

# South Derbyshire Partnership

## Report to the Board

**Date of Meeting:** 28 January 2011

**Agenda Item:** 8

### LOCALISM BILL – IMPLICATIONS FOR COMMUNITY PLANNING

#### Recommendations

- the key elements of the Localism Bill be noted
- the 'Community Conversation' events programmed for February-March be noted and details circulated to relevant contacts

#### Purpose of Report

To provide a briefing on the key elements of the Localism Bill and its likely implications for planning and community development in South Derbyshire.

#### Background

In support of the "Big Society", the Coalition Government published the Localism Bill on 16 December 2010. Its main purpose is to introduce radical reforms to devolve greater power and freedoms to councils and neighbourhoods.

In particular, the Bill is intended to enact new rights for local people to shape and influence the places where they live by:

- A 'Community Right to Buy' local assets
- A 'Community Right to Challenge' to take over local services
- A 'Community Right to Build' certain developments without planning permission
- Abolishing 'top down' regional house building targets
- Reviewing the system for preparing local plans (i.e. local development frameworks)
- Allowing communities to prepare their own Neighbourhood Plans
- A 'Duty to Co-operate' requiring specified bodies to engage constructively with plan-making

- Taking forward the Community Infrastructure Levy – a development tariff, a “meaningful proportion” of which would go automatically to neighbourhoods

See further details at:

[www.communities.gov.uk/news/newsroom/1794971](http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/newsroom/1794971)

### Implications

As a fast growing District, the Localism Bill has particular significance for the Council and the Partnership in planning for future economic growth, housing and infrastructure.

In response, as part of work on the Local Development Framework (LDF), eleven “Community Areas” have been identified, grouping related settlements and based on the proposed revised electoral wards.

An “Area Profile” for each community is being prepared, drawing together key facts about the area, identifying local issues and summarising public opinions about the area voiced through previous consultations.

The Profiles will be used as the basis of an ongoing series of community level “conversations” throughout the District commencing in February – March 2011. These ‘drop in’ sessions are designed to encourage local people to tell us whether they agree with our understanding of the issues facing their neighbourhood, and to hear about what needs to change and what should stay the same e.g. more affordable housing, new play areas, better community facilities or preserving green space. The intention is to develop, over time, a shared understanding of the issues facing individual neighbourhoods and priorities for change.

This first round of events will be staffed by planning and community planning officers from the Council, together with staff from the CVS.

The responses we receive from communities can be used to support the Partnership’s Sustainable Community Strategy and infrastructure planning, the LDF and any neighbourhood planning work that communities may wish to undertake themselves.

Details of dates and venues, together with a map showing the community areas is attached at the appendix to this report.

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