



Sustainable Communities Act 2007:
Local Spending Reports
**Proposals for Second Report
Consultation**



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Consultation**

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Contents

Scope of the Consultation	5
1. Introduction	9
2. Arrangements for the second Local Spending Report	14
3. Next Steps	19
4. Consultation Questions	20
5. Annexes:	21
Annex A: Sustainable Communities Act 2007: Section 6 Local Spending Reports	21
Annex B: Related Documents	22
Annex C: Compliance with the Code of Practice on Consultation	23

Scope of the consultation

<p>Topic of this consultation:</p>	<p>Section 6 of the Sustainable Communities Act 2007 ('the Act') requires the Secretary of State to make arrangements for the production of Local Spending Reports. These reports provide information on expenditure by certain bodies exercising public functions in relation to a given area and over a defined period.</p> <p>The bodies, expenditure, area and period to be covered in a Report are to be determined in accordance with arrangements made by the Secretary of State. Before making arrangements under section 6, section 6(10) of the Act requires the Secretary of State to consult such persons likely to be affected by the proposed arrangements for Local Spending Reports as the Secretary of State thinks appropriate.</p> <p>Section 6 of the Act is reproduced at Annex A. The Act is intentionally broad and does not specify the content of the arrangements, what information should be included in a Report, or the way in which the information should be presented. This enables the Government to develop Local Spending Reports which are useful and whose cost is likely to justify their benefit.</p> <p>The aim of Local Spending Reports is to support local authorities, their partners and local people in promoting the sustainability of local communities by providing more information about the funding that is spent in their area.</p> <p>This consultation paper seeks views on proposals for the second Local Spending Report, its presentation and how these reports might develop over time. It places the development of Local Spending Reports in the broader context of work to make public data public. In particular, it summarises on-going work to ensure that public data becomes more accessible. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Local Public Data Panel • The Local Data Exchange • Total Place • Civic Health • Timely Information to Citizens • Comprehensive Area Assessment
<p>Scope of this consultation:</p>	<p>Section 6(10) of the Act requires the Secretary of State to consult persons likely to be affected by the proposed arrangements for Local Spending Reports. This consultation sets out which bodies, expenditure, area (spatial level) and period will be covered by the Report and seeks views on the presentation and future direction of Local Spending Reports.</p>

Geographical scope:	Local Spending Reports provide information on expenditure by certain bodies exercising public functions in England in relation to a given area. Under section 6 of the Act the area must be: <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) one or more local authority areas;(b) one or more parts of a local authority area; or(c) any combination of those.
Impact Assessment:	Impact Assessments are needed where proposals impact upon business or the third sector, or have significant costs (above £5m pa) for the public sector. Our assessment is that the proposals in this consultation will not bring about such impacts; although this consultation seeks the views of those likely to be affected by the proposals.

Basic Information

To:	Local government, other bodies exercising public functions, communities and individuals are invited to respond to the consultation.
Body/bodies responsible for the consultation:	The Local Democracy and Participation Directorate in the Department for Communities and Local Government is responsible for this consultation.
Duration:	The deadline for responding is Friday 16 July 2010.
Enquiries:	For further information on this consultation document please email LSRconsultation@communities.gsi.gov.uk . Please ensure that the word ENQUIRY appears in the subject line of your email.
How to respond:	<p>Consultation responses should be submitted by email to: LSRconsultation@communities.gsi.gov.uk</p> <p>Or by post to:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Local Spending Reports consultation Department for Communities and Local Government Zone 5/B5 Eland House Bressenden Place London SW1E 5DU</p> <p>Please ensure that the word RESPONSE appears in the subject line of your email or on the outside of the envelope.</p> <p>Representative groups are asked to give a summary of the people and organisations they represent and, where relevant who else they have consulted in reaching their conclusions when they respond.</p> <p>Please note, you will not receive an individual response to your consultation submission.</p>
After the consultation:	A summary of responses to the consultation paper and the Government's response will be made available after the close of the consultation and will be published on the Communities and Local Government website.
Compliance with the Code of Practice on Consultation:	This consultation document and consultation process have been planned to adhere to the Code of Practice on Consultation issued by the Better Regulation Executive (BRE) in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) and is in line with the seven consultation criteria.

Background

<p>Getting to this stage:</p>	<p>The Sustainable Communities Act 2007 was introduced to Parliament as a Private Members Bill. The Act received Royal Assent on 23 October 2007. Section 6 of the Act requires the Secretary of State to make arrangements for the production of Local Spending Reports.</p>
<p>Previous engagement:</p>	<p>Since the Act received Royal Assent in October 2007 the Government has, in terms of section 6 of the Act (Local Spending Reports):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • published a plain English guide to the Act • published a consultation document on Local Spending Reports • published a response to that consultation • published the first Local Spending Report in April 2009 • reported to Parliament on making local public expenditure data public and proposals for the development of Local Spending Reports in December 2009

Section 1

Introduction

The Government's vision is the provision of public information on places and services as a product of data being exchanged from all levels – the very local, the regional and the national – in a standards-based portal approach which allows everyone to examine that data against other information. *Putting the frontline first: Smarter Government*¹ set out the Government's plans to radically open up data and improve transparency across government, and this is part of ensuring that we empower the citizen through better information and give everyone the opportunity to find innovative ways to exploit that data.

The first Local Spending Report² was published by Communities and Local Government (CLG) in April 2009 and the December 2009 *Report to Parliament*³ set out proposals to develop Local Spending Reports in the context of wider work to make public data public.

We want to ensure that Local Spending Reports are easy and practical to use, having both more information about central spending in each area and easier access to more local information about the bodies and places in question. We also want the next Report to empower the citizen or local partner by giving them quick and easy access to the relevant website of public sector organisations for further information and contacts.

Making public data public is a fast moving agenda and is helping deliver high quality public services; services which, for the individual user, look, feel and are as good, indeed better, than the ones they enjoy today. We will therefore continue to look at how we develop Local Spending Reports in line with emerging findings from the Local Data Panel⁴ and other initiatives identified in *Putting the Frontline First: Smarter Government*.

The Prime Minister has highlighted the importance of an open data policy as part of our broader efforts towards democratic renewal – creating a culture in which government information is accessible and useful to as many people as possible in order to help build public trust in the way that information is used. This broader agenda creates new opportunities for the citizen and local authorities to see and understand information on expenditure alongside information on quality, performance, efficiency and value for

¹ *Putting the Frontline First: Smarter Government*, Cabinet Office, December 2009. This is accessible via the Cabinet office website or at <http://www.hmg.gov.uk/frontlinefirst.aspx>

² *The Sustainable Communities Act 2007: Local spending Report England 2006-07*, Communities and Local Government, April 2009. This is accessible via the Communities and Local Government website or at <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/localspendingreports200607>

³ *Making local public expenditure data public and the development of Local Spending Reports. Report to Parliament*. Communities and Local Government, December 2009. This is accessible via the CLG website at: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/localpublicexpenditure>

⁴ Local Data Panel information can be found at <http://data.gov.uk/>

money. This information will often not be held by central government and will therefore be provided by other agencies. The Local Data Exchange (LDEx) will enable external parties to discover CLG data and re-use it in new and innovative ways, for multiple purposes. Importantly, we want LDEx to provide mechanisms for third-parties to link the data we hold with other related sources that are held and maintained externally – in particular, the wealth of local public data held within local authorities. Our proposals for publishing Local Spending Reports in a more accessible format, and increasingly enabling them to be interrogated against other data, fit firmly within that broader agenda.

Work on making public data public includes:

The Local Public Data Panel

Professor Nigel Shadbolt from the University of Southampton has been asked to head up a 'Local Public Data Panel' of experts to oversee the release of local public data and ensure that data are linked effectively across local authorities, the Local Government Association, government departments and agencies.

The Local Data Exchange

The Local Data Exchange (LDEx) will enable data from multiple sources to be linked around common concepts (such as the place/locality, or spending category to which it applies), using agreed standards.

Total Place

Total Place has shown us already that the future value of a Local Spending Report or Total Place-style local 'mapping' exercise will not solely be in understanding funding flows, but that a shared understanding of client groups and local 'customer journeys' must underpin the decisions on best use of public resources in a place.

Civic Health

The Government will publish a report which brings together, for the first time, key measures of **Civic Health** in order to offer a unique insight into the strengths of modern democracy in England and the connections people have to their communities. *Our Nation's Civic Health* is available at: www.communities.gov.uk/communities/communityempowerment/empowermentresearch/measuring/

The National Indicator data for **Civic Health** is available for mapping in the Place Analysis Tool at: www.pat.communities.gov.uk/pat/.

Timely Information to Citizens (TIC)

The TIC project is working to help local authorities improve citizens' access to information on local services and performance to help them to hold local service providers to account. There are 20 local authority pilots testing innovative approaches to providing citizens with information. Although the evaluation of the pilots is still at an early stage, emerging findings suggest the main success factors in delivering information are accuracy, timeliness, relevance and accessibility, along with increasing interactivity and stimulating presentation. A full evaluation report is expected late 2010.

Comprehensive Area Assessment

The first set of **Comprehensive Area Assessment** (CAA) results were also published online on 9 December 2009 on a new 'oneplace' website where citizens can see how their local public services are performing in England, if they provide value for money and where they could improve. The 'oneplace' website link is at <http://www.direct.gov.uk/oneplace> where the *Oneplace national overview report* (February 2010) can be obtained.

What is a Local Spending Report?

Section 6⁵ of the Sustainable Communities Act 2007 requires the Secretary of State to make arrangements for the production of Local Spending Reports that provide information on expenditure by bodies exercising public functions in an area and over a period of time. The Act provides some flexibility over what is included in Local Spending Reports; with final arrangements being determined by the Secretary of State after consultation with such persons likely to be affected by the arrangements as the Secretary of State thinks appropriate. Arrangements for Local Spending Reports must deal with the following issues:

- which bodies are covered
- which expenditure is covered (and how this is specified)
- which areas are covered (i.e. spatial/ geographical coverage)
- which period is covered.

In practice the Secretary of State also needs to consider the potential for and likely cost of collection, processing and dissemination of information on expenditure by bodies exercising public functions.

The aim of the Reports is to support local authorities, their partners and local people in promoting the sustainability of local communities and achieving their objectives, by providing more information about funding spent in their area.

⁵ Section 6 of the Sustainable Communities Act is at Annex A.

Local Spending Reports: principles

Spending by both local authorities and other public bodies should be as transparent as it can be to local people and local partners. At the same time, Local Spending Reports themselves should be practical, useful and cost-effective. Compiling information for Local Spending Reports carries a cost for the taxpayer and every tax pound needs to work as hard as the person who earned it; so it is important that the information delivers real value. We want to develop Local Spending Reports which are both useful to local people and communities, local authorities and their partners, and where their cost justifies their benefit.

Local Spending Reports are designed to provide information to local people and communities and local agencies about expenditure by public authorities in relation to local authority (LA) areas (or parts of those areas) over a period of time. However, not all data can be presented in a way which makes practical sense for users and not all data is available centrally. Equally, some data could only be made available centrally and could impose either a disproportionate central cost or additional burdens from the centre on more local bodies, which is something we are working to reduce. However, the Local Data Exchange (LDEx) will, in the future, enable data from multiple sources to be linked around common concepts (such as the place/locality, or spending category to which it applies), using agreed standards.

There are also some definitional and methodological issues around establishing public expenditure flowing into local areas and the work required to produce Local Spending Reports. In the previous consultation, stakeholders have been clear that they think information should be useful and relevant. Not all data is available at local authority level or able to be broken down to that level easily and accurately. There is therefore a balance that has to be drawn: we want to expand the information provided whilst still ensuring all information is of a high quality and presented clearly.

For example, some public expenditure supports services which are not geographically specific or are used by people from a number of LA areas, e.g. large-scale infrastructure projects or facilities such as universities, roads or hospitals. Where we can sensibly allocate the expenditure to the area in which it primarily takes place (e.g. where a university is located) we will do so, whilst acknowledging that the benefits are experienced more widely. However, where the body serves a number of explicit areas (for example Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust) or does not have a main location (such as major highways), this approach would be misleading⁶.

⁶ This means that each area of expenditure has a natural spatial level associated with the body which has responsibility for the expenditure – for example a Primary Care Trust. Breaking this down into known areas of spend is then straightforward and gives an immediate and clear picture of how money flows to local areas. This approach was generally welcomed in the first Local Spending Report and we intend to continue this.

Local Spending Reports should therefore be based on the following principles:

- they should be useful to local people, local authorities and their partners and also represent value for money
- all data should be currently available to the Government and should not impose significant costs, in relation to their likely benefits, on central government, local authorities or other bodies
- expenditure should be based on outturn expenditure i.e. actual spending
- the data, where possible, should be gross of income
- the data must be collected and collated on a national scale
- expenditure data will not be apportioned to lower geographical areas where further judgement or estimation would be needed to achieve this; e.g. further estimating data at per capita head when it is not confirmed to have been spent this way
- data will not be aggregated to higher geographical areas unless this is a requirement of presenting the data or it would be unmanageable to present it at a lower level
- where necessary, expenditure will be allocated to an area on the basis of the main address of the establishment where the expenditure is reported and not split between subsidiary locations
- expenditure will be included even if it benefits people from a wider geographic area, such as hospitals.

Section 2

Arrangements for the second Local Spending Report

The first Local Spending Report⁷, published in April 2009, covered a substantial proportion of local public spending and represented an important initial step. We propose to strengthen the information provided in the next Report and ensure that the information is purposeful and significantly easier to use.

There have been three important developments since the passage of the Sustainable Communities Act 2007 that have the potential to take its intent much further forward and to help transform the delivery of local services:

- first, the Government's wider work to make public data available to common standards on the internet
- secondly, proposals to extend widely the scrutiny powers of local government to cover local public spending; and
- thirdly, the development of Total Place⁸, and the understanding it will give on how best to map spending and outcomes at local, including community, level.

Local Spending Reports have a particular space to fill in terms of the information available on spending, in that they are a statutory provision, and provide information in a way that meets robust standards for official statistics and is consistent across the country. We are now therefore consulting on the proposed arrangements for the second Local Spending Report, building on experience and use of the first Local Spending Report and the wider developments on making public data public, scrutiny and Total Place, as outlined in the December Report to Parliament and subsequent publications.

Period to be covered

The period we propose to cover in the next Local Spending Report, for publication in Summer 2010, would be the latest financial year for which quality assured data is available. The first Report covered 2006/07. We propose to publish data for 2007/08 in the second Local Spending Report alongside data for 2008/09, where this is available.

⁷ The first Local Spending Report is available on the DCLG website at <http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/statistics/xls/1213368.xls>.

⁸ See <http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/efficiencybetter/totalplace/> for more information on Total Place.

Data sets to be included

The first Local Spending Report, published in April 2009, covered a substantial proportion of local public spending. It included 2006/07 outturn revenue expenditure for all local authorities in England and Primary Care Trusts and:

- capital expenditure by upper and lower tier local authorities
- revenue and capital expenditure by:
 - police authorities
 - fire and rescue authorities
 - joint waste disposal authorities
 - metropolitan county passenger transport authorities
 - national park authorities
 - the Greater London Authority
 - the Broads Authority
 - the Lee Valley Regional Park Authority.
- a more detailed breakdown of revenue expenditure by Primary Care Trusts
- revenue expenditure by Strategic Health Authorities, ambulance trusts and NHS trusts; and
- expenditure on particular benefits and pensions (attendance allowance, bereavement benefits, carers allowance, council tax benefit, disability living allowance, housing benefit, incapacity benefit and severe disablement allowance, income support, jobseekers allowance, pension credit, state pension and winter fuel payments for the financial year beginning on 1st April 2006) by the Department for Work and Pensions at the level of upper tier local authorities.

All this information will be updated for the next LSR.

This first Local Spending Report covered the majority of what has been recognised by the Total Place Project as the consistent sources of major local spend. Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), local authorities and health authorities account for by far the most significant proportion of the expenditure in the 13 Total Place pilot areas covering, for example, an estimated 90% in Durham and 93% in Bradford.

At the same time, we recognise the expectation of the majority of stakeholders that the Local Spending Reports should, over time, include more information from a wider range of public bodies, including Non-Departmental Public Bodies (NDPBs). We therefore asked Government departments, their agencies, NDPBs and Local Area Agreement (LAA) statutory partners to consider what additional information they could make available.

Government departments, their agencies, NDPBs and LAA statutory partners carefully considered what additional information could be made available to increase the sources of major local spend within the LSR principles (see page 11). The proposed additional information, set out below, reflects what we believe is available within this criteria.

Subject to this consultation, the *additional* information we propose to make available is as follows:

LOCAL AUTHORITY LEVEL: (upper tier and lower tier where available)

- Expenditure in a local authority area by the Homes and Communities Agency⁹
- Housing Revenue Account Subsidy Payments and Receipts
- Grant expenditure by Arts Council England
- Grants from the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) to Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)¹⁰
- Grants by Home Office to Drug Action Teams (Drug Interventions Programme)
- Grants from Ministry of Justice to Youth Offending Teams (YOTs)
- Income and expenditure by Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)¹¹
- Outturn expenditure of Warm Front Grant Scheme
- Tax Credit data from HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC).

REGIONAL LEVEL:

- Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) front line expenditure
- Environment Agency revenue and capital expenditure in 16 operational areas
- Estimated spend by Highways Agency
- Estimates of the following benefits from Department for Work and Pensions:
 - Statutory Maternity Pay
 - Maternity Allowance
 - Statutory Sick Pay
 - Industrial Injuries Benefits
 - TV Licences for the over 75s
 - Job Grant
 - New Deal

⁹ The Homes and Communities Agency was formed on 1 December 2008. It will produce data for 2008/09 and will develop more detailed information sets for years after 2008/09

¹⁰ Grant to HEIs is to the main address of the establishment

¹¹ Income will include grants from HEFCE

- Christmas Bonus
 - Vaccine Damage Payments
 - Specialised Vehicle Fund
 - Social Fund.
- Expenditure by English Heritage
 - Expenditure by Museums, Libraries and Archives Council
 - Expenditure by Natural England
 - Expenditure by Regional Development Agencies
 - Expenditure information collected by Monitor¹² for the purposes of preparing the consolidated annual accounts for NHS Foundation Trusts (the latest accounts being for the year to 31 March 2009) will be analysed according to each Strategic Health Authority (SHA) region.
 - Grants, lottery and grant-in-aid at national and regional level by Sport England¹³
 - National Offender Management Service (NOMS) Agency (Prison and Probation, including Local Probation Boards and Local Probation Trusts) costs
 - Outturn expenditure by the Learning and Skills Council
 - Outturn expenditure of grants paid by the Youth Justice Board to Youth Offending Teams
 - Outturn expenditure by Her Majesty's Courts Service (HMCS)
 - Regional analysis of benefits and tax credits by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC)
 - Regional breakdown of Total Expenditure of Services by JobCentre Plus
 - Support grant from Office of Criminal Justice Reform to Local Criminal Justice Boards.

Views are invited on the bodies, expenditure covered and how this is specified, areas covered (i.e spatial/geographical coverage) and the period(s) covered – see consultation questions (page 20).

¹² Monitor is the Independent Regulator of NHS Foundation Trusts.

¹³ National grants include National Governing Bodies and other nationally funded partners. At a regional level, Sport England have a number of funding programmes including Small Grants, Sportsmatch, Themed Rounds, Sustainable Facilities and Innovation. Sport England can also report the legacy programme, Community Investment Fund at a regional level.

External links

We propose to ensure that the next Local Spending Report also has easy access links to sources and to the bodies it refers to, wherever these can be made available; as well as to other sources of information on place, performance and service quality such as that found, for example, on the oneplace website¹⁴. In this way, when a citizen or local partner wants to understand more about a particular expenditure or the spending body they will be able to quickly access the relevant website for further contacts and information.

Presentation

We want to ensure Local Spending Reports are published in a way which works within the wider aims of the Making Public Data Public agenda, as outlined in *Putting the Frontline First: Smarter Government*¹⁵. Our ultimate vision is for local and central information to be examined and interrogated against each other. Local Spending Reports have to sit within this wider framework of information provision and analysis tools to be useful.

We have taken on board feedback that we should improve the presentation of Local Spending Reports. We will publish data forming the first (April 2009) report and subsequent Local Spending Reports on CLG's Places database¹⁶. This will provide intuitive, user-friendly tools to explore, compare and contrast data via interactive maps, charts and tables. These on-line tools will be freely and publicly available, thereby ensuring that local spending data is available not only to local authorities and their strategic partners but also to citizens in a consistent form.

In addition, we intend to publish data forming the Local Spending Reports in open, standard and machine-readable formats. The December 2009 Report to Parliament outlined how, alongside offering visualisation tools on the Places database, we are working towards publishing the data itself via the Local Data Exchange. The core aim here is to provide an open mechanism in the future which enables third-parties to reliably link and blend data in reports with related information from external sources. We also believe that offering the data in this way will help to stimulate development of new innovative tools for visualising spending information across a broader spectrum of data sources, and topics or areas of interest.

¹⁴ See <http://oneplace.direct.gov.uk/infobyarea/region/area/Pages/areaoverview.aspx?region=57&area=454> for the oneplace website

¹⁵ *Putting the Frontline First: Smarter Government*, Cabinet Office, December 2009. This is accessible via the Cabinet office website or at <http://www.hmg.gov.uk/frontlinefirst.aspx>

¹⁶ www.places.communities.gov.uk

Section 3

Next Steps

Local Spending reports

Following consultation, we propose to make arrangements for and publish the second Local Spending Report in Summer 2010.

Section 4

Consultation questions

We welcome views on the proposals set out above for the second Local Spending Report and on the future development of these Reports. We would therefore welcome feedback on the questions below which cover future Local Spending Reports and wider issues to help us develop these Reports and make public data public.

Q1. Do you agree with the proposed scope of this report? In particular,

- bodies covered;
- expenditure covered (and how this is specified);
- areas covered (i.e. spatial/ geographical coverage);
- period covered.

If not, what are your suggestions?

Q2. What links to other data sources should we try to make in future Local Spending Reports?

Q3. In your opinion, will the second Local Spending Report create a new burden or cost or reduce burdens or costs for you or your organisation? In what way? Can you quantify these costs?

Q4. How could Local Spending Reports help you and how would you use this information?

Q5. How useful do you find the presentation of the first Local Spending Report on the Places database and could it be improved?

Q6. As stated, we see the provision of expenditure information in the longer term future as a product of data being exchanged from all levels – the very local, the regional and the national – in a standards-based portal approach which allows everyone to examine that data against other information. Given the principles outlined in this paper, and bearing in mind that Government is not best placed to provide all data, what further data would you like to see made available by other bodies in any future portal?

Section 5

Annexes

Annex A: Sustainable Communities Act 2007: Section 6 Local Spending Reports

(1) For the purpose of assisting in promoting the sustainability of local communities, the Secretary of State must make arrangements for the production, by the Secretary of State or another person, of local spending reports.

(2) A local spending report is a report on expenditure by such authorities, in such area, and over such period, as are determined in accordance with the arrangements.

(3) The authorities may be –

- (a) a local authority
- (b) a government department
- (c) any other person exercising public functions.

(4) The area must be –

- (a) one or more local authority areas
- (b) one or more parts of a local authority area; or
- (c) any combination of those.

(5) The period may be or include a future period.

(6) The expenditure to be included in relation to any authority, area or period is to be determined in accordance with the arrangements.

(7) A report may relate to different areas or periods for different authorities.

(8) The Secretary of State may make different arrangements for different reports.

(9) The Secretary of State must make the first arrangements under this section within the period of 18 months beginning with the day on which this Act is passed.

(10) Before making arrangements under this section, the Secretary of State must consult such persons likely to be affected by the arrangements as the Secretary of State thinks appropriate.

(11) For the purposes of subsection (10) any consultation undertaken before the day on which this Act is passed is as effective as it would have been if undertaken after that day.

Annex B: Related documents

The following documents provide further information on the Sustainable Communities Act 2007 and Local Spending Reports:

Sustainable Communities Act 2007

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2007/ukpga_20070023_en_1

Sustainable Communities Act 2007: A Guide

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/sustainablecommunitiesact>

Sustainable Communities Act 2007 Statutory Guidance

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/localgovernment/pdf/885397.pdf>

Sustainable Communities Act 2007: Local Spending Report England 2006-07

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/localspendingreports200607> (Note: *This is the first Local Spending Report, published April 2009 in excel*)

Making local public expenditure data public, and the development of Local Spending Reports. Report to Parliament. December 2009

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/localpublicexpenditure>

Annex C: Compliance with the Code of Practice on Consultation

This consultation document and consultation process have been planned to adhere to the Code of Practice on Consultation issued by the Better Regulation Executive (BRE) in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) and is in line with the seven consultation criteria, which are:

1. Formal consultation should take place at a stage when there is scope to influence the policy outcome;
2. Consultations should normally last for at least 12 weeks with consideration given to longer timescales where feasible and sensible;
3. Consultation documents should be clear about the consultation process, what is being proposed, the scope to influence and the expected costs and benefits of the proposals;
4. Consultation exercises should be designed to be accessible to, and clearly targeted at, those people the exercise is intended to reach;
5. Keeping the burden of consultation to a minimum is essential if consultations are to be effective and if consultees' buy-in to the process is to be obtained;
6. Consultation responses should be analysed carefully and clear feedback should be provided to participants following the consultation;
7. Officials running consultations should seek guidance in how to run an effective consultation exercise and share what they have learned from the experience.

Information provided in response to this consultation, including personal information, may be published or disclosed in accordance with the access to information regimes (these are primarily the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA) and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004).

If you want the information that you provide to be treated as confidential, please be aware that, under the FOIA, there is a statutory Code of Practice with which public authorities must comply and which deals, amongst other things, with obligations of confidence. In view of this it would be helpful if you could explain to us why you regard the information you have provided as confidential. If we receive a request for disclosure of the information we will take full account of your explanation, but we cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will not, of itself, be regarded as binding on the department.

The Department of Communities and Local Government will process your personal data in accordance with DPA and in the majority of circumstances this will mean that your personal data will not be disclosed to third parties.

Your opinions are valuable to us. Thank you for taking the time to read this document and respond.

Are you satisfied that this consultation has followed these criteria? If not or you have any other observations about how we can improve the process please inform CLG Consultation Co-ordinator.

The postal address is:

Zone 6/J10
Eland House
London
SW1E 5 DU

The e-mail address is: consultationcoordinator@communities.gsi.gov.uk

