Department for Communities and Local Government Structural Reform Plan Monthly Implementation Update	March 2011

1) Actions due to be completed in March 2011

Section	Action	Status
1.5(i)	Assess supply of capital and assets and potential demand	Complete
Milestone 1(N)	Strategy in place for all public sector assets and capital	Complete
1.5(ii)	Work with 11 pathfinders to identify and tackle barriers, including those which prevent decentralisation of power, and develop implementation plans.	Complete
Milestone 1(O)	Barriers identified, including those that prevent decentralisation	Complete
2.5(ii)	Complete the transfer of historic data and IT infrastructure across Government Office Network wide IT infrastructure	Complete
2.6(iii)	Determine then scope of residual ongoing functions and complete required transfers	Complete
Milestone 2(T)	Proposals for a new local audit regime published	Complete (early)
3.1(i)	Prepare departments for the publication, in a an open and standardised format, of the data they hold on local authorities	Complete
Milestone 3(E)	Data on local authorities held by central government departments published	Complete
3.4(ii)	Work with the Local Public data Panel to offer prizes to support local transparency	Complete
4.8(iv)	Work with the Homes and Communities Agency to develop a programme for empty homes	Complete
5.5(i)	Develop proposals for a new designation to protect green areas of particular importance to local communities	Not complete

(2) Actions due to be started by end March 2011

Section	Action	Status
5.5ii	Publish new designation to protected areas of particular importance to locals communities (due to end April 2012)	Work not started
4.7(iv)	Take forward implementation phase of New Homes Bonus (end Apr 2012)	Work ongoing
1.1(iv)	Deliver proposals for long term change to how local authorities are funded through the local government resource review, including local retention of business rates, giving councils greater freedoms, while retaining fairness in the local government finance system (end Jul 2011)	Work ongoing
3.2(ii)	Publish data in line with public sector transparency, moving progressively to fully open formats (end Apr 2012)	Work ongoing
4.2(ii)	Prepare for launch of the 'Affordable Rent' scheme (end Apr 2011)	Work ongoing
3.4(iii)	Run events and take other actions, including 'hack' and developer days, to encourage new uses of data and test out new applications on the public; support developers to create innovative websites and to identify what information or data the public would prioritise (end Aug 2011)	Work ongoing
1.1(ii)	End the ring-fencing of government grants to local government, except for the dedicated schools grant and the public health grant (end Apr 2011)	Work ongoing
1.1(vi)	Support the Department for Work and Pensions in localisation of Council Tax Benefit, providing the necessary protection to the most vulnerable consistent with wider local government finance reform (end Apr 2013)	Work ongoing
2.1(iii)	Prepare and introduce secondary legislation as necessary to support implementation	Work

	of the Localism Bill (end Apr 2012)	ongoing
2.3(iii)	Put in place systems and funds to deliver the Regional Growth Fund (end Apr 2011)	Work ongoing
4.4(iii)	Through engagement on Community Right to Build and during the passage of the Localism Bill, continue to encourage farmers to participate to deliver homes or other community facilities for the benefit of their community (end Nov 2011)	Work ongoing
4.10(iv)	Prepare for transition of staff and functions from Tenant Services Authority to the Homes and Communities Agency (end Apr 2012)	Work ongoing
5.1(iv)	Work with a small number of places to develop neighbourhood plans using existing powers (end Apr 2012)	Work ongoing
1.1(v)	Develop and introduce proposals to implement local retention of business rates and Tax Increment Financing and any further changes agreed in the local government resource review, working with HM Treasury (end Apr 2012)	Work ongoing
1.2(i)	Develop proposals for directly elected Mayors, including significant transfer of power to areas that choose a Mayoral system (end Dec 2011)	Work ongoing
1.3(iii)	Develop a single, reduced, list of the data requirements placed on local government by central departments, working with other departments and local government (end Apr 2012)	Work ongoing
1.4(i)	Create the conditions for all places to pool and align locally controlled public budgets, and review centrally-funded support for public sector improvement (end Apr 2011)	Work ongoing
1.4(ii)	Implement Community Budgets in 16 places as part of a national effort to tackle problem families (end Apr 2011)	Work ongoing
2.2(iii)	Respond to proposals and facilitate the establishment of local enterprise partnerships, including working with those local authorities and businesses who were not immediately ready to establish their local enterprise partnership boards to enable them to move forward with their local enterprise partnership proposals (end Oct 2011)	Work ongoing
2.2(iv)	Work with each new local enterprise partnership to enable them to establish their roles and functions (end Apr 2012)	Work ongoing
2.4(iii)	Complete RDA projects (stand-alone ongoing major programmes) or transfer to other bodies (end Apr 2012)	Work ongoing
2.4(iv)	Manage out RDA functions, assets, commitments and liabilities in an orderly fashion or transfer to other bodies (end Apr 2012)	Work ongoing
2.5(iii)	Vacate the GOL building and return it to the landlord (end Apr 2011)	Work ongoing
2.6(vi)	Redeploy or release Government Office staff (end Aug 2011)	Work ongoing
2.6(vii)	Vacate GO buildings for reassignment or disposal by DCLG estates management (end Aug 2011)	Work ongoing
2.8(i)	Develop and implement a new local audit regime where all such audits will be regulated within a statutory framework, with oversight by the profession and the National Audit Office (end Dec 2012)	Work ongoing
2.8(ii)	Disband the Audit Commission, considering options for moving its in-house practice into the private sector, including through mutualisation (end Dec 2012)	Work ongoing
2.9(i)	Develop and introduce legislation so that officials who ban events on health and safety grounds should put their reasons in writing. The Local Government	Work

	Ombudsman may award a settlement where it is not possible to reinstate an event (end May 2012)	ongoing
2.9(ii)	Develop and introduce legislation so that local authorities conduct an internal review of all refusals on the grounds of health and safety (end May 2012)	Work ongoing
2.12	Working with the Home Office and the Cabinet Office, develop a cross-government approach on integration and tackling all forms of extremism (end May 2011)	Work ongoing
3.2(iii)	Support the Cabinet Office in its reviews of government use of data (end Mar 2012)	Work ongoing
3.4(i)	Support interest in the transparency of local government spending, working with the national and local media (end Apr 2011)	Work ongoing
3.4(iv)	Support local authorities in improving data literacy, awareness and skills (end Aug 2011)	Work ongoing
5.2(i)	Produce the national planning framework (end Apr 2012)	Work ongoing
5.2(ii)	Introduce as part of the national planning framework a strong presumption in favour of sustainable development (end Apr 2012)	Work ongoing
5.4(iii)	Energy National Policy Statements designated, working with the Department for Energy and Climate Change (end Jun 2011)	Work ongoing

Explanation of missed deadlines

In March 2011, DCLG missed the following deadlines.

Deadline missed	Comments
5.5(i) Develop proposals for a new designation to protect green areas of particular importance to local communities 5.5(ii) Publish new designation to protected areas of particular importance to locals communities (due to start Mar 2011)	In its response to the Penfold Review of Non-Planning Consents, the Government said it would consider whether any changes to the town and village green registration system were required as part of our commitment to create a new designation to protect green areas of particular importance to local communities. This work is ongoing and we expect to make an announcement shortly.

The status of missed deadlines from previous reports is:

Deadline missed	Status	Comments
Milestone 3(G) Code of Practice in force to stop unfair competition by local authority newspapers (Jan 2011)	Complete	The Code has been approved and has come into force.