

**BASSETLAW DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**CABINET**

**1 OCTOBER 2013**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES**

**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LOCALISM ACT IN BASSETLAW**

Cabinet Member: Leader – Policy and  
Community Engagement  
Contact: Ros Theakstone  
Ext 3160

**1. Public Interest Test**

- 1.1 The author of this report has determined in preparing this report that this matter is not confidential.

**2. Purpose of the Report**

- 2.1 To provide Members with an update on the implementation of the Localism Act in Bassetlaw.

**3. Background and Discussion**

- 3.1 The Localism Act received Royal Assent in November 2012. Since that date regulations and guidance have followed as the Government has gone through the process of implementing the Act.

- 3.2 The Act was intended to

Deliver new powers for Councils  
Deliver new rights for local people and communities  
Restore democratic and local control over planning  
Make housing fairer and more democratic

- 3.3 Bassetlaw District Council was recently audited on its response and was found to have implemented all the necessary requirements within the Act. However it was recommended that the Council report the action it has taken to Committee so that it provides a collective public record of the Council's response.

- 3.4 Appendix 1 sets out the Council's action to date in implementing the Localism Act in Bassetlaw.

- 3.5 Feedback from the Local Government Information Unit (LGIU) suggests that the use of the new powers by Councils and by local communities is mixed. The planning powers appear to be most used, followed by the Community Right to Bid. At the time of producing this report the LGIU were not aware of any successful use of the Community Right to Challenge powers.

#### **4. Implications**

- a) For service users  
The Localism Act gives communities new rights in respect of Council services. Communities now have the right to bid to run Council services, subject to meeting necessary criteria.
- b) Strategic & Policy  
The Localism Act fits with Ambition 3 of the Council's Corporate Plan i.e.: - Involved Communities and Locality Working.
- c) Financial - Ref: 14/362D  
  
None from this report
- d) Legal Ref: 282/10/13  
  
The Council has demonstrated that it has responded to the requirements within the Localism Act.
- e) Human Resources  
  
There are no implications arising from this report.
- g) Whether this is a key decision, and if so the reference number.  
  
This is not a Key Decision.

#### **5. Options, Risks and Reasons for Recommendations**

- 5.1 The Council has a statutory duty to respond to the requirements of new legislation.

#### **6. Recommendations**

- 6.1 That Cabinet note this update report and the action taken to implement the Localism Act in Bassetlaw.

**Background Papers**  
The Localism Act

**Location**  
**Community Engagement and**  
**Performance**