason
4.8(viii) Include a section on empty homes in the wider housing strategy.	The document will be published this autumn, and will include the Right to Buy announcement made during the party conference season.
4.14 Publish a housing strategy setting out the overall approach to housing policy, including how we are supporting an increase in the supply and quality of new private and social housing, helping those seeking a home of their own, whether to rent or buy.	The document will be published this autumn, and will include the Right to Buy announcement made during the party conference season.

The status of actions missed from previous reports are:

Deadline missed	Status	Comments
1.2(iii) Consultation on Mayoral offer (including powers) (end Dec 2011)	Started (November)	On 1 November the consultation on Mayors was issued by DCLG.
4.7(vi) Consult on Community Infrastructure Levy proposals.	Still not Complete	We have set out our commitment to consult on our plans to reform the Community Infrastructure Levy by placing control over a meaningful proportion of the funds raised from new development within an area with the representatives of that community. We published the consultation, and the draft amendment regulations that would implement the proposals that we have set out in the Localism Bill, on 10 October. The consultation ends on 30 December.

(4) External delays

The following actions were delayed in October for reasons outside of the Department's control.

Deadline missed	Reason
4.8(viii) Include a section on empty homes in the wider housing strategy.	Slight delay in publication agreed with No10 and Deputy Prime Minister's advisors, to allow further work on Right To Buy following announcement at conference.
4.14 Publish a housing strategy setting out the overall approach to housing policy, including how we are supporting an increase in the supply and quality of new private and social housing, helping those seeking a home of their own, whether to rent or buy.	Slight delay in publication agreed with No10 and Deputy Prime Minister's advisors, to allow further work on Right To Buy following announcement at conference.

The status of actions delayed in previous reports for reasons outside of the Department's control:

Deadline missed	Status	Comments
2.13 Working with the Home Office and the Cabinet Office, develop a cross-government approach on integration and tackling all forms of extremism.	Still not Complete	DCLG has been tasked to work with the Home Office and the Cabinet Office to develop a cross-government approach on integration and tackling all forms of extremism, following publication of the Prevent Review on 7 June. DCLG is working closely with Cabinet Office on this issue and will report in the Autumn.