

Government Legislative Programme

The Deregulation Bill

Covers a range of measures to reduce burdens on businesses and public authorities including those relating to health and safety, apprenticeships and employment law, housing, transport, communications, the environment, alcohol and entertainment licensing and economic growth. It will also place a duty on certain non-economic regulatory bodies to have regard to the desirability of economic growth when exercising their regulatory functions.

Among the key measures impacting on local government include:

- speeding up the process for determining rights of way
- reducing the qualifying period for the 'right to buy'
- removing the criminal offence for not complying with local authority household waste collection requirements
- relaxing various local licensing requirements related to the sale of alcohol, entertainment and private vehicle hire
- repeal of requirements to prepare strategies and involve people in local decision making.

Infrastructure Bill

- Allowing certain types of planning conditions to be discharged upon application if a local planning authority has not notified the developer of their decision within a prescribed time period.
- Permit (and therefore speeding up) public land to be transferred directly from Government quangos to the Homes and Communities Agency.
- Ensure that future purchasers of public owned land will be able to develop and use land without being affected by easements and other rights and restrictions by their former owners.
- Transfer statutory responsibility for the local land charges register and searches to the Land Registry.
- Subject to consultation, developers will be able to run shale gas pipelines without the need to gain householder's permission.
- Exempting small housing sites, which are most commonly developed by small scale house builders, from the zero carbon standard.

Small Business, Enterprise and Employment Bill

- Providing small firms with fairer access to public procurement contracts including potential requirements to register contract opportunities on a national web portal and to banish pre-qualification questionnaires for low value contracts.
- A new deregulation target and an annual report to Parliament, that will ensure that the red tape that affects small businesses is frequently reviewed to ensure regulations are either cut or remain effective.
- Higher penalties on employers who fail to pay the National Minimum Wage.
- Banning exclusive zero hours contracts, which would see companies barred from not allowing employees to take on work elsewhere.
- Measures to make it easier for small businesses to expand overseas.
- A new Statutory Code and independent Adjudicator to ensure that publicans who are tied to a pub owning company are treated fairly.
- Measures to make some childcare regulations more flexible.
- Stopping public sector employees keeping redundancy payments when they come back to the same part of the public sector within a short period of time.