



SEE headlines

Issue 4

October 2011

The following captures some of the recent key policy documents, announcements, publications, and research relevant to the work of South East Employers. We provide links to the source of information for further consideration. SEE is happy to provide you with any further information or discuss how we can best support you and your authority in relation to any of the following issues.

[Localism Bill](#)

At the time of writing, the Bill is part way through the report stage in the House of Lords. Take a look at the recent amendments and the progression of the Bill.

[Health and Social Care Bill](#)

This Bill is due to have its Second Reading in the House of Lords. Read more about the new role for local authorities in Public Health.

[Council Transparency](#)

DCLG has published the Final Code of Recommended Practice for Council Transparency.

[Best Value Guidance](#)

New statutory guidance on the Best Value Duty sets out expectations of the way authorities should work with voluntary and community groups and small businesses when facing difficult funding decisions.

[Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act](#)

The Act, which received Royal Assent in September, replaces police authorities with directly elected Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs); elections for PCCs will be held in November 2012.

[Government response to the Communities and Local Government Select Committee's Report:](#)

[Localism](#)

Read the Government's formal response to the recommendations and conclusions set out in the House of Commons Communities and Local Government Select Committee report on Localism.

[Council Tax Freeze](#)

The Chancellor has announced new support for local authorities which freeze council tax next year. A new grant scheme will be open to all billing and major precepting authorities, including police and fire authorities, which decide to freeze or reduce their council tax next year.

[Community Right to Challenge](#)

This policy statement on the Community Right to Challenge seeks to address some of the issues raised during consideration of provisions at Lords Committee stage of the Localism Bill. It also sets out the way forward on the issues consulted on following the consultation on the Right which ended on 3 May 2011.

[Local Government Boundary Commission Reviews](#)

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is responsible for reviewing local authority electoral arrangements. This includes defining boundaries for local elections and the number of councillors to be elected, as well as conducting reviews of local government external boundaries and structures. The LGBCE is currently conducting electoral reviews of a number of councils within the South East region, including Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Surrey, Hart and Swale.

[Local authority of the future](#)

KPMG and the Centre for Public Service Partnerships have published [The Brilliant Local Authority of the Future](#).