



Local Government Association



the Sustainable Communities Act

shortlist of proposals made under round one

open letter to Rt Hon John Denham, Secretary of State for Communities



Dear John



The Sustainable Communities Act (SCA) provides communities, through the councils that represent them, the opportunity to break down barriers to tackling important local issues and challenges. The Act recognises that local councils are eager to do more and to deliver in innovative ways but that in many cases central government first needs to devolve powers and cut through bureaucracy to enable delivery locally. The proposals detailed in this document support the government's stated ambition in *Smarter government* to give local areas more control over setting priorities, guiding bureaucracy and reducing red tape and set out practical ways this ambition could be achieved.

One hundred councils from all parts of the country and of all types of political leadership have taken up your invitation and submitted a total of 301 proposals. They reflect local issues and concerns and have been drawn up in dialogue with local people and partners. Most of the proposals group themselves into clusters reflecting shared concerns by councils and a shared analysis of what need to happen, on housing, transport, finance, action to support local high streets, working to tackle rising unemployment and working together to tackle climate change among many others. The shortlist is accordingly presented in these themes which we hope will be useful both for government in considering the proposals and to councils so they can develop their links with authorities with shared views.

The submissions we received were impressive, as the result of the dedicated work and dialogue through which the proposers developed them. There is a huge appetite for change and innovation across councils and a huge wealth of ideas.

As the Selector appointed under the Act, we have considered the proposals and compiled a shortlist, which is enclosed. I would like to pay tribute to the four voting members and substitute member who have worked with me on the Panel's day to day business; Councillor John Gyford, Councillor Roger Symonds, Councillor Suzanne Fletcher MBE and Councilman Robert Duffield.

The Act has generated momentum and expectation in communities up and down the country. For those communities it is important that we complete our discussions in a timely and effective way. I hope that the thematic approach detailed in the report, alongside the access that government has had to the proposals since their submission in July 09 will support us to discuss these proposals in an efficient manner. We hope that the process will be completed before the Easter recess so that councils can get on with the job of delivering for their local residents. I would be grateful if we could organise a series of meetings in January and February next year to this end.



*As Ever,
Keith R Mitchell*

Councillor Keith R Mitchell CBE
Chairman LGA Selector Panel

contents

supporting communities during a recession	4
reforming the local government finance system	6
tackling climate change locally	9
supporting cleaner and greener localities	12
waste minimisation and disposal	14
using the planning and regulatory system to support local communities	16
more effective transport systems	18
empowering communities and supporting engagement	20
delivering on housing	22
delivering effective local services	24
safer and stronger communities	25
annex A: the Sustainable Communities Act shortlist	26
annex B: proposals eliminated from the Sustainable Communities Act process	54

supporting communities during a recession

Core asks emerging from the shortlisted proposals include:

- that local authorities and groups of local authorities working together should be given greater powers and strategic control over funding for worklessness and skills;
- that local authorities should be given the flexibility to vary benefit rules to suit the local economy; and
- that local authorities should be given powers to use empty premises for community use.

A schedule of shortlisted proposals is available in annex A.

In a recession, some areas will be hit harder than others, and experience much higher rates of business failure and larger rises in unemployment. Previous recessions show that different areas also see very different rates of recovery in the job market. Few places actually perform at the national average. Although it is tempting to look for big ideas and national, catch-all initiatives, some of the most effective solutions are likely to be found in the action that is taken at the local level.

Helping local people and businesses in the recession and preparing for the recovery is a priority for many council leaders. Twenty-four per cent of councils responding to a Local Government Association (LGA) survey identified action on employment and training, and providing advice on unemployment, as one of their two highest priorities to ameliorate the impact of the downturn on their community.

greater local control and accountability for training and skills

The main programmes for helping people into work, the national employment and training programmes, are delivered through the Department for Work and Pensions, JobCentrePlus and the Learning and Skills Council. During these difficult times, it is more

important than ever that the decisions about employment and training are taken locally by people close to the economic reality – so that help can be effectively targeted on the needs of local people and employers. Similarly, government acknowledges the need to give local areas more control over guiding resources locally in *Smarter government*.

This means that the government's proposed reforms aimed at the devolution of economic decision making, funding and accountability become more, not less, important in the current recession. In particular, the LGA has called for the decisions and funding about adult employment support and skills provisions to be devolved to councils and groups of councils. The LGA has called for a number of actions from government in our publication *From recession to recovery II*. A number of proposals on the shortlist echo our call for a bigger council role over these programmes; some examples are provided below and the full list of shortlisted proposals is available in annex A.

The LGA shortlisted proposals from **Sheffield City Council, Oxfordshire County Council, Suffolk Coastal District Council and Kent County Council** which all seek greater control over the learning and skills responsibilities in their area.

Kent County Council are finding it difficult to agree a skills strategy for Kent during the transition from the Learning and Skills Council (which is being abolished in April 2010) to the Skills Funding Agency and Young Peoples Learning Agency. The council do not believe that national agencies can ensure that there is a close fit between local skills need and training provision. The council is confident that the local delivery of the functions held by these bodies would allow them to improve 16-19 year olds and adult skills in the county, take a more integrated approach to the delivery of education and training, ensure provision meets the needs of the sub-regional economy and enhance Kent's attractiveness to inward investors.



supporting local high streets and businesses

The LGA is calling for new powers to allow town halls to transform empty shops on a temporary basis during the recession. Shops that are currently standing empty could be used as training centres, libraries, bring-and-buy sale venues or youth clubs. **Islington and Lambeth London Borough Councils** called for these powers through their SCA proposals.

Empty business premises can make communities look neglected, push up property prices (because of lack of availability) and can attract further decline of the area. **Islington London Borough Council** propose to bring empty business premises back into use and make sure they do not create an eyesore for local communities. The council seeks a compulsion for owners/landlords of empty business premises (mainly shops) to talk to their local authority with a view to making empty premises available for community use if they have been empty for six months and a requirement that all business premises should be kept in a good and presentable condition.

supporting access to benefits

Darlington, South Somerset and Southampton councils all seek to facilitate access to benefits through a range of mechanisms in their SCA proposals.

These include:

- establishing a community allowance;
- encouraging volunteering by ensuring that it does not impact adversely on benefit entitlement.

reforming the local government finance system

Core asks emerging from the shortlisted proposals include:

- that local authorities should be given greater powers to influence the setting and retain national non domestic rates (NNDR) for investment in local priorities; and
- that local authorities should be given more flexibility to apply discretionary rate relief to businesses.

A schedule of shortlisted proposals is available in annex A.

Increased local discretion over local finance is central for promoting local accountability and growth. Currently local government is faced with a finance system where councils' own income represents only around a quarter of total net revenue expenditure. The LGA has consistently argued that, for the local government finance system to serve local democracy and local accountability, it is essential that local authorities are able to raise a greater proportion of their own income. Local authorities should also have a clearer picture of the public funding available in their area and have greater freedom to guide this in line with local priorities. The LGA's calls for greater transparency are mirrored in the work of the *Total Place* pilots and in the government's *Smarter government* report.

Over 10 per cent of the proposals submitted under round one of the Act sought changes in this area. The full list of shortlisted proposals is available at annex A and some examples of the kind of changes councils are seeking are detailed overleaf.

local retention of business rates

Relocalisation of business rates would restore local government's link with the business community and give it a share of the growth of the business tax base, thus allowing it access to

a more buoyant source of revenue. It would also support partnership working between businesses and local government. The present situation denies the opportunity of incentivising local authorities' interest in business as a customer, a driver of the local economy, and a recipient of basic services. The LGA's view is that a relocalised business rate provides the key to all those objectives.

St Albans City and District Council propose to collect and retain 10 per cent (amounting to approximately £6 million) of business rates to provide stronger support (locally) for small business set up, training, guidance and infrastructure projects benefiting local businesses.

Returning a proportion of business rates to council control would enable the local electorate to see a much more direct link between a council's policies and the levels of taxation. Amongst other areas the council propose to reinvest retained business rates to assist with the setting up and support of social enterprises in the district. For example, since last year councils in Hertfordshire have been working together to set up a countywide service through a new social enterprise, Hertfordshire Community Meals. Increased revenue would allow the council to explore the provision of other services for the elderly as well.

supporting local businesses through greater local control over business rate relief

Small businesses can claim back some of the rates they pay to the council through small business rate relief – but at the moment only around two thirds take it up. The LGA would like this to be made easier and extended to as many small businesses as possible. More local discretion on business rate relief would support councils to provide practical help to local businesses, essential during the current economic climate.

A number of local authorities submitted proposals that sought increased local discretion on business rate relief.



Many businesses in Birmingham do not claim the small business rate relief (SBRR) to which they are entitled, perhaps because they are unaware of the relief or they consider the benefit not to be worth the administrative cost of applying and; many businesses who are ineligible for SBRR are struggling under the cost of business rates, exacerbated by the recession.

Birmingham City Council is asking the government for two specific actions to support small businesses to take up the relief they are entitled to.

1. Increase the current ceiling on SBRR (currently applying to businesses that have a rateable value below £15,000 a year, or less than £21,500 in Greater London)
2. Give small businesses automatic rate relief rather than requiring them to apply for it within each revaluation period (as around 50 per cent of SBRR goes unclaimed).

The council feels this would have a profound effect on promoting the viability of small businesses by reducing their operating costs, thus removing a disincentive for individuals considering establishing a small business. This would particularly help smaller retailers, the independents who create choice, tourism and bring vibrancy to retail centres such as those in Birmingham as well as stimulating and protecting local jobs.



greater local flexibility over the council tax system

A number of councils including **Islington London Borough Council** and **Lewes District Council** seek increased flexibility with regards to rates charged on properties kept as second homes in their areas.

Average house prices in **Lewes district** are over £236,000 making affordable housing an important priority for improvement in the area. 0.7 per cent of privately owned homes in the district are used as second/holiday homes. The current second homes council tax legislation enables local authorities to offer a discount of between 10 per cent and 50 per cent of the full council tax payable for a property where it is classed as a second home. The council feels that this is not enough of a disincentive to ensure properties do not remain empty for long periods of time, including out of season periods when holiday properties are not in use.

The council propose that they should be given flexibility to set a council tax rate for second homes as deemed locally appropriate in the area and not be bound to providing a discount for second home owners.

tackling climate change locally

Core asks emerging from shortlisted proposals include:

- that government should enable councils to lead local delivery of programmes to insulate the existing housing stock;
- that government should give councils the power to promote locally-generated and low-carbon energy; and
- that government should give councils and resources to tackle flood risk and other extreme weather events.

A schedule of shortlisted proposals is available in annex A.

Climate change is the biggest long-term threat to our prosperity and well-being - managing the threat requires a radical de-carbonisation of the global economy, and significant technological change away from the use of fossil fuels. This is not only about large-scale action at international and national levels, but local and individual action too.

Councils are uniquely placed to tackle climate change and are the link between national aspirations and individual action. Through their local area agreements, over 90 per cent of councils have adopted targets to reduce emissions in their own operations or across their local area or targets to adapt to the effects of climate change.

The local government manifesto *From Kyoto to Kettering, Copenhagen to Croydon: local government's manifesto for building low-carbon communities* shows how many of the most forward thinking councils are leading the way, helping householders to cut journey times using public transport and to enjoy healthier lifestyles through walking and cycling, promoting new ways of generating energy and by transforming the energy efficiency of our homes, cutting

household fuel bills. This local action is cost-effective, co-ordinated and comprehensive. It is done with communities, co-ordinated by the councils that they elect and trust, and saves them money. It is built on the day-to-day connections councils have with householders – connections which will be essential as we scale up and replicate this activity across the country.

At the national level, government is putting in place new policies to meet its carbon reduction targets and transform our housing stock. These policies include the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT), the Community Energy Saving Programme (CESP), the Heat and Energy Saving Strategy (HESS), smart metering, feed-in tariffs, the Renewable Heat Incentive, zero-carbon new homes and changes to the building regulations. The number and quality of proposals submitted by councils shows how strongly the LGA arguments that councils need more scope to manage the delivery of local energy efficiency schemes and to encourage community scale renewable energy schemes, reflect the ambitions of our membership.

The full list of shortlisted proposals is available at annex A. Some examples of the kind of changes councils are seeking are detailed below.

A number of councils including **North Yorkshire County Council, South Hams District Council and South Somerset District Council** propose measures to incentivise home energy efficiency. These include actions such as:

- more support for home insulation programmes;
- increasing energy companies contributions towards insulation;
- making home insulation zero-VAT rated; and
- introducing feed-in tariffs.

Housing in South Somerset is characterised by many old, solid (non-cavity) wall homes, which are poorly insulated. As energy costs rise fuel poverty increases. Existing schemes help people to improve their home's energy efficiency, but these are limited and often inaccessible. **South Somerset District Council** propose a range of measures to support improved insulation including:

- expanding home insulation schemes;
- that all schemes, including the Warm Front scheme, should be promoting low or zero-carbon technologies, particularly in off-gas areas; and
- that VAT should be removed from home insulation materials and related trades.

Birmingham City Council, Lewes District Council and Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council argue for measures to promote local community scale renewables.

Birmingham City Council wants to promote local low- and zero-carbon generation by:

- removing barriers to the local grid. In particular lifting the ceilings on the use of private electricity wires to supply domestic customers, and on electricity exports onto the grid from private wires; and
- introducing/extending financial incentives to promote local renewable energy generation.

support for flood prevention and recovery

The floods in summer 2007 and more recently this year in Cumbria caused significant damage to people's lives and the environment. They provided an indication of the ongoing effects that flooding can have on individuals and communities in the UK and our vulnerability to the scale and nature of future extreme weather events and flood incidents.

As community leaders, local authorities have been identified as having a leadership role in adapting to climate change. The *Pitt review* and the flood and water management bill recognise this community leadership role as central to local flood risk management. Local authorities play a crucial role in identifying and responding to the needs of the community and working in partnership with a range of public and private organisations and agencies to reduce local flood risk.

The LGA received a number of proposals from authorities seeking greater powers to support flood prevention and recovery: the full list is available at annex A. The proposals included applications for flood sirens, greater powers to engage with the Environment Agency and for funding to be directed straight to local authorities who are better placed to work with partners and local communities to implement schemes that meet residents/business needs.

Norfolk County Council want to retain flood sirens in coastal communities to ensure there is a range of ways to alert the community to imminent flood risk. This will provide a back-up to the Environment Agency's flood alert system that contacts people by telephone. As remote coastal communities have poor mobile reception and in bad weather landlines can be unreliable, the council is keen to retain sirens, which are well understood by local people.

They also want to ensure that flood wardens and parish and town councils, who all have detailed local knowledge and expertise on flood risk and flood emergencies, are properly engaged by the Police and Environment Agency in all flood risk management and emergency planning.



supporting cleaner and greener localities

Core asks emerging from shortlisted proposals include:

- that councils should be given greater enforcement powers to tackle local issues such as fly posting, bins left on streets and properties that are detrimental to the local area; and
- that allotment legislation should be revised to encourage the provision and more flexible use of allotments.

A schedule of shortlisted proposals is available in annex A.

supporting cleaner and greener areas

Local environmental quality impacts on the whole community and is consistently rated as the most important issue for local people. A clean, green and safe neighbourhood will win support for and confidence in the council. Cleaner, greener environments can support and achieve objectives on health, employment, transport and education.

A cleaner well-used area creates a perception that it is cared-for and safe and helps discourage anti-social behavior and serious crime. High quality streets and public spaces also encourage investment and economic development, support regeneration and help areas to thrive, providing more local jobs and facilities.

Local authorities are ideally placed to initiate local partnerships, access funding and establish links to other services, objectives and strategies. Authorities can make local environmental quality a priority and secure support for this policy from local partners but they need some additional powers and flexibilities to strengthen their enforcement role and tackle some of the most persistent local environmental quality issues.

Nottingham City Council seek additional powers for councils to fine the keeper of a vehicle when someone in the vehicle has thrown litter or require the keeper to inform the council who threw the litter. This would make the keeper responsible for any offence committed from within their vehicle, in the same way as they are responsible for speeding offences. At present, a fixed penalty notice can only be issued to the offender and it is very difficult and often impossible for enforcement officers to be sure who actually threw the litter. Under the present guidelines councils should not issue a fixed penalty notice unless they are sure of the offender. If they do issue one and the vehicle keeper complies (either by paying the fine or telling the council who threw the litter), the council can conclude the case. If the vehicle keeper does not comply, there is nothing the council can do to take any further action. This means the compliant are punished and the non-compliant are not. 100 councils took part in a national campaign on littering from vehicles this summer. All were in favour of the proposed new power.

supporting local food growing and locally sourced produce

There has been resurgence in the demand for allotments over the past few years, in many urban areas waiting times for new applicants can be 10 years or more. Many councils cite the popularity of allotments as being down to the increasing attraction of 'growing your own' as part of a green and healthy lifestyle; the increasing scarcity of private garden space; and demand generated by recession with allotment gardening as a means of self-help in difficult times.

The LGA received a number of proposals relating to increased support for allotments from a range of authorities including

Birmingham City Council, Brighton and Hove City Council and Rother District Council.

A full list of proposals shortlist are available at annex A but in summary measures included:

- revising allotment legislation to encourage and facilitate local authorities to provide more allotments, community gardens, community orchards or market gardens;
- introducing automatic statutory allotment status for appropriate sites after an agreed period; and
- a change to the Allotment Act enabling the sale of grown produce. This will allow allotment holders to sell their surplus product to local shops.



waste minimisation and disposal

Core asks emerging from shortlisted proposals include:

- that landfill tax should be retained locally for investment in local priorities; and
- that local authorities should be given a lead role in co-ordinating waste collection across the board.

A schedule of shortlisted proposals is available in annex A.

reducing packaging and supporting recycling of waste

The best and cheapest option is to prevent waste at source. Regulations already exist to provide the incentive for waste producers to reduce waste, especially packaging waste and waste electronic and electrical equipment. Currently packaging reduction targets are driving much higher reductions within the commercial and industrial stream while leaving local authorities to pay the cost of disposal for packaging which ends up in the household bin.

The LGA would like to see greater producer responsibility which will help drive a more consistent collection offer from councils. We believe there is a need for strong leadership from government to accelerate the pace of progress made by industry on waste minimisation and recycling.

The LGA received a number of proposals from local authorities which sought to reduce packaging and encourage recycling, the full list is detailed at annex A. **Brighton and Hove City Council** for example wish to place a legal responsibility on supermarkets to reduce the amount of non-recyclable materials used in packaging and to provide recycling facilities for materials that are not recycled in the local household recycling collection. **Southwark**

London Borough Council is pursuing proposals for a national plastic bag free day.

commercial waste

Local authorities already collecting household waste from the area are well positioned to offer efficient services, including recycling, to local businesses. Councils could provide a service to their local businesses and could work to reduce the problems created by a multitude of separate collections carried out in the same urban centre, increased traffic congestion and pollution as well as littering/street-scene problems from the waste being put out at varying times.

However local authorities are actively discouraged from doing so by the government's performance framework which discourages local authorities from collecting business waste, as it is then considered municipal waste and comes into scope for the purposes of Local Authority Trading Scheme (LATS) which limits the amount of waste councils can landfill.

There is a great willingness to recycle amongst small business staff. At the moment many are taking their recyclates home and using their household recycling service. Local authority studies have shown this can apply to between 20 per cent and 70 per cent of small businesses placing a burden on council tax payers.

A number of councils including **Southampton City Council, City of York Council, Bristol City Council and Islington London Borough Council** have echoed the LGA's calls and have submitted proposals outlining ways to tackle the current waste disposal system. Measures proposed include:

- reducing commercial and industrial waste by making local authorities responsible for its collection and disposal;
- bringing commercial waste into councils' targets for increased recycling; and
- providing waste disposal authorities with an additional landfill tonnage allowance to take into account commercial waste activities.

landfill tax

Local councils face fines of £150 per tonne for exceeding their allowances under the LATS and the potential for unlimited European Union fines to be passed down from central government to councils.

Councils will face increasing financial pressures as the costs of landfill tax escalate over the coming years. In future, within the context of even tighter public sector funding settlements, the LGA believes there is a need for a radical rethink of the funding and approach to waste management.

Both **Essex County Council** and the **City of York Council** sought changes to the system so that all landfill tax and LATs penalties are returned to local authorities for local investment. In York the authority intends to invest this funding in further recycling, reduction, reuse and repair measures. The full list of proposals is available at annex A.



using the planning and regulatory system to support local communities



Core asks emerging from shortlisted proposals include:

- that local authorities should be given greater powers to preserve the character of their high streets and tackle concerns about public health and anti social behaviour;
- that existing barriers to the acquisition of land under compulsory purchase or temporary lease powers are removed; and
- that planning decisions are placed firmly in the hands of local people and the councillors that represent them.

A schedule of shortlisted proposals is available in annex A.

tackling over-saturation and promoting local high streets

It is generally accepted that a diverse mix of retail services (including shops, pubs and cinemas) contributes to the vitality of an area. However, the planning and licensing system gives councils little ability to influence the retail offer in their local areas. Councils cannot, for example, refuse planning permission to a chain outlet to prevent their high streets from becoming clone towns, or to a fast food outlet in a neighbourhood where the combination of easy access to fast food and limited access to fresh food is deemed to be having a negative impact on residents' health. Moreover, councils are also unable to prevent the loss of local services as a result of the demolition or conversion of business premises.

The proposals shortlisted under round one of the SCA seek powers to influence the retail offer in an area in three main ways (a full list is available at annex A);

1. **Limiting the concentration of certain types of businesses within a geographic area through changes to licensing policy.** For example **Darlington Borough Council** request a new legal power to

enable licensing committees to take account of representations about local views on 'sufficiency' in relation to the provision of premises from which alcohol can be bought. **Liverpool City Council** similarly seeks to use proximity and the effect on public health to be considered as grounds on planning and licensing applications.

2. **Banning the use of restrictive covenants on public houses when they are sold.** **Newcastle Upon Tyne City Council** and **Ryedale District Council** seek the power to remove restrictive covenants put on buildings such as pubs which are closed by national chains to prevent them from re-opening as a public house.
3. **Changing the use classes order** to make certain types of retail services subject to planning permission. For example **Bristol City Council, Oxford City Council and Islington London Borough Council** all seek changes to the planning use classes order and general permitted development order to help achieve and maintain diversity and vitality in shopping centres.

tackling neglected land

Neglected land¹ has been shown to have a negative impact on the general perception of local areas, deterring investment, becoming venues for crime and anti-social behavior and undermining feelings of public safety and community cohesion.

Councils currently have a range of powers, through statutory legislation and other methods, to deal with neglected land over the short and long-term. Proposals submitted under the SCA seek to speed up the current system and to make it more effective and efficient.

For example **Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council** propose changes to Section 215 notices and the compulsory purchase orders in the Building Act 1984 which are widely regarded by local authorities as protracted and cumbersome provisions. Trafford propose that the government give local authorities stronger powers to initiate action to secure land more quickly and place a requirement on owners to provide realistic proposals for change within a reasonable timeframe, or to allow the council to step in and serve notice on the owner to sell the property/site without undue delay and without the council incurring any costs. This call is echoed in a proposal received from **Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council**.

empowering communities through the planning and licensing process and devolving decision making

Bringing decision making as close to the local level as possible is a key theme running through a number of planning proposals made under the SCA. Councils are keen to engage communities more fully in the planning process and to move away from a system where they are constrained by targets and strategies set by regional level, unaccountable quangos.

Croydon London Borough Council propose to the government that the time has come to enable more planning decisions to be determined entirely at a more local level. By establishing local appeals boards to determine appeals on minor applications the council will reduce the number and type of cases which can be referred to the national Planning Inspectorate on appeal so that the Planning Inspectorate only need deal with 'major applications'.

¹ Land which is capable of some beneficial use but which is at present perceived as uncared for, untidy or in a condition detrimental to the environment

more effective transport systems



Core asks emerging from shortlisted proposals include:

- that local authorities are given greater flexibility to set appropriate speed limits and signage to enable better traffic management;
- more effective co-ordination between national, regional and local transport networks; and
- that local authorities are given greater powers to regulate and enforce parking.

A schedule of shortlisted proposals is available in annex A.

increased local influence over road networks

The LGA has consistently argued for devolution of powers and responsibility for transport to the local level. The powers that need devolving are largely those currently exercised directly by the Department for Transport and its agencies. The division of responsibilities is a complex one²; an individual journey may cross from the national to the local network at a number of points and at any point the traffic on a road may be a mixture of local and through traffic. Decisions about the national network may have an impact on local roads and vice versa.

The situation currently means that local decisions and plans for expanding or improving local transport networks can be overturned or affected by the Secretary of State and the Highways Agency regardless of local need and support. The LGA believes that authorities should be empowered to respond to the transport requirements of their communities, to do this national control via the Highways Agency and the Secretary of State must be limited only to infrastructure and networks that are of national strategic importance.

South Tyneside Metropolitan Borough Council

is seeking stronger powers to influence national and regional roads programmes to better meet local/sub-regional priorities. The council and the city region would wish to reinforce the need for the region to have a greater influence on adjusting the project delivery profiles of the Highways Agency major roads schemes so that the benefits of capacity enhancements that are planned and the potential opportunities that can be delivered, are maximised. This is best achieved by dealing with the strategic corridors in a holistic way, rather than on a 'project to project' basis and by ensuring that there is a requirement to reinforce this arrangement. It can also be enhanced by strengthening the existing joint working arrangements and building in flexibility to the Department for Transport project control framework.

² At present roads deemed to be of strategic national importance (motorways and trunk roads) are the responsibility of the Highways Agency. Responsibility for local roads lies with county and unitary councils. In London, London borough councils control the majority of the roads but the Mayor has control over strategic networks.

more flexibility to manage and maintain the local highways

Local authorities have a statutory responsibility to manage and maintain the local highways (this covers 95 per cent of roads in the UK). The LGA has consistently argued for more flexibility for local authorities to implement traffic control measures that are appropriate in their communities. Currently, local authorities are limited in the scope of actions at their disposal; for example authorities are required to seek approval from the Secretary of State before installing new signage in their locality that does not meet a pre-approved list, and have limited control over setting speed-limits and establishing parking regulations.

A number of councils have echoed the LGA's calls and have proposed increased flexibility for authorities to set speed limits and signage in a way that makes sense locally. For example **Redbridge London Borough Council** seek a review of the current signs regulations and general direction to relax the illumination requirements for some road signs. **Southwark London Borough Council** propose that the decision to introduce self-enforcing traffic calming measures in 20mph zones should be at the discretion of the local transport authority, rather than a statutory requirement.

A number of councils sought greater powers to manage traffic and parking.

For example **Leeds City Council** sought to extend the powers of civil enforcement officers to issue penalty charge notices for obstructive parking by an amendment to schedule 7 of the Traffic Management Act 2004. Amending the law to grant civil enforcement officers the power to issue penalty charge notices for obstructive parking would enable them to deal with motorists who cause a nuisance to other road users, including commercial and public vehicles as well as private motorists, public transport and pedestrians. Similar proposals seeking clarification and additional powers to regulate footways were received from **Birmingham City Council, Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council and Newcastle City Council**.



empowering communities and supporting engagement

Core asks emerging from shortlisted proposals include:

- that local people are given a greater say on the running and closure of local services.

A schedule of shortlisted proposals is available in annex A.

involving communities in the local democratic process

Local democracy, with strengthened powers and resources, is fundamental to building the resilience of local communities. There is a clear need to rebuild trust in democratic institutions and in this, the vital role of strengthened local democratic accountability, so people genuinely experience greater control over their own lives and surroundings, through democratic engagement. Through the LGA *local democracy campaign*, we have been working with local authorities to raise public awareness about opportunities to influence decisions through the ballot box, and to celebrate local democratic decision-making.

One quarter of people say that they would like to be more involved in the decisions that their council makes which affect their local area. Surveys show that local issues which councilors are responsible for – open spaces, anti-social behavior, refuse collection – have the biggest impact on people's quality of life. The SCA provides an opportunity for communities to have their say about issues that are important to the local area but that currently the council is constrained in its ability to act upon.

Bath and North East Somerset Council

propose that the voting age be reduced to 16 to recognise the right and ability of Bath and North East Somerset's youth to fully participate in public life. The council feels that this will increase the legitimacy of public institutions while enabling young people to become citizens in act as well as education during their formative years. It is proposed that everyone and young people in particular should be involved in local democracy and local communities to a greater extent. Similarly, **Waltham Forest London Borough Council** also seek powers to set a local voting age or age of representation.



increasing the accountability of local services

The LGA through its publication *Who's in charge?* has been investigating the quangos who are in charge of the £43 billion – nearly a tenth of public spending – accounted for by Non-Departmental Public Bodies – quangos.

Quangos do not face either the ballot box or systematic inspection and review. So it seems to us right that local government, which does, should play a role in the debate over the way in which quangos spend their money.

A number of local authorities submitted proposals under the SCA to seek to redress the balance in favour of local accountability.

For example **Essex County Council** seek the power to be able to define and enforce a set of local performance standards for government agencies and non-departmental public bodies that operate within Essex. Performance measures would be negotiated to reflect local circumstances, aspirations and the resources available and crucially, where quangos fail to meet agreed standards the council would have the license to intervene. This will help ensure that Essex communities receive the highest standards of service and good value for money regardless of which organisation has responsibility for delivery.



delivering on housing



Core asks emerging from shortlisted proposals include:

- all income collected from council housing rents and all receipts from right to buy sales of council homes should be retained at the local level for investment in local priorities.

A schedule of shortlisted proposals is available in annex A.

reforming housing revenue account subsidy arrangements

Authorities' strategic role in housing is an essential tool in shaping the places in which people live. When there are sufficient homes of the right price, type, design and quality housing can make its rightful contribution to the wider economic, social and environmental well-being of local communities. The challenge for local authorities is to develop a vision for their localities and to convene powerful local partnerships. These involve all sectors and tenures that deliver homes and places where people choose to live and can thrive.

The LGA document *Local housing, local solutions* argued that reform of council housing finance is essential to ensure that councils can deliver better services, better quality and additional housing for our residents. The current financial system makes providing ample, affordable, quality housing needlessly difficult and we are pleased that the government has responded positively to our proposals to dismantle the existing housing finance system and to replace it with self-financing housing revenue account arrangements (HRAs).

There is however uncertainty as to how the government's proposals will work and more importantly how debt (currently being paid for by the negative subsidy authorities) will be managed. It looks as though the 'overhanging

debt' £15.5 billion nationally will remain with these authorities. We continue to believe there is a very strong case for removing historic debt from the balance sheets of all councils, through the remaining debt being taken centrally and serviced by the government.

For example **South Kesteven District**

Council's housing revenue account (HRA) is significantly affected by the current national housing subsidy arrangements. In 2008/9 it had to pay some £5.8m rental income to the government and this level of payment is forecasted to rise significantly in future years. The council's HRA is only being kept in balance by the use of one-off reserves, a situation which cannot carry on indefinitely and is not helping to address the investment needed to improve the maintenance of the current stock or address the needs of those who need access to good quality social housing. If the council were able to retain all of its housing rent it would be able to:

- address the improvements that will be required from the latest comprehensive stock condition survey;
- increase energy efficiency and help address 'fuel poverty';
- invest in new affordable housing, built to the high range of the new sustainable house building code; and
- help meet the social housing needs of the 4,200 applicants on the housing waiting list.

There are 10 proposals that seek a reform of the HRA subsidy arrangements to enable councils to keep all of the revenue raised from council housing rents and echo that retention of the 'overhanging debt' is, in the words of **Stroud District Council** "unfair and unreasonable".

A £100m package to fund 900 local authority-built affordable homes was announced in the Budget in April 2009. In June, the package was extended with the aim of delivering a further 3,000 homes by March 2011. The first bidding round to access the funding closed on 31 July and a further bidding round closed on 31 October.

Securing a supply of housing for local people at affordable levels is the top priority of **South Hams District Council**. South Hams is amongst the least affordable places to live in the UK with one of the worst house price to income ratios, matched by an ever growing council housing register. In 2006 the average house price in the South Hams was £281,818, whereas the majority of people earn less than £20,000 per year.

South Hams recognise that new ways of stimulating the construction of affordable homes are desperately needed and propose that self-build affordable homes should be exempt from the housing register allocation system.

private sector housing

Evidence is now showing that at both a national and local level, the private rented sector is making an increased contribution to meeting housing needs, particularly as the economic recession and resultant reduction in the availability of finance make it harder for people to purchase their home. It is also clear that a healthy and well-managed private rented sector can encourage mobility amongst workers, and can provide economic benefits by ensuring that the labour market is sufficiently flexible to respond to changing circumstances.

A number of local authorities have submitted proposals under the SCA which seek to tackle issues that have arisen locally. Full details are available in annex A.



delivering effective local services



Core asks emerging from shortlisted proposals include:

- that councils should have a greater role in planning the post office network to ensure it responds to local needs.

A schedule of shortlisted proposals is available in annex A.

delivering an effective and locally responsive post office service

Securing the future of local post offices was a key theme in many proposals received by the LGA. Post offices quite clearly play a vital social and economic role in many communities, by helping to make small businesses, such as village shops, viable and providing local access to basic services such as access to cash. They are also often at the hub of community life and are particularly important to disadvantaged groups and elderly people.

Local councils should play a key role in any restructuring of the network because of their knowledge of local communities, local transport systems and topography. A shortlisted proposal from **Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council** reflects the desire of local authorities to input into the planning of the network.

The LGA has been working with council representatives, Post Office Ltd and the National Federation of Sub Postmasters to discuss how to make it easier for the post office and councils to work together to provide council services through post offices.

What was also clear amongst proposals was a concern that the current closure programme would be reopened. The LGA

received a number of proposals asking that the government commit or legislate to ensure the network remained at its existing size which reflects the value that local communities attach to their local office.

The proposals received under the SCA demonstrate there remains considerable appetite for extending the role of post offices, including providing payment services and access to a wide range of services.

Sheffield City Council propose that the council should be given responsibility for maintaining and sustaining the post office network in the local area. In practice, this would mean that the council would broker deals with third party operators (in return for grant funding) which:

- takes into account local need and resident preferences – in Sheffield this means using their local intelligence to identify the provision that is needed in each community and working closely with local communities to agree local service standards; and
- meets all the national requirements as set out by government and Post Office Limited.

The council's starting point is to consider what is best for their local communities, and to think about a comprehensive approach to the network in Sheffield.

safer and stronger communities

Core asks emerging from shortlisted proposals include:

- that local authorities are given greater powers to tackle crime and antisocial behaviour.

A schedule of shortlisted proposals is available in annex A.

In the LGA's 2008 *Putting people first* survey, 88 per cent of leaders and chief executives identified crime and fear of crime as a top priority for their residents – the highest in the survey. While crime, anti-social behaviour and fear of crime have all been reducing since 1995, the trend has levelled in the last two years, with crime expected to rise with the recession. Although subject to substantial regional and local variation, we are already seeing increases in burglary, knife-related robbery, and concern about gun and knife crime, particularly in urban areas where gang violence is prevalent.

The LGA's Safer Communities Board is working to make a strong case for local people to have a greater say over policing in their area and to support the integration of neighbourhood policing with local services.

Nottingham City Council seek to increase the enforcement 'tools' at their disposal to tackle neighbourhood nuisance issues that we know are of concern to local residents. This would result in improvements in neighbourhoods and an increase in community wellbeing. There is also evidence to suggest that low level anti-social behaviour (ASB) and a poor quality environment can encourage more serious crime and deterioration in the neighbourhood; the proposal will help tackle these issues more effectively before they escalate. Having the new powers would allow more early intervention with perpetrators as research shows that 93 per cent of perpetrators of ASB will stop offending with up to three early warnings.



annex A: the Sustainable Communities Act shortlist

Theme	Sub theme	Lead authority	Proposal submitted jointly	Proposal	Panel decision	Comments
Supporting communities during a recession.	Greater control and accountability for skills and training.	Bristol City Council		Amend the Local Government and Housing Act to support the employment of young people and people with learning difficulties, specifically within local authorities.	Progress to shortlist.	
Supporting communities during a recession.	Greater control and accountability for skills and training.	Kent County Council		The transfer of functions of the Skills Funding Agency and Young Peoples Learning Agency in regard to the county of Kent be devolved to Kent County Council.	Progress to shortlist.	
Supporting communities during a recession.	Greater control and accountability for skills and training.	Oxfordshire County Council		The council is seeking the transfer of funding of the Learning and Skills Council adult education and training budget to a local body to set up a local training and advice service.	Progress to shortlist.	Kent County Council, Hertfordshire County Council and the South East Leaders Group have expressed formal support for this proposal.
Supporting communities during a recession.	Greater control and accountability for skills and training.	Sheffield City Council		Actions to support adult learning, skills and employment, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the creation of an Adult Learning, Skills and Employment Trust that establishes collective accountability for delivery and performance at the local level, mirroring the planning responsibilities and accountabilities of existing Children's Trust arrangements; • the introduction of a framework that reconciles local commissioning and centralised procurement. 	Progress to shortlist.	
Supporting communities during a recession.	Greater control and accountability for skills and training.	Warrington Borough Council		Supporting people beyond work placements, into full time, paid employment and fundamentally creating these opportunities. Through actions including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • allowing local authorities to recycle all or a proportion of saved incapacity/disability benefits for reinvest into the service; • reviewing the permitted earnings rule to support benefit/work balance, the 16 hour training limit and incentives to stay in employment. 	Progress to shortlist.	This proposal seeks similar outcomes to that from South Somerset District Council.
Supporting communities during a recession.	Greater control and accountability for skills and training.	West Lancashire District Council		To re-direct funding for training contracts to local authorities, to ensure locality-specific training needs can be addressed and enable the establishment of practical learning/training and social enterprise business hubs.	Progress to shortlist.	
Supporting communities during a recession.	Supporting our high streets and businesses.	Islington London Borough Council		A compulsion for owners/landlords of empty business premises (mainly shops) to talk to their local authority with a view to making empty premises available for community use if it has been empty for six months and a requirement that all business premises to be kept in a good and presentable condition.	Progress to shortlist.	

annex A: the Sustainable Communities Act shortlist

Theme	Sub theme	Lead authority	Proposal submitted jointly	Proposal	Panel decision	Comments
Supporting communities during a recession.	Supporting our high streets and businesses.	Lambeth London Borough Council		Part 1) New legal powers for councils to compel a freeholder to make a commercial property available for temporary use by third sector/social enterprise if it has been vacant for a specified period of time (6 months is suggested).	Part 1) Progress to shortlist.	Part 2) Amendments to national non domestic rates (NNDR) legislation to allow such properties to be exempt from business rates. Part 2) Eliminate Rationale: Viability and credibility domain.
Supporting communities during a recession.	Supporting our high streets and businesses.	South Somerset District Council		This proposal asks government to help public sector organisations to support their local economies by procuring more goods and services from local suppliers.	Progress to shortlist.	This proposal seeks similar outcomes to that from Warrington Borough Council.
Supporting communities during a recession.	Supporting our high streets and businesses.	West Lancashire District Council		Lobbying for changes to the Treaty of Rome (which prevents the council from favouring local suppliers and workers in tender exercises) to encourage economic stimulus.	Progress to shortlist.	
Supporting communities during a recession.	Supporting our high streets and businesses.	Windsor & Maidenhead Royal Borough		To devolve the provision of information, diagnosis and brokerage (IDB) services and their associated budgets, to the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead.	Progress to shortlist.	
Supporting communities during a recession.	Supporting access to benefits.	Darlington Borough Council		Facilitating access to welfare benefits for those in low paid work and/or those who are volunteering.	Progress to shortlist.	
Supporting communities during a recession.	Supporting access to benefits.	Essex County Council		The duty to set the eligibility criteria and amounts payable for all working age benefits for all claimants in Essex be devolved from central government to the council.	Progress to shortlist.	
Supporting communities during a recession.	Supporting access to benefits.	South Somerset District Council		To establish a community allowance, enabling long-term unemployed people to undertake a small amount of paid work without it affecting their benefits.	Progress to shortlist.	
Supporting communities during a recession.	Miscellaneous.	Birmingham City Council		Part 1) Introduce accelerated development zones (ADZs) to fund the provision of new capital infrastructure such as transport, major cultural facilities and housing. Part 2) Allow the council to retain the increase in business rate in an ADZ area for an agreed number of years to pay for the infrastructure provided in the zone.	Progress to shortlist.	
Supporting communities during a recession.	Miscellaneous.	Essex County Council		Change the definition of 'NEETs' (Not in education, employment or training) to recognize participation in youth initiatives and formal volunteering programmes as valid alternatives to education, training and employment.	Progress to shortlist.	

annex A: the Sustainable Communities Act shortlist

Theme	Sub theme	Lead authority	Proposal submitted jointly	Proposal	Panel decision	Comments
Supporting communities during a recession.	Miscellaneous.	Hammersmith and Fulham London Borough Council		Part 2) Councils be set free to manage regeneration resources and their housing assets in a more sensible way based on what is right for the local area.	Part 2) Progress to shortlist.	Part 1) Councils be given the statutory duty to improve neighbourhoods where there are concentrations of deprivation Part 1) Eliminate. Rationale: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Viability and credibility. • Does not require assistance of the Secretary of State (SoS).
Supporting communities during a recession.	Miscellaneous.	Islington London Borough Council		Amend legislation which restricts the freedom of the council to require its contractors to pay the London living wage.	Progress to shortlist.	
Supporting communities during a recession.	Miscellaneous.	Sheffield City Council		To allow asylum seekers the right to work in the city once their application for asylum has been received.	Progress to shortlist.	The Selector Panel felt this proposal would work particularly well as a pilot.
Reforming the local government finance system.	Local retention of business rates.	Chorley Borough Council		Give councils the power to retain a proportion of the revenue from business rates to be spent on local priorities or to have the power to raise revenue through this mechanism by giving powers back to local authorities to set a local levy.	Progress to shortlist.	
Reforming the local government finance system.	Local retention of business rates.	Borough of Poole		For greater flexibility to be given to local authorities on spending of ring fenced grants.	Progress to shortlist.	
Reforming the local government finance system.	Local retention of business rates..	Borough of Poole		The ability to retain and influence the setting of the national non-domestic rate collected by the authority.	Progress to shortlist.	
Reforming the local government finance system.	Local retention of business rates.	City of York Council		That business rates are retained locally for spending on sustainability (including economic) by council.	Progress to shortlist.	
Reforming the local government finance system.	Local retention of business rates.	Exeter City Council		For government to give Exeter City Council the power to retain revenue from locally imposed non-domestic rates on store car parking spaces, with the power for the council to allow discounts to stores that source at least 30 per cent of goods from within 30 miles of Exeter (and which are not first transported to a distribution centre more than 30 miles away).	Progress to shortlist.	
Reforming the local government finance system.	Local retention of business rates..	Islington London Borough Council		For local authorities to keep and spend business rates collected in their area to spend on local services and priorities.	Progress to shortlist.	

annex A: the Sustainable Communities Act shortlist

Theme	Sub theme	Lead authority	Proposal submitted jointly	Proposal	Panel decision	Comments
Reforming the local government finance system.	Local retention of business rates.	Kingston upon Thames Royal Borough Council		Kingston should be able to keep a proportion of the business rates collected which would be ring-fenced for investment in programmes that contributed to local economic and social sustainability.	Progress to shortlist.	
Reforming the local government finance system.	Local retention of business rates.	Liverpool City Council		Allow local authorities to retain business rates for local spending.	Progress to shortlist.	
Reforming the local government finance system.	Local retention of business rates.	St Albans City and District Council		Councils to be allowed to collect and retain 10 per cent of business rates to provide stronger support (locally) for small business set up, training, guidance and infrastructure projects benefiting local businesses.	Progress to shortlist.	
Reforming the local government finance system.	Local retention of business rates.	Warwick District Council		Local retention of business rates to be spent on locally determined priorities.	Progress to shortlist.	
Reforming the local government finance system.	Local retention of business rates.	Westminster City Council		For a proportion of the business rates collected in the city to be ring fenced so that the city council can invest in its city recovery programme and economic development related activities.	Progress to shortlist.	
Reforming the local government finance system.	Supporting local businesses through greater control over business rate relief.	Birmingham City Council		Promoting small business by increasing rate relief. This could include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increasing the current ceiling on small business rate relief (currently applying to businesses that have a rateable value below £15,000 a year, or less than £21,500 in Greater London); and • giving small businesses automatic rate relief rather than requiring them to apply for it within each revaluation period (as around 50 per cent of small business rate relief goes unclaimed). 	Progress to shortlist.	
Reforming the local government finance system.	Supporting local businesses through greater control over business rate relief.	Brighton & Hove City Council		That national government introduce a business rates local protection scheme which gives councils the authority to offer discretionary business rate relief to encourage and sustain small and medium local businesses.	Progress to shortlist.	The council have confirmed they are seeking powers to establish a local scheme to tailor the threshold for rate relief. This scheme would be established in dialogue with the community and key partners.
Reforming the local government finance system.	Supporting local businesses through greater control over business rate relief.	Central Bedfordshire Council		The introduction of a five year discretionary rate relief for small businesses in the area operating the development and production of low-carbon technologies related to this sector.	Progress to shortlist.	

annex A: the Sustainable Communities Act shortlist

Theme	Sub theme	Lead authority	Proposal submitted jointly	Proposal	Panel decision	Comments
Reforming the local government finance system.	Supporting local businesses through greater control over business rate relief.	Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council		Enable local authorities to encourage local businesses to promote sustainability through the business rates reliefs system.	Progress to shortlist.	
Reforming the local government finance system.	Supporting local businesses through greater control over business rate relief.	East Lindsey District Council		To allow the council to retain a proportion of national non domestic rates received from caravan parks for reinvestment into local community renewal projects, flood alleviation schemes, emergency planning measures, community enterprise schemes and town/village enhancements.	Progress to shortlist.	
Reforming the local government finance system.	Supporting local businesses through greater control over business rate relief.	Lambeth London Borough Council		Variable national non-domestic rates for those businesses that deliver social benefits	Progress to shortlist.	
Reforming the local government finance system.	Supporting local businesses through greater control over business rate relief.	South Gloucestershire Council		Automatic rate relief for business.	Progress to shortlist.	
Reforming the local government finance system.	Supporting local businesses through greater control over business rate relief.	South Hams District Council		That the government gives local authorities the power to apply rate relief to businesses that earn 50 per cent of their turnover from selling local foods and goods and that this be fully funded by central government.	Progress to shortlist.	The council have suggested an approach similar to the red tractor scheme.
Reforming the local government finance system.	Supporting local businesses through greater control over business rate relief.	Waltham Forest London Borough Council		Government is asked to introduce legislation which will allow councils to offer discounts on business rates based on locally-set criteria. The funding for these discounts would be borne by the local authority but this would be offset against the benefit to the local community (eg businesses who agree to recycle a high proportion of their trade waste or work with the council to recruit local unemployed people).	Progress to shortlist.	
Reforming the local government finance system.	Increased flexibility over the council tax system.	Islington London Borough Council		Empty homes puts enormous pressure on existing houses and pushes up the price of homes. The council would like to see local authorities being given greater freedom to taper council tax to discourage people from leaving properties empty.	Progress to shortlist.	
Reforming the local government finance system.	Increased flexibility over the council tax system.	Lewes District Council		Councils should be able to set increased council tax rates for properties kept solely as second homes or used as holiday lets.	Progress to shortlist.	
Reforming the local government finance system.	Miscellaneous.	Westminster City Council		That the government abandons its current methodology for calculating local authority area population estimates and instead works with the council to establish a more accurate methodology.	Progress to shortlist.	

annex A: the Sustainable Communities Act shortlist

Theme	Sub theme	Lead authority	Proposal submitted jointly	Proposal	Panel decision	Comments
Tackling climate change locally.	More support for local authorities to roll out renewables.	Birmingham City Council		That the government promote local renewable energy by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • removing barriers to the local grid. In particular lifting the ceilings on the use of private electricity wires to supply domestic customers, and on electricity exports onto the grid from private wires; and • introducing/extending financial incentives to promote local renewable energy generation. 	Progress to shortlist.	This proposal seeks similar objectives to a proposal received from Lewes District Council.
Tackling climate change locally.	More support for local authorities to roll out renewables.	Lewes District Council		That the Secretary of State develops a strategy to enable councils to promote local energy schemes and in particular review the requirements regarding private wire systems.	Progress to shortlist.	This proposal seeks similar outcomes to a proposal from Birmingham City Council.
Tackling climate change locally.	More support for local authorities to roll out renewables.	Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council		That government should incentivize the generation of power within local communities' for local consumption.	Progress to shortlist.	
Tackling climate change locally.	Better incentives for home energy efficiency.	North Yorkshire County Council	Craven District Council, Hambleton District Council, Richmondshire District Council, Ryedale District Council and Scarborough Borough Council.	That the government introduces a range of measures to promote energy efficiency including a 5 year programme to insulate every school and hospital, fund insulation for one million homes with a subsidy for one million more, build 40,000 extra zero carbon social houses, install energy and money saving meters in every home within 5 years.	Progress to shortlist.	This proposal seeks similar objectives to shortlisted proposals from South Hams District Council and South Somerset District Council.
Tackling climate change locally.	Better incentives for home energy efficiency.	South Hams District Council		Promoting local renewable energy provision through a range of actions including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • feed in tariffs; • funding for Energy Service Companies (ESCOs); • support for local heat distribution networks; • research on the export of biogas to the gas grid; • investment in generating public awareness. 	Progress to shortlist.	This proposal seeks similar objectives to shortlisted proposals from North Yorkshire County Council and South Somerset District Council.

annex A: the Sustainable Communities Act shortlist

Theme	Sub theme	Lead authority	Proposal submitted jointly	Proposal	Panel decision	Comments
Tackling climate change locally.	Better incentives for home energy efficiency.	South Somerset District Council		<p>Improve home insulation and other energy saving measures in people's homes, with a priority for older people, the 'near poor' and 'hard to treat' housing stock. Through key actions such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • funding for a regional housing condition survey; • expanding home insulation schemes; • transfer tendering responsibility for delivering existing schemes (such as Warm Front) to local Home Improvement Agencies; • increase the top slicing of 10 per cent from energy companies to fund home insulation grants; • increase energy company contributions towards insulation; • a grant of up to £500 towards a home audit; • ensure existing schemes promote low or zero-carbon (LZC) technologies; and • making home insulation zero-VAT rated. 	Progress to shortlist.	This proposal seeks similar objectives to shortlisted proposals from North Yorkshire County Council and South Somerset Hams District Council.
Tackling climate change locally.	Provision of information from energy suppliers.	Birmingham City Council		Utility companies to provide regular, up to date, weather corrected CO2e data, resultant from domestic and business electricity and gas consumption, on a neighbourhood scale, to local authorities and local strategic partnerships for public use.	Progress to shortlist.	
Tackling climate change locally.	Provision of information from energy suppliers.	Wiltshire Council		Government should make it mandatory for utility companies to publish or make available aggregate figures for utility usage on a community basis. This could then be used by the local authority and community groups to monitor actual usage figures to help inform sustainability planning.	Progress to shortlist.	
Tackling climate change locally.	Building regulations to support sustainability.	Cambridge City Council		<p>The City Council urges government to act quickly to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • make it much easier to introduce renewable energy schemes; • legislate to require high energy efficiency standards for all new buildings before 2016. 	Progress to shortlist.	
Tackling climate change locally.	Building regulations to support sustainability.	South Somerset District Council		Ensure that any new-build housing development provides some of its own energy from renewable resources.	Progress to shortlist.	
Tackling climate change locally.	Building regulations to support sustainability.	West Dorset District Council	Dorset County Council, Purbeck District Council.	Developers should be mandated to attain the highest practical Code for sustainable homes levels (or equivalent BREEAM rating) in all new developments.	Progress to shortlist.	
Tackling climate change locally.	Support for flood prevention and recovery.	Norfolk County Council		<p>Part 1) To retain flood sirens in coastal communities.</p> <p>Part 2) To ensure better engagement by the Environment Agency and Police with parish and town councils and flood wardens.</p>	Progress to shortlist.	

annex A: the Sustainable Communities Act shortlist

Theme	Sub theme	Lead authority	Proposal submitted jointly	Proposal	Panel decision	Comments
Tackling climate change locally.	Support for flood prevention and recovery.	Oxford City Council		To give the council consenting and enforcement powers for work on ordinary watercourses.	Progress to shortlist.	
Tackling climate change locally.	Support for flood prevention and recovery.	South Gloucestershire Council		That the Secretary of State give sympathetic consideration to the establishment of a consultant study, charged with determining the causes of this flooding, and recommending remedial measures to support the prevention of flooding in the village of Aust.	Progress to shortlist.	
Tackling climate change locally.	Support for flood prevention and recovery.	South Hams District Council		The government should extend powers and funding to local authorities to support local action that will help communities adapt green spaces to climate change and reduce emissions of greenhouse gases from land management activities.	Progress to shortlist.	The council have clarified they are seeking provisions to the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (s. 84 and 85). This includes 3 possible actions: 1) To reword obligations to include 'maintaining ecological services in a changing climate' 2) To make green infrastructure plans an obligation for all councils. 3) Through discussions around the Flood and Water Management bill.
Tackling climate change locally.	Support for flood prevention and recovery.	West Oxfordshire District Council		Part 2) Central government make funding of local flood relief schemes direct to local authorities, who can then work with partners and local communities to implement schemes that meet residents/business needs.	Part 2) Progress to shortlist.	Part 1 - Government revises it grant in aid (FDGIA), which administered by the Environment Agency on behalf of DEFRA. Part 1: Eliminate. Rationale: • Viability and credibility domain. • Impact on Sustainability.
Tackling climate change locally.	Miscellaneous.	Brighton and Hove City Council		To increase financial incentives and assistance to local homeowners, including landlords, to install micro-renewable energy sources in their properties.	Progress to shortlist.	This proposal seeks similar outcomes to a shortlisted proposal from Lewisham London Borough Council.
Tackling climate change locally.	Miscellaneous.	Bristol City Council		Establish the requirement for the statutory consideration of biodiversity/eco-footprint in planning applications.	Progress to shortlist.	
Tackling climate change locally.	Miscellaneous.	City of York Council		Accelerate actions regarding the creation of low carbon communities; specifically ensuring energy is generated in the community via renewable energy projects. In addition, the proposal requests that such accelerated actions should also ensure that any money generated through such schemes is recycled back into local community projects.	Progress to shortlist.	

annex A: the Sustainable Communities Act shortlist

Theme	Sub theme	Lead authority	Proposal submitted jointly	Proposal	Panel decision	Comments
Tackling climate change locally.	Miscellaneous.	Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council		Part 2) Recycling of plastics and packaging to be enhanced, working with supermarkets. Part 3) A national policy change that would require carbon monoxide detectors to be fitted as standard in all new homes.	Part 2 and part 3: Progress to shortlist	Part 1) The installation of renewable energy/lighting/heating sources by households and the provision of renewable energy lighting schemes at amenities such as multi-use games areas. Part 1: Eliminate. Rationale: Does not require assistance from the SoS.
Tackling climate change locally.	Miscellaneous.	Liverpool City Council		Additional powers for local authorities, in access of the decent homes standard, to set locally appropriate standards for home energy efficiency and sustainability. This standard would ensure that all providers of housing act so as to promote energy conservation and sustainable forms of living. This will allow them to more effectively address local issues of energy and fuel poverty.	Progress to shortlist.	
Tackling climate change locally.	Miscellaneous.	Ryedale District Council	Craven District Council, Hambleton District Council, Richmondshire District Council, Selby District Council and Scarborough Borough Council.	Regulation of the price of bottled gas/liquid petroleum gas (LPG).	Progress to shortlist.	
Tackling climate change locally.	Miscellaneous.	South Hams District Council		That the government introduces a new policy and provides financial support or tax incentives to introduce a range of new 'green initiatives'.	Progress to shortlist.	
Tackling climate change locally.	Miscellaneous.	Southampton City Council		To set up a regional energy service company to promote the provision and use of more sustainable energy and heat, including renewables, within Southampton/the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH) area.	Progress to shortlist.	The council have clarified that they are seeking a localisation of the feed in tariff rate or discretion over tariff setting.
Tackling climate change locally.	Miscellaneous.	Teignbridge District Council		Government to review restrictions on conservation of buildings to allow the use of more energy efficient materials.	Progress to shortlist.	
Tackling climate change locally.	Miscellaneous.	Wiltshire Council		Introduce facilities for storing electrical energy generated by renewables, such as wind, solar and tidal through the use of compressed-air energy storage (CAES).	Progress to shortlist.	

annex A: the Sustainable Communities Act shortlist

Theme	Sub theme	Lead authority	Proposal submitted jointly	Proposal	Panel decision	Comments
Supporting cleaner and greener localities.	Support for allotments and local food growing.	Birmingham City Council		Increase local food production by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> revising allotment legislation to encourage and facilitate local authorities to provide more allotments, community gardens, community orchards or market gardens; introducing automatic statutory allotment status for appropriate sites after an agreed period; and that the latter should apply to local authority or privately owned sites and should compel the landowner to develop the land for allotment use. 	Progress to shortlist.	The council clarified that they would like their proposal to apply only to those sites where ownership is not clear or cannot be traced after an agreed period or where the owner is in agreement.
Supporting cleaner and greener localities.	Support for allotments and local food growing.	Brighton & Hove City Council		A change to the Allotment Act enabling the sale of grown produce. This will allow allotment holders to sell their surplus product to local shops.	Progress to shortlist.	
Supporting cleaner and greener localities.	Support for allotments and local food growing.	Brighton & Hove City Council		That national planning policy, specifically planning policy statement 1, is changed to explicitly support localised food systems, thereby encouraging the provision of food infrastructure including urban and peri-urban abattoirs, bakeries, dairies and food hubs.	Progress to shortlist.	This proposal should be implemented as a permissive power.
Supporting cleaner and greener localities.	Support for allotments and local food growing.	Rother District Council		Part 4) a national campaign for legislation to be put in place to facilitate change of use for land.	Part 4) Progress to shortlist.	Part 1) LAs should be required to protect allotment land and where possible increase its supply. Part 2) All residents should live 10 minutes walk from an allotment. Part 3) Duty for LAs to support the provision of allotments where a need can be demonstrated. Eliminate. Rationale: Viability and credibility domain.
Supporting cleaner and greener localities.	Supporting cleaner and greener areas.	Nottingham City Council		That the Government make changes to legislation to help tackle the following issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> fly posting; bins left on streets; properties that are detrimental to the amenity of the neighbourhood, and <ul style="list-style-type: none"> littering from cars. 	Progress to shortlist.	

annex A: the Sustainable Communities Act shortlist

Theme	Sub theme	Lead authority	Proposal submitted jointly	Proposal	Panel decision	Comments
Supporting cleaner and greener localities.	Supporting cleaner and greener areas.	Waltham Forest Borough Council		Alter the powers available to councils to deal with fly tipping, waste and graffiti on privately owned land and buildings to allow the council to take immediate action where necessary, or reduce the time before an intervention can be made, where we deem there to be a risk to health, safety or the environment.	Progress to shortlist.	
Supporting cleaner and greener localities.	Supporting cleaner and greener areas.	Wiltshire Council		Increase the tax on chewing gum to 200 per cent and devolve excess revenue to local authorities to fund cleaning up discarded gum.	Progress to shortlist.	
Supporting cleaner and greener localities.	Miscellaneous.	Herefordshire Council		That the Herefordshire Black Mountains is designated as an area of outstanding national beauty.	Progress to shortlist.	
Supporting cleaner and greener localities.	Miscellaneous.	Oxford City Council		That the government increases the size of the government fund for grants (low carbon building programme), extends its life, and amends it eligibility criteria to ensure that grants can be accessed by Industrial and Provident Societies for the benefit of the community, or sets up a new fund.	Progress to shortlist.	This proposal included 25 sub proposals. 6 of these sub proposals were progressed to the shortlist.
Supporting cleaner and greener localities.	Miscellaneous.	Oxford City Council		Increase the size of grants offered by the governments warm front scheme, and amend the eligibility criteria so that they can be used to address hard to treat properties and accessed by people in fuel poverty whether or not they receive benefits. Or, provide councils with the funds to reintroduce the local fuel poverty grant to complement Warm Front.		
Supporting cleaner and greener localities.	Miscellaneous.	Oxford City Council		The government provides the council/s with the powers to make energy saving measures, in particular efficient lighting appropriate levels of lighting a requirement for businesses to trade in an area.		
Supporting cleaner and greener localities.	Miscellaneous.	Oxford City Council		The government provides interest free loans to householders to retrofit their house which are <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • repayable over the period that it takes them to recoup the investment cost through savings in energy bills; and • are transferable to subsequent owners /tenant to dissuade short-sightedness. 		
Supporting cleaner and greener localities.	Miscellaneous.	Oxford City Council		The government makes the purchase of shares in Industrial and Provident Societies for the benefit of the community tax exempt (e.g. for community owned renewable energy projects).		
Supporting cleaner and greener localities.	Miscellaneous.	Oxford City Council		The government provides the council/s with the powers to ban the use of plastic bags or levy a tax on them, and makes recycling of waste a condition of a trading area.		

annex A: the Sustainable Communities Act shortlist

Theme	Sub theme	Lead authority	Proposal submitted jointly	Proposal	Panel decision	Comments
Waste minimisation and disposal.	Landfill tax.	Brighton & Hove City Council		To place a legal responsibility on supermarkets to reduce the amount of non-recyclable materials used in packaging and to provide recycling facilities for materials that are not recycled in the local household recycling collection.	Progress to shortlist.	
Waste minimisation and disposal.	Landfill tax.	Bristol City Council		Place a tax on the purchase of plastic bags by retailers.	Progress to shortlist.	
Waste minimisation and disposal.	Landfill tax.	City of York Council		This proposal requests that all landfill tax and LATS penalties (where appropriate) are returned to local authorities for investment in further recycling, reduction, reuse and repair measures.	Progress to shortlist.	
Waste minimisation and disposal.	Landfill tax.	Essex County Council		That Essex County Council be allowed to retain money that it would otherwise have paid to the exchequer in landfill tax. All retained money will be committed to fund projects and programmes to improve local environmental sustainability.	Progress to shortlist.	
Waste minimisation and disposal.	Landfill tax.	Southwark Council		Establish a national plastic bag free day to coincide with the international event.	Progress to shortlist.	
Waste minimisation and disposal.	Landfill tax.	Warwick District Council		That the government return one per cent of the landfill tax revenue raised locally (within the district) to be used solely by local authorities/voluntary sector to help increase recycling rates.	Progress to shortlist.	
Waste minimisation and disposal.	Commercial waste, packaging and recycling.	Bristol City Council		Reduce commercial and industrial waste by making local authorities responsible for its collection and disposal. This would ensure that local authorities are responsible for the waste stream in its entirety which would allow for a more joined-up approach which would in turn a reduction in waste combined with greater reuse and recycling.	Progress to shortlist.	
Waste minimisation and disposal.	Commercial waste, packaging and recycling.	City of York Council		Bring commercial waste into councils' targets for increased recycling: The inclusion of waste from small and medium businesses in the LATS hinders the development of recycling services for small and medium enterprises. Government should make appropriate adjustments to LATS targets when a council can demonstrate that it is developing more sustainable services for business.	Progress to shortlist.	
Waste minimisation and disposal.	Commercial waste, packaging and recycling.	City of York Council		This proposal requests consideration for a change in legislation, so that producers of packaging, such as supermarkets, have an obligation to take it back at their stores locally for reuse or recycling.	Progress to shortlist.	

annex A: the Sustainable Communities Act shortlist

Theme	Sub theme	Lead authority	Proposal submitted jointly	Proposal	Panel decision	Comments
Waste minimisation and disposal.	Commercial waste, packaging and recycling.	Islington London Borough Council		Increase the amount of waste that businesses recycle by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • requiring all businesses to have a contract for the disposal of waste by recycling; • ensuring that all businesses hold, on site, a 'duty of care' or 'waste transfer note' detailing the types and amounts of waste processed through recycling; • empowering local authorities and the Environment Agency to enforce the new requirement. 	Progress to shortlist.	
Waste minimisation and disposal.	Commercial waste, packaging and recycling.	Southampton City Council		That government provide waste disposal authorities with an additional landfill tonnage allowance to take into account commercial waste activities.	Progress to shortlist.	
Using the planning and regulatory system to support local communities.	Tackling oversaturation and promoting local high streets.	Bristol City Council		Changes to the planning use classes order and general permitted development order to help achieve and maintain diversity and vitality in shopping centres.	Progress to shortlist.	This proposal seeks similar outcomes to shortlisted proposals from Oxford City Council and Islington London Borough Council.
Using the planning and regulatory system to support local communities.	Tackling oversaturation and promoting local high streets.	Hackney London Borough Council		Introducing wider powers for councils to be able to reflect residents' views and influence the shape of local high streets where the concentration of particular kinds of businesses can mean that the needs of local people are not met and local communities cease to be sustainable.	Progress to shortlist.	This proposal seeks similar outcomes to shortlisted proposals from Darlington Borough Council, Liverpool City Council, and Islington London Borough Council.
Using the planning and regulatory system to support local communities.	Tackling oversaturation and promoting local high streets.	Islington London Borough Council		Changes to the planning use classes order and general permitted development order to help achieve and maintain diversity and vitality in shopping centres. Healthy centres would exhibit a balance between multiple and independent retailers and not be dominated by a limited number of trades and services. Islington additionally propose a more flexible business rate relief system.	Progress to shortlist.	This proposal seeks similar outcomes to shortlisted proposals from Oxford City Council and Bristol City Council.
Using the planning and regulatory system to support local communities.	Tackling oversaturation and promoting local high streets.	Islington London Borough Council		Give the council the power to decide if an area is saturated with gambling and/or off license premises so that it can then restrict new licences being granted (or existing licences being extended).	Progress to shortlist.	This proposal seeks similar outcomes to shortlisted proposals from Darlington Borough Council, Hackney London Borough Council, and Liverpool City Council.

annex A: the Sustainable Communities Act shortlist

Theme	Sub theme	Lead authority	Proposal submitted jointly	Proposal	Panel decision	Comments
Using the planning and regulatory system to support local communities.	Tackling oversaturation and promoting local high streets.	Lewisham London Borough Council		Part 2) To introduce a criterion of demand to require the licensing authority to consider the level of demand for an additional betting shop in the area. Part 3) Licensing authorities be empowered to decide and cap the number of bookmakers premises allowed to open in an area and prevent new bookmakers from opening where the cap has been reached or is exceeded.	Part 2 and 3) Progress to shortlist.	Part 1) A change to planning guidance so bookmakers constitute A class or sub class distinct from A2 class. Part 1) Eliminate. Rationale: Viability and credibility domain.
Using the planning and regulatory system to support local communities.	Tackling oversaturation and promoting local high streets.	Liverpool City Council		Change legislation to allow proximity i.e. numbers in an area, using the pharmacy principle, and the effect on public health to be considered as grounds for objection and refusal in respect of planning and licensing applications.	Progress to shortlist.	This proposal seeks similar outcomes to shortlisted proposals from Darlington Borough Council, Hackney London Borough Council, and Islington London Borough Council.
Using the planning and regulatory system to support local communities.	Tackling oversaturation and promoting local high streets.	Oxford City Council		Changes to the planning use classes order and general permitted development order could help achieve and maintain diversity and vitality in shopping centres. Healthy centres would exhibit a balance between multiple and independent retailers and not be dominated by a limited number of trades and services. Oxford additionally propose a more flexible business rate relief system.	Progress to shortlist.	This proposal seeks similar outcomes to shortlisted proposals from Islington London Borough Council and Bristol City Council.
Using the planning and regulatory system to support local communities.	Tackling oversaturation and promoting local high streets.	Ryedale District Council	Craven District Council, Hambleton District Council, Richmondshire District Council, Selby District Council and Scarborough Borough Council.	Give councils the power to remove restrictive covenants put on buildings such as pubs which are closed by national chains to prevent them from re-opening as a public house.	Progress to shortlist.	
Using the planning and regulatory system to support local communities.	Tackling neglected land and supporting green spaces and gardens.	Chorley Borough Council		An amendment to be made to planning policy statement 3: housing (PPS3) to exclude gardens from the definition of brownfield land.	Progress to shortlist.	This proposal should be progressed as a permissive change.

annex A: the Sustainable Communities Act shortlist

Theme	Sub theme	Lead authority	Proposal submitted jointly	Proposal	Panel decision	Comments
Using the planning and regulatory system to support local communities.	Tackling neglected land and supporting green spaces and gardens.	Islington London Borough Council		To give local authorities more control over developments by railway operators to ensure biodiversity is protected and enhanced in these key sites.	Progress to shortlist.	The council have proposed a range of options, this is not an exhaustive list. 1) Adopt a similar model to which is in place for nationally designated sites of more importance for nature conservation. 2) Government providing an opportunity for a council to comment on specific issues related to development on rail side land within a statutory time frame. 3) Require railway operators to provide additional information and appropriate ecological assessment.
Using the planning and regulatory system to support local communities.	Tackling neglected land and supporting green spaces and gardens.	Lambeth London Borough Council		Stronger powers for local authorities to acquire land and property that is blighting urban areas and land banking.	Progress to shortlist.	
Using the planning and regulatory system to support local communities.	Tackling neglected land and supporting green spaces and gardens.	Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council		Changes to section 215 powers under the Town and County Planning Act could be amended to speed up the process where land, including property, adversely affects the amenity of the areas.	Progress to shortlist.	This proposal seeks similar outcomes to a shortlisted proposal from Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council.
Using the planning and regulatory system to support local communities.	Tackling neglected land and supporting green spaces and gardens.	Sheffield City Council		That the government introduces statutory legislation giving Sheffield City Council a rebuttable right to enter into temporary leases compulsorily with owners of vacant brownfield land, which they can then sublease to community groups.	Progress to shortlist.	
Using the planning and regulatory system to support local communities.	Tackling neglected land and supporting green spaces and gardens.	Southwark Council		Introduce a permissive regime that enables local authorities to prioritise permaculture design principles in local planning policy.	Progress to shortlist.	
Using the planning and regulatory system to support local communities.	Tackling neglected land and supporting green spaces and gardens.	Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council		It is proposed that the government bestow on local authorities stronger power to help deal in a more effective, efficient and timely way with the problems caused by derelict industrial land and buildings.	Progress to shortlist.	This proposal complements changes sought in proposals from Waltham Forest London Borough Council, Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council and Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council.
Using the planning and regulatory system to support local communities.	Tackling neglected land and supporting green spaces and gardens.	Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council		That the government give local authorities stronger powers to initiate action more quickly and place a requirement on owners to provide realistic proposals for change within a reasonable timeframe, or to allow the council to step in and serve notice on the owner to sell the property/site without undue delay and without the council incurring any costs.	Progress to shortlist.	This proposal seeks similar outcomes to a shortlisted proposal from Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council.

annex A: the Sustainable Communities Act shortlist

Theme	Sub theme	Lead authority	Proposal submitted jointly	Proposal	Panel decision	Comments
Using the planning and regulatory system to support local communities.	Tackling neglected land and supporting green spaces and gardens.	Waltham Forest London Borough Council		Make it easier to take control of abandoned patches of land – An amendment to legislation so that a period of only one year must elapse before local authorities can make an adverse possession application on land they have made secure in accordance with existing requirements and where they can present a sound business case for their action. The period for any interested party to appeal against the application should also be reduced to only one year.	Progress to shortlist.	
Using the planning and regulatory system to support local communities.	Empowering communities through the planning and licensing process and devolving decision making.	Ashford Borough Council		The proposal is for the transfer of some of the development control (planning) powers relating to the determining of planning applications for community building projects (such as school, libraries and youth centres) and residential developments from the county council to district local planning authorities in two tier areas.	Progress to shortlist.	
Using the planning and regulatory system to support local communities.	Empowering communities through the planning and licensing process and devolving decision making.	Cheshire West and Chester		Amend the Licensing Act 2003 to include ward councillors in the definition of 'interested party'. This would enable local ward councillors to make representations to the licensing committee as of right.	Progress to shortlist.	
Using the planning and regulatory system to support local communities.	Empowering communities through the planning and licensing process and devolving decision making.	Croydon London Borough Council		Establish local appeals boards to determine planning appeals on minor applications.	Progress to shortlist.	
Using the planning and regulatory system to support local communities.	Empowering communities through the planning and licensing process and devolving decision making.	Hampshire County Council		Devolve the responsibility for regional strategy preparation from the regional level to county level, enabling closer links between planning and delivery of services such as transport, education and health, and enhancing local democratic accountability.	Progress to shortlist.	This proposal is formally supported by Essex County Council, Herefordshire County Council, Kent County Council and East Sussex County Council.
Using the planning and regulatory system to support local communities.	Empowering communities through the planning and licensing process and devolving decision making.	South Gloucestershire Council		Abolish the regional spatial strategy and move to a decentralized system based around natural communities at local and sub-regional level.	Progress to shortlist.	The authority have confirmed that this proposal relates to the integrated spatial strategy.
Using the planning and regulatory system to support local communities.	Empowering communities through the planning and licensing process and devolving decision making.	Waltham Forest London Borough Council		Changes in regulations and Planning Inspectorate targets to reduce the time taken to deal with appeals against local planning authority enforcement action.	Progress to shortlist.	

annex A: the Sustainable Communities Act shortlist

Theme	Sub theme	Lead authority	Proposal submitted jointly	Proposal	Panel decision	Comments
Using the planning and regulatory system to support local communities.	Alcohol promotion, licensing and public houses.	Bury Metropolitan Borough Council		Add "protecting and improving public health" to the 4 existing objectives of the Licensing Act 2003.	Progress to shortlist.	
Using the planning and regulatory system to support local communities.	Alcohol promotion, licensing and public houses.	Darlington Borough Council		Part 2) That government take the necessary steps to prohibit restrictive covenants that prevent any future use of a property as a 'local service' as defined by the Sustainable Communities Act.	Part 2) Progress to shortlist.	Part 1) for government to take the necessary steps to enable community pubs to trade on a level playing field by prohibiting irresponsible promotion of alcohol as a loss leader. Part 1) Eliminate. Rationale: Viability and credibility domain. Part 2) of the proposal links to outcomes in a proposal Newcastle Upon Tyne City Council.
Using the planning and regulatory system to support local communities.	Alcohol promotion, licensing and public houses.	Darlington Borough Council		To request a new legal power to enable licensing committees to take account of representations about local views on "sufficiency" in relation to the provision of premises from which alcohol can be bought.	Progress to shortlist.	This proposal seeks similar outcomes to shortlisted proposals from Hackney London Borough Council, Liverpool City Council and Islington London Borough Council.
Using the planning and regulatory system to support local communities.	Alcohol promotion, licensing and public houses.	Kettering Borough Council		Give licensing authorities, in conjunction with the police, or the local crime and disorder reduction partnership, powers to prevent supermarkets selling alcohol below a certain price floor.	Progress to shortlist.	Members were divided in their views of the merit of this proposal. The proposal did however meet the requirements of the shortlisting framework. The panel would be keen for this proposal to progress as a pilot but further discussion locally will be necessary.
Using the planning and regulatory system to support local communities.	Alcohol promotion, licensing and public houses.	Newcastle upon Tyne City Council		Creation of statutory powers to prohibit large pub and retail companies selling properties with restrictive covenants that prevent the use of the property as "local services" (as defined in SCA 2007) particularly pubs and shops.	Progress to shortlist.	This proposal links closely with outcomes sought in the proposal from Darlington Borough Council (Part 2).
Using the planning and regulatory system to support local communities.	Alcohol promotion, licensing and public houses.	South Tyneside Metropolitan Borough Council		The proposal seeks to provide more detailed guidance of when a garage could be licensed to sell alcohol under the Licensing Act 2003.	Progress to shortlist.	
Using the planning and regulatory system to support local communities.	Miscellaneous.	Redbridge London Borough Council		To suspend the requirement for Redbridge Council to publish statutory notices in the London Gazette and, instead, to publish notices on its award winning website, Redbridge-I and Redbridge Life, the council paper as well as local papers.	Progress to shortlist.	

annex A: the Sustainable Communities Act shortlist

Theme	Sub theme	Lead authority	Proposal submitted jointly	Proposal	Panel decision	Comments
Using the planning and regulatory system to support local communities.	Miscellaneous.	Torrige District Council		Change in national policy (specifically planning policy statements 3 and 7) to enable more vibrant and thriving rural communities.	Progress to shortlist.	PPS7 should be revised to make clear that there is an opportunity to move away from the 30-50 dwellings per hectre if this was not in keeping with the existing characteristics of the village.
Using the planning and regulatory system to support local communities.	Miscellaneous.	Torrige District Council		Financial penalties on retrospective planning applications.	Progress to shortlist.	
Using the planning and regulatory system to support local communities.	Miscellaneous.	West Dorset District Council	Dorset County Council, Purbeck District Council.	An amendment to planning policy statement 3 (housing) to extend the use of rural exception sites to market towns with population of over 3,000.	Progress to shortlist.	
More effective transport systems.	Increased local influence over road networks.	Dorset County Council	West Dorset District Council.	That Highways Agency powers which impinge directly on a local community be commuted from "mandatory" to "advisory with consultation". The aim is to prevent the agency from being able to override local plans and actions, eg siting of recycling facilities, park and ride, bus stops, pedestrian crossings and signs to events and facilities.	Progress to shortlist.	
More effective transport systems.	Increased local influence over road networks.	Herefordshire Council		The Highways Agency be required to take into account and act on local needs with the aim of increasing community and local government influence over development and management of Highways Agency roads.	Progress to shortlist.	The council would like: 1) A relaxation in guidelines for signage 2) A change in processes in order to speed up the reaction time of the Highways Agency.
More effective transport systems.	Increased local influence over road networks.	Kent County Council		Change to national policy to allow Department for Transport (DfT) and the Highways Agency to support motorway service areas (MSA). This would allow recourse to government funding in the provision of MSAs. This would allow the authority to support development of a 3,000 space lorry park to be used to free up traffic on M20 and A20 when Dover Port is closed due to emergencies (industrial action, poor weather, etc).	Progress to shortlist.	
More effective transport systems.	Increased local influence over road networks.	Wycombe District Council	South Oxfordshire District Council.	Change to national policies relating to road noise levels in recognition of the impact of motorway noise on rural communities. This would force the Highways Agency to take action to permanently reduce road noise through re-surfacing, improving sound barriers and implement speed and night time restrictions. This would improve quality of life for local residents, unlock more land for development of housing and enhance tourism and the local economy. The area in question is M40 – Junctions 3 – 8.	Progress to shortlist.	

annex A: the Sustainable Communities Act shortlist

Theme	Sub theme	Lead authority	Proposal submitted jointly	Proposal	Panel decision	Comments
More effective transport systems.	More flexibility to manage and maintain the local highways.	Brighton & Hove City Council		That power be devolved to local authorities to set vehicle speed limits on public roads at any maximum below existing regulations (20mph), according to local needs, in order to encourage safer and more people friendly streets where appropriate.	Progress to shortlist.	
More effective transport systems.	More flexibility to manage and maintain the local highways.	Redbridge London Borough Council		A review of the current signs regulations and general direction to relax the illumination requirements for some road signs.	Progress to shortlist.	
More effective transport systems.	More flexibility to manage and maintain the local highways.	Southwark Council		The decision to introduce self-enforcing traffic calming measures in 20mph zones to be at the discretion of the local transport authority, rather than a statutory requirement.	Progress to shortlist.	
More effective transport systems.	Traffic management and parking.	Birmingham City Council		Local authorities to be given the discretionary power to regulate vehicles that park on and damage footways and grass verges where appropriate and proportionate to the problem.	Progress to shortlist.	The Selector Panel noted a number of proposals relating to pavement parking, each seeking a different mechanism to resolve the outcome. The relevant proposals are Birmingham City Council, Leeds City Council, Newcastle Under Lyme Borough Council and Newcastle Upon Tyne City Council.
More effective transport systems.	Traffic management and parking.	Hastings Borough Council		The government is requested to enact legislation to enable the transfer of Highway Authority powers to those district councils who are willing and able to take on sole responsibility for on street parking.	Progress to shortlist.	
More effective transport systems.	Traffic management and parking.	Leeds City Council		Amend schedule 7 of the Traffic Management Act 2004 to extend the powers of civil enforcement officers to issue penalty charge notices for obstructive parking.	Progress to shortlist.	The Selector Panel noted a number of proposals relating to pavement parking, each seeking a different mechanism to resolve the outcome. The relevant proposals are Birmingham City Council, Leeds City Council, Newcastle Under Lyme Borough Council and Newcastle Upon Tyne City Council.

annex A: the Sustainable Communities Act shortlist

Theme	Sub theme	Lead authority	Proposal submitted jointly	Proposal	Panel decision	Comments
More effective transport systems.	Traffic management and parking.	Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council		That government should clarify and simplify the law relating to the use of pavements by vehicular traffic such that pavement be reserved exclusively for pedestrian use.	Progress to shortlist.	The Selector Panel noted a number of proposals relating to pavement parking, each seeking a different mechanism to resolve the outcome. The relevant proposals are Birmingham City Council, Leeds City Council, Newcastle Under Lyme Borough Council and Newcastle Upon Tyne City Council.
More effective transport systems.	Traffic management and parking.	Newcastle upon Tyne City Council		The council requests that legislation is introduced which would make it unlawful to park on the footway where any part of a vehicle is within 1100mm of the edge of the footway within the local authority area.	Progress to shortlist.	The Selector Panel noted a number of proposals relating to pavement parking, each seeking a different mechanism to resolve the outcome. The relevant proposals are Birmingham City Council, Leeds City Council, Newcastle Under Lyme Borough Council and Newcastle Upon Tyne City Council.
More effective transport systems.	Miscellaneous.	Bristol City Council		Encourage car clubs through exemption from congestion charges and free road fund licences.	Progress to shortlist.	
More effective transport systems.	Miscellaneous.	Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council		Part 1) Universal concessionary pass for young people implemented across the country, enabling unrestricted movement for young people (up to the age of 18, in full time education, training or apprenticeships).	Part 1) Progress to shortlist.	Part 1 of the proposal could have a significant impact in the local area and as such would work well as a pilot. Part 2) The proposal seeks a form of legislation or policy change requiring transport providers to have regard to routes that are not necessarily main bus routes. Part 2: Eliminate. Rationale: • Proposal does not require assistance from the Secretary of State.
More effective transport systems.	Miscellaneous.	Exeter City Council		Ensure that all buses in rural areas are capable of carrying at least two bikes on externally secured bike carriers.	Progress to shortlist.	

annex A: the Sustainable Communities Act shortlist

Theme	Sub theme	Lead authority	Proposal submitted jointly	Proposal	Panel decision	Comments
More effective transport systems.	Miscellaneous.	Liverpool City Council		Local authorities are given power to force utility companies to reinstate works to original state and that any utilities works that are disruptive to the local highway network should be agreed and co-ordinated with the city council.	Progress to shortlist.	
More effective transport systems.	Miscellaneous.	Southwark London Borough Council		A legal duty for rail operators to work with local authorities and local communities to safeguard and improve the environment around railway land and infrastructure.	Progress to shortlist.	
More effective transport systems.	Miscellaneous.	Southwark London Borough Council		Create a Southwark safety camera partnership to provide a recognize approach to road safety.	Progress to shortlist.	
More effective transport systems.	Miscellaneous.	Wiltshire Council		All MOT tests to include the statutory recording of mileage.	Progress to shortlist.	
Empowering communities and supporting engagement.	Increasing the accountability of local services.	Birmingham City Council		Ensure that greater consideration is given to the impact of a closure of local public services on service users before a decision is made; decisions are made in negotiations involving all local stakeholders and that stakeholders represent the diversity of the area and all sections of the community in question.	Progress to shortlist.	This proposal seeks similar outcomes to a shortlisted proposal from Herefordshire Council.
Empowering communities and supporting engagement.	Increasing the accountability of local services.	Herefordshire Council		Considering the impact and engaging with the local community when moving or closing public services.	Part 1) Progress to shortlist.	This proposal seeks similar outcomes to a shortlisted proposal from Birmingham City Council. Part 1) The council asks the government to extend the duty to involve to responsible service providers. This includes primary and secondary schools, colleges of higher education, public transport services, sports facilities, GP surgeries, hospitals, post offices, telephone boxes (BT payphones), dentists and libraries. Part 2) The government should strengthen planning regulations to force owners to carry out a full community assessment before closure and prior to change of use for private sector organisations. Part 2) Eliminate. Rationale: Viability and credibility domain. Impact on sustainability.

annex A: the Sustainable Communities Act shortlist

Theme	Sub theme	Lead authority	Proposal submitted jointly	Proposal	Panel decision	Comments
Empowering communities and supporting engagement.	Involving communities in the local democratic process.	Bath and North East Somerset Council		That the voting age be reduced to 16 years old.	Progress to shortlist.	
Empowering communities and supporting engagement.	Involving communities in the local democratic process.	Chorley Borough Council		The proposal is for NHS Central Lancashire to be required to seek from Chorley borough council a representative to the management board of NHS Central Lancashire in order to improve relationships between the council and the PCT, and to strengthen the democratic accountability of the PCT to the community.	Progress to shortlist.	
Empowering communities and supporting engagement.	Involving communities in the local democratic process.	East Lindsey District Council		Part 2) A change to the legislation that would require a larger percentage of the electorate to demand a parish poll on a question or the appointment to an office, and a larger number of those present at the meeting, with a de minimis included.	Part 2) Progress to shortlist	Part 1) A change to the legislation that would require a larger percentage of the electorate to call for a meeting. Part 1) Eliminate. Rationale: Viability and credibility domain. Impact on sustainability.
Empowering communities and supporting engagement.	Involving communities in the local democratic process.	Essex County Council		That Essex County Council be empowered to define and enforce a set of local performance standards for government agencies and non-departmental public bodies that operate within Essex.	Progress to shortlist.	
Empowering communities and supporting engagement.	Involving communities in the local democratic process.	Lewes District Council		To reform the provisions in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 to allow for secret ballots when deciding to move from a parish meeting structure to establishing a parish or town council.	Progress to shortlist.	The council vote should not be secret in this.
Empowering communities and supporting engagement.	Involving communities in the local democratic process.	Waltham Forest London Borough Council		Waltham Forest proposes a power to have a 'local voting age or local age of representation' so that young people could vote and/or stand for their local elections.	Progress to shortlist.	
Empowering communities and supporting engagement.	Involving communities in the local democratic process.	Wiltshire Council		The Sustainable Communities Act process should not just be a one off, but be ongoing, or a least held once per year.	Progress to shortlist.	
Delivering on housing.	Reform of housing revenue account subsidy arrangements.	Brighton and Hove City Council		Government remove pooling regulations for right to buy capital receipts and release future and accumulated capital receipts from the sale of council housing to the control of local authorities to be administered as they see fit, but especially to build new stock and renovate existing stock.	Progress to shortlist.	

annex A: the Sustainable Communities Act shortlist

Theme	Sub theme	Lead authority	Proposal submitted jointly	Proposal	Panel decision	Comments
Delivering on housing.	Reform of housing revenue account subsidy arrangements.	Brighton and Hove City Council		To change legislation that prohibits local authorities from borrowing against their social housing rental income.	Progress to shortlist.	
Delivering on housing.	Reform of housing revenue account subsidy arrangements.	Cambridge City Council		The government should change current arrangements to allow Cambridge City Council to keep all revenue collected from council housing rents and all receipts from right to buy sales of council homes.	Progress to shortlist.	
Delivering on housing.	Reform of housing revenue account subsidy arrangements.	City of York Council		That City of York council should be able to keep all of its council housing rental income and not be subject to the housing revenue subsidy regime.	Progress to shortlist.	
Delivering on housing.	Reform of housing revenue account subsidy arrangements.	East Devon District Council		Providing more affordable housing in East Devon for local people. Government should: Part 1) allow all local authorities to keep all the council home rent it collects from its tenants rather than sending this back to government; Part 2) repeal the 'right to buy' legislation.	Progress to shortlist.	
Delivering on housing.	Reform of housing revenue account subsidy arrangements.	South Kesteven District Council		Our proposal asks the government to allow the council to retain 100 per cent of the rent it collects from its housing stock.	Progress to shortlist.	
Delivering on housing.	Reform of housing revenue account subsidy arrangements.	South Lakeland District Council		Increasing supply of affordable housing by returning 100 per cent of council housing rents to the local authority area which they came from in order to fund new affordable housing.	Progress to shortlist.	
Delivering on housing.	Reform of housing revenue account subsidy arrangements.	Stroud District Council		Reform of the housing revenue account subsidy arrangements.	Progress to shortlist.	
Delivering on housing.	Reform of housing revenue account subsidy arrangements.	Warwick District Council		For councils to keep all the rental income on council properties	Progress to shortlist.	
Delivering on housing.	Reform of housing revenue account subsidy arrangements.	West Lancashire District Council		Local authorities to keep a greater proportion of right to buy capital receipts to enable house building & estate remodelling.	Progress to shortlist.	
Delivering on housing.	Empowering councils and communities to build affordable housing.	South Hams District Council		This proposal calls for government and local authority housing and planning requirements to be amended to allow private individuals and non-profit groups to build affordable homes for their own use.	Progress to shortlist.	

annex A: the Sustainable Communities Act shortlist

Theme	Sub theme	Lead authority	Proposal submitted jointly	Proposal	Panel decision	Comments
Delivering on housing.	Empowering councils and communities to build affordable housing.	Teignbridge District Council		Government to acknowledge the role of community land bank trusts (CLTs) and ensure involvement at local level on future housing developments.	Progress to shortlist.	The Selector Panel felt this proposal would work particularly well as a pilot.
Delivering on housing.	Empowering councils and communities to build affordable housing.	West Dorset District Council	Dorset County Council, Purbeck District Council.	Extension of the rural repurchase fund.	Progress to shortlist.	
Delivering on housing.	Private Sector Housing.	Burnley Borough Council		The proposal is comprised of two elements: Part 1) more flexibility in relation to selective landlord licensing; Part 2) changes to the compulsory purchase order framework.	Progress to shortlist.	
Delivering on housing.	Private Sector Housing.	Liverpool City Council		Part 1) That government legislate to allow local authorities to impose tighter restrictions and minimum requirements on private landlords including 2 storey multi-occupied houses through landlord registration.	Part 1) Progress to shortlist.	Part 2) That government legislate to allow local authorities to impose tighter restrictions and minimum requirements on private landlords including 2 storey multi-occupied houses through selective licensing. Part 2) Eliminate. Rationale: Does not require assistance from the SoS.
Delivering on housing.	Private Sector Housing.	Nottingham City Council		Controlling the number of houses of multiple occupancy (HMOs) in a locality to prevent an unbalanced housing market and introduce levels of control through licensing to prevent HMOs having a negative impact on a neighbourhood.	Progress to shortlist.	
Delivering on housing.	Private Sector Housing.	Oxford City Council		Oxford City Council is seeking approval to introduce a city-wide landlord licensing scheme and a calling for a reduction in the size and occupancy threshold for houses in multiple occupation (HMOs) that is set by the Housing Act 2004.	Progress to shortlist.	
Delivering on housing.	Private Sector Housing.	Pendle Borough Council		Part 1) Selective licensing for the whole borough. Part 2) To pilot a landlord register in the area. Part 3) Payment of Local Housing Allowance (LHA) to landlords, rather than tenants, to encourage them to join the landlord accreditation scheme.	Progress to shortlist.	
Delivering on housing.	Miscellaneous .	Birmingham City Council		To grant local authorities the same flexibility as other registered social landlords (RSL's) to grant assured and assured short hold tenancies, as well as secure tenancies.	Progress to shortlist.	

annex A: the Sustainable Communities Act shortlist

Theme	Sub theme	Lead authority	Proposal submitted jointly	Proposal	Panel decision	Comments
Delivering on housing.	Miscellaneous .	Herefordshire Council		Local lettings policy for existing housing stock.	Progress to shortlist.	
Delivering on housing.	Miscellaneous .	Islington London Borough Council		Require leaseholders to keep and provide evidence that gas safety checks have been carried out in their properties.	Progress to shortlist.	The Selector Panel felt this proposal should be implemented as a permissive power for authorities.
Delivering on housing.	Miscellaneous .	South Tyneside Metropolitan Borough Council		This proposal details changes to part 4 of the Housing Act 2004 to allow the council to raise money for the renovation from commercial sources, to allow a more affordable rent to be charged where the situation requires it and to make it easier for council's to take action against properties that have been empty for a number of years.	Progress to shortlist.	
Delivering on housing.	Miscellaneous .	Southwark Council		Support public sector leaseholders to pay their major works service charges by incentivising them to make regular payments.	Progress to shortlist.	
Delivering on housing.	Miscellaneous .	Southwark Council		To allow local authorities to impose civil penalties on freeholders, leaseholders or a tenant as appropriate, for the unlawful use of properties, in order to cover the costs of planning enforcement.	Progress to shortlist.	
Delivering on housing.	Miscellaneous.	Westminster City Council		Government alters its targets relating to temporary accommodation so that levels of overcrowding can be reduced.	Progress to shortlist.	
Delivering effective local services.	Delivering an effective and locally responsive post office service.	Bristol City Council		Government to extend business rate relief to provide the same relief to urban post offices as rural (in England).	Progress to shortlist.	Royal Borough of Windsor have expressed support for this proposal.
Delivering effective local services.	Delivering an effective and locally responsive post office service.	Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council		Part 2) Give the council and local strategic partnership and enhanced role in planning the future of the network.	Progress to shortlist.	Part 1) Enabling local authorities to provide payment services through local post offices. Part 1) Eliminate Rationale: Does not require assistance from the SoS.
Delivering effective local services.	Delivering an effective and locally responsive post office service.	Herefordshire Council		Establish post banks in local post offices.	Progress to shortlist.	

annex A: the Sustainable Communities Act shortlist

Theme	Sub theme	Lead authority	Proposal submitted jointly	Proposal	Panel decision	Comments
Delivering effective local services.	Delivering an effective and locally responsive post office service.	Liverpool City Council		Measure to ensure that post offices can not be closed until the local co-operative development office has been given the time and training budget to see if an increase in capacity could result in local people taking over the management of the premises.	Progress to shortlist.	
Delivering effective local services.	Delivering an effective and locally responsive post office service.	Mid Devon District Council		That government give local post offices a much wider role in their community, in particular with regard to the provision of government services and banking services.	Progress to shortlist.	
Delivering effective local services.	Delivering an effective and locally responsive post office service.	Sheffield City Council		That Sheffield City Council should be given responsibility for maintaining and sustaining the post office network in the local area.	Progress to shortlist.	
Delivering effective local services.	Delivering an effective and locally responsive post office service.	South Hams District Council	West Devon Borough Council.	Part 1) That the government gives a commitment not to enter into any further post office closure programmes and to sustain a national network of around 12,000 post offices and establishes a post bank.	Progress to shortlist.	Part 2) That the government re-introduces lost or curtailed services, bringing the UK inline with most of its EU counterparts. Part 2) Eliminate. Rationale: Viability and credibility domain.
Delivering effective local services.	Delivering an effective and locally responsive post office service.	West Devon	South Hams District Council.	Part 1) That the government gives a commitment not to enter into any further post office closure programmes, to sustain a national network of around 12,000 post offices and establishes a post bank	Progress to shortlist.	Part 2) That the government re introduce lost or curtailed services. Part 2) Eliminate. Rationale: Viability and credibility domain..
Delivering effective local services.	Miscellaneous.	Bexley London Borough Council		That the current volunteer mileage reimbursement system is reviewed so that drivers are reimbursed at a fair rate, administrative barriers are removed, and drivers are incentivised to used more eco-friendly modes of transport.	Progress to shortlist.	
Delivering effective local services.	Miscellaneous.	East Lindsey District Council		The government should remove the mandatory element to maintain closed churchyards, retaining a power for councils to support the activity, so it became a matter of local choice through the democratic process.	Progress to shortlist.	
Delivering effective local services.	Miscellaneous.	Essex County Council		Essex County Council propose that the SoS place a duty on PCTs covering Essex to work with the council to be jointly responsible for the design, development and implementation of joint commissioning arrangements for commissioning of patient transfer services in Essex.	Progress to shortlist.	

annex A: the Sustainable Communities Act shortlist

Theme	Sub theme	Lead authority	Proposal submitted jointly	Proposal	Panel decision	Comments
Delivering effective local services.	Miscellaneous.	Islington London Borough Council		Extend the notice period for temporary event notices.	Progress to shortlist.	
Delivering effective local services.	Miscellaneous.	Mid Sussex District Council		Provision of broadband services should be made the subject of a legal minimum requirement, in the same way that access to other infrastructure services is, e.g. water.	Progress to shortlist.	
Safer and stronger communities.	Building safer communities.	Kettering Borough Council		To enable Kettering's wardens to carry out civil and criminal enforcement duties in a combined manner without fear of legal challenge.	Progress to shortlist.	
Safer and stronger communities.	Building safer communities.	Nottingham City Council		To improve the provision of environmental services and tackle crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB) in Nottingham – new powers to address: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • noise nuisance; • behaviour of repeat offenders; • alcohol/licensing; • domestic violence; • community safety designated zones. 	Progress to shortlist.	
Safer and stronger communities.	Building safer communities.	Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council		The proposal is to enable the council's community protection officer service to carry out civil and criminal act duties in a combined manner without fear of legal challenge.	Progress to shortlist.	
Safer and stronger communities.	Miscellaneous.	Southend-on-Sea Borough Council		To implement a comprehensive package of neighbourhood support, engagement and training opportunities to improve and sustain life chances of local communities in Southend. Part 1) Retaining a proportion of landfill levy and business rates. Part 2) Request for flexibility in timeline to use Department of Health allocated grant funds.	Progress to shortlist.	
Safer and stronger communities.	Miscellaneous.	Norwich City Council		Introduce a 'power of care' element to the existing lasting power of attorney. This will enable people who still have the capacity to make decisions, but not the capacity to arrange their care services, formally choose someone to make decisions regarding the provision and organisation of (but not the initial decision to have) their care services.	Progress to shortlist.	The Selector Panel noted that this proposal should be implemented in a way that does not add complexity to the current system.

annex A: the Sustainable Communities Act shortlist

Theme	Sub theme	Lead authority	Proposal submitted jointly	Proposal	Panel decision	Comments
Safer and stronger communities.	Miscellaneous.	South Hams District Council		<p>Actions to support communities to set up projects such as affordable housing schemes for local people, or to buy and run local shops or pubs that were going out of business. Specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to consolidate relevant funding streams into a single fund; • establish a 'community right of purchase' through legislation; • give councils a community asset transfer (CAT) duty to transfer any inefficiently utilised asset, upon request from a properly constituted community body with a sound business case; • government should establish a CAT support grant for local government; and • government should set up a CAT arbitration service. 	Progress to shortlist.	This proposal seeks similar outcomes to a shortlisted proposal from Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council.
Safer and stronger communities.	Miscellaneous.	Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council		<p>Changes in central government legislation and specifically funding structures relating to community asset transfer (CAT). Specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to consolidate relevant funding streams into a single fund; • establish a 'community right of purchase' through legislation; • give councils a CAT duty to transfer any inefficiently utilised asset, upon request from a properly constituted community body with a sound business case; • government should establish a CAT support grant for local government; and • government should set up a CAT arbitration service. 	Progress to shortlist.	This proposal seeks similar outcomes to a shortlisted proposal from South Hams District Council.

annex B: proposals eliminated from the Sustainable Communities Act process

Lead authority	Proposal submitted jointly	Proposal	Summary of Selector Panel discussion	Panel decision and rationale
Adur District Council	Worthing Borough Council	South Downs National Park delegation of planning powers to local authorities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members noted that the proposal has not been passed through or supported by a panel of representative persons. 	<p>Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultation requirements.
Adur District Council	Worthing Borough Council	Reform the housing revenue account in particular the ability to retain 100 per cent of rent received from council housing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members noted that the proposal was not passed through a panel of representative persons. 	<p>Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultation requirements.
Adur District Council	Worthing Borough Council	Require NHS trusts and quangos to have locally elected councilors to represent bodies charged with delivering important local services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The panel supported the objectives within the proposal but the proposal explicitly states that it has not been passed through a panel of representative persons. 	<p>Eliminate Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultation requirements.
Borough of Poole		Delegation of greater powers to local authorities to control and direct the nature of local public transport.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members noted transport operators and other affected organisations have not been consulted. 	<p>Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultation requirements.
Borough of Poole		To allow local determination of housing targets and give local authorities greater influence in the setting of the regional spatial strategy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members noted that the regional assembly has not been consulted formally. Members noted that many councils would want to determine housing targets locally. Members noted the regional spatial strategy has been abolished and is now the integrated spatial strategy. The proposal is in line with the LGA's work on housing and planning. Members suggested the LGA works with the authority in taking this forward. 	<p>Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultation requirements.
Borough of Poole		For planning inspectors appointed to determine appeals to have and connection with and knowledge of the local area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The panel queried the viability of the proposals as the constraint on the operation of the Planning Inspectorate could be significant and make the organisation unviable. 	<p>Eliminate Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viability and credibility domain.

annex B: proposals eliminated from the Sustainable Communities Act process

Lead authority	Proposal submitted jointly	Proposal	Summary of Selector Panel discussion	Panel decision and rationale
Borough of Poole		To enable a right of appeal by residents against grant of planning permission (limited to significant applications).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members considered this proposal alongside those around planning inspectors and appeals. Members noted there may be a situation where the majority of people in a community support a development but this change could ensure that a single objector could cause a significant delay to such a development. Members noted that third parties have a number of opportunities to be heard within the existing planning system. 	<p>Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viability and credibility domain. Impact on sustainability.
Brighton & Hove City Council		That food growing is introduced as part of the national curriculum either on or off school sites.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food growing is currently not prohibited by the national curriculum. 	<p>Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not require assistance from the SoS.
Bristol City Council		Reduce VAT on property refurbishment and brownfield site development to zero per cent.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members expressed concern over the viability of the proposal as it would require a change in European law which would be complex to implement. 	<p>Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viability and credibility domain.
Cambridge City Council		The government should give joint powers over all aspects of transport policy and planning within Cambridge to Cambridgeshire County and Cambridge City Councils. These powers to include regulation of all public bus transport within Cambridge.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members expressed concerns that bus routes are county wide, consequently consultation with other affected councils would need to take place in order to determine the viability of the proposal. 	<p>Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viability and credibility domain.
Cambridge City Council		The government should introduce legislation to significantly reduce the amount of packaging on all retail goods (food and non-food) and require all remaining packaging to be biodegradable.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are significant international issues that would need to be addressed. International agreement would need to limit packaging on imported products. 	<p>Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viability and credibility domain.
City of York Council		Re-regulation of bus services through the introduction of a quality contract scheme.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members noted that the traffic commissioner has not been consulted. 	<p>Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultation requirements.
Darlington Borough Council		Part 1) For government to take the necessary steps to enable community pubs to trade on a level playing field by prohibiting irresponsible promotion of alcohol as a loss-leader.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members noted that the specific information requested on this proposal relating to the impact on sustainability and how a proposal might work in practice, in particular around mandating minimum and maximum price limits was not provided. 	<p>Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viability and credibility domain. Impact on sustainability.

annex B: proposals eliminated from the Sustainable Communities Act process

Lead authority	Proposal submitted jointly	Proposal	Summary of Selector Panel discussion	Panel decision and rationale
Darlington Borough Council		A revised working neighbourhood fund (WNF) to better target local deprivation. The proposal is to amend the criteria for eligibility to the WNF after the current round finishes in 2011/12 to reduce qualifying thresholds and allow a larger number of authorities to benefit.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The panel were concerned that the distribution of local government finance would have unintended consequences. Members felt that piecemeal reform of the local government finance system would create inequity and potential disadvantage to other authorities. 	<p>Eliminate.</p> <p>Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viability and credibility domain. Impact on sustainability.
Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council		An amendment in planning legislation to require a representative of an affected parish council to participate and vote at a borough council planning committee when it is determining a major planning application in a parish within the borough.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members noted that the proposal if progressed as submitted may impact on local discretion. The Panel noted that the additional information sought on the proposal from the authority had not been received. 	<p>Eliminate.</p> <p>Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viability and credibility domain.
Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council		Part 2) The proposal seeks a form of legislation or policy change requiring transport providers to have regard to routes that are not necessarily main bus routes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outcomes sought under part 2 of the proposal can be achieved through existing powers and legislation in the Local Transport Act 2008. 	<p>Part 2) Eliminate.</p> <p>Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposal does not require assistance from the SoS
Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council		Part 1) Enabling local authorities to provide payment services through local post offices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local authorities can already provide payment services through post offices. 	<p>Part 1) Eliminate.</p> <p>Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not require assistance from the SoS.
Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council		Part 1) The installation of renewable energy/lighting/heating sources by households and the provision of renewable energy lighting schemes at amenities such as multi-use games areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The panel felt that the first part of the proposal does not require assistance from the SoS. Government is introducing a new feed in tariff mechanism to improve the process of householders exporting energy generated by micro-renewables to the national grid. Lighting at amenity sites can also be agreed locally in partnership with the amenity site. 	<p>Part 1) Eliminate.</p> <p>Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not require assistance from the SoS.
Dorset County Council	Christchurch Borough Council and West Dorset District Council.	For the government to enact legislation to deal with the issue of vehicles using inappropriate roads as a result of satellite navigation devices.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The panel noted that there could be large cost implications. The panel noted that significant further research would be required regarding the technology required to implement the proposal and the associated costs. 	<p>Eliminate.</p> <p>Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viability and credibility domain.

annex B: proposals eliminated from the Sustainable Communities Act process

Lead authority	Proposal submitted jointly	Proposal	Summary of Selector Panel discussion	Panel decision and rationale
East Lindsey District Council		Part 1) A change to the legislation that would require a larger percentage of the electorate to call for a meeting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The panel supported the objective requiring a larger percentage for a poll but not for a meeting. The panel felt that part one of the proposal had the potential for an adverse affect on sustainability by potentially making it more difficult for local people to discuss issues of local importance. 	<p>Part 1) Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viability and credibility domain. Impact on sustainability.
East Riding of Yorkshire Council		For the government to increase expenditure on major transport schemes to finance the reopening of the York to Beverley railway.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The panel discussed that there are already existing channels available to prioritise in this area. The panel noted that increasing expenditure on one project may adversely affect the delivery of other transport projects in the region. 	<p>Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viability and credibility domain. Impact on sustainability.
East Riding of Yorkshire Council		The proposal is calling for the removal of the age restriction to disability living allowance (DLA), which is only available to those people who become ill before their 65th birthday. If a person makes a claim before the age of 65 and is deemed eligible for DLA they will continue to receive the allowance beyond 65.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The panel felt that this proposal would have huge financial implications which would not be viable in the current climate. 	<p>Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viability and credibility domain.
Essex County Council		That Local Authorities be empowered to use the existing infrastructure provided by the Electoral Commission to run locally focused referendums, including alongside existing votes such as parliamentary, European and local elections.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members felt that there were already existing routes to explore and gauge public opinion. 	<p>Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viability and credibility domain.
Hammersmith and Fulham London Borough Council		Part 1) Councils be given the statutory duty to improve neighbourhoods where there are concentrations of deprivation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The panel felt that this would place an unnecessary burden on local authorities which may impact on sustainability. If this was to apply nationally further consultation would be required to make the proposal viable. The panel noted that the outcome could be achieved through existing legislation. Hammersmith and Fulham could make far reaching commitments with partners through the local area authority and sustainable community strategy process. 	<p>Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viability and credibility domain. Does not require assistance of the SoS.

annex B: proposals eliminated from the Sustainable Communities Act process

Lead authority	Proposal submitted jointly	Proposal	Summary of Selector Panel discussion	Panel decision and rationale
Harrow London Borough Council		Amend the Town and Country Planning Act to give a duty to local planning authorities to recognise the value of gardens and urban green spaces in the life of the community, and for the environmental and social sustainability of an area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members felt that the amendment to the Town and Country Planning Act would not necessarily prevent development on gardens and green spaces, but would give local authorities more grounds on which they could refuse planning applications for schemes intending to build on such spaces. Members felt that an additional duty on local authorities may impact negatively on sustainability. Members felt that alternative vehicles existed to take the objectives in the proposal forward. This included inputting into the review of planning policy statement PPS 9 and 17. 	<p>Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viability and credibility domain.
Herefordshire Council		Reduced VAT on building conversions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members noted that this proposal would require changes at European level. 	<p>Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viability and credibility domain.
Herefordshire Council		<p>Considering the impact and engaging with the local community when moving or closing public services.</p> <p>Part 2) Banks, cash-points, public houses, village shops and pharmacies should be targeted. The council asks the government to strengthen the planning regulations to force owners to carry out a full community impact assessment before closure and prior to a change of use.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members noted that the planning system would not be an appropriate vehicle to achieve the outcome sought. 	<p>Part 2) Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viability and credibility domain.
Herefordshire Council		It is proposed that high-speed broadband is provided throughout the county.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The panel felt insufficient information was provided as to who would provide the service. 	<p>Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viability and credibility domain.
Herefordshire Council		Twin-tracking the line between Hereford and Ledbury.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members noted that in asking government to prioritise this scheme the proposal implies intervention in regional investment plans which would have an impact (potentially adverse) on other projects and local authorities within the region 	<p>Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viability and credibility domain. Impact on sustainability.

annex B: proposals eliminated from the Sustainable Communities Act process

Lead authority	Proposal submitted jointly	Proposal	Summary of Selector Panel discussion	Panel decision and rationale
Herefordshire Council		Re-opening the Herefordshire to Gloucestershire canal.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The panel discussed that there are already existing channels available to prioritise in this area. The panel noted that increasing expenditure on one project may adversely affect the delivery of other transport projects in the region. 	<p>Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viability and credibility domain. Impact on sustainability.
Herefordshire Council		Establish/re-establish train stations on existing lines in the county.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The panel discussed that there are already existing channels available to prioritise in this area. The panel noted that increasing expenditure on one project may adversely affect the delivery of other transport projects in the region. Members noted that the proposal did not contain evidence of the benefits that would result. 	<p>Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viability and credibility domain. Impact on sustainability.
Herefordshire Council		Extension of the commuter train network.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The panel discussed that there are already existing channels available to prioritise in this area. The panel noted that increasing expenditure on one project may adversely affect the delivery of other transport projects in the region. 	<p>Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viability and credibility domain.
Herefordshire Council		Creating a public transport governing body. Bus and train services in Herefordshire and nationwide are provided by a number of different companies. A governing body should ensure that services provided by different companies were joined-up.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The panel queried whether there was any evidence of the benefits that would result from the creation of a public transport governing body. The panel noted that there was little information contained in the proposal regarding the how the proposal would be implemented in practice. 	<p>Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viability and credibility domain. Impact on sustainability.
Herefordshire Council		All settlements should have the right to access a public transport service.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members noted that this would have considerable cost implications if implemented nationally for councils. Members noted that this outcome could be negotiated locally. 	<p>Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viability and credibility domain. Does not require assistance from the SoS.
Herefordshire Council		The national curriculum should include a requirement for all schools to offer children one day's work experience on a farm a year.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members noted that the national curriculum does not prevent farm visits or work experience on farms. 	<p>Eliminate from process. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not require assistance from the SoS.

annex B: proposals eliminated from the Sustainable Communities Act process

Lead authority	Proposal submitted jointly	Proposal	Summary of Selector Panel discussion	Panel decision and rationale
High Peak Borough Council		Part 1) Free transport for school age children. Part 2) Switching of traffic lights to flashing amber between 12 midnight and 5am in order to reduce carbon emissions and to encourage drivers to take more responsibility for safe road use.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members discussed that the proposal could potentially have significant financial implications. Members noted that more information would be required on the impact on safety. The Panel noted that the additional information sought on the proposal from the authority had not been received. 	<p>Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viability and credibility domain. Impact on sustainability.
Islington London Borough Council		For the local authority to take over the licensing and enforcement of footways along red routes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members noted that Transport for London had not been formally consulted as required by the Act. 	<p>Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultation requirements.
Islington London Borough Council		To transfer functions from the London Mayor to borough level to give each borough the final say on tall buildings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members noted that the London Mayor has not been consulted. 	<p>Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultation requirements.
Kettering Borough Council		The government to issue guidelines to courts not to issue charging orders unless there are exceptional circumstances; that is that the court is persuaded that there was intent to defraud on the part of the debtor.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members felt the proposal could encourage people to run up debt and may discourage responsible lending. Members also expressed concerns that unintended consequences could arise from the proposal, such as bank restrictions. 	<p>Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viability and credibility domain.
Kingston upon Thames Royal Borough Council		Overturning the Greenwich judgement, which makes it illegal to for a council or school to give any preference in admissions to a family living in their borough.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The panel noted developments in Poole which suggested that the Greenwich judgement had been superseded. The panel noted that clarification should be sought on this matter. The panel advised the LGA to take this issue forward with the Office of Schools Adjudicator. 	<p>Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viability and credibility domain.
Kingston upon Thames Royal Borough Council		Proposed that local authorities be allowed to prohibit pet shops from selling puppies from overseas 'puppy farms' via the introduction of licence conditions covering traceability, vaccination and disease control.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The outcome can be achieved without the assistance of the Secretary of State. The Pet Animal Act 1951 allows councils to locally set license conditions relating to the environment in which animals are kept. The panel noted that there was no evidence in the proposal of the scale of the problem locally. 	<p>Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not require assistance from the SoS. Impact on sustainability.

annex B: proposals eliminated from the Sustainable Communities Act process

Lead authority	Proposal submitted jointly	Proposal	Summary of Selector Panel discussion	Panel decision and rationale
Lambeth London Borough Council		Part 2) Amendments to national non-domestic rate (NNDR) legislation to allow such properties to be exempt from business rates.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members expressed concern that amendments to NNDR legislation would introduce too much complexity into the local government finance system. Members felt that piecemeal reform of the local government finance system would create inequity and potential disadvantage to other authorities. Members agreed that the outcome sought appeared to financially support third sector enterprises. This outcome could be achieved by targeted funding or a variety of other means already within the powers of the local authority. 	<p>Part 2) Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viability and credibility domain.
Lewes District Council		The waste collection authority to have the power to levy a charge to cover the cost of disposal of excess waste and to decide how the waste is disposed of in an environmentally friendly way.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members noted that the proposal did not specify or clarify the definition of excess waste. The panel noted that the additional information sought on the proposal from the authority had not been received. 	<p>Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viability and credibility domain.
Lewes District Council		Devolve from central government to the local authority all the funds held for the purpose of enterprise support.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The panel felt little information had been provided as to whether any consultation had taken place and whether any responses had been received from the organisations listed in the proposal. The panel noted little detail for the specific funds requested to be devolved and the action requested from government. 	<p>Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultation requirements. Viability and credibility domain.
Lewes District Council		Central government to set up legislation to require The Highways Agency and the Highway Authority to link the footpaths and cycle ways in the local authority area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The panel felt there could be large financial implications for councils. The panel felt there could be unintended consequences on the transport system. 	<p>Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viability and credibility domain. Impact on sustainability.

annex B: proposals eliminated from the Sustainable Communities Act process

Lead authority	Proposal submitted jointly	Proposal	Summary of Selector Panel discussion	Panel decision and rationale
Lewes District Council		Allow councils who provide town centre public car parks to subsidise them from business rates collected from out of town supermarkets providing free parking, with a power for the council to allow discounts (perhaps up to 100 per cent) if the supermarket or other store, sources a stated percentage of goods for sale locally.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The panel supported the objectives within the proposal but found the mechanisms proposed problematic. Separating out and hypothecating the income from the business rates from car parking from out of town supermarkets would be complex. There was little detail in the proposal on how proportionality of establishing a system to deal with relatively small sums in relation to the total business rate take would be overcome. There was also little detail on defining out of town supermarkets. Members discussed that currently business rates were already charged on car parking provided in an enclosed space and for open parking within the valuation of the buildings. 	<p>Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viability and credibility domain. Does not require assistance from the SoS.
Lewes District Council		The national curriculum should include education about government structures and local democracy, designed to encourage participation in local issues and feeling of inclusivity in secondary schools. Support for education to be as practical and participatory as possible eg to elect a young mayor within the citizenship modules.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The panel discussed that there are already areas within the curriculum enabling teachers to discuss issues of government structures and local democracy. The national curriculum does not currently prevent education about local democracy. 	<p>Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not require assistance from the SoS.
Lewisham London Borough Council		Significantly increase the funds for grants for people to install micro-renewables such as solar panels and small wind turbines for their homes (known as the Low Carbon Building Programme).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Panel noted that the proposal did not specify the areas of action, focus and impact in sufficient detail. The Panel noted that the additional information sought on the proposal from the authority had not been received. 	<p>Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viability and credibility domain.
Lewisham London Borough Council		Part 1) A change to planning guidance so bookmakers constitute A class or sub class distinct from A2 class.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The panel expressed concern in introducing greater complexity to the system. The panel felt that licensing would be a more appropriate tool to support the objectives of the proposal. 	<p>Part 1) Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viability and credibility domain.
Liverpool City Council		Make it possible for communities to have mandatory lease rights on disused land, and unoccupied buildings from private owners.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members discussed that there was a lack of clarity in the definition of community in the proposal. The Panel noted that the additional information sought on the proposal from the authority had not been received. 	<p>Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viability and credibility domain.

annex B: proposals eliminated from the Sustainable Communities Act process

Lead authority	Proposal submitted jointly	Proposal	Summary of Selector Panel discussion	Panel decision and rationale
Liverpool City Council		Part 2) That government legislate to allow local authorities to impose tighter restrictions and minimum requirements on private landlords including 2 storey multi-occupied houses. In essence, the proposal is calling for selective licensing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members felt the second part of the proposal does not require assistance from the SoS and can be achieved using existing powers. 	<p>Part 2) Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not require assistance from the SoS.
Liverpool City Council		Amend licensing legislation to prevent alcohol licenses being granted at any premises which sell petrol.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members felt that there may be adverse implications on the economic sustainability of areas. Members felt that this mechanism would not tackle the issue outlined and that the Licensing Act already provides the necessary powers under the prevention of crime. 	<p>Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viability and credibility domain. Impact on sustainability.
Maldon District Council		To enable councils in rural areas to require planning permission for changes of use within the same use class and for demolition of business premises where the business is classified as a local service.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members noted that no information was provided on the cost/benefit of the proposal. The Panel noted that the additional information sought on the proposal from the authority had not been received. 	<p>Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viability and credibility domain.
Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council		That highways should be managed by the most local authority available in order to make highway maintenance most appropriate and responsive to local need. This would involve transfer of function from counties to districts in two tier areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members felt little evidence of adequate consultation had been provided in the proposal. Members noted that there was no indication if other areas of the county would welcome this proposal. This would be essential to the viability of the proposal should it progress to implementation. Members noted that the proposal was for a transfer of functions from counties to districts on a national basis. Members felt this would involve considerable institutional change. 	<p>Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultation requirements. Viability and credibility domain.
Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council		That home composting should qualify for recycling credits to be paid to councils which would subsidise the provision of home composting equipment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposal does not articulate how the scheme might work if implemented and any information around funding. 	<p>Eliminate from process. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viability and credibility domain
Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council		That government should direct farming policy to prioritise the growing of organic and a greater variety of foods for local consumption.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A number of the barriers are around European Union agricultural policy and as such as outside scope of UK government. This would make the proposal incredibly complex to implement. Mechanisms and actions of the SoS requested are unclear. 	<p>Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viability and credibility domain.

annex B: proposals eliminated from the Sustainable Communities Act process

Lead authority	Proposal submitted jointly	Proposal	Summary of Selector Panel discussion	Panel decision and rationale
Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council		The government should promote the decentralisation of services in order to reduce long-distance traffic.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The panel felt that very little information was provided in the proposal on what was required over and above existing mechanisms in place. 	<p>Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viability and credibility domain.
North Dorset District Council	Dorset County Council.	<p>Part 1) Remove capping limit for rural councils, or apply or reinstate an independently assessed baseline de minimus.</p> <p>Part 2) Apply a rural weighting to allow for difficulty in access due to sparsity, remoteness, to provide for hard to reach groups, equality and diversity issues and allow rural district authorities to make use of any reduced precept from the overall rise in council tax.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members felt there is a potential adverse impact of this proposal on local authorities which could result in inequalities across local authorities. Members felt that piecemeal reform of the local government finance system would create inequity and potential disadvantage to other authorities. 	<p>Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viability and credibility domain.
North Dorset District Council	Christchurch Borough Council, Weymouth and Portland Borough Council.	Changes the basis for calculation of the local authority business growth incentive (LABGI).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members felt that piecemeal reform of the local government finance system would create inequity and potential disadvantage to other authorities. 	<p>Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viability and credibility domain.
North Somerset Council		That the Secretary of State transfers responsibility for the support of pubs and shops in all rural parishes in the county to the local authority.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members noted that the Regional Development Agency had not been consulted. 	<p>Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultation requirements.
North Somerset Council		<p>Part1) To modify regulations in the Local Transport Act 2008 to enable community transport organisations (CTO) to operate advertised services on routes in rural areas where there is no commercially operated service.</p> <p>Part 2) To amend the Concessionary Bus Travel Regulations 2008 concerning free travel for disabled and senior citizens so that bus passes can operate on these routes and CTOs can claim the cost of free tickets issued without the additional costs falling on local authorities. Hence this would require funding drawn down from Regional Development Agencies (RDAs)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Already permitted under current legislation, there are no legal bars to CTOs operating services in areas where there are no commercially operated services. There is little explanation and evidence as to why funding should be drawn RDA's, it is not clear why funding obligations should move from Department for Transport to RDAs. 	<p>Eliminate. Rationale: Proposal does not require assistance from the SoS.</p>
North Somerset Council		Revision of planning laws to achieve less commuter travel.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members felt that the assistance of the SoS would not create the desired outcome. The outcome requested could partly be achieved using the local development framework 	<p>Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not require assistance from the SoS. Viability and credibility domain.

annex B: proposals eliminated from the Sustainable Communities Act process

Lead authority	Proposal submitted jointly	Proposal	Summary of Selector Panel discussion	Panel decision and rationale
North Yorkshire County Council	Craven District Council, Hambleton District Council, Harrogate Borough Council, Richmondshire District Council, Ryedale District Council, Scarborough Borough Council and Selby District Council.	Change the State Aid rules to allow Nynet directly to local businesses and residents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members noted the existing routes already available to achieve the outcome sought and noted that the council was pursuing these routes. Members were not clear on the specific actions required by the SoS. 	<p>Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viability and credibility domain.
North Yorkshire County Council	Craven District Council, Hambleton District Council, Harrogate Borough Council, Richmondshire District Council, Ryedale District Council and Scarborough Borough Council.	Require all the shops and supermarkets to clearly label where food has come from to promote more buying of local produce. Information is required on the whole life cost of food ie where it is produced, packaged and sold. North Yorkshire County Council has confirmed that this information would be at a regional/local level.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members considered the financial impact across the whole food industry to make the information available. Members noted that businesses can choose to include information about the regional/local produce of their produce under existing powers provided the information is accurate. The proposal was likely to require a European directive. 	<p>Eliminate Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viability and credibility domain.
Oxford City Council		The government requires the council to develop plans to reduce per capita greenhouse emission by 40 per cent by 2020 in the city, by using the full powers of the planning system, identifying, promoting and setting targets for decentralised and community owned renewable energy production, and any other appropriate means, and provides them with the powers and funding to achieve this.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The panel felt that the objective of this proposal can be achieved through existing means. 	<p>Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not require assistance from the SoS.
		Requires the council/s to perform a carbon/energy impact audit of any relevant council plans such as their local development framework, core strategies etc (and publishes this along side the plan or policy), and provides them with powers and funding to achieve this.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The panel felt that the objective of this proposal can be achieved through existing means. 	<p>Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not require assistance from the SoS.
		Requires the City Council to work with communities to identify and help households in fuel poverty with E to G energy efficiency ratings that are a threat to human health or life to access grants and provide remedial measures and gives them the budget to do this.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposal does not require assistance from the SoS. 	<p>Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not require assistance from the SoS.
		Give the city council the powers and budget to introduce a mechanism by which local communities can raise and vote on important issues affecting them, for example the introduction of local referenda.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposal does not require assistance from the SoS. 	<p>Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not require assistance from the SoS.

annex B: proposals eliminated from the Sustainable Communities Act process

Lead authority	Proposal submitted jointly	Proposal	Summary of Selector Panel discussion	Panel decision and rationale
Oxford City Council Council (continued)		The government ensures that all energy saving measures that people install in their homes are subject to zero rated VAT.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members expressed concern over the viability of the proposal as it would require a change in European law. This would be complex to implement. 	Eliminate. Rationale: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viability and credibility domain.
		The government provides funding for the provision of training for local owners/employees of local builders/retrofiters/suppliers/estate agents in energy saving measures.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members felt that the objective of the proposal could be achieved using existing well being powers. 	Eliminate. Rationale: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not require assistance from the SoS.
		The government provides the council/s with the powers and budget to work with the Energy Saving Trust and local communities to set up one –stop local shops that provide environmental advice on energy savings measurers in each community for households and businesses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposal does not require assistance from the SoS. 	Eliminate. Rationale: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not require assistance from the SoS.
		The government requires the city council to adopt and extend the merton rule (a borough wide prescriptive planning policy that requires developments to generate at least 10 per cent of their energy needs from on-site renewable energy equipment), or the equivalent approach to require a target per centage reduction in carbon emissions for new developments, to non-residential development of 100m” or identify why it is inappropriate in their area and indicate how the benefits foregone are to be made up elsewhere.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposal does not require assistance from the SoS. 	Eliminate. Rationale: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not require assistance from the SoS.
		The government increases the proportion of energy that energy suppliers have to provide from renewable resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members noted that the government is already increasing the proportion of energy that energy suppliers have to provide. 	Eliminate. Rationale: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not require assistance from the SoS.
		That the government gives the (county) council the powers to make energy efficiency and equity a requirement to trade for local bus companies, including the use of energy efficient vehicles.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposal does not require assistance from the SoS. 	Eliminate. Rationale: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not require assistance from the SoS.

annex B: proposals eliminated from the Sustainable Communities Act process

Lead authority	Proposal submitted jointly	Proposal	Summary of Selector Panel discussion	Panel decision and rationale
Oxford City Council (continued)		That the government gives the (county) council the powers to make energy efficiency and equity a requirement to trade for local bus companies, including the use of small busses in off peak times.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposal does not require assistance from the SoS. 	<p>Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not require assistance from the SoS.
		That the government gives the (county) council the powers to make energy efficiency and equity a requirement to trade for local bus companies, including the Intra company transferable tickets.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposal does not require assistance from the SoS. 	<p>Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not require assistance from the SoS.
		That local mass transit providers continue/and introduce) services on less profitable routes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The panel was not clear how assistance from the SoS would be able to achieve the objective of the proposal. 	<p>Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viability and credibility domain.
		Provide the (County) council with the budget to reduce carbon emissions from transport by improving bus lanes, improving cycling and pedestrian lanes and facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposal does not require assistance from the SoS. 	<p>Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not require assistance from the SoS.
		The government provides local communities with the power, perhaps via local referenda, to introduce appropriate speed limits in their local streets (without having to install new street lighting in rural areas if appropriate).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members noted that the objective can already be achieved using existing powers. 	<p>Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not require assistance from the SoS.
		The government provides the council/s with the powers to ensure any developer of a large scale residential, commercial or business site must provide a sustainable mass transit infrastructure.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members noted that the objective of the proposal can already be achieved using powers under Section 106. 	<p>Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not require assistance from the SoS.
		The government provides the council/s with the budgets to install recycling facilities in each community for all recyclable materials including used batteries, low energy light bulbs, tetra packs and soft plastic.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The panel noted that the government funds this through general grant funds. It is up to councils to provide this service. 	<p>Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not require assistance from the SoS.

annex B: proposals eliminated from the Sustainable Communities Act process

Lead authority	Proposal submitted jointly	Proposal	Summary of Selector Panel discussion	Panel decision and rationale
Oxford City Council (continued)		The government provides the council/s with the power to require local authorities, schools and other public services, to use local healthy, sustainable produced and fairly traded food.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members discussed that there are already a variety of means available for councils to achieve this objective. 	<p>Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not require assistance from the SoS.
		The government provides the council/s with the powers to make provision of outlets for locally grown, sustainable sources of, and fairly traded food a condition of supermarkets trading in the area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposal does not provide information on where powers would be obtained from and how they would be carried out. In addition the proposal does not provide any details of the levels of locally grown or fair trade food that would need to be provided or how the council would differentiate between a supermarket and a small/medium business. The panel felt the action required from government was not clear. 	<p>Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viability and credibility domain. Does not require assistance from the SoS.
Oxford City Council		Part 1) To reform compulsory purchase legislation to enable a shift in the balance towards "the public interest" rather than the private landowner; Part 2) with the direct intent to purchase land at Jericho Oxford.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members felt that the prevailing legislation already provided for the outcome the proposal is seeking in part 1); this would therefore be relevant to part 2) of the proposal. 	<p>Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not require assistance from the SoS.
Redbridge London Borough Council		Introduce a new subsection (possibly A1(a)), to the use class order to identify the number of coffee shops and takeaway food shops currently operating as use class A1 establishments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The use class order already allows shops (class A1) to be distinguished from hot food takeaways (class A5). Adding a sub section to a class within a use class order would add unnecessary complexity to the system. 	<p>Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not require assistance from the SoS. Viability and credibility domain.
Richmondshire District Council	Harrogate Borough Council and Scarborough Borough Council.	Change to the law to make it a legal obligation for local government to provide public toilets.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The panel noted that a legal duty would impose significant cost implications for councils. Councils are not prohibited from providing public toilets as such Richmondshire could achieve the outcome locally should it so wish. 	<p>Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viability and credibility domain.
Rother District Council		Planning authorities should be required to adopt the Merton rule, that requires larger residential and commercial developments to generate a minimum of 10 per cent of their energy on-site.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members noted that authorities can already achieve this outcome under existing legislation if inclined to do so. 	<p>Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <p>Viability and credibility domain.</p>

annex B: proposals eliminated from the Sustainable Communities Act process

Lead authority	Proposal submitted jointly	Proposal	Summary of Selector Panel discussion	Panel decision and rationale
Rother District Council		Duty to maintain and wherever possible enhance the quality of the public realm on public bodies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The panel felt there was little information provided within the proposal. The panel felt that the action required from government was not clear, in particular how the proposal interrelates with existing duties and regulations. 	<p>Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not require assistance from the SoS. Viability and credibility domain.
Rother District Council		Transfer new road money to tree and green space provision.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The panel felt there could be large financial implications. The authority can become an exemplar in tree planting, which is achievable under existing powers if desired by the authority. The authority provided limited evidence to detail how this proposal would impact on sustainability in the area. 	<p>Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viability and credibility domain. Does not require assistance from the SoS. Impact on sustainability.
Rother District Council		Part 1) That whole villages (both residential and non-residential streets) be designated 20mph zones, with signs only required at the entrance to the village. Part 2) To clarify if bye-laws can be introduced to prohibit parking on pavements and verges in villages.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Councils can already set speed-limits of 20 mph. Outside London, where a local transport authority has registered with DfT as a Civil Parking Enforcement Authority, they can put in place a Traffic Regulation Order to prohibit parking on pavements and verges. 	<p>Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not require assistance from the Secretary of State.
Rother District Council		Protection for allotments. Part 1) Local authorities should be required to protect allotment land and where possible increase its supply. Part 2) There should be a target imposed that all residents should live within 10 minutes walk of an allotment Part 3) That there is a duty for councils to support the provision of allotments where a need can be demonstrated.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerns regarding viability of proposal but agreed that national campaign be put forward to CLG. Part 1) To increase the supply of allotment land could be achieved through good practice. The proposal may have adverse affects on sustainability. Part 2) A target would be more appropriately built into a local allotments strategy. Part 3) Would require action and support from government. 	<p>Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viability and credibility domain.
Southampton City Council		To request an amendment to existing benefit regulations in order to encourage volunteering, flexible working patterns and learning without adversely affecting an individual's benefit entitlement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members noted some factual inaccuracies in the proposal. Members noted that the specific details on the benefits regulations the council would like the power to vary were not detailed in the proposal. The Panel noted that the additional information sought on the proposal from the authority had not been received. 	<p>Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viability and credibility domain.

annex B: proposals eliminated from the Sustainable Communities Act process

Lead authority	Proposal submitted jointly	Proposal	Summary of Selector Panel discussion	Panel decision and rationale
South Gloucestershire Council		To engage the Highways Agency to win their support and resources to increase the size of the car park at the M4 / A46 junction to encourage car sharing and prevent cars being parked dangerously on grass verges in the vicinity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members were not clear what actions over and above existing mechanisms were required. The Panel noted that the additional information sought on the proposal from the authority had not been received. 	<p>Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viability and credibility domain.
South Gloucestershire Council		Further revision to the priority list of LAs invited to join the Building Schools for the Future programme.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The panel felt that the proposal had the potential to impact adversely on the sustainability of other authorities. 	<p>Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impact on sustainability. Viability and credibility domain.
South Gloucestershire Council		Remove the Gypsy and Traveller DPD direction.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The panel expressed concern over the viability of allowing councils to opt out of a Gypsy and Traveller DPD. Members noted this may have negative implications on other authorities. 	<p>Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viability and credibility domain. Impact on sustainability.
South Hams Borough Council		Network of safe cycle routes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members felt the assistance of the SoS was not required to achieve the objective. The panel noted that this outcome could be achieved through the local transport plan. Members noted that there could be large financial implications for councils. 	<p>Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not require assistance from the SoS.
South Hams District Council		In two-tier local government areas, the government to give billing authorities the power to create a separate fund for all the additional revenue raised from council tax on second homes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The current position is that local agreement should be reached. The outcome requested could be achieved by local negotiation and cooperation under existing powers. 	<p>Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not require assistance from the SoS.
South Hams District Council		Government to legislate for local authorities to implement a policy that requires integrated health impact assessments (IHIA) ¹ to be undertaken on all new developments and strategic plans.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The objective can already be achieved using existing powers. 	<p>Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not require assistance from the SoS.
South Hams District Council		Government introduces new policy to recognise the third sector and its supporting organisations. Government ensures that volunteer centres and councils for voluntary services are fully funded to encourage volunteer activities in communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members felt that a move to fully fund volunteer centres would have considerable financial implications. In the current financial climate this would not be viable. 	<p>Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viability and credibility domain.

annex B: proposals eliminated from the Sustainable Communities Act process

Lead authority	Proposal submitted jointly	Proposal	Summary of Selector Panel discussion	Panel decision and rationale
South Tyneside Metropolitan Borough Council		<p>Seeks stronger powers for councils to influence national and regional roads programmes to better meet local / sub-regional priorities. This would require amendments to the Highways Act 1980.</p> <p>In this instance, the change would facilitate a major project to increase capacity on the A1 and A19 to support local growth and regeneration, which is reflected in the city region multi area agreement (MAA).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members were not clear what actions over and above existing mechanisms were required. The Panel noted that the additional information sought on the proposal from the authority had not been received. 	<p>Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viability and credibility domain.
South Tyneside Metropolitan Borough Council		<p>This proposal is in two parts: Part 1) Introduce a phased extension of the carbon reduction commitment (CRC) to include small and medium size enterprises, therefore ensuring they are on course to reduce emissions. Part 2) Amend planning policy statement1 and its supplements to include targets for the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions from new developments, more stringent requirements on the percentage of energy from low carbon or renewable sources (currently 10 per cent) and to include more detailed support, information and training opportunities for local planning bodies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The panel expressed concerns over the viability of the proposal. The panel felt that the first part of the proposal is premature as the CRC has not yet been tested. The panel felt this could be more effective in a future round. Members expressed concerns that the second part of the proposal strengthened national requirements rather than encouraging councils to act locally. 	<p>Eliminate – Part 1 and 2. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viability and credibility domain.
Southwark London Borough Council		<p>That the government creates a tax regime which encourages sustainable commuting. This would require a comprehensive review of the current system, looking at all relevant tax legislation and guidance and exploring the scope for greater incentives</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members noted the additional information provided by the authority. Members commented that the specific areas of focus for a review were not clear. Members commented that the problems that the review should tackle were not made explicitly clear. 	<p>Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viability and credibility domain.
St Albans City Council		<p>To amend the Health and Social Care Act 2001 to place upon practice based commissioners the same requirements as all other NHS organisations in relation to health overview and scrutiny committees of district councils.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members felt that the outcomes noted in the proposal could be achieved without a change to legislation. Members noted that the proposal form details that the consultative bodies appear to be happy to take forward the proposal on a more informal basis. The LGA would be able to signpost the authority to good practice in this area. 	<p>Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viability and credibility domain.

annex B: proposals eliminated from the Sustainable Communities Act process

Lead authority	Proposal submitted jointly	Proposal	Summary of Selector Panel discussion	Panel decision and rationale
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council		Part 1) More regular bus services in Ipstones; Part 2) Retention of the village post office in Ipstones, including a desire to see more services retained by post offices generally; The re-opening of those village post offices that have already been closed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The panel felt that part one of the proposal did not require the assistance of the SoS. Local bus services are a matter for agreement locally. Part 2- Members noted that a number of authorities have worked with partners to provide curtailed services for their residents. Members noted that the current post office closure programme has been closed and that the government has committed to make the current network sustainable in the long term. 	<p>Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not require assistance from the SoS. Viability and credibility.
Suffolk Coastal District Council		Legislative changes to transfer responsibility for the authorisation of operating centres for goods vehicles from the traffic commissioner to local planning authorities. This would require amendments to the Goods Vehicles (Licensing of Operators) Act and the Town and Country Planning Act (1990).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposal provided no indication as to whether the views of the Traffic Commissioner had been sought. Members supported the objective of the proposal. 	<p>Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultation requirements.
Suffolk Coastal District Council		A percentage of the funding currently distributed through the Regional Development Agencies, the Learning & Skills Council and Department of Work & Pensions (DWP) be given directly to district councils in rural areas to fund training for employability and skills development locally.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposal provided no indication as to whether consultation with DWP had occurred. 	<p>Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultation requirements.
Sutton London Borough Council		Pilot a new approach to planning, where applications that the authority refuses can be taken to a local Panel if either applicant or objectors express dissatisfaction with the decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members discussed that the Planning Inspectorate and the SoS are not the same. The Planning Inspectorate would need to be consulted by the authority. Members noted that the Planning Inspectorate has not been consulted. 	<p>Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultation requirements.
Teignbridge District Council		That the government cease any future post office closure programmes and review the impact on communities where closures have already taken place.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The government has already said that it has no present plans for further rounds of post office closures and will work to make the current network sustainable in the long term. Legislation to prevent further post office closures would be required this may be regarded as an unacceptable limitation on the rights of sub postmasters to run their businesses as they see fit. 	<p>Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viability and credibility domain.

annex B: proposals eliminated from the Sustainable Communities Act process

Lead authority	Proposal submitted jointly	Proposal	Summary of Selector Panel discussion	Panel decision and rationale
Torrige District Council		To allow derelict private buildings, which have not previously been used as residential accommodation (space above shops, meeting rooms, offices, chapels, etc), to be compulsorily purchased by the local authority and converted/renovated for housing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members were unclear regarding the assistance required by the SoS. The Panel noted that the additional information sought on the proposal from the authority had not been received. 	<p>Eliminate. Rationale: Viability and credibility domain.</p>
Torrige District Council		Assist local communities in making their village halls self sustaining. This proposal would require a change to the Licensing Act 2003 to increase the annual temporary event notice limit from 12 to 25.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The objective of the proposal can already be achieved using existing powers. 	<p>Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not require assistance from the SoS.
Torrige District Council		Provision of enhanced public transport in rural areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The panel felt that little information had been provided on the assistance required from the SoS. 	<p>Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not require assistance from the SoS. Viability and credibility domain.
Torrige District Council		That second home owners should pay 100 per cent of the council tax and that all income raised remains locally.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sharing the proceeds of the second homes discount is currently a matter for local discretion as such the income is already retained locally under current powers. Members felt that piecemeal reform of the local government finance system would create inequity and potential disadvantage to other authorities. Supporting this proposal may disadvantage other local authorities. 	<p>Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not require assistance from the SoS. Viability and credibility Impact on sustainability.
Warrington Borough Council		The proposal would require amendment to the current business rate relief scheme to include an inspection managed award of business rate relief.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The outcome can be achieved without assistance of the Secretary of State. The authority could simply award funding for achieving the relevant standards. 	<p>Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not require assistance from the SoS Viability and credibility domain.
West Devon Borough Council		Part 2) That the government gives a commitment to re introduce lost or curtailed services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A number of authorities have worked with partners to provide curtailed services for their residents. 	<p>Part 2) Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viability and credibility domain.

annex B: proposals eliminated from the Sustainable Communities Act process

Lead authority	Proposal submitted jointly	Proposal	Summary of Selector Panel discussion	Panel decision and rationale
West Devon Borough Council		Long-term government funding for West Devon Borough Council to enable further community involvement and participation by the provision of local community forums for each market town and proportionate arrangements for villages and dispersed settlements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The panel felt that little information was provided in the proposal concerning time-scales and cost implications. The objective of establishing community forums can be achieved within existing powers. 	<p>Eliminate Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viability and credibility domain. Does not require assistance from the SoS.
West Devon Borough Council		That the government should provide a financial incentive for landowners to sell land for community purposes without financial loss; particularly small parcels of land for affordable housing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The panel expressed concern over the viability of the proposal; in particular it was not clear why this mechanism would be more successful than existing routes to achieve this outcome. Members felt the proposal would have unintended consequences in the general rise of land values. 	<p>Eliminate Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viability and credibility domain.
West Devon Borough Council		Increase the usage of the Dartmoor Railway.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The panel felt the objective of the proposal could be achieved using the well being power. 	<p>Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not require assistance from the SoS.
West Lancashire District Council		To extend the funding that local authorities receive for the collection of recyclables to all categories of non-business premises.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members noted that no information had been provided on the cost/benefit of the proposal. The Panel noted that the additional information sought on the proposal from the authority had not been received. 	<p>Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viability and credibility domain.
West Lancashire District Council		The government to support regeneration in new towns.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members noted that this proposal may have adverse affects on other authorities. Members noted that the authority may wish to discuss their specific needs with the Homes and Communities Agency. 	<p>Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impact on sustainability. Viability and credibility domain.
West Lancashire District Council		Provide funding to improve train and bus services to and from Skelmersdale.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The panel felt the objective of the proposal could be determined locally. The panel discussed that there are already existing channels available to prioritise in this area. The panel noted that increasing expenditure on one project may adversely affect the delivery of other transport projects in the region. 	<p>Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not require assistance from the SoS. Viability and Credibility domain.

annex B: proposals eliminated from the Sustainable Communities Act process

Lead authority	Proposal submitted jointly	Proposal	Summary of Selector Panel discussion	Panel decision and rationale
West Lancashire District Council		To allow local authorities to participate in more than one local area agreement/multi area agreement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The objective can be achieved using existing powers. 	<p>Eliminate.</p> <p>Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not require assistance from the SoS.
West Lancashire District Council		Changes to the funding formula for local authorities to facilitate public realm maintenance in New Town areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changes in grant formula would impact on other authorities Members felt that piecemeal reform of the local government finance system would create inequity and potential disadvantage to other authorities. Supporting this proposal may disadvantage other local authorities. 	<p>Eliminate.</p> <p>Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viability and credibility.
West Oxfordshire District Council		Part 1) Government revises its criteria for the award of flood defence grant in aid, which administered by the Environment Agency on behalf of Defra.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The panel expressed concern that the first part of the proposal could have unintended consequences for other councils. 	<p>Part 1) Eliminate.</p> <p>Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viability and credibility domain. Impact on sustainability.
Wiltshire Council		Adaptations should be made to new affordable housing at design room stage to meet mobility targets, saving around £16,000 on wet room adaptations on existing properties.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members noted that the outcomes sought through the proposal can be achieved within the existing policy framework. In particular using the lifetime homes standard. 	<p>Eliminate.</p> <p>Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not require assistance from the SoS.
Wiltshire Council		To relax national signage regulations to allow the council to replace traditional "white and black" national speed limit signs with signs that state exactly what the speed limit is.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members noted that this proposal had been withdrawn by the authority. 	<p>Eliminate.</p> <p>Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The authority has withdrawn this proposal.
Wiltshire Council		Voluntary organisations should not pay business rates for rubbish collection but rather be treated as domestic customers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members noted that the authority had withdrawn this proposal. 	<p>Eliminate.</p> <p>Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The authority has withdrawn this proposal.

annex B: proposals eliminated from the Sustainable Communities Act process

Lead authority	Proposal submitted jointly	Proposal	Summary of Selector Panel discussion	Panel decision and rationale
Wiltshire Council		Amending stamp duty land tax to rejuvenate the housing market.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The panel felt little information was provided on the assistance required from the SoS. Members noted there was little detail provided on which to base a decision on viability. 	<p>Eliminate.</p> <p>Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not require assistance from the SoS. Viability and credibility domain.
Wiltshire Council		Stamp duty land tax from house sales should be paid to the local authority to encourage the building of more affordable homes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The panel felt little information was provided on the assistance required from the SoS. Members noted there was little detail provided on which to base a decision on viability. 	<p>Eliminate.</p> <p>Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not require assistance from the SoS. Viability and credibility domain.
Wiltshire Council		Lowered curbs for wheelchair users should be painted yellow to ensure car drivers are made aware not to park in front of them.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The panel noted there could be large cost implications for local authorities. Existing routes are available to achieve this objective. 	<p>Eliminate.</p> <p>Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not require assistance from the SoS. Viability and credibility domain.
Wiltshire Council		Inject vehicle excise duty paid by Wiltshire residents back into the local area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is little information in the proposal on which to base an assessment. The proposal does not evidence an impact on sustainability. 	<p>Eliminate.</p> <p>Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viability and credibility domain. Impact on sustainability.
Wiltshire Council		That the speed limit in all town centres and villages be 20mph.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local authorities already have the power to set 20mph speed limits on local roads in town centres and villages and to do so where this is deemed locally appropriate. 	<p>Eliminate.</p> <p>Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not require assistance from the Secretary of State.
Wiltshire Council		Introduce plastic recycling collections at the doorstep and to ensure that producers use recyclable grades of plastic in their packaging.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Doorstep collections are already occurring. Members questioned the viability of this proposal. 	<p>Eliminate.</p> <p>Rationale</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not require assistance from the SoS (first part) Viability and credibility domain (second part).

annex B: proposals eliminated from the Sustainable Communities Act process

Lead authority	Proposal submitted jointly	Proposal	Summary of Selector Panel discussion	Panel decision and rationale
Wiltshire Council		Access to education should be widened to cover as many people's needs as possible.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members felt there was little information provided about the existing barriers to the proposal. Members noted that many colleges, the open university and other organisations already propose different ways to access courses. 	<p>Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viability and credibility domain. Does not require assistance from the SoS.
Wiltshire Council		Government to set a requirement for a strategic policy for climate change to be developed and owned by local authorities, in partnership with other appropriate organisations to put in place measures addressing the issue of climate change and promoting the development of a low carbon economy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The panel felt that there is government action around this proposal. The panel felt the proposal did not require the assistance of the SoS. 	<p>Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not require assistance from the SoS.
Wiltshire Council		New houses to be equipped with rain water harvesting and solar power units to minimise their impact on the environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The panel felt it the proposal did not clarify where assistance from the SoS was needed. 	<p>Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viability and credibility domain.
Wiltshire Council		Energy production to be decentralised to local level.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The panel felt that the proposal contained limited information on the difference the proposal would make locally. The panel felt that the specific actions required from government and how this might be viable in practice had not been considered in sufficient detail. 	<p>Eliminate. Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viability and credibility domain. Impact on sustainability.
Wiltshire Council		Undertake a national review of the use of street lights.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviews and changes to the management of street lighting can be undertaken locally and is within the power of the local authority. With regard to a national review, the panel felt that a review would be more effective if undertaken by the local government sector. 	<p>Eliminate Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not require assistance from the SoS.
Wiltshire Council		All government computers to be set to a default setting of dark grey and computer manufacturers to be requested to ensure that all new computers set to dark grey rather than black.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The panel felt that the objective could be achieved locally and across the county without assistance from the SoS. Members felt that there were a number of anticipated difficulties over practical implementation and enforcement of this proposal. For example national legislation would struggle to be responsive to market developments. 	<p>Eliminate Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not require assistance from the SoS. Viability and credibility domain.

annex B: proposals eliminated from the Sustainable Communities Act process

Lead authority	Proposal submitted jointly	Proposal	Summary of Selector Panel discussion	Panel decision and rationale
Windsor & Maidenhead Royal Borough		Transfer the financial and operational responsibility for the local fire and rescue services from the Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Services (RBFPS) to the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead (RBWM).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members noted the proposal would be complex to implement. Members were concerned that the very small size of the proposed authority would render it unviable. In particular members noted that the impact of the proposal on the strategic role and service implications of the fire authority across the remaining county area should this proposal be successful. In addition members expressed concern relating to the resources available to the authority to undertake the full range of responsibilities of a fire and rescue service. Specifically members noted a concern around the impact on sustainability the proposal would have in the surrounding areas. Members offered support to both the council and fire authority. 	<p>Eliminate.</p> <p>Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viability and credibility domain. Impact on sustainability.



Local Government Association

The Local Government Association is the national voice for more than 400 local authorities in England and Wales. The LGA group comprises the LGA and five partner organisations which work together to support, promote and improve local government.



For further information please contact
the Local Government Association at:
Local Government House
Smith Square,
London SW1P 3HZ

or telephone LGconnect, for all your LGA
queries on 020 7664 3131
Fax: 020 7664 3030
E:mail info@lga.gov.uk

Code L09-935
ISBN 978 1 84049 714 4

Designed and printed by Liberata Design and Print Studio
© LGA December 2009