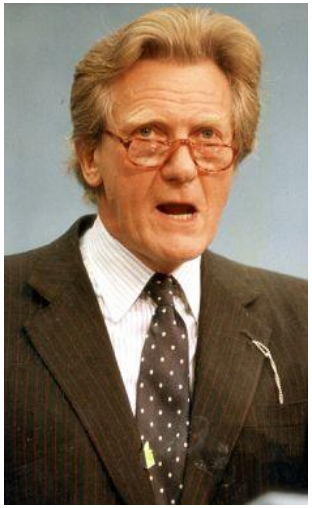
Local Government Group

The Localism Bill in practice

Councillor Mike Haines
Local Government Group

There are many fingers in the localism pie…



Rhetoric and reality

"We are entering a post-bureaucratic age" Francis Maude MP

"The years of government interference and micromanagement are over….Part of my campaign to replace the command and control approach to local government with genuine localism" Eric Pickles MP

"We remain to be convinced that those plans are anything more than a gimmick or a vehicle for those with the loudest voices and deepest pockets to impose their will on the rest of the community." Caroline Flint MP

The bill in numbers

The Localism Bill

– 430 pages

– 215 clauses

– 25 schedules

– Over 140 regulation making powers, order making powers, guidance, statutory requirements, duties.

Strides forward

- General Power of Competence
- Housing finance reform
- More flexibility over housing allocation
- Local choice in relation to tenure options

Areas for further work

- Neighbourhood planning
- Housing Finance reform
- Referendums
- Community assets and the community right to challenge
- Red tape, guidance and prescription.
- EU fines.

Progress to date

A number of concessions in line with LG Group positions

- Shadow Mayors and Chief Executives
- Local referendums
- Neighbourhood planning
- CIL
- Town and Village Greens

Support across the house for LG Group amendments and concerns

- Bureaucracy and prescription

Housing finance reform

Major lobbying win

But…

- SoS power to impose a borrowing cap
- Whitehall retention of 75% of right to buy receipts.

Neighbourhood planning

- LGG is supportive of local people engaging in the planning system.
- Concerned about cost and complexity.
- Lobbying for a proportionate approach to the use of referendums.

What is the LG Group doing?

- Parliamentary lobbying on the localism bill
- Lobbying for greater decentralisation and local choice
- Helping local areas share information and data: LG Inform

The test for localism?

"The litmus test for delivering a more localist political culture will be how ministers react to devolved decisions they dislike."

Clive Betts MP

Get in touch

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