



progress through partnership

Members & CAA

Davy Jones

Unitaries network
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Key legislation & guidance

- Strong & Prosperous Communities 2006
- LAAs operational guidance (Oct 07)
- Empowerment Action Plan (Oct 07)
- 2007 Local Government & Public Health (LGPIH) Act
- Sustainable Communities Act (Oct 07)
- **Statutory guidance for LGPIH (Jul 08)**
- CAA consultation document (Jul 08)
- Empowerment White Paper (Jul 08)
- Participatory Budgeting Strategy (Sep 08)



Local Strategic Partnerships

- LSP key role in producing/monitoring Sustainable Community Strategies and Local Area Agreement
- **New statutory duty to co-operate** for named LSP partners around agreeing/delivering LAA targets
- Role of Council as leader of LSP, community representation, overview & scrutiny with partners
- Well-being power, Sustainable Communities Act
- But LSPS remain 'non-statutory' & unaccountable



Section 138 – Duty to Involve

- **New duty to “inform, consult & involve”** from April 2009
- Applies to Best Value authorities (except Police, Wales)
- “Where BV authority considers it appropriate...”
- It must involve “representatives of local persons or local persons in the exercise of their functions by...”
 - Providing information on the exercise of the function
 - Consulting about the exercise of the function
 - Involve in another way about the exercise of function
- “Appropriate”: guidance states “routine functions” & “significant one-off decisions”
- Comprehensive engagement across LSP now expected

Comprehensive Area Assessment

“For the first time, local public services will be held collectively to account for their impact on better local outcomes”

- Multi-inspectorate review of area and organisations replaces CPA, Use of Resources & Direction of Travel
- Area Assessment: how well are local public services delivering better results for local people on local priorities - key LSP role
- Organisational assessment: how well council and fire & rescue services manage finances, business, resources & performance
- From rolling programmes to targeted inspections

CAA & Empowerment

- CAA will assess implementation of duty to involve:
 - How well council/partners know/engage with their communities (esp vulnerable/hard to reach)
 - Community involvement in defining priorities/assessing outcomes
 - Co-ordinated LSP partner's community engagement
 - Accuracy of self assessment will be key
- Organisational assessment includes how organisation engages local communities... in financial planning
- Big challenge to “managerialist” councils
- CAA critical in ensuring empowerment agenda is delivered



White Paper – new duties/rights

NEW duty to promote democracy

NEW duty to respond to petitions

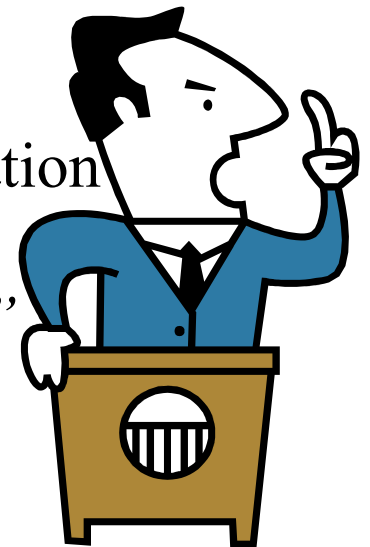
**NEW extended duty to inform,
consult & involve**

**NEW right to hold officers publicly
to account**



Political consensus ?

- Localism, less inspection & PIs, and involving citizens not just New Labour agenda
- Liberal Democrats always supported devolution/ localism & “people power”
- David Cameron at Conservative Councillors Association
“This is the future... local councils...being judged held accountable, being evaluated by your residents”
- Tory-controlled LGA response: *“LGA supports the intentions of the Empowerment White Paper ...”*
- BUT, Conservatives may not continue with CAA....



Impact of economic crisis

- Case for empowerment needs to be recast – if it is seen as an add-on or a luxury, it will not get funded, or be cut
- Arguments for empowerment in “hard times”:
 - Consultation/involvement leads to better targeting of services
 - Investment that will pay long-term dividends
 - Co-ordinated engagement across partners can save money
 - Involvement in resource allocation strengthens social cohesion
 - Involving citizens in “tough decisions” can deflect criticism from Members/officers
- Not investing in empowerment will lead to CAA results – “heads will roll”





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