

## **Annex A: Breakdown of all the suggestions received following Grant Shapps letter to local authorities dates 28 May 2010, titled “Reducing burdens on local government”**

This document provides the suggestions made by local government in response to Grant Shapps letter of 28 May which asked them to put forward their top five pieces of burdensome legislation, particularly those for which DCLG was responsible. The responses covered a broad range of themes, not solely around legislation. The following provides the full list of suggestions, grouped into broad key themes.

### **DCLG –Legislation**

#### **1. Council Tax**

- Update the Banding Adjustments (*Newcastle under Lyme, Blackpool*);
- Less prescription on Billing information, in particular Efficiencies information (*Copeland, Newcastle, Ribble Valley, Ipswich, Tendridge, Blackpool*)
- Remove the discounts for Single Occupation, and Second Homes (*West Dorset, Sunderland*)
- Council Tax Capping (*Rother, Hambelton and Richmondshire*)

#### **2. Fire**

- Remove the Fire and Rescue Framework (*Wiltshire Fire, Berkshire Fire, Dorset Fire, Kent Fire*)
- Remove the Regional Fire Control Project, and Regional Fire Centres. (*Essex Fire, Wiltshire Fire, Gloucestershire*)

#### **3. Housing**

- Reduce the bureaucracy surrounding Empty Dwelling Management Orders for bringing empty homes back into use. (*Derby Dales, Medway, Eden*)
- Housing revenue account systems (*Cornwall, Solihull, Cambridge, Woking*)
- HRA borrowing restrictions and subsidy (*Brighton and Hove, Woking*)
- Consent to Disposal of housing stock (*East Riding, Barnet, Mole Valley, Cornwall, Brighton and Hove*)
- Review Local Democracy, Construction and Economic Development Act. (*Sevenoaks, Gloucester*)
- Prescriptive administration of Disabled Facilities Grant (*Milton Keynes, Allerdale, Basildon, Amber Valley, High peak, North Somerset, Eden, Yarmouth, Haringey, Derby, Hertfordshire, St Edmundsbury*)

#### **4. Income and Trading**

- Remove rules stopping LA's generating their own income through their ability to set charges. (*East Devon, Wyre, Reigate and Banstead, Wealden, Hambelton, Purbeck, West Devon, Waltham Forest, Gateshead, Eden, Kingston, St Albans, Dorset Fire, East Northamptonshire, Sunderland, Northamptonshire, Warwick, Woking, Richmond, Dudley, Stroud, South Ribble, Hammersmith and Fulham, Barnet, Braintree, West Oxfordshire and Cotswolds*)



## 5. Local Area Agreements

- Remove LAAs (*Coventry, North Yorkshire, Medway, Leicestershire, Great Yarmouth, Bassetlaw, Isle of Wight, Stockport, North Tyneside, Stoke, Copeland, Redbridge, East Lindsey, Aylesbury, Burnely, Harrow, Worcestershire, Milton Keynes, Daventry, Rochford, Wellingborough, Crawley, Erewash, Rugby, Babergh, North Kesteven, West Oxfordshire and Cotswolds*)

## 6. Local Government Pay and Workforce

- Local Government Pension Scheme – on basis of unaffordability (*Ryedale, Warrington, Woking, Forest of Dean*)
- Remove the Two – tier workforce codes of practice (*Trafford, Camden, Somerset*)

## 7. Planning

- Level of planning legislation - in particular review the: regional planning frameworks, the level of national planning guidance; the enforcement of planning consents; and the changes to the local planning process (*Ashford, Aylesbury Vale, East Hampshire, Basildon, Dartford, Cornwall, Portsmouth, Ashford, Middlesex, Middlesbrough, Warrington*)
- General Disposal Consent SI23. (*Lancaster*)

## 8. Statutory notices

- Requirement to publish statutory notices, for example: planning applications in local newspapers. (*Weymouth and Portland, Chiltern, Reigate and Banstead, Wiltshire, Portsmouth, West Dorset, Wiltshire, Wycombe, Norwich, Ipswich, Ashford, Epping Forest, Blackpool, Hertsmere, Waltham Forest, Lambeth, North Yorkshire, Thurrock, Ribble Valley, Maidstone, Wandsworth, East Northamptonshire, Eastleigh, East Dorset, South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse, South Northamptonshire, Woking, Waveney, LGA*)

## 9. Petitions

- Remove the requirements on petitions (*Harborough, Gravesham, Test Valley, Warwick, Waveney, Havering, LGA*)

## 10. Quangos

- Reduce the number of “top down” quangos, or shrink their roles back to their original remit – “become too prescriptive and inspection driven”. (*South hams, Suffolk, Warwick, West Devon, Derby Dales, West Sussex, Oxfordshire, Mid Devon, Leicestershire, Newcastle, Wandsworth, Taunton Deane, Staffordshire, Eastleigh, New Forest, Waveney, Stroud, East Riding*)
- The following [CLG] Quangos were highlighted for removal by local authorities:
  - Audit Commission (*Weldon and Exeter*)
  - Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) (*Islington, Aylesbury Vale, Mole Valley, North Devon, North Kesteven*)

- Tenant Services Authority (*Welwyn Hatfield, Broxtowe, Wealden, Arun, Gloucester, Thanet, Gravesham, Waveney, North Kesteven, Brighton and Hove*)

## **Local Government**

- Local Authorities (Goods and Services) Act 1970. (*Harrow*)

## **DCLG – Non Legislative**

### **1. Grant Funding**

- Rationalise or reduce number of Grant Funding streams, in particular ring fencing, “Top-Slicing”, and inclusion of capital elements. (*Somerset, Hertfordshire, Staffordshire, Lancaster, Sunderland, Telford, Richmond, Islington, Havering, Northumberland, Camden, Cumbria, Hackney, Purbeck, Enfield, Warrington, Tendridge*)
- Reduce the different sources of funding from across OGDs and the difference in audit requirements from those OGDs. (*Broxtowe, Milton Keynes, Rochford, Wiltshire, North East Lincolnshire, Brighton and Hove, Dorset, North Somerset, Knowsley, Arun, Coventry, Bassetlaw, Havering*)

### **2. Housing**

- Reduce the number of housing data returns, including P1E on Homelessness, Mortgage Rescue. (*East Devon, Barbergh, Nuneaton and Bedworth,*)

### **3. Local Strategic Partnerships**

- Review the effectiveness and bureaucracy surrounding local partnership arrangements and LSPs, including the how they operate in 2 tier areas, in particular, having LSPs at both District and County level. (*Worcestershire, Rochdale, Broxtowe, Surrey, Blackburn, Ryedale, North Dorset, Thames Valley Police, Hertsmere, , Havant, Durham, Thurrock, Oxfordshire Ribble Valley Buckinghamshire, St Albans, South End, Bristol, Cambridge, Ipswich, Kent Fire Authority, Hampshire and IOW LGA, Taunton Deane, Fareham, North Tyneside, South Northamptonshire, Waveney, Havering, Cumbria*)

### **4. Performance Monitoring**

152 respondents made 265 suggestions about reduction or removal of central or Quango performance monitoring arrangements (excluding suggestions under 5 and 6 below). These suggestions can be broadly broken down into the following categories:

- Remove the monitoring requirements put in place through the Local Development Framework.
- Reduce the amount and variety of *Data Collection* and National Surveys – both statutory and non statutory.
- Remove the levels of bureaucracy surrounding Audit and Inspection by central government, the Audit Commission, Ofsted, Quality and Care Commission, the Standards Board, and other Quangos
- Financial Reporting including the Whole of Government Accounts, revenue outturns and returns.

- Statistical Returns
- Codes of Practice

## 5. National Indicators

- 85 Local authorities suggested the revocation of the National Indicators. Of those there were some specific suggestions for National Indicators to remove:
  - Climate Change and Biodiversity
  - NI 179 - VFM targets
  - NI 8 – Adult Participation in Sport
  - Equalities Indicators
  - Fuel Poverty

## 6. Place Survey

- Remove the requirement to complete the Place Survey and allow Local Authorities to set their own surveys based on local priorities (*Worcestershire, Rochford, Isles of Scilly, Cambridgeshire, Sevenoaks, Wycombe, Norwich, Horsham, Blackpool, Coventry, Redcar and Cleveland, Gravesham, Medway, Ribble Valley, Leicestershire, Trafford, South Norfolk, Derby, Copeland, Redbridge, North Devon, Rutland.*)

## 7. Planning

- Planning Policy Framework and statements (*East Riding, St Albans, Islington*)
- Five year land supply (*South Gloucestershire*)

## 8. Regional Government

- Remove Government Offices (*Rochdale, Erewash, Wychavon, Gloucestershire, Norfolk, East Sussex, South End, Staffordshire*)
- Remove Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnerships (RIEPS) and Regional Development Agencies (RDAs). (*East Northamptonshire, South End, Leicestershire, Medway, Blackburn, Erewash, Wealden, Newcastle under Lyme*)

## 9. Transparency

Requirement to publish all spending over £500. (*Wyre, Cornwall, Blackpool, Hertsmere, West Sussex, Gloucester, Medway, Newark and Sherwood, Haringey, Test Valley, Cambridge, Stoke, East Dorset*)

## 1. Business

- Barriers to using public sector broadband infrastructure to extend community access (*Wealden*)
- Royal mail licence Fee(*Arun*)
- Relax or remove the regulations around TUPE to give LA's the ability to build a mixed economy. (*Warrington, Dover*)

## 2. Cabinet Office

- **Government Connect:** Remove the requirement to install and comply with Government Connect and centrally driven IT projects. (*Rossendale, East Northamptonshire, Hampshire and IOW, LGA, New Forrest, South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse, Richmond, Waveney, Bracknell Forest, South Ribble, Mole Valley, Burnely, Harrow.*)
- Civil Contingencies Act (*Allerdale*)
- A review of the bureaucratic and costly functions which service the Voluntary Sector (*Daventry*)

## 3. Department for Culture, Media and Sport

- Remove unnecessary Quangos – in particular the Arts Council (*Ipswich, East Northamptonshire*)
- Licensing Act (*Middlesbrough, Daventry*)
- Simplify the licensing arrangements for local authority operated radio schemes such as Radiolink and Airwave radios. (*Torridge*)
- Offence under licensing act for not reporting the loss of a premises license under Licensing Act. (*LGA*)

## 4. Department for Education

- Remove the School Staff Negotiating body(Norfolk, North Yorkshire, Devon, Kent, Hammersmith and Fulham)
- Resolve the conflict between Children Act 1989 and Leaving Care Act 2000.(*Wakefield, Hillingdon*)
- Review the Education Act 1944 (*Hillingdon*)
- Remove the Independent Safeguarding Authority and the new Vetting and Baring checks. (*Worcestershire, Islington, Aylesbury Vale, Kent, North Yorkshire*)
- Remove the statutory requirements on Children's Trust partnerships (*Ipswich Waltham Forest, Stockton*)
- Greatly reduce the function of Ofsted (*Northamptonshire*)

## 5. Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

- Remove Regional Flood Management Boards (*Essex Fire*)

- Air Quality Management Areas – move responsibility to High ways Agency, or Council (*Harborough, South Gloucestershire, Northumberland; Dartford, Medway, Broxbourne*)
- EU requirement for horses to have passports (*LGA*)
- Current requirements for registration of scrap metal dealers (*LGA*)
- **Environmental Regulations** and Services: Review and revise legislation in respect of:
  - Licensing of taxis
  - Energy Act 1976 - eg Energy certificates in public buildings
  - Turnstiles Act 1963
  - Motorcycle Noise Act 1987 - eg selling schemes for motorbikes which confirm noise levels. This is usually dealt with under Road Safety legislation at the time of use.

(*Harborough, Bury*)

- Clean Neighbours and Environmental Act 2005
- Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2010
- Environmental Protection Act 1990 – Part 2A

(*Harborough, Bury, Seven Oaks, Wakefield, East Hampshire, Waveney*)

- Bonfires regulations (*East Devon, South Somerset*)
- Out of Hours stray dog service (*Harborough*)
- Private Water Supply regulations. (*West Dorset*)
- Schedule 2 of the Controlled Waste Regulations 1992. (*Norwich, Babergh,*)
- Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme (LATS). (*Enfield*)
- Flood risk regulations (*Isle of Wight*)

## 6. Department for Health

- Reduce/ remove the role of the Food Safety Agency
- Remove the Requirement to have Food Safety and Health and Safety plans in place
- Amount of data collection required by these two [FS and H&S] agencies

(*Kent, Barnsley, Kingston, Torridge, Herefordshire, Harborough*)

- Reduce the audit requirements imposed by the Quality and Care Commission

(*Solihull, Staffordshire, Northamptonshire, Derbyshire*)

## 7. Department for Transport

- Licensing of Hackney Carriages and Private Hire vehicles (*Harlow*)
- Road closures (Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 : Sections 14 and 16A) (*Norwich*)

## 8. Department for Work and Pensions

- Health and Safety Executive. (*Torridge, Herefordshire, Harborough*)
- DWP Security Manual (*South Cambridge, Eden, South Lakeland*)

- National Fraud initiatives (NFI) (*Mid Devon, Stockton, Chiltern*)
- Number of data returns and cross checking of data (for example the cross checking of NFI data with Single Person Discount (SPD) households), and the requirement to submit data on NI's that no longer exist. (*Mid Suffolk, Chiltern, Oadby and Wigston, Blackburn, North Warwickshire, Copeland, North Kesteven*)
- Remove the service level agreements with Pension Service, Jobcentre Plus, Rent Service, Valuation Office, and DWP Debt Recovery. (*Chiltern, Lancaster, Lancashire*)
- Pension Tax Credits (*Amber Valley*)
- Housing Benefit (*Milton Keynes, Allerdale, Basildon, Amber Valley, High peak, North Somerset, Eden, Yarmouth, Haringey, Derby, Hertfordshire, St Edmundsbury*)

## 9. GEO

- Consolidate or remove **Equalities Legislation** including the Equal Pay Act, Single Status and the GEO Equalities Act 2010. (*Fareham, Taunton Deane, Wandsworth, Barnsley, east Sussex, Tunbridge Wells, Redcar and Cleveland, Norfolk, Derby Dales, Mid Suffolk, Bromley*)
- Equality and Diversity report and targets. (*Hampshire Fire, and Essex Fire*)

## 10. Home Office

- Home Office involvement in appointment of Chief Police Officers (*Sussex Police, Welwyn and Hatfield, Worcestershire, Middlesbrough, Thames Valley Police*)
- Burdens relating to civil registration (*Identity and Passport Office, Hertfordshire*)
- Representation of the people act 1985) (*St Edmundsbury*)
- Review the Anti Social Behaviour Act 2003. (*Sevenoaks, Bromley*)
- Remove the requirement to seek the Secretary of State's permission to merge Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (*South Cambridge*)
- Prohibition of marriages taking place before 8am and after 6pm. This regulation is out dated and relates to the pre-electric light days. (*LGA*)

## 11. HMT

- **International Financial Reporting Standards** : Stop implementation (*Mid Sussex. Kingston, Great Yarmouth, Bassetlaw, Telford, East Dorset, Hackney, South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse, Rother*)

## 12. HMRC

- VAT is no longer a simple tax, and the impositions on local authorities create additional complexities (*Dover*)

## 13. Ministry of Justice

- **Freedom Of Information (FOI)**: Restrict enquiries and stop "time wasting" enquiries from the press or research students. (*Welwyn Hatfield, Weymouth, Wyre, Chiltern,*

*Basildon, Middlesbrough, Amber Valley, Dartford, Hart, Bury, Seven Oaks, Ipswich, Wakefield, Ashford, High Peak, Knowsley, Dartford, Blackpool, Hertsmere, Solihull, North Warwick, Lambeth, Norfolk, Redcar and Cleveland, East Hampshire, Gravesham, Thurrock, Ribble Valley, Rossendale, Maidstone, Barnsley, South End, Kent, Taunton Deane, Lancaster, Stockport, New Forest, South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse, Warwick, , Northumberland, South Ribble, Bromely, Rother )*

- Provide more flexibility to charge for FOI – the current rate is £450. (*Bracknell Forest, St Edmundsbury, East Hampshire, Thanet, Havant, Derbyshire Dales, Waltham Forest, Tonbridge and Malling*)
- Remove the Electoral Commission (*Mole Valley Waveney, Exeter, Gloucestershire*)
- Remove the Elected mayors Rules (*St Albans, Eastleigh, Waveney, Mole Valley*)
- Remove the requirement for four year Election periods (*Gravesham*)
- Land Charges and Building Control regulations (Land Registry interest) (*Bassetlaw, Mid Sussex, West Dorset, South Hams*)

#### 14. OGC

- OJEU Notices (*Epping Forest*)
- EU **procurement** rules (*Exeter, Wakefield, West Sussex, Dover*)
- Centrally imposed **procurement rules** which limit councils ability to work across services and partners (*Derby Dales, Solihull, Leicestershire, Trafford, Kent, Essex, Waveney, Islington, Cumbria, East Riding, West Oxfordshire and Cotswolds*)

#### 15. Other

- Offence to accidentally allow a chimney to catch fire.
- Penalty on shop keepers who allow thieves and prostitutes to assemble within the property
- Requirement for pedal cycles to have bells
- Performing Animals Act 1925. (believe this regulation to be out of date and no longer fit for purpose)

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