

<b>Department for Communities and Local Government</b>	<b>April 2011</b>
<b>Structural Reform Plan Monthly Implementation Update</b>	

### 1) Actions due to be completed in April 2011

<b>Section</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Status</b>
1.1(ii)	End the ring-fencing of government grants to local government, except for the dedicated schools grant and the public health grant	Complete
1.1(iii)	Freeze Council Tax in England for one year in partnership with local authorities (end March 2012)	Complete (early)
Milestone (1C)	Council Tax rates frozen in England for one year	Complete (early)
Milestone (1I)	First phase of community budgets launched in 16 places	Complete (early)
1.3iii	Develop a single reduced list of the data requirements placed on local government by central departments, working with other departments and local government	Complete
1.4(i)	Create the conditions for all places to pool and align locally controlled public budgets, and review centrally-funded support for public sector improvement	Complete
Milestone (1J)	Single data list published of requirements placed on local government by the centre (Start April 2012)	Complete (early)
1.4(ii)	Implement Community Budgets in 16 places as part of a national effort to tackle problem families	Complete
2.3(iii)	Put in place systems and funds to deliver the Regional Growth Fund	Complete
2.5(iii)	Vacate the Government Office London building and return it to the landlord	Complete
Milestone (2I)	Conditional offers announced resulting from successful Regional Growth Fund bids	Complete (early)
Milestone (2Q)	Government Office for London building vacated and returned to landlord	Complete
3.4(i)	Support interest in the transparency of local government spending, working with the national and local media	Complete
4.2(ii)	Prepare for launch of the 'Affordable Rent' scheme	Complete
4.6(i)	Develop an operational Standard for home swap providers to support better mutual exchange services	Complete
4.6(iii)	Consult on the draft direction on mobility	Not Complete
Milestone (4C)	Affordable Rent Scheme Implementation	Complete
4.7(iv)	Take forward implementation phase (new homes bonus)(end April 2012)	Complete (early)
Milestone 4H	First local authorities receive incentives to build new homes (start April 2012)	Complete (early)
Milestone (4J)	New Homes Bonus Scheme commences	Complete (early)
Milestone (5D)	Funding in place to help town and parish councils to develop neighbourhood plans	Complete (early)

**(2) Actions due to be started by end April 2011**

<b>Section</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Status</b>
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 started
2.3(iv)	Manage subsequent bidding rounds for the Regional Growth Fund (end Apr 2013)	Work started
1.1(iv)	Deliver proposals for long term change to how local authorities are funded through the local government resource review, 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(v)	Develop and introduce proposals to implement local retention of business rates and Tax Increment Financing and any further changes agreed in the local government resource review, working with HM Treasury (end Apr 2012)	Work ongoing
1.1(vi)	Support the Department for Work and Pensions in localisation of Council Tax Benefit, providing the necessary protection to the most vulnerable consistent with wider local government finance reform (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
2.1(iii)	Prepare and introduce secondary legislation as necessary to support implementation of the Localism Bill (end Apr 2012)	Work ongoing
2.2(iii)	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(iv)	Work with each new local enterprise partnership to enable them to establish their roles and functions (end Apr 2012)	Work ongoing
2.4(iii)	Complete Regional Development Agencies projects (stand-alone ongoing major programmes) or transfer to other bodies (end Apr 2012)	Work ongoing
2.4(iv)	Manage out Regional Development Agencies functions, assets, commitments and liabilities in an orderly fashion or transfer to other bodies (end Apr 2012)	Work ongoing
2.6(vi)	Redeploy or release Government Office staff (end Aug 2011)	Work ongoing
2.6(vii)	Vacate Government Office buildings for reassignment or disposal by DCLG estates management (end Aug 2011)	Work ongoing
2.8(i)	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
2.8(ii)	Disband the Audit Commission, considering options for moving its in-house practice into the private sector, including through mutualisation (end Dec 2012)	Work ongoing
2.9(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
2.9(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
2.12	Working with the Home Office and the Cabinet Office, develop a cross-government approach on integration and tackling all forms of extremism (end May 2011)	Work ongoing
3.2(ii)	Publish data in line with public sector transparency, moving progressively to fully open formats (end Apr 2012)	Work ongoing

3.2(iii)	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
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
4.10(iv)	Prepare for transition of staff and functions from Tenant Services Authority to the Homes and Communities Agency (end Apr 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 (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
5.4(iii)	Energy National Policy Statements designated, working with the Department for Energy and Climate Change (end Jun 2011)	Work ongoing

### Explanation of missed deadlines

In April 2011, DCLG miss the following deadlines:

Deadline missed	Reason
<b>4.6(iii)</b> Consult on the draft direction on mobility [to increase mobility among social housing tenants to make social housing more flexible]	We are working with the regulator and other policy colleagues to prepare for a consultation in summer 2011. This action will be updated as part of the Structural Reform Plan refresh in May, to reflect that formal consultation by the regulator will now happen later this year and which is consistent with the Localism Bill.

The status of missed deadlines from previous reports is:

Deadline missed	Status	Comments
<b>5.5(i)</b> Develop proposals for a new designation to protect green areas of particular importance to local communities (end Mar 2011)	Not Complete	In its response to the Penfold Review of Non-Planning Consents, the Government said it would consider whether any changes to the town and village green registration system were required as part of our commitment to create a new designation to protect green areas of particular importance to local communities. This work is ongoing and we expect to make an announcement shortly.
<b>5.5(ii)</b> Publish new designation to protected areas of particular importance to locals communities (start Apr 2012)		