



The Localism Bill: Key Points for Local Partners One Page Summary

Planning Changes and Community Right to Build

Communities will be given the freedom to build new homes and amenities in their area – rural or urban – with opportunities to secure substantial funding at a local level.

1. **Local communities** will be given the power to grant planning permission on new developments where a local majority are in favour. Communities will need support to identify suitable land, sources of finance and hold a local referendum for their proposals.
2. **New Homes Bonus** will be paid on each new home with a large proportion ring fenced for the local level, including parish councils.
3. **Neighbourhood Plans** will become the building blocks of the planning system, providing a framework to develop homes and amenities independent of existing targets. A 'Neighbourhood Panel' will lead the implementation of these plans.

Local Assets and Community Right to Buy

Local communities and parishes will have new rights to take over assets such as shops, pubs, libraries and community centres when they are threatened with closure.

1. **Local authorities** will be required to produce a 'most wanted' register of local assets.
2. **Disposal of assets** from this register will be preceded by an invitation to local people to bid for the asset.
3. **First refusal** to buy local assets will be offered to communities, with support for residents to prepare a business plan and raise funds.

Community Right to Challenge

Communities will be given greater powers to hold their local council to account regarding quality and delivery of public services.

1. **Residents**, third sector groups, parish councils and council employees will have the right to express their interest in delivering public services through a local referendum. "Challenging" could mean opening a new competitive bidding process for the delivery of the service that has been challenged.
2. **A new revenue opportunity** for third sector groups is presented by running public services hitherto the exclusive domain of local authorities.
3. **Services** open to challenge include children's centres, social care services, leisure and transport, amongst a plethora of others.

