

# LOCALISM ACT 2011

## Council Response



**BASSETLAW**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL



# Localism Act - the major provisions

Area	What we have done
<p><b>General Power of Competence</b></p> <p><i>Power which allows us to do 'anything that individuals may do – that is not specifically prohibited'.</i></p>	<p>Not used the power to date</p> <p>(Little evidence of the new power being used across the country)</p> <p>The purpose is to promote innovation, remove unnecessary legal barriers and help Councils to act in the best interests of their communities</p>



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Area	What we have done
<b>Governance</b>	
<i>Can return to Committee system</i>	Not taken this direction
<i>Changes to Standards regime</i>	New Code of conduct agreed New Register of Interests being drawn up Complaints process completed



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Area	What we have done
<p><b>Annual Pay Policy Statement</b></p> <p><i>Must publish an annual pay policy statement</i></p>	<p>Statement approved by full Council</p> <p>Published on Council's website</p>



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<p><b>Council Tax</b></p> <p><i>If we want to increase council tax above a threshold then we must hold a referendum of our council tax payers</i></p>	<p>We have maintained a freeze on Council tax for 2012/13 and 2013/14</p>



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<p><b>Community Right to Challenge</b></p> <p><i>Community and voluntary groups, local authority employees and parish councils have the right to express an interest in running a local authority service or part of a service</i></p>	<p>Agreed a process at Cabinet and at Council</p> <p>Some informal discussions starting to take place</p>



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<p data-bbox="144 297 600 475"><b>Community Right to Bid – Assets of Community Value</b></p> <p data-bbox="144 535 649 729"><i>Maintain and publish a list of assets of community value nominated by the community</i></p> <p data-bbox="144 789 658 1086"><i>When assets on this list come up for sale the Act then gives community groups the time to develop a bid and raise the money to bid to buy the asset</i></p>	<p data-bbox="691 354 1470 401">Report to Cabinet – November 2012</p> <p data-bbox="691 468 1097 515">Process includes: -</p> <ul data-bbox="691 582 1470 853" style="list-style-type: none"><li>Legal – first point of contact</li><li>Planning – consultation with the Parishes</li><li>GIS – Mapping assets of community value</li></ul> <p data-bbox="691 925 1499 1086">7 applications received since the start of the scheme with one being accepted</p>



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<p><b>Planning</b></p> <p><b>Neighbourhood Plans</b></p> <p><i>New type of plan developed by a neighbourhood forum/parish council</i></p> <p><i>These statutory plans set out the type of development permitted in a defined neighbourhood. Must be in general conformity with LDF, National Planning Policy Framework</i></p>	<p>Consulted widely with Parish Councils</p> <p>Agreed an approach to develop neighbourhood plans</p> <p>Sought external funding to facilitate this process</p> <p>Working directly with 15 Parishes who are all at different stages of the process</p> <p>(Government funding now in place – up to a maximum of £20k. £5k per plan payable to BDC once a neighbourhood is approved by the Council. £25k per plan to DC if plan reaches the examination stage)</p>



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<p><b>Planning</b></p> <p><b>Neighbourhood Development Orders</b></p> <p><i>Allows neighbourhood forums or parish councils to grant planning permission for development in their areas</i></p> <p><i>Process for creating similar to neighbourhood plans i.e. requirement to pass an independent examination and a neighbourhood referendum. Must be adopted by full Council</i></p>	<p>None in place at present</p> <p>These would follow after the agreed neighbourhood plans in place</p>



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<p><b>Planning</b></p> <p><b>Community Right to Build Orders</b></p> <p><i>Similar to neighbourhood development orders – except in this case <b>neighbourhoods</b> can propose development – without the need for planning permission – rather than just parish councils and neighbourhood forums</i></p>	<p>None in place at present</p> <p>These would follow after the agreed neighbourhood plans in place</p>



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<p><b>Planning</b></p> <p><b>Community Infrastructure Levy</b></p> <p>Money raised through development able to be spent in a more flexible way – not just on infrastructure</p>	<p>Agreed an approach endorsed by Council June 2013</p>



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<p><b>Housing –</b></p> <p><i>Provisions cover allocation, social housing tenure reform, affordable rents, housing finance, housing mobility, homelessness, regulation of Housing Ombudsman</i></p>	<p>A Tenancy Strategy and Choice Based Lettings Policy agreed by Cabinet December 2012</p>

