

July 2008

### Standing for office

#### *How do I stand for office and what support should I get?*

*Communities in control: real people, real power* was launched on 9 July 2008. This White Paper is about passing power to communities and giving real control and influence to more people. Please visit [www.communities.gov.uk](http://www.communities.gov.uk) for more information.

We would like to encourage community groups to discuss and feedback to us about the topics raised in the White Paper. Please use this topic discussion guide in conjunction with the Community Power Pack which is also available from our website.

#### Points to consider

The White Paper outlines how people can stand for office, especially for their local council, building on the recommendations of the Councillors Commission.

It also looks at how we can remove some of the barriers to participation as well as awarding those who do participate.

#### Key policies

- Encouraging a wider range of people to **stand for election** to their local council, including through enabling councils to allow councillors to attend and vote at meetings 'remotely'
- Consulting on **extending the right to time off** for public duties to a wider number of roles
- Encouraging **more employers to support employees** wanting to take up civic roles through the production of an information pack
- Encouraging councils to use their existing powers to designate experienced former councillors as '**Aldermen**' and enable the use of the new title of '**Alderwoman**'.

## Questions for discussion

- In your view has the White Paper captured the correct points on how people can stand for office?
- How far do you think that these policies will address the issues raised?
- What more do you think needs to be done to address these issues?