

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

Action	Status
<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 • 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 	Delayed
Identify exceptional areas where central government needs to retain an oversight role	Complete
<p>Draft legislation to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Give councils a general power of competence b. Give residents the power to instigate local referendums on any local issue c. Give residents the power to veto excessive Council Tax increases d. Give local businesses the power to veto supplementary business rates e. Increase transparency and local democratic accountability over decisions on local <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Government senior pay f. Scrap bin taxes g. Abolish the Standards Board regime h. Allow councils to return to the committee system should they wish to i. Give communities the right to save local facilities threatened with closure j. Give communities the right to bid to take over local state-run services 	Complete
Ensure transition plans are in place for individual RDAs	Complete
Abolish the remaining Government Offices: develop proposals on transfer of ongoing functions, working with affected departments	Complete
Require publication by a Code of Practice on council transparency, through the Local Government, Planning and Land Act 1980 or other legislation	Delayed
Consult on the revised Publicity Code	Complete
Publish a policy paper on reform of social housing	Complete
Draft legislation to abolish Home Information Packs	Complete
Draft legislation for the Community Right to Build	Complete
Abolish the National Tenant Voice	Complete
Develop proposals to streamline the process of producing local authority plans, including removing unnecessary requirements and stopping Planning Inspectors from re-writing plans	Complete

Develop proposals to empower local communities to bring forward neighbourhood plans through the structure of either a parish council or a newly-formed neighbourhood forum	Complete
Draft legislation to repeal the legal underpinning of Regional Strategies and introduce a duty to co-operate on local authorities with other local authorities and public and statutory bodies	Complete
Proposals published to bring more empty homes back into use	Complete
Quarterly data published on energy efficiency of new homes and number of homes achieving Code for Sustainable Homes standards	Complete

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

Action	Status
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 started
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 started
Prepare and introduce secondary legislation as necessary to support implementation of the Localism Bill (end Apr 2012)	Work started
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 started
Put in place systems and funds to deliver the Regional Growth Fund (end Apr 2011)	Work started
Determine the scope of residual on going functions of the Government Offices and complete required transfers (end Mar 2011)	Work started
Analyse consultation responses for the revised Publicity Code and lay the revised Code before Parliament (end Jan 2011)	Work started
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 started
Consult on the proposal to implement the New Homes Bonus scheme (end Dec 2010)	Work started
Consult, as part of the New Homes Bonus consultation, on provision to reward local authorities for bringing empty homes back into use (end Dec 2010)	Work started
Work with the Homes and Communities Agency to develop a programme for empty homes (end Mar 2011)	Work started
Prepare for transition of staff and functions from Tenant Services Authority to the Homes and Communities Agency (end Apr 2012)	Work started
Work with a small number of places to develop neighbourhood plans using existing powers (end Apr 2012)	Work started
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
Work with the Disposal Service Agency to dispose of assets as appropriate (end Dec 2010)	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
Consult unions and staff in the remaining Government Offices (end Dec 2010)	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
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 (end Dec 2010)	Work ongoing
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 (end Dec 2010)	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
Publish the Government's workplan on major infrastructure planning reform (end Dec 2010)	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 November 2010 the Department missed the following deadlines:

Deadline missed	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 • 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>Introduction of the Localism Bill has been delayed slightly due to Parliamentary timetable. We intend to introduce the Localism Bill shortly.</p>

Deadline missed	Reason
Require publication by a Code of Practice on council transparency, through the Local Government, Planning and Land Act 1980 or other legislation	Delayed by one month, to allow the Code of Practice to be informed by other developments on data transparency and the public sector. A draft is due to be published in December for consultation, with the final Code published in January 2011.

The status of missed deadlines from previous reports is:

Deadline missed	Status	Reason
Publish a summary of consultation response and supporting documents for the Housing Revenue Account (Jul 2010)	Complete	Grant Shapps announced the intention to reform the system through the Localism Bill on 5 October. A summary of the consultation responses and supporting documents was published on 30 November.