

## Localism, sustainability and climate change



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### Reform....

- Draft Climate Change PPS not to be taken forward
- PPS 22, 25, PPS1 Supplement etc to be replaced by new 'simple and consolidated' national planning framework
- RSS revoked
- Abolition of IPC
- RDAs ⇒ Local Enterprise Partnerships
- Localism: Big Government ⇒ Big Society
- Future of National Indicators?

## Consequences?

- Vehicle for regional/sub-regional spatial planning?
- Loss of resources/knowledge and skills?
- Beginning of the end of target-driven planning?
- Loss of momentum?
- Uncertainty, lack of direction?
- Democratisation or a 'Nimby's charter'?

### Opportunities?

- Reduced power of Inspectorate to amend policy?
- New county-level infrastructure plans?
- Greater freedom to design and implement policy?
- Renewed presumption in favour of 'sustainable development' (?)

### In the context of the local Vision...

Localism, localism, localism

 "The Government is overseeing a fundamental shift of power away from Westminster to councils, communities and homes across the nation. A radical localist vision is turning Whitehall on its head by decentralising central government and giving power to the people."

### Coalition Government lexicon

#### Localism

Doing everything at the lowest possible level and only involving central government if absolutely necessary

### **Decentralisation**

Giving away power to individuals, professionals, communities and local institutions

### **Big Society**

Giving power and responsibility to people, neighbourhoods and communities to use it to create better services and outcomes.

## Responding to Climate Change

**Supported Learning Group** 



# Less top-down imposition

Infrastructure Planning Commission

Regional strategies

Regional renewable targets

Voluminous planning guidance

Regional Development
Agencies

Ring-fenced grants

# More bottom-up initiative

**Community Plans** 

Right to build

Presumption in favour of sustainable development

Local Enterprise Partnerships

**New Homes Bonus** 

Tax Increment Financing

Business rate supplements

Right to challenge

## New approaches/drivers

#### Incentives:

New Homes Bonus.

### Deregulation:

- "One in, one out".
- Spending Review announcements on reducing the cumulative costs on the house building industry.

## Planning...

- National Planning Framework simplifying and streamlining policy
- Presumption in favour of sustainable development.
- Duty of co-operation e.g. on infrastructure.
- LEPs to work with planning authorities on strategic planning issues.
- Neighbourhood plans to promote local ownership.
- Community Infrastructure Levy.

## **Policy Challenges**

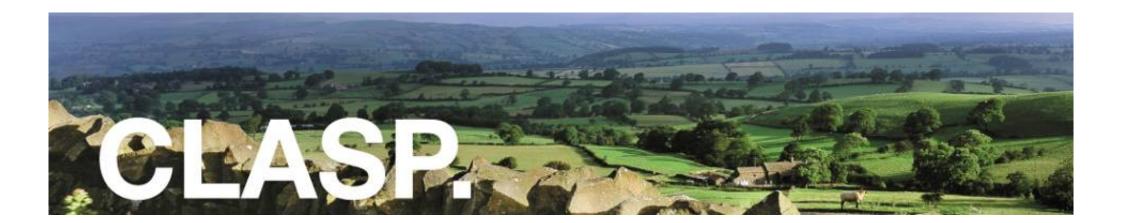
- Balancing national v local approaches to standards.
- Carbon Compliance benchmark
  - Appropriate national level.
  - How to accommodate different development types, spatial variations.
  - Impacts
- Community Energy Fund
  - Design principles.
  - Opportunities to use existing tariff mechanisms.
  - Pricing

## **Process Challenges**

- Joining up between building control and planning.
- Building understanding of issues around feasibility and viability.
- Developing the compliance tool

### Meanwhile...

- Climate Change Act
- EU Directive on RE ("On current policies the UK will fall well short of the EU-set target of a 15% share for renewable energy in the UK's total final energy consumption by 2020")
- ZCH from 2016 (ZCB 2019?)
- Local vulnerability assessments
- Economic impacts of CC ASC Report Sept 2010 (remember Stern...)





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