



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?
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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.



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
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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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