

Draft Department for Communities and Local Government Structural Reform Plan Monthly Implementation Update	December 2010
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(1) Actions due to be completed in December 2010

Action	Status
Work with the Disposal Service Agency to dispose of GOL assets as appropriate	Complete
Consult unions and staff on abolition of remaining GOs	Complete
Develop the mechanics of the scheme, including a split of grant between tiers; developing an enhancement for affordable homes; data collection; distributional impact; and unit or reward	Complete
Consult on the proposal to implement the New Homes Bonus scheme	Complete
Consult, as part of the New Homes Bonus consultation, on provision to reward local authorities for bringing empty homes back into use	Complete
Evidence gathered on carbon compliance levels for new homes by the Zero Carbon Hub, an independent body funded by the government and by industry supporting the delivery of zero-carbon homes	Complete
Publish the Government's workplan on major infrastructure planning reform	Complete

(2) Actions due to be started by end of December 2010

Action	Status
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 started
End the ring-fencing of government grants to local government, except for the dedicated schools grant and the public health grant (end Apr 2011)	Work ongoing
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
Prepare and introduce secondary legislation as necessary to support implementation of the Localism Bill (end Apr 2012)	Work ongoing
Run the first bidding round for the Regional Growth Fund, whereby private bodies and public-private partnerships (including local enterprise partnerships) bid for funding to invest in sustainable private sector led growth (end Jan 2011)	Work ongoing
Put in place systems and funds to deliver the Regional Growth Fund (end Apr 2011)	Work ongoing
Determine the scope of residual on going functions of the Government Offices and complete required transfers (end Mar 2011)	Work ongoing
Analyse consultation responses for the revised Publicity Code and lay the revised Code before Parliament (end Jan 2011)	Work ongoing
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
Work with the Homes and Communities Agency to develop a programme for empty homes (end Mar 2011)	Work ongoing
Prepare for transition of staff and functions from Tenant Services Authority to the	Work ongoing

Homes and Communities Agency (end Apr 2012)	
Work with a small number of places to develop neighbourhood plans using existing powers (end Apr 2012)	Work ongoing
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
Develop proposals for directly elected Mayors, including significant transfer of power to areas that choose a Mayoral system (end Dec 2011)	Work ongoing
Develop a single, reduced, list of the data requirements placed on local government by central departments, working with other departments and local government (end Apr 2012)	Work ongoing
Create the conditions for all places to pool and align locally controlled public budgets, and review centrally-funded support for public sector improvement (end Apr 2011)	Work ongoing
Implement Community Budgets in 16 places as part of a national effort to tackle problem families (end Apr 2011)	Work ongoing
Assess supply of capital and assets and potential demand (end Mar 2011)	Work ongoing
Work with 11 pathfinders to identify and tackle barriers, including those which prevent decentralisation of power, and develop implementation plans (end Mar 2011)	Work ongoing
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
Work with each new local enterprise partnership to enable them to establish their roles and functions (end Apr 2012)	Work ongoing
Complete RDA projects (stand-alone ongoing major programmes) or transfer to other bodies (end Apr 2012)	Work ongoing
Manage out RDA functions, assets, commitments and liabilities in an orderly fashion or transfer to other bodies (end Apr 2012)	Work ongoing
Complete the transfer of historic data and IT infrastructure across Government Office Network wide IT infrastructure (end Mar 2011)	Work ongoing
Vacate the GOL building and return it to the landlord (end Apr 2011)	Work ongoing
Redeploy or release Government Office staff (end Aug 2011)	Work ongoing
Vacate GO buildings for reassignment or disposal by DCLG estates management (end Aug 2011)	Work ongoing
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
Disband the Audit Commission, considering options for moving its in-house practice into the private sector, including through mutualisation (end Dec 2012)	Work ongoing
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
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
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
Prepare departments for the publication, in an open and standardised format, of the data they hold on local authorities (end Mar 2011)	Work ongoing
Prepare a comprehensive list of data held by DCLG and supporting bodies to be published in an open and standardised format (end Jan 2011)	Work ongoing

Support the Cabinet Office in its reviews of government use of data (end Mar 2012)	Work ongoing
Work with local authorities to support publication of items of spending, contracts and tenders above £500 and job titles and salaries for senior council officers (end Jan 2011)	Work ongoing
Support interest in the transparency of local government spending, working with the national and local media (end Apr 2011)	Work ongoing
Work with the Local Public Data Panel to offer prizes to support local transparency (end Mar 2011)	Work ongoing
Support local authorities in improving data literacy, awareness and skills (end Aug 2011)	Work ongoing
Publish detailed proposals for reform of the Housing Revenue Account, including when it will come into force, so that local authorities can plan for the changes (end Jan 2011)	Work ongoing
Develop an operational Standard for home swap providers to support better mutual exchange services (end Apr 2011)	Work ongoing
Produce the national planning framework (end Apr 2012)	Work ongoing
Introduce as part of the national planning framework a strong presumption in favour of sustainable development (end Apr 2012)	Work ongoing
Energy National Policy Statements designated, working with the Department for Energy and Climate Change (end Jun 2011)	Work ongoing
Develop proposals for a new designation to protect green areas of particular importance to local communities (end Mar 2011)	Work ongoing

(3) Explanation of missed deadlines

In December 2010, the Department did not miss any deadlines in its Structural Reform Plan.

The status of missed deadlines from previous reports is:

Deadline missed	Status	Reason
<p>Introduce the Localism Bill to implement the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.2ii, directly elected Mayors • 2.1ii, measures to reinvigorate local accountability, democracy and participation • 2.4v, closure of Regional Development Agencies • 4.1ii, social housing measures • 4.3iii, abolition of Home Information Packs • 4.5v, reform of the Housing Revenue Account • 4.6ii, home swap measures to increase mobility among social housing tenants • 4.10ii, abolition of the Tenant Services Authority • 5.1v, reform of the planning system 	Complete	The Localism Bill was introduced on 13 December 2010.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5.3ii, repeal of Regional Strategies and introduction of a duty to co-operate for local authorities • 5.4ii, abolition of the Infrastructure Planning Commission <p>(Nov 2010)</p>		
<p>Require publication by a Code of Practice on council transparency, through the Local Government, Planning and Land Act 1980 or other legislation (Nov 2010)</p>	<p>Still not complete</p>	<p>Delayed, to allow Code of Practice to be informed by work on the 'right to data', and to allow for more effective consultation. The draft Code is due to be published in January for consultation.</p>