

Association of Local Councils in the New Forest

Localism Act

Dave Yates – New Forest District Council

Steve Avery – New Forest National Park
Authority

New Government Resolutions

“ Our vision is of revitalised local authorities, working with their partners to re-shape public services around the citizens and communities that use them. This means changing the way we work ... to reduce the amount of top-down control from Central Government”.

“We think the best means of strengthening society is not for central government to try and seize all the power and responsibility for itself. It is to help people and their locally elected representatives to achieve their own ambitions”.

“We will work with local government to achieve a vibrant local democracy and remove unnecessary controls which stifle local authorities. We set out proposals for a radical change in the relationship between central and local government”.

What is in the Act

- Local Government Freedoms
- Community Rights
- Housing
- Planning (Steve Avery)

Local Government Freedoms

- GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE
- ABOLITION OF THE STANDARDS BOARD

- Rules on predetermination
- Greater local control over business rates
- Directly elected mayors
- London
- Empowering cities
- Governance - cabinets, committees and scrutiny

Standards Issues

- District Council Role
- Standards Committee?
- Code(s) of Conduct?
- Complaints Procedure

Community Rights

- Community right to challenge
- Community right to bid
(assets of community value)
- Council tax referendum
- Transparency over senior officers' pay
- Getting rid of fines and charges for rubbish collection

Housing

- Social housing allocations reform
- Social housing tenure reform
- Reform of homelessness legislation
- Reform of council house finance

- National home swap scheme
- Reform of social housing legislation
- Abolition of Home Information Packs (HIPS)

What's Not There

- Best value and inspection
- Structural reform of local government
- Universal tax credit/localisation of Council Tax
- Finance

Some Questions

- Is it localist?
- Timing?
- Next Steps?