

Department for Communities and Local Government	October 2010
Structural Reform Plan Monthly Implementation Update	

(1) Actions due to be completed in October 2010

Action	Status
Work with the Home Office to review the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA) to stop councils unnecessarily using surveillance powers, banning local authority use of powers unless signed off by a magistrate	Complete
Develop options to give neighbourhoods and local authorities the powers and freedoms to lead economic growth and regeneration (including through the Regional Growth Fund) as part of the Spending Review	Complete
Consider abolition of remaining Government Offices as part of the Spending Review	Complete
Abolish Comprehensive Area Assessment and cut local government inspection	Complete
Phase out ring-fencing of government grants to local government	Complete
Identify exceptional areas where central government needs to retain an oversight role of local government	Complete
Stop the restructuring of councils in Norfolk, Suffolk and Devon through the Local Government Bill	Complete
Develop options to free local government from central control, including guidance, rules and funding mechanisms imposed by central departments	Complete
Set out plans for improved home-swap systems and wider mobility reforms	Complete

(2) Actions due to be started by end of October 2010

Action	Status
Design and implement a new approach with less reporting burdens on local government and greater transparency for local people (end Apr 2011)	Work started
Respond to proposals and facilitate establishment of Local Enterprise Partnerships, working with local authorities (end Sep 2011)	Work ongoing
Terminate RDA functions (regional planning and housing functions) (end Apr 2012)	Work ongoing



Transfer RDA functions (Business Link, Tourism, etc) to other bodies as appropriate (end Apr 2012)	Work ongoing
Complete RDA and GOL projects (stand-alone ongoing major developments) (end Apr 2012)	Work ongoing
Develop and put in place options to help social tenants own or part-own their home (end Apr 2011)	Work ongoing
Develop options to bring more empty homes back into use, working with the local authorities and housing associations and some of the property owners, neighbours and others affected (end Dec 2010)	Work ongoing
Develop options to ensure continuous improvements in energy efficiency of new housing looking specifically at zero-carbon homes and non-domestic buildings (end Dec 2010)	Work ongoing
Consider options for implementation of options for the Housing Revenue Account, including through the Localism Bill (end Nov 2010)	Work ongoing
Develop options and put in place measures to make better use of existing public buildings, land and capital investment in public building projects (end Jul 2011)	Work ongoing
Consider the most appropriate framework for local incentives for local authorities to support growth, including allowing local authorities to reinvest the benefits of growth into local communities (end Apr 2012)	Work ongoing
Encourage data use by inviting range of third parties to create different online analyses of local authority performance data (end Dec 2010)	Work ongoing
Prepare local authorities for publication, in an open and standardised format, of items of spending, contracts and tenders above £500 (end Dec 2010)	Work ongoing
Prepare local authorities for publication, in an open and standardised format, of job titles and salaries above SCS Pay Band 1 (end Dec 2010)	Work ongoing
Run public awareness campaign to encourage use and put pressure on opaque councils, including public demonstration of transparency of other local authorities (end Dec 2010)	Work ongoing
Publish data on local authorities held by central government departments	Work ongoing
Release datasets held by the Department for Communities and Local Government to make councils and other bodies more accountable	Work ongoing

(3) Explanation of missed deadlines

In October the Department did not miss any deadlines.



The status of missed deadlines from previous reports is:

Deadline missed	Status	Reason
Promote 'Home on the Farm' schemes that encourage farmers to convert existing disused or underused buildings into affordable housing (end Jun 2011)	Work started	Andrew Stunell promoted the scheme on 18 October in the Telegraph, on BBC Radio 4 Farming Today and BBC Radio stations in Manchester, Cornwall, Cumbria, Lincolnshire and Sheffield. The Community Right to Build will be included in the Localism Bill.
Publish consultation response on options for the Housing Revenue Account, including voluntary arrangements (Jul 2010)	Still not complete	Grant Shapps announced the intention to reform the system through the Localism Bill on 5 October. A summary of the consultation responses and supporting documents will be published in November to coincide with introduction of the Localism Bill.

