

Department for Communities and Local Government	June 2011
Structural Reform Plan Monthly Implementation Update	

1) Actions due to be completed in June 2011

Section	Action	Status
1.6(ii)	Run an online consultation on the initial list of statutory duties and then collate responses	Complete (early)
4.13(ii)	Establish a Ministerial Working Group on Homelessness and publish a cross government document on tackling homelessness with support from local government and the voluntary sector	Complete (July)
4.15(iii)	Confirmation of house builder allocations for FirstBuy	Complete
5.4(iii)	Energy National Policy Statements designated, working with the Department for Energy and Climate Change	Delayed

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

Section	Action	Status
4.5(vi)	Seek up to date data from local authorities on their council housing stock (end Oct 2011)	Work started
4.15(iii)	Confirmation of house builder allocations for FirstBuy (end Jun 2011)	Work Started
5.5(ii)	Publish new designation to protected areas of particular importance to locals communities (end Apr 2012)	Work Ongoing
1.1(v)	Deliver proposals for long term change to how local authorities are funded through the local government resource review (phase 1), including local retention of business rates, giving councils greater freedoms, while retaining fairness in the local government finance system (end Jul 2011)	Work ongoing
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
1.5(iv)	Publish data showing the location of public sector assets (end Jul 2011)	Work ongoing
1.6(v)	Consult on and publish new light touch best value guidance for local authorities, to provide clarity on the scope for authorities to consider social value in their functions and clearer expectations for voluntary and community organisations in their relationship with local authorities (end Jul 2011)	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(iv)	Respond to proposals and facilitate the establishment of local enterprise partnerships, including working with those local authorities and businesses who were not immediately ready to establish their local enterprise partnership boards to enable them to move forward with their local enterprise partnership proposals (end Oct 2011)	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
2.3(ii)	Work with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and HM Treasury to work up detail of first round of Enterprise Zones with local enterprise partnerships (end Jul 2011)	Work ongoing
2.3(iii)	Run bidding rounds for, assess and announce successful bids for Wave 2 Enterprise Zones (end Jul 2011)	Work ongoing
2.4(v)	Run a second bidding round for the Regional Growth Fund and announce successful bids (end Nov 2011)	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
2.5(iv)	Complete Regional Development Agency projects (stand-alone ongoing major programmes) or transfer to other bodies (end Apr 2012)	Work ongoing
2.5(v)	Manage out Regional Development Agency functions, assets, commitments and liabilities in an orderly fashion or transfer to other bodies (end Apr 2012)	Work ongoing
2.7(vi)	Redeploy or release Government Office staff (end Oct 2011)	Work ongoing
2.7(vii)	Vacate Government Office buildings for reassignment or disposal by DCLG estates management (end Aug 2011)	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
3.4(iii)	Run events and take other actions, including 'hack' and developer days, to encourage new uses of data and test out new applications on the public; support developers to create innovative websites and to identify what information or data the public would prioritise (end Aug 2011)	Work ongoing
3.4(iv)	Support local authorities in improving data literacy, awareness and skills (end Aug 2011)	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
4.2(iv)	An Affordable Homes Programme signed off by the Homes and Communities Agency Board and Ministers (end Jul 2011)	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
4.8(vi)	Work with the Home and Communities Agency to complete the expressions of interest phase for empty homes funding (end Jul 2011)	Work ongoing
4.8(viii)	Include a section on empty homes in the wider housing strategy (end Oct 2011)	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
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 (end Oct 2011)	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
5.6(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(i)	Publish proposals to simplify the information required to support planning applications, particularly at the outline stage processing of planning applications (end Jul 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 deadlines

The status of missed deadlines from previous reports are:

Deadline missed	Status	Comments
5.5(i) Develop proposals for a new designation to protect green areas of particular importance to local communities (end Mar 2011)	Complete	The Natural Environment White Paper published on 7 June included an outline of the proposals for the new designation and indicated that consultation on full proposals will take place later in the summer.
5.5(ii) Publish new designation to protected areas of particular importance to locals communities (due to start Mar 2011)	Started	

(4) External delays

The following action was delayed in June for reasons outside of the Department's control:

Delayed actions	Reason
5.4(iii) Energy National Policy Statements designated, working with the Department for Energy and Climate Change.	Following the earthquake and tsunami in Japan DECC paused in proceeding with the Energy National Policy Statements until the interim findings of the Weightman report into nuclear safety were known. These findings did not have any material impact on the National Policy Statements. DECC laid the Energy National Policy Statements in Parliament on 23 June, in advance of a debate and approval.

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

Deadline missed	Status	Comments
4.11(ii) Publish an enhanced Homes and Communities Agency land release strategy.	Complete	The Homes and Communities Agency published its land disposal strategy on 8 June as part of the wider announcement on public land, following on from the Growth Review.
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 shortly.