



Leicester  
City Council

WARDS AFFECTED  
All

## **FORWARD TIMETABLE OF CONSULTATION AND MEETINGS:**

Cabinet

26<sup>th</sup> January 2009

---

### **The Sustainable Communities Act 2007**

---

#### **Report of Director of Partnerships, Policy and Performance**

##### **1.0 Purpose of report**

- 1.1. This report informs Cabinet about the provisions of the Sustainable Communities Act 2007.

##### **2.0 Recommendations**

- 2.1 Cabinet are recommended to

- 2.1.1 Note the provisions of the Sustainable Communities Act, and the potential benefits of making use of the Act in Leicester

- 2.1.2 Discuss the benefits and any potential challenges to using the Act as a tool in improving the sustainability of local communities and ultimately help us achieve the One Leicester 25 year vision.

##### **3.0 Report**

- 3.1 The Sustainable Communities Act was introduced to Parliament as a Private Members Bill by Nick Hurd MP. The Bill was supported through Parliament by the Government and all of the main English political parties. It became law on 23 October 2007.

- 3.2 The Act has been developed from the principle that local communities are best placed to understand what needs to be done to improve the economic, social and environmental sustainability of their local area, but recognises that central government may need to act in order for improvements to be made. It builds on the Power of Wellbeing, afforded to local councils in the Local Government Act 2000. This power allows local authorities to do anything they consider likely to promote the economic, social and environmental well-being of their area unless explicitly prohibited elsewhere in legislation. The Sustainable Communities Act serves as a next step - an opportunity to input central government policy making to better benefit local areas.

- 3.3 The Act sets in statute a framework for councils, in consultation with local community organisations and local people, to put forward proposals that will contribute to improving the sustainability of their local area.
- 3.4 In addition, it requires Central Government to produce a local spending report for each local authority area, detailing the amount of public money spent on services and projects over a given period.
- 3.5 It also replaced the term “community strategies” with “sustainable community strategies”, emphasising the duty of local authorities (and Local Strategic Partnerships) to consider the long term sustainability of their local area.
- 3.6 It is up to each local authority to decide if they want to make use of the Act in their locality.
- 3.7 Further information on the local options will be circulated prior to the Cabinet meeting.

#### 4. **Headline Financial and Legal Implications**

##### Headline Financial Implications

- 4.1.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report
- 4.1.2 Andy Morley, Chief Accountant ext 297404

##### Headline Legal Implications

- 4.2.1 The legal context is set out in the body of the report.
- 4.2.2 Joanna Bunting, Assistant Head of Legal Services ext 296450

##### Report Author / Officer to contact:

Rachel Clarke  
 Policy Officer  
 Partnership Executive Team  
 Telephone 0116 252 8453  
 Email: Rachel.Clarke@leicester.gov.uk

Sources: [Sustainable Communities Act 2007: A Guide](#); Communities and Local Government, February 2008  
[Sustainable Communities Act – Key Facts](#); Local Government Association 11 Dec 2008  
[The Sustainable Communities Act, The Key That Finally Unlocks Real Local Potential](#) Antony Brand, NLGN, October 2008  
 Local Works website

<b>Key Decision</b>	No
<b>Reason</b>	N/A
<b>Appeared in Forward Plan</b>	N/A
<b>Executive or Council Decision</b>	Executive (Cabinet)