



Communities in Control

Equality Impact Assessment



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INITIAL EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT:

*COMMUNITIES IN CONTROL: REAL PEOPLE,
REAL POWER*

1 Name of programme, Project, or Policy

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT WHITE PAPER: *COMMUNITIES IN CONTROL: REAL PEOPLE, REAL POWER*

2 Full Assessment undertaken by:

Director or Divisional Manager	David Rossington
Policy Developer/Lead	Andrew Masters
Other people involved in the assessment	Selvin Brown

3 Scope of the assessment

Introduction

This document provides a provisional assessment of how the *Communities in control* White Paper may impact upon key equalities groups. It draws on issues identified during the screening of policies in the White Paper for equality impacts and is intended as a precursor to further work by officials across the department who have responsibility for individual policies.

In this provisional assessment we have explored possible impacts. Identifying and planning how to mitigate impacts on equalities groups is an ongoing process. Approaches appropriate to individual policies are being developed, and in some cases this will lead to a full Equalities Impact Assessment.

Aims, purpose and outcomes

The aim of the *Communities in control* White Paper is threefold:

- To pass power into the hands of local communities
- To generate vibrant local democracy
- To give control over local decisions and services to a wider range of people.

It contains a programme of policies to tackle some key problems linked to a sense of powerlessness on the part of many people and a feeling that voices are not being heard on a local level. These key problems are:

- declining levels of democratic engagement in England
- declining perceptions of influence over local decision-making
- declining levels of satisfaction with local government in England.

3 Scope of the assessment (continued)

Ultimately the White Paper will seek to achieve the following outcomes:

- more people feeling they are able to influence local decisions
- local authorities seen as vibrant hubs of local democracy
- a wider pool of citizens putting themselves forward for governance roles, including as councillors
- people finding it easier to participate in formal and extensive voluntary and community activity at a local level
- more visible and accountable local leaders and more accountable services.

The White Paper's aims relate in particular to one of the two Public Service Agreements on which Communities and Local Government leads – PSA21: Building more cohesive, empowered and active communities, and particularly indicator 4 – the percentage of people who feel they can influence decisions in their area. They also input into indicator 4, relating to civic participation in PSA15: Addressing the disadvantage that individuals experience because of their gender, race, disability, age, sexual orientation, religion or belief, particularly through the work responding to the Councillors Commission. The aims also relate to the Departmental Strategic Objectives (DSOs), particularly DSO1 which aims to support local government that empowers individuals and communities and delivers high quality services efficiently; and DSO4 which aims to develop communities that are cohesive, active and resilient to extremism.

Main activities and beneficiaries

There are also different depths of engagement, participation, and therefore, empowerment ranging from assessing information through to citizen control. The White Paper recognises this in its chapter structure, which is broadly based on Sherry Arnstein's 'Ladder of Citizen Participation', but presents these stages of participation not as a ladder but a spectrum where the citizen engages at a given level without an expectation of 'climbing the ladder' to deeper stages of participation.

The main focus and activities in each of these chapters are set out below:

Chapter 1 – The case for people and communities having more power

Lays out the case for empowerment, explaining the principles the White Paper follows and justifying why government action is necessary. Key policies include:

- a new Duty on local authorities to promote democracy to help local authorities promote citizen involvement through clearer information, better trained staff and more visible councillors in the community
- extension of the Duty to Involve local people in key decisions to a new range of agencies and bodies
- consulting on the draft prospectus for an Empowerment Fund to support existing national third sector organisations
- creating a new Empowering the Frontline Taskforce to look at the role of the public service workforce in empowering users and residents.

Chapter 2 – Active Citizens and the value of volunteering

Looks at the benefit to society of active citizens, willing to give their time to help their local community. It puts forward policy proposals to support training, facilities and local structures aimed at helping more people to volunteer and be more active in their communities. Key policies include:

- establishment of a £70m Communitybuilders fund to secure the future of community-led organisations through providing funding to develop local capacity and investing in locally led and designed projects
- supporting citizenship education for young people and adults through the citizenship curriculum and a Take Part local pathfinder programme offering training and information on how to be an active citizen
- supporting volunteering by exploring how those on benefits can be supported in taking up volunteering opportunities, investing in opportunities for people with disabilities to volunteer and extending mentoring and befriending.

Chapter 3 – Access to information

Looks at how local councils can empower citizens by publishing accessible, understandable local information as part of their existing 'duty to involve' local people and their new 'duty to promote democracy'. Key policies include:

- supporting local authorities in making the information they hold more readily available, including through piloting new and innovative approaches to sharing information
- piloting a Digital Mentor Scheme in deprived areas to improve general media literacy and links with community and local broadcasters
- improving the information available to local citizens and service users.

Chapter 4 – Having an Influence

Explains how people can have their say and influence the decisions being made on their behalf, both by elected and non elected people. Key policies include:

- introducing a new duty for councils to respond to petitions, ensuring that those with significant local support are properly debated
- encouraging every local authority to use participatory budgeting in some form by 2012
- encouraging the creation of more neighbourhood councils
- supporting local authorities in engaging more people in commissioning local goods and services
- providing more funding to support community engagement in planning
- empowering social housing tenants for example through the establishment of a National Tenant Voice to give tenants a voice and expertise at national level.

Chapter 5 – Challenge

Looks into ways people can hold to account those that exercise power in their locality and the ways in which we will establish more visible and accountable local leaders by encouraging more powerful elected mayors. Key policies include:

- introducing a new system of visibility and accountability for public officials – for example through a new right to petition to hold local officials to account
- raising the visibility of the Overview and Scrutiny function in local authorities
- making police forces and health services more accountable to local people
- making it easier for people to demand that their local leaders move to establishing a directly-elected mayor.

Chapter 6 – Redress

Explains how people can get swift and fair redress when things go wrong and make sure it does not happen to someone else. Key policies include:

- extending Community Contracts or ‘charters’ pilot schemes – voluntary agreements between local communities and local service providers creating clear obligations on both sides
- commissioning a review into the feasibility of introducing and extending redress for citizens when services fail to meet agreed targets.

Chapter 7 – Standing for Office

Addresses how people can stand for office, especially for their local council, building on the recommendations of the Councillors Commission which reported in December 2007 and which explored barriers and incentives into becoming and remaining a councillor. Key policies include:

- encouraging a wider range of people to stand for election to their local council, including through amending legislation to: remove salary-based restrictions on council employees’ political activity; and enable 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 ‘Alderswoman’.

Chapter 8 – Ownership and Control

Looks at how citizens can move beyond being consulted or holding officials to account and to how local people can own and run services themselves. Key policies include:

- establishing an Asset Transfer Unit to encourage local authorities to transfer more local assets to the ownership or management of local people, where appropriate
- encouraging local authorities to ensure social enterprises can compete fairly for contracts and working with colleagues in other government departments to ensure that procurement processes do not unfairly disadvantage social enterprises

Beneficiaries of the policy

Most of the White Paper's policies are intended to benefit a wide range of people within society without being geared to any particular equalities group or groups. The main exception is policies aimed specifically at encouraging those who are currently under-represented to stand for election at their local council. These will have the following outcomes and benefits to specific equalities groups:

- an increase in the number of people standing (and hopefully being elected) as Councillors from under-represented groups (the evidence shows that women, young people, people of working age, people from black and minority ethnic communities and disabled people of working age are under-represented – see below)
- an increase in the retention rates of councillors from under-represented groups
- an increase in the numbers of people from under-represented groups participating in other civic roles
- an increase in confidence in the democratic process among people from under-represented groups.

It is also likely that equalities groups are underrepresented in wider civic roles, for example magistrates, school governors and youth offending panel members. The White Paper seeks to address these inequalities by encouraging more and different people to participate in these roles, for example through increasing the roles legally entitled to time off work (a proposal on which we will shortly be consulting) and making information available for people interested in getting involved in their communities.

Policies not covered in this assessment

This Equality Impact Assessment does not consider policies which are the responsibility of other government departments aside from Communities and Local Government. In particular this will **not** consider:

- The **review of older people's engagement in government** and building on the *Opportunity Age* strategy for older people – both currently being led by the Department for Work and Pensions
- Investing a further £2m to create **opportunities for people with disabilities to become volunteers and volunteer managers**. The Government will be pursuing this through the Office of the Third Sector.

In addition there are some policies for which it is too early to assess likely impacts on equalities groups, due to the policy needing further development. In particular these are:

- **Digital Mentors**. Officials are still assessing what the parameters of the role will be, and funding arrangements are being finalised
- Working with faith communities to clarify the issues and remove the barriers to **commissioning services from faith-based groups**. Officials will be assessing the impacts of this policy on equalities groups and taking steps to mitigate against it as the policy is developed.

Finally, a separate Equalities Impact Assessment is being prepared for the Interfaith Strategy which will be published alongside the strategy in July 2008.

4 Evidence Sources

Propensity to participate varies among different socio-economic groups. For both civil and civic participation it is possible to identify the more engaged and disengaged. In the Evidence Annex to the White Paper *Communities in control: real people, real power* we have set out in detail the findings of our research¹. The sources of data we have used are set out below.

4.1 Data

Gender

In the main, there are not notable gender differences in relation to subjective empowerment – that is the extent to which people *feel* that they can influence local (and/or national) conditions and decisions. Moreover, men and women seem to participate at similar rates in civic and political life. The exception to this is the well documented disparity in the numbers of men and women who actually become politicians – women make up only 29 per cent of councillors and 20 per cent of MPs. However levels of participation in volunteering vary significantly between men and women, for example women are more likely than men to volunteer regularly with 38 per cent of women engaging in informal volunteering compared to 31 per cent of men. The evidence sources are listed by indicator:

- political participation – Electoral Commission, 2004; Haberis and Prendergrast, 2007
- volunteering – Helping Out Survey, 2007; Citizenship Survey (April-December 2007)

Ethnicity

The evidence suggests that ethnic minority citizens feel more empowered than white citizens, but this pattern is not reflected in the objective measures of empowerment. The evidence sources are listed by indicator:

- influencing decisions – Citizenship Survey (April-December 2007)
- trust in government – Citizenship Survey (April-December 2007)
- political participation – Electoral Commission, 2006; Electoral Commission, 2005; Government Equalities Office, 2007; Haberis and Prendergrast, 2007
- civic activism – Citizenship Survey (April-September 2007)
- making a complaint – Best value user satisfaction surveys, 2006
- volunteering – Citizenship Survey (April-December 2007).

Disability

Evidence collected for the Councillors Commission (Haberis and Prendergrast, 2007) found that:

- disabled people face barriers related to access and mobility, both in terms of physical and informational accessibility
- barriers related to deprivation and social exclusion may disproportionately affect people with disabilities.

¹ This can be viewed at: www.communities.gov.uk/documents/communities/pdf/886123.pdf

4 Evidence Sources (*continued*)

- disabled people may face additional financial costs for being a councillor.
- disabled people may suffer due to discriminatory or ignorant attitudes.
- disabled people may find it harder to partake in traditional campaign orientated activism which impacts on their selection chances.

Haberis and Prendergrast also comment that “while the age distribution of councillors with a long-term illness, health problem or disability seems broadly to reflect the distribution in the population (with proportions increasing with age) both Scope and the Disability Rights Commission argue in their submissions to the Commission, that the under-representation of younger disabled councillors is particularly significant. It is also suggested that older disabled councillors will often have age-related impairments and that the disabled councillor population may not therefore be representative of disabled people more generally.

Age

We have considered various indicators, which show that levels of subjective empowerment vary significantly by age. The evidence sources are listed by indicator:

- influencing decisions – Citizenship Survey (April-December 2007)
- trust in government – Citizenship Survey (April-December 2007)
- political participation – Pirie and Worcester, 2000; Electoral Commission, 2005; Audit of political engagement, Hansard Society, 2008
- civic participation – Citizenship Survey (April-December 2007)
- civic activism – Citizenship Survey (April-December 2007)
- making a complaint – Best value user satisfaction surveys, 2006
- volunteering – Citizenship Survey (April-December 2007)
- online engagement – Colville, 2008; Survey of The internet in Britain, 2007; Dutton and Helsper, 2007.

4.2 Research

Work is currently ongoing to fully exploit the data collected as part of the Citizenship Survey from an equalities perspective.

4.3 Consultation

General

On 5 March 2008, we launched a discussion paper called *Unlocking the Talent of our Communities* to help develop policies for the White Paper. We have held regional workshops with a range of stakeholders (including those representing local authority, third sector groups and equalities groups). The Secretary of State, Hazel Blears, chaired a number of expert panels which included discussing empowerment from the perspective of different groups: one particular panel consisted of representatives from equalities groups including race, gender, disability, age, sexuality and faith groups.

4 Evidence Sources (*continued*)

We ran a tailored workshops for representatives of some key equalities groups on 17 April and 9 May 2008: The following representatives attended or were invited to attend:

- 1990 Trust
- Black Boys Can
- Black Health Agency
- Black Training and Enterprise Group
- British Humanist Association
- Children’s Rights Alliance
- Equality and Diversity Forum
- Fawcett Society
- Help the Aged
- Housing Associations’ Charitable Trust (HACT)
- Interfaith Network for the UK
- Interfaith Network for the UK
- MIND
- Operation Black Vote
- Path National UK
- Peckham Programme
- Race Equality Foundation
- Race on the Agenda (ROTA)
- Royal National Institute for the Blind
- Royal National Institute for the Deaf
- Scope
- Windsor Fellowship
- Womankind Worldwide
- Women’s National Commission.

Additionally, we ensured that a copy of the discussion document was sent to a wide range of equalities groups. This included non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) of the department, centred around equalities groups such as the Race Equality Advisory Group (REAG) and email distribution lists provided by the Government Equalities Office which covered race, disability, gender, sexuality, age and faith groups. We also ensured that we used other networks to disseminate the information such as the email list for the Women’s National Commission.

We ran a range of online and new media engagement tools, to ensure that we could reach a wider range of participants. We ran online discussion forums in which stakeholders gave their views on how different policies would affect different communities. We also ran a closed ‘wiki’ for particular groups of stakeholders, including those representing people in disadvantaged areas and particular equalities groups who find it more difficult to get their voices heard.

4 Evidence Sources (continued)

Finally, a Community Power Pack was produced which could be used by small voluntary and community organisations to engage their members, and feed views back to the department, on empowerment issues. Although not specifically directed towards equalities groups, feedback has been positive from community groups on the usefulness of this tool in reaching those harder to reach groups.

Specific policies

Duty to promote democracy/Councillors Commission

The Councillors Commission consulted with representatives and individuals from a wide range of under-represented groups² and Government also consulted on the Councillors Commission report following its publication. There will be further consultation on the guidance on the proposed new duty to promote democracy; enabling councillors with caring responsibilities and others to participate in meetings and vote remotely; the revised Code of Conduct for Members and the Review of the Code of Recommended Practice on Local Government Publicity.

Extending the Duty to Involve

The Duty to Involve was introduced under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (and will apply to Best Value authorities from 1 April 2009). This means that the Duty has been subject to rigorous public scrutiny and consultation, including with interested groups. The *Communities in control* White Paper proposes extending this Duty to additional organisations and while there are no immediate plans for public consultation, this will occur should further guidance be necessary.

Empowering the Frontline Taskforce

We will shortly be launching a taskforce which will include consultation with a wide range of stakeholders.

Empowerment Fund

We have launched a consultation on a draft prospectus for an Empowerment Fund to support existing national third sector organisations.

Take Part local pathfinder

The consultation process for the Take Part local pathfinder programme has been in operation since the original scoping study and was continued throughout the pilots during the evaluation process.

Communitybuilders

This policy has been formed via a consultation with a wide variety of stakeholders including through work to inform the Government-wide review: *The Future Role of the Third Sector in Social and Economic Regeneration*. A number of roundtables were held in early 2007 and some fieldwork was conducted to examine the typical development needs of community organisations. Regional consultation events were also conducted with a variety of stakeholder groups.

Tenant Services Authority

The extension of the TSA's remit to cover local authorities will be implemented via secondary legislation through an enabling power in the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008. Consultation will take place on draft regulations early in 2009.

² For full details see: www.communities.gov.uk/councillors-commission/publications/representingthefuture/

4 Evidence Sources (continued)

Petitions

A consultation on the proposed duty on local authorities to respond to local petitions ran from 27 December 2007 to 20 March 2008. Equalities issues were raised in a number of responses. Policies featuring in the White Paper have been developed in response to some of the concerns raised. We will consult on a new right to petition to hold local officers to account.

Participatory budgeting

A draft national strategy for participatory budgeting was launched for consultation between 19 March and 10 June. In addition the PB Unit is currently consulting on the values, principles and standards of PB which take full account of our equalities responsibilities.

The making and enforcement of byelaws

We will shortly be consulting on the content of regulations to devolve the making of byelaws to councils and improving their enforcement through the introduction of fixed penalty notices.

Overview and scrutiny

We will shortly be consulting on the role of overview and scrutiny in holding officials to account.

Directly-elected mayors

The *Communities in control* White Paper builds on the measures introduced in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 by proposing consultation on making it easier for local people to demand that their council holds a referendum on whether to move to a mayoral model. We plan to consult on on-line petitioning for Mayors and reducing the threshold for a petition to trigger a mayoral referendum from 5% of voters.

Redress Review

The Redress Review will look at the current evidence of where and how redress and compensation systems are working across the public and private sectors and will publish recommendations in Spring 2009. This will look at the impact on different groups.

Time off entitlements

We will shortly be consulting on extending the right to time off for public duties to people serving in a wider range of roles and encouraging people to take on roles in independent, voluntary or community sector organisations.

4.4 Does the evidence gathering comply with the principles set out in Civil Service guidance on evidence-based policy making and Impact Assessment?

Yes

5 Summary of Key Insights, by Equality Group		
Policy	Key Insights	Assessment of scale of potential impact – positive or adverse
RACE³		
Duty to Promote Democracy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A new statutory duty on local authorities to promote democracy, which will require them to have regard to guidance which will encourage local authorities to take a range of actions to promote the democratic process, including voting, and standing as a councillor. 	<p>Positive. We envisage that a statutory requirement on local authorities will mean that there is a considerable increase in promotion of council governance processes and civic roles, including as a councillor, to those in currently underrepresented groups. We would therefore envisage a corresponding increase in the number of people from underrepresented groups standing as councillors and other civic roles.</p>
		<p>There are some risks that councils might not implement effectively or fairly, that groups will not be receptive to council actions or that tensions will arise between groups due to perceptions that some are being favoured over others. But consultation on guidance on the duty, the use of Comprehensive Area Assessment and the piloting of actions by 'exemplar' authorities will mitigate the risks and ensure that best practice is disseminated.</p>

³ At this stage, many of the positive outcomes listed for race in this table are generic. As policies are developed we hope to be able to develop a more detailed idea of the impacts policies have, specifically on black and minority ethnic groups.

5 Summary of Key Insights, by Equality Group (continued)		
Policy	Key Insights	Assessment of scale of potential impact – positive or adverse
RACE (continued)		
Response to Councillors Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Review of Guidance to look at support Councils can offer councils can offer councillors in conducting official, as opposed to political, business • Enable local authorities to offer voting incentives – will be developed with Ministry of Justice • Intention to enable local authorities to adopt voting incentives. Developed with the Ministry of Justice • Enabling local authorities to offer loss of office payments to Executive councillors if they chose to do so. 	<p>Positive. All proposals have the intention of increasing the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • number of councillors from black and minority ethnic groups standing • retention rates of councillors from black and minority ethnic groups • number of people from black and minority ethnic groups participating in other civic roles • confidence in the democratic process from people in under-represented groups.
Response to Councillors Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enabling councils to organise business to allow some councillors to participate in council meetings remotely • Initiatives to recognise and accredit councillors. 	<p>There are risks councils may not implement effectively or black and minority ethnic groups may not be receptive – risks and mitigation outlined under Duty to promote democracy above.</p>
Extending the Duty to Involve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Placing a requirement on more public bodies to ensure effective and consistent consultation ensuring involvement is inclusive and accessible. 	<p>Positive impact on all race groups.</p>

5 Summary of Key Insights, by Equality Group (continued)		
Policy	Key Insights	Assessment of scale of potential impact – positive or adverse
RACE (continued)		
Empowering the Frontline Taskforce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The taskforce will look at the role of the public service workforce in empowering users and residents and how the frontline can respond to a more empowered public. It will consider, in particular, the relationships between local public services and the most vulnerable groups in society. 	Currently unknown. Taskforce will report in 2010 however likely to benefit different vulnerable groups who may have difficulty accessing services.
Empowerment Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consulting on how to allocate funding to national third sector bodies. 	Positive on all sections of community including different race groups.
Take Part local pathfinder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building skills and confidence to encourage local people to pursue civic activism, community leadership and lay governance roles. 	Positive – will increase the number and diversity of those taking on lay governance roles. Seeks to address the gaps in levels of participation between race groups.
Community-builders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Direct financial support to community organisations to help transform neighbourhoods and empower the whole community. 	Should have a positive impact on strengthening all communities, helping to develop communities that are cohesive.
Digital inclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New cross-government digital equality action plan to empower users to access services and achieve increased independence through the use of new technology. 	Positive impact. Some of the programmes which will be developed are likely to provide particular benefits for certain ethnic groups.
Timely information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aimed to reduce inequalities by helping local authorities better meet the information needs of all groups. 	Dependent on how local authorities implement policy. For example if they do not provide adequate translation services, it could impact negatively on some groups.

5 Summary of Key Insights, by Equality Group (continued)		
Policy	Key Insights	Assessment of scale of potential impact – positive or adverse
RACE (continued)		
Participatory budgeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aim that every local authority offers PB in some form by 2012. 	Unknown, pilots are ongoing. Potential for disproportionate influence by some groups. Efforts are being made to ensure an inclusive approach in order to increase social capital and community cohesion.
Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to £4m over three years to local planning authorities in England to promote community participation in planning. 	Positive. We will be encouraging projects which actively embrace equality issues.
Empowering young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A programme for young people to shadow government ministers. 	Ensuring fair access and representation of those who partake in the shadowing scheme. Will be dealt with in the tender documentation at the start of the procurement process. (Expected early 09).
Directly-elected mayors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving the visibility and accountability of local leadership by promoting directly-elected mayors. 	Currently most directly-elected mayors are white and male. However we expect the work of the Councillors Commission in improving the proportion of black and minority ethnic councillors to eventually have a knock-on effect for the diversity of directly-elected mayors.
Duty to respond to petitions & using petitions to hold public officials to account	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Duty on local authorities to respond to petitions New right to petition to hold local officers to account at a public hearing. 	Some ethnic groups face greater challenges when wanting to participate in public meetings and petitions for example due to language barriers. Policy will aim to ensure accessibility.
Time off entitlements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will make it easier for people to find information on the range of ways they could be active in civic roles in their communities. 	Possible impact. We will need to ensure information is available in a variety of sources.

5 Summary of Key Insights, by Equality Group (continued)		
Policy	Key Insights	Assessment of scale of potential impact – positive or adverse
RACE (continued)		
Asset transfer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More asset transfer pilots and a new Asset Transfer Unit to increase community management and ownership of public assets. 	Potential positive impact in terms of promotion of community relations and cohesion through use of buildings by different groups. Potential risk of a group taking control of an asset and excluding sections of the population, but can be mitigated through guidance and support programmes, and conditions of transfer.

5 Summary of Key Insights, by Equality Group (continued)		
Policy	Key Insights	Assessment of scale of potential impact – positive or adverse
DISABILITY		
Duty to Promote Democracy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new statutory duty on local authorities to promote democracy, which will require them to have regard to guidance which will encourage local authorities to take a range of actions to promote the democratic process, including voting, and standing as a councillor • Trying to increase the number of disabled people standing as councillors • Retention rates for disabled councillors • Increased number of disabled people standing for other civic roles • Increasing confidence in the democratic process among disabled people. 	<p>Positive. We envisage that a statutory requirement on local authorities will mean that there is a considerable increase in promotion of council governance processes and civic roles, including as a councillor, to those in currently underrepresented groups. We would therefore envisage a corresponding increase in the number of people from underrepresented groups standing as councillors and other civic roles.</p> <p>There are some risks that councils might not implement effectively or fairly, that groups will not be receptive to council actions or that tensions will arise between groups due to perceptions that some are being favoured over others. But consultation on guidance on the duty, the use of Comprehensive Area Assessment and the piloting of actions by ‘exemplar’ authorities will mitigate the risks and ensure that best practice is disseminated.</p>

5 Summary of Key Insights, by Equality Group (continued)		
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DISABILITY (continued)		
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Extending the Duty to Involve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Placing a requirement on more public bodies to ensure effective and consistent consultation ensuring involvement is inclusive and accessible. 	Positive impact on disabled people.

5 Summary of Key Insights, by Equality Group (continued)		
Policy	Key Insights	Assessment of scale of potential impact – positive or adverse
DISABILITY (continued)		
Empowering the Frontline Taskforce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The taskforce will look at the role of the public service workforce in empowering users and residents and how the frontline can respond to a more empowered public. It will consider, in particular, the relationships between local public services and the most vulnerable groups in society. 	Currently unknown, taskforce will report in 2010 however likely to benefit different vulnerable groups who may have difficulty accessing services.
Empowerment Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consulting on how to allocate funding to national third sector bodies. 	Positive on all sections of community including the disabled.
Take Part local pathfinder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building skills and confidence to encourage local people to pursue civic activism, community leadership and lay governance roles. 	Positive – will increase the number and diversity of those taking on lay governance roles. Seeks to address the gaps in levels of participation of disability groups compared to other groups.
Community-builders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Direct financial support to community organisations to help transform neighbourhoods and empower the whole community. 	Should have a positive impact on strengthening all communities, helping to develop communities that are cohesive.
Digital Inclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New cross-Government digital equality action plan to empower users to access services and achieve increased independence through the use of new technology. 	Positive impact. For example, sensitively developed programmes could develop the level of civic and community participation for those with disabilities, through the provision of appropriate tools which make it easier for them to take part in activities.

5 Summary of Key Insights, by Equality Group (continued)		
Policy	Key Insights	Assessment of scale of potential impact – positive or adverse
DISABILITY (continued)		
Timely information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aimed to reduce inequalities by helping local authorities better meet the information needs of all groups. 	Dependent on how local authorities implement policy. For example could improve access to information for disabled people.
Participatory budgeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aim that every local authority offers PB in some form by 2012. 	Unknown, pilots are ongoing. Important to ensure disabled citizens are given tailored and effective support so they can fully participate.
Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to £4m over three years to local planning authorities in England to promote community participation in planning. 	Positive. We will be encouraging projects which actively embrace equality issues.
Empowering young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A programme for young people to shadow government ministers. 	Ensuring fair access and representation of those who partake in the shadowing scheme. Will be dealt with in the tender documentation at the start of the procurement process. (Expected early 09).
Parish polls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changing the rules to make parish polls more accessible. 	Positive impact – plans are likely to include introducing more accessible voting eg postal and proxy.
Duty to respond to petitions & using petitions to hold public officials to account	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Duty on local authorities to respond to petitions New right to petition to hold local officers to account at a public hearing. 	Positive impact. Disabled people face greater challenges when wanting to participate in public meetings and petitions. Policy will aim to ensure accessibility.
Time off entitlements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will make it easier for people to find information on the range of ways they could be active in civic roles in their communities. 	Possible impact. We will need to ensure information is available in a variety of sources.

5 Summary of Key Insights, by Equality Group (continued)		
Policy	Key Insights	Assessment of scale of potential impact – positive or adverse
GENDER AND GENDER IDENTITY		
Asset transfer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More asset transfer pilots and a new Asset Transfer Unit to increase community management and ownership of public assets. 	Potential positive impact in terms of inclusion of people with disabilities. Risk that receiving organisation may not have resources to meet DDA requirements. Risk can be mitigated through guidance and support, and assessment of viability of transfer proposals.
Duty to Promote Democracy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new statutory duty on local authorities to promote democracy, which will require them to have regard to guidance which will encourage local authorities to take a range of actions to promote the democratic process, including voting, and standing as a councillor • Trying to increase the number of women standing as councillors • Retention rates for women councillors • Increased number of women standing for other civic roles • Increasing confidence in the democratic process among women. 	<p>Positive. We envisage that a statutory requirement on local authorities will mean that there is a considerable increase in promotion of council governance processes and civic roles, including as a councillor, to those in currently underrepresented groups. We would therefore envisage a corresponding increase in the number of people from underrepresented groups standing as councillors and other civic roles.</p> <p>There are some risks that councils might not implement effectively or fairly, that groups will not be receptive to council actions or that tensions will arise between groups due to perceptions that some are being favoured over others. But consultation on guidance on the duty, the use of Comprehensive Area Assessment and the piloting of actions by ‘exemplar’ authorities will mitigate the risks and ensure that best practice is disseminated.</p>

5 Summary of Key Insights, by Equality Group (continued)		
Policy	Key Insights	Assessment of scale of potential impact – positive or adverse
GENDER AND GENDER IDENTITY (continued)		
Response to Councillors Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Review of Guidance to look at support Councils can offer councils can offer councillors in conducting official, as opposed to political, business • Enable local authorities to offer voting incentives – will be developed with Ministry of Justice • Intention to enable local authorities to adopt voting incentives. Developed with the Ministry of Justice • Enabling local authorities to offer loss of office payments to Executive councillors if they chose to do so • Enabling councils to organise business to allow some councillors to participate in council meetings remotely • Initiatives to recognise and accredit councillors. 	<p>Positive. All proposals have the intention of increasing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the number of women councillors standing • the retention rates of women councillors • the number of women participating in other civic roles • women’s confidence in the democratic process. <p>In particular women councillors with caring responsibilities may benefit from remote voting.</p> <p>There are risks councils may not implement effectively or some groups of women may not be receptive – risks and mitigation outlined under Duty to promote democracy above.</p>
Extending the Duty to Involve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Placing a requirement on more public bodies to ensure effective and consistent consultation ensuring involvement is inclusive and accessible. 	Positive impact on women.
Empowerment Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consulting on how to allocate funding to national third sector bodies. 	Positive on all sections of community including women.

5 Summary of Key Insights, by Equality Group (continued)		
Policy	Key Insights	Assessment of scale of potential impact – positive or adverse
GENDER AND GENDER IDENTITY (continued)		
Take Part local pathfinder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building skills and confidence to encourage local people to pursue civic activism, community leadership and lay governance roles. 	Positive – will increase the number and diversity of those taking on lay governance roles. Seeks to address the gaps in levels of participation between gender groups.
Community-builders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Direct financial support to community organisations to help transform neighbourhoods and empower the whole community. 	Should have a positive impact on strengthening all communities, helping to develop communities that are cohesive.
Parish polls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changing the rules to make parish polls more accessible. 	Possible positive impact for women – plans are likely to include introducing more accessible voting eg postal and proxy and different hours.
Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to £4m over three years to local planning authorities in England to promote community participation in planning. 	Positive. We will be encouraging projects which actively embrace equality issues.
Empowering young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A programme for young people to shadow government ministers. 	Ensuring fair access and representativeness of those who partake in the shadowing scheme. Will be dealt with in the tender documentation at the start of the procurement process. (Expected early 09).
Aldermen/Alderwomen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extension of the title to women. 	Positive impact.
Asset transfer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More asset transfer pilots and a new Asset Transfer Unit to increase community management and ownership of public assets. 	Potential positive impact in terms of promotion of gender relations through use of buildings by different groups.

5 Summary of Key Insights, by Equality Group (continued)		
Policy	Key Insights	Assessment of scale of potential impact – positive or adverse
AGE		
Duty to Promote Democracy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new statutory duty on local authorities to promote democracy, which will require them to have regard to guidance which will encourage local authorities to take a range of actions to promote the democratic process, including voting, and standing as a councillor • Trying to increase the number of disabled people standing as councillors • Retention rates for disabled councillors • Increased number of disabled people standing for other civic roles • Increasing confidence in the democratic process among disabled people. 	<p>Positive. We envisage that a statutory requirement on local authorities will mean that there is a considerable increase in promotion of council governance processes and civic roles, including as a councillor, to those in currently underrepresented groups. We would therefore envisage a corresponding increase in the number of people from underrepresented groups standing as councillors and other civic roles.</p> <p>There are some risks that councils might not implement effectively or fairly, that groups will not be receptive to council actions or that tensions will arise between groups due to perceptions that some are being favoured over others. But consultation on guidance on the duty, the use of Comprehensive Area Assessment and the piloting of actions by 'exemplar' authorities will mitigate the risks and ensure that best practice is disseminated.</p>

5 Summary of Key Insights, by Equality Group (continued)		
Policy	Key Insights	Assessment of scale of potential impact – positive or adverse
AGE (continued)		
Response to Councillors Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Review of Guidance to look at support Councils can offer councils can offer councillors in conducting official, as opposed to political, business • Enable local authorities to offer voting incentives – will be developed with Ministry of Justice • Intention to enable local authorities to adopt voting incentives. Developed with the Ministry of Justice • Enabling local authorities to offer loss of office payments to Executive councillors if they chose to do so • Enabling councils to organise business to allow some councillors to participate in council meetings remotely • Initiatives to recognise and accredit councillors. 	<p>Positive. All proposals have the intention of increasing the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • number of young people standing as councillors • retention rates of councillors who are young people • number of young people participating in other civic roles • confidence in the democratic process among young people. <p>There are risks councils may not implement effectively or certain young people may not be receptive – risks and mitigation outlined under Duty to promote democracy above.</p>
Extending the Duty to Involve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Placing a requirement on more public bodies to ensure effective and consistent consultation ensuring involvement is inclusive and accessible. 	Positive impact on all age groups.
Empowerment Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consulting on how to allocate funding to national third sector bodies. 	Positive on all sections of community including different age groups.

5 Summary of Key Insights, by Equality Group (continued)		
Policy	Key Insights	Assessment of scale of potential impact – positive or adverse
AGE (continued)		
Empowering the Frontline Taskforce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The taskforce will look at the role of the public service workforce in empowering users and residents and how the frontline can respond to a more empowered public. It will consider, in particular, the relationships between local public services and the most vulnerable groups in society. 	Currently unknown, taskforce will report in 2010 however likely to benefit different vulnerable groups who may have difficulty accessing services.
Take Part local pathfinder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building skills and confidence to encourage local people to pursue civic activism, community leadership and lay governance roles. 	Positive – will increase the number and diversity of those taking on lay governance roles. Seeks to address the gaps in levels of participation between different age groups.
Community-builders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Direct financial support to community organisations to help transform neighbourhoods and empower the whole community. 	Should have a positive impact on strengthening all communities, helping to develop communities that are cohesive.
Digital Inclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New cross-government digital equality action plan to empower users to access services and achieve increased independence through the use of new technology. 	Positive impact. For example, older people can benefit greatly from e-health technologies.
Timely information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aimed to reduce inequalities by helping local authorities better meet the information needs of all groups. 	Dependent on how local authorities implement policy. For example lack of technical knowledge among older people may mean they miss out on innovative opportunities which technology can provide.

5 Summary of Key Insights, by Equality Group (<i>continued</i>)		
Policy	Key Insights	Assessment of scale of potential impact – positive or adverse
AGE (<i>continued</i>)		
New technologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More innovative use of new technologies to underpin empowerment. 	Possible negative impact on older people – evidence shows that the online world is a predominately young domain.
Duty to respond to petitions & using petitions to hold public officials to account	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Duty on local authorities to respond to petitions New right to petition to hold local officers to account at a public hearing. 	Older people face greater challenges when wanting to participate in public meetings and petitions. Policy will aim to ensure accessibility.
Participatory budgeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aim that every local authority offers PB in some form by 2012. 	Unknown, pilots are ongoing. There are specific PB schemes targeted at young people.
Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to £4m over three years to local planning authorities in England to promote community participation in planning. 	Positive. We will be encouraging projects which actively embrace equality issues.
Empowering young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A programme for young people to shadow government ministers. 	Positive impact on young people but policy will not enable older people to participate in this scheme.
Parish polls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changing the rules to make parish polls more accessible. 	Positive impact for older people – plans are likely to include introducing more accessible voting eg postal and proxy.
Asset transfer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More asset transfer pilots and a new Asset Transfer Unit to increase community management and ownership of public assets. 	Potential positive impact in terms of promotion of intergenerational relations through use of buildings by different groups.

5 Summary of Key Insights, by Equality Group (continued)		
Policy	Key Insights	Assessment of scale of potential impact – positive or adverse
SEXUAL ORIENTATION		
Extending the Duty to Involve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Placing a requirement on more public bodies to ensure effective and consistent consultation ensuring involvement is inclusive and accessible. 	Positive impact.
Empowerment Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consulting on how to allocate funding to national third sector bodies. 	Positive on all sections of community including those with different sexual orientations.
Take Part local pathfinder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building skills and confidence to encourage local people to pursue civic activism, community leadership and lay governance roles. 	Positive – will increase the number and diversity of those taking on lay governance roles. Seeks to address the gaps in levels of participation for certain groups.
Community-builders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Direct financial support to community organisations to help transform neighbourhoods and empower the whole community. 	Should have a positive impact on strengthening all communities, helping to develop communities that are cohesive.
Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to £4m over three years to local planning authorities in England to promote community participation in planning. 	Positive. We will be encouraging projects which actively embrace equality issues.
Asset transfer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More asset transfer pilots and a new Asset Transfer Unit to increase community management and ownership of public assets. 	Potential positive impact in terms of involvement of LBGTT people through use of buildings by different groups. Potential risk of exclusion of such groups, mitigated through guidance and support programmes, and conditions of transfer.

5 Summary of Key Insights, by Equality Group (<i>continued</i>)		
Policy	Key Insights	Assessment of scale of potential impact – positive or adverse
RELIGION/BELIEF		
Extending the Duty to Involve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Placing a requirement on more public bodies to ensure effective and consistent consultation ensuring involvement is inclusive and accessible. 	Positive impact on people of different religious beliefs.
Empowerment Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consulting on how to allocate funding to national third sector bodies. 	Positive on all sections of community including different faith groups.
Take Part local pathfinder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building skills and confidence to encourage local people to pursue civic activism, community leadership and lay governance roles. 	Positive – will increase the number and diversity of those taking on lay governance roles. Seeks to address the gaps in levels of participation for certain under-represented faith groups.
Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to £4m over three years to local planning authorities in England to promote community participation in planning. 	Positive. We will be encouraging projects which actively embrace equality issues.
Asset transfer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More asset transfer pilots and a new Asset Transfer Unit to increase community management and ownership of public assets. 	Potential positive impact in terms of promotion of community relations and cohesion through use of buildings by different groups. Potential risk of a group taking control of an asset and excluding sections of the population, but can be mitigated through guidance and support programmes, and conditions of transfer.

5 Summary of Key Insights, by Equality Group (continued)		
Policy	Key Insights	Assessment of scale of potential impact – positive or adverse
HUMAN RIGHTS		
Extending the Duty to Involve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Placing a requirement on more public bodies to ensure effective and consistent consultation ensuring involvement is inclusive and accessible. 	Positive impact, giving all communities more opportunities to engage with public services and ensure their needs are met.
Parish polls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changing the rules to make parish polls more accessible. 	Positive impact – will enhance democracy by making it easier for more people to cast their vote.
Overview and Scrutiny	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boost the visibility and capacity of Overview and Scrutiny, making it more accessible to the local community. 	Positive impact. Improving ability of councillors and community to hold executive to account and therefore improving democracy.
Directly-elected mayors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving the visibility and accountability of local leadership by promoting directly-elected mayors. 	Positive impact. Policy aims to give local communities enhanced rights to demand a vote on a directly-elected mayor.

6 Proportionality

Is the policy necessary?

Communities in control: real people, real power, the Communities and Local Government White Paper is necessary to address three key problems:

- declining levels of democratic participation in England – demonstrated through declining national and local election turnouts and falling membership of political parties
- declining perceptions of influence over decision-making
- declining levels of satisfaction with local government in England.

The disappointing trends described above are indicative of citizens feeling inadequately empowered to influence local decisions and conditions.

How are you balancing the rights of those people positively or adversely affected?

We believe that the policies in this White Paper will work towards giving all people the opportunity to get involved in their communities and local decision-making. We are screening individual policies for specific equalities issues and expect policy leads to ensure that they minimise the risks of specific groups of people being adversely affected.

Is the policy interference proportionate to the aims being pursued?

The Government believes that any policy interference identified is necessary to deal with the problems outlined above through empowerment by passing more political power to more people, using every practical means available, from the most modern social networking websites, to other methods such as petitioning, public debates and citizens juries.

In this way, democracy becomes not a system of occasional voting or an imperfect method of selecting who governs us, but a daily activity, and a way of life for everybody.

Is the policy “one size fits all” or can it be tailored to fit different individual circumstances?

The policies in this White Paper are citizen-focused and aim to ensure that there are opportunities for people to get involved and that barriers to participation are removed. We believe it is up to the individual to choose what level of involvement they want to have in their community, but that government intervention is necessary to ensure that everyone has the power to make that choice.

Most policies within the White Paper will be implemented locally and so different circumstances can be taken into account and locally appropriate solutions can be devised.

7 Monitoring, Review and Next Steps

We have attached the Implementation Annex of *Communities in control: real people, real power* which outlines how the department aims to implement the policies mentioned in the White Paper. This plan includes several consultations which we plan to run on policies still needing additional development.

As officials implement policies they will continue to assess the impact of their policies on equalities groups, actively seeking involvement from equalities groups within their consultations as appropriate. We will ensure that we involve our internal and external equality stakeholders in developing policies further.

Additionally, we will be ensuring that all stakeholders who have contributed to the development of the White Paper thus far continue to be offered the opportunity to comment on the department's work in this area.

Based on our provisional assessment of the impact of the White Paper on equalities groups, we do not think the policies have the potential to cause unlawful direct or indirect discrimination.

We would welcome feedback on this initial Equalities Impact Assessment especially where there may be areas of concern on particular policies which we have not yet identified. Please email any comments to:

communityempowerment@communities.gsi.gov.uk

Or post your comments to:

Andrew Masters
Community Empowerment Delivery Division
Local Democracy and Empowerment Directorate
5/C5 Eland House
Bressenden Place
London SW1E 5DU

The deadline for comments is 30 September 2008.

Implementation Annex:

Communities in control: real people, real power

The delivery this White Paper will provide a challenging agenda for government and its delivery partners. Subject to Parliamentary approval, significant legislative changes will be progressed through the planned Community Empowerment, Housing and Economic Regeneration Bill (CEHR Bill) which will be introduced during the 2008/2009 session. Consultation, both formal and informal, will be required on a number of proposals. Pilots, guidance and best practice work will further the achievement of other aims. As far as possible work will need to be integrated into the delivery mechanisms of *Strong and Prosperous Communities* – the Local Government White Paper 2006 and other existing programmes. An implementation plan for both White Papers will be published and maintained. The delivery mechanisms which underpin the work already going on in communities across the country will continue to be developed and strengthened. We will reaffirm our approach to guidance and spreading best practice (see Local Government White Paper implementation plan³). The key pieces of work are set out in the table below.

Commitment	Outcome	Timing	Lead
Chapter 1: The case for people and communities having more power			
Duty to promote democracy	Local authorities will have a statutory duty to promote democratic understanding and participation.	CEHER Bill ⁴	Communities and Local Government
Extension of duty to involve	The current duty will be extended to new agencies and bodies.	CEHER Bill	Communities and Local Government
Empowering the Frontline Taskforce	To consider the role of the public sector workforce in empowering users and residents.	More detail to be announced in Autumn 2008, final report 2010.	Communities and Local Government
Empowerment Fund	At least £7.5m to be reinvested to support existing Third sector national organisations to help local communities turn ideas into practical action.	Consultation published alongside the White Paper. Launch in late 2008	Communities and Local Government

³ Communities and Local Government (2007) *Strong and prosperous communities, The Local Government White Paper Implementation Plan: One Year On*, London: Communities and Local Government

⁴ Planned Community Empowerment, Housing and Economic Regeneration Bill, announced in the Government's draft legislative programme, May 2008

Commitment	Outcome	Timing	Lead
Chapter 2: Active citizens and the value of volunteering			
Take Part local pathfinders	Pilot programme to help people participate in their local areas.	Set up December 2008, delivery from January 2009	Communities and Local Government
Communitybuilders Fund	£70m investment in community led organisations across England.	In period to 2010-2011	Communities and Local Government and OTS
Chapter 3: Access to information			
Places Database	Making the Places Database public.	Autumn 2008	Communities and Local Government
Supporting local authorities to make their data more available	Work with Local Government Association and Improvement and Development Agency to support local authorities to share their information with citizens, including piloting.	We will aim to select pilot areas in autumn 2008	Communities and Local Government
Digital Mentor Scheme	Pilots in deprived areas to improve general literacy in Information and Communication Technologies.	2009	Communities and Local Government, DIUS
Innovation in new technologies	Supporting range of innovation including deliberative engagement with government or innovation in community and social media.	Spring 2009	Communities and Local Government

Commitment	Outcome	Timing	Lead
Chapter 4: Having an influence			
Duty for Councils to respond to petitions	Councils will have to respond to petitions (including electronic petitions) in relation to local authority functions or other public services where Council shares delivery responsibility.	CEHER Bill	Communities and Local Government
Councillor Call for Action	Publish guidance on promoting the powers for Councillors.	End of 2008	Communities and Local Government
Participatory budgeting	Publication of a National Strategy on participatory budgeting to set out how the Government's aspiration to have participatory budgeting in all local authorities will be achieved.	Autumn 2008	Communities and Local Government
Community safety participatory budgeting pilots	Pilot the use of participatory budgeting in community safety funds and consider whether money recovered from criminals can be used in this way.	Policing Green Paper	HO
Voting incentives	Local authorities to provide voting incentives in local elections.	CEHER Bill	MoJ
Right to appeal decisions on establishing local (parish) councils	Right of appeal where a community's proposal to establish a local council is not agreed.	CEHER Bill	Communities and Local Government
Bye-laws	Authorities, including some parish councils, will be able to make certain bye-laws without scrutiny from central government.	Forthcoming consultation	Communities and Local Government

Commitment	Outcome	Timing	Lead
Service transformation and efficiency	Working with the Local Government Association and the Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnerships, we will embed empowerment in projects supported by £115m capital funds for efficiency and service transformation.	Money for projects will be distributed between 2008-2009 and 2010-2011	Communities and Local Government
Planning	Up to £6.5m to further assist community involvement in planning.	To be implemented 2009-2011	Communities and Local Government
Choice-based lettings	Expansion of programme with an extra £2m until 2010 to give more tenants more choice over where they live.	Choice Based Lettings round ends in October 2008. Funding allocated in Spring 2009	Communities and Local Government
Empowering young people	Young Advisors to have direct access to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government.	Autumn 2008	Communities and Local Government
	A programme for young people to shadow government ministers.	Summer 2009	Communities and Local Government
	£6m investment to create a new national body for youth leadership to include working with Communities and Local Government to create a programme of internships for young people to work with local councillors.	Final proposals in summer 2008	DCSF
	Establishing Young Muslims' Advisory Group.	Summer 2008	Communities and Local Government, DCSF

Commitment	Outcome	Timing	Lead
Chapter 5: Challenge			
Scrutiny of public officials	Public officials will be subject to scrutiny from local communities, and petitions can be used to hold local officials to account.	CEHER Bill	Communities and Local Government
Higher visibility of Overview and Scrutiny	Councils will be encouraged to consider new ways of working with scrutiny, and powers of overview and scrutiny committees will be enhanced.	CEHER Bill	Communities and Local Government
Expanding the role of Local Involvement Networks (LINKs)	Pilots invited to expand remit beyond health and social care.	July 2008- May 2010. Arrange, manage and evaluate pilots	DH/ Communities and Local Government
Directly elected mayors	Consult on making it easier to have a directly elected mayor.	CEHER Bill	Communities and Local Government
Chapter 6: Redress			
Local Government Ombudsman (LGO)	The jurisdiction of the LGO will be reviewed to make sure that they have the right amount of flexibility to work with partners and that any limitations are in the genuine interests of local people.	Summer 08: Review CEHER Bill Autumn (if needed)	Communities and Local Government
Community Contracts	Extension of the current pilots for six months.	Pilots will run until the end of 2008	Communities and Local Government
Community pledgebanks	Establish pilots to look at how community pledgebanks can help deliver local priorities.	2009	Communities and Local Government
Redress Review	To look at redress arrangements across the public sector.	Reporting early 2009	Communities and Local Government

Commitment	Outcome	Timing	Lead
Chapter 7: Standing for Office			
Positive image of councillors	Potential changes to the publicity code.	Summer 2008: Consultation Autumn 2008: Guidance	Communities and Local Government
Remote voting	Enabling councillors to participate in meetings and votes remotely.	CEHER Bill	Communities and Local Government
Time off for public duties	Consultation on extending the right to time off to more roles.	Summer 2008: Consultation. April 2009: secondary legislation	Communities and Local Government
Employers' Information Pack	Better information for employers about benefits of civic roles for their staff.	Spring 2009	Communities and Local Government
Information on civic roles	Making it easier for people to find information on ways to be active in civic roles in their communities.	Summer 2009	Communities and Local Government
Review of accreditation for civic roles	Find out what relevant qualifications and modules exist to see what could be repackaged or built upon.	Autumn 2008: informal consultation. By Summer 2009: programme of accreditation	Communities and Local Government
Amendment to Widdicombe rules	Changes to rules on politically restricted posts.	CEHER Bill	Communities and Local Government

Commitment	Outcome	Timing	Lead
Chapter 8: Ownership and control			
Asset Transfer Unit	Establish a unit that will provide information and expertise on transfer to community management of assets or ownership.	Autumn 2008	Communities and Local Government
Community Land Trusts	Making community land trusts more effective in securing future of community assets.	Consultation summary to be published winter 2008	Communities and Local Government
Social Enterprise Unit	New unit in Communities and Local Government to champion the knowledge and expertise of social enterprises.	Launch in Autumn 2008	Communities and Local Government

Key

- OTS Office of the Third Sector
 DIUS Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills
 HO Home Office
 MoJ Ministry of Justice
 DCSF Department for Children, Schools and Families
 DH Department of Health