

# Localism and climate change

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## Eric Pickles – Total Politics speech

- ❑ 13 years of centralisation, over-control, target culture, mistrust of local government. Has stifled local creativity, innovation, and motivation. Engendered a passive, box-ticking culture.
- ❑ Need to reverse this - push power away from Whitehall, to LAs and beyond to communities and individuals.
- ❑ Scrap top down targets, bureaucracy, red-tape.
- ❑ Localism Bill later in the year to enable this and give LAs a power of competence. But...
  - A) authorities need to step up to the plate – seize this chance
  - B) need you to trust people to know what they want, and to enable them to determine local priorities, local spending, demand local accountability.
- ❑ “Never been a better time to work in local government”

## 3 priorities – localism, localism, localism

- ❑ Eric Pickles very serious about “localism, localism, localism”
- ❑ Government has moved fast - CLG has already scrapped HIPs, Regional Strategies, ended “garden grabbing”, un-ringfenced finance, increased LA transparency
- ❑ Govt leading by example – spotlight on public sector pay and processes
- ❑ Decentralising Government and Quangos, restoring the balance of power in favour of authorities and people.
- ❑ LAs need to share experience and can develop new models of working together. Government will not be telling you what to do

## **Coalition agreement – Communities & Local Government**

*The Government believes that it is time for a fundamental shift of power from Westminster to people. We will promote decentralisation and democratic engagement, and we will end the era of top down government by giving new powers to local councils, communities, neighbourhoods and individuals.*

***“Control Shift” set the tone - 2009.***

- Giving local communities a share in local growth
- Freeing local government from central control
- Giving local people more power over local government
- Giving local people more ability to determine spending priorities
- Removing regional government and planning targets
- We are implementing Control Shift now**

### **Coalition agreement - Energy & Climate Change**

- ❑ *The Government believes that climate change is one of the gravest threats we face, and that urgent action at home and abroad is required. We need to use a wide range of levers to cut carbon emissions, decarbonise the economy, and support the creation of new green jobs and technologies. We will implement a full programme of measures to fulfil our joint ambitions for a low carbon and eco-friendly economy.*

### ***What does this mean for the Green agenda?***

- Government aspires to be the Greenest ever – leading by example and will reduce central Govt emissions by 10% in 12 months
- Committed to meeting international and national carbon budgets
- Green Deal – DECC developing this fast – at ECOBUILD Greg Clark noted the Conservatives were working with 50 LAs to lead on a street by street approach
- CRC - began in April, offers the potential to save money through energy efficiency. Registration ends this September. Government considering whether any small changes needed, and will review scheme in due course

***What does this mean for the Green agenda?***

- Rolling out smart meters and a smart grid
- Establishing a full system of FITS
- Establishing a green investment bank, and to boost green financial products and green economy
- Seeking to increase the target for energy from renewables, and to encourage community owned renewables (through keeping business rates they generate and benefiting from the power too)

- Don't wait to receive instructions – seize the opportunity.
- Think – what are we doing already to make this change?
- Think – how can we push power beyond our own authorities, out to individuals and neighbourhoods?
- “Never been a better time to be involved in local government”