

APPENDIX ONE



Ministry of Housing,  
Communities &  
Local Government

Guidance

# Plan for Neighbourhoods: pre-approved interventions

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This page contains a list of pre-approved interventions that local authorities and Neighbourhood Boards can use for the Plan for Neighbourhoods programme.

The interventions have been drafted broadly to give flexibility to boards as to how and what they can deliver, providing examples where possible to indicate ideas for spend, but it is not exhaustive.

We encourage Neighbourhood Boards to think innovatively and creatively about how to deliver the strategic objectives of the programme. Where activities fall outside the scope of the pre-approved interventions but the board, based on their community engagement, believes they are better placed to meet local needs, the board should seek to pursue these. This would require a business case to be agreed with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG).

## **Regeneration, high streets and heritage**

### **Funding for improvements to town centres, neighbourhoods, and high streets, including capital spend and running costs**

Example interventions include:

- public realm improvements, for example pavement repairs, repainting of public spaces, street cleaning street furniture, production and enforcement of a shop-front style guide or other improvements
- regenerating a town square or high street
- the delivery of outreach, engagement, or participatory programmes for community spaces, including youth centres and public libraries
- improvements could include better accessibility for disabled people

### **Creating and improving green spaces, community gardens, watercourses and embankments in the local area, along with incorporating natural features into wider public spaces**

Example interventions include:

- regeneration of existing parks or community gardens, particularly in areas with poor quality parks and gardens
- improvements to a canal towpath, particularly in more deprived neighbourhoods
- urban and riparian tree planting
- changes to management of green spaces and verges
- improving access to existing parks
- development of a new park, particularly in areas with the least access to greenspace
- development of a new community garden

## **Support for non-domestic energy efficiency measures and decarbonisation in local businesses, high streets, and community infrastructure**

Example interventions include:

- support grants for local businesses to upgrade current infrastructure to make energy savings, with eligibility assessed on a case-by-case basis
- taking a whole systems approach to investing in infrastructure to deliver effective decarbonisation and energy efficiency for buildings and transport and beyond (for example, improvements to heating or ventilation efficiency, or support for renewable technologies)

## **Funding for new community and neighbourhood infrastructure projects, or for improvements to existing ones, including facilities that house public services or enhance community resilience to natural hazards, such as flooding. This could cover both capital spend and operational costs**

An example intervention includes:

- constructing new or updating existing defences to enhance community resilience against natural hazards like flooding or coastal erosion

## **Enhanced support for arts, cultural, heritage and creative activities, projects and facilities and historic institutions that make up the local cultural heritage offer**

Example interventions include:

- organising event programmes for local assets and sites, such as youth centres and public libraries, and their communities
- developing, restoring or refurbishing local natural, cultural and heritage assets and sites, including for new uses by the community

## **Funding for local arts, cultural, heritage and creative initiatives**

Example interventions include:

- funding to support maker spaces
- support for local art galleries, museums, and libraries to host exhibitions
- support for artists to display and showcase work
- funding for cultural, heritage and creative events, for example, locally led music and theatre performances, tours, author events and film screenings
- support for outreach, engagement, participatory programmes as part of wider local arts, cultural, heritage and creative activities
- support for the establishment and development of cultural, heritage collaborative networks to share knowledge locally

## **Investment and support for digital infrastructure for local community facilities**

# **Housing**

## **Provide safe and supportive environments for people with experience of homelessness and rough sleeping**

Example interventions include:

- supporting community-based faith and voluntary sector homelessness services to improve accommodation infrastructure and support services
- enabling community-based services to work with those in the community (including those in temporary accommodation) to prevent a return to rough sleeping (for example, by establishing befriending and mentoring schemes)
- supporting larger commissioned homelessness and rough sleeping charities that alleviate wider statutory duties

## **Modernisation of social housing**

An example intervention includes:

- capital funding can be used to insulate walls, install underfloor insulation, install loft insulation, install double glazing units, and replace gas boilers with low carbon heating systems such as heat pumps

## **Support wider neighbourhood renewal by improving the attractiveness and liveability of homes and their surroundings**

Example interventions include:

- running community engagement and consultation processes for estate regeneration or other neighbourhood renewal projects
- supporting with neighbourhood public realm improvements, such as improving and securing domestic private and communal gardens, upgrading play areas, and hiring design or project consultancy

## Provide healthy and climate-resilient homes support locally

Example interventions include:

- establishing a 'healthy housing' advice hub space, in the same vein as the Good Homes Agency Model and Derby City Healthy Housing Hub
- mitigating the effects of extreme heat on homes – for example, by purchasing external window shutters, ceiling fans, and UV light film for glass for local homes
- using funding capacity for domestic water-saving measures – for example, installing a water-saving device in a toilet cistern, or installing a water-butt for plants
- developing and supplying emergency flood preparedness kits to local homes – see examples of this from the [National Flood Forum](https://nationalfloodforum.org.uk/about-flooding/preparing/emergency-flood-kit/) (<https://nationalfloodforum.org.uk/about-flooding/preparing/emergency-flood-kit/>), [Scottish Flood Forum](https://scottishfloodforum.org/resources/preparing-for-flooding/#flood-kit) (<https://scottishfloodforum.org/resources/preparing-for-flooding/#flood-kit>) and the [Environment Agency](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/personal-flood-plan/personal-flood-plan) (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/personal-flood-plan/personal-flood-plan>)
- fitting property flood resilience measures in homes at risk of flooding

## Establish land trusts for the purpose of creating community-led housing to meet local needs

Example interventions include:

- incorporating a community land trust (CLT), for example to help with filing with the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) and to attend, run and seek out workshops to clarify aims, seek legal advice, and all other key priorities
- using funding to help with building CLT membership, leadership, skills, and technical advice throughout a project
- hiring a manager for the CLT
- project-specific costs at the pre-development stage such as the costs of project management and community consultations, and costs associated with bringing forward planning applications, including the use of surveyors and architects

- hiring bid writers for grants to build properties, acquire land, and buy-up properties for renovation

## **Support local community initiatives that support people in bringing down their home energy bills and improve the energy efficiency of their homes**

Example interventions include:

- running community energy groups to help local residents, for example, people could bring their gas and electricity bills and discuss ways to save and keep warm with volunteers, receive energy debt advice, and be given referrals to a heat doctor
- running in-person retrofitting advice sessions in community spaces to improve engagement with retrofitting - funding can be allocated to hire a Planning Advisory Scheme (PAS) or Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS)-accredited consultant to train volunteers in retrofitting advice

## **Work, productivity and skills**

### **Support to improve awareness of, and access to, local provision that moves people closer to and into sustained employment, in line with an area's Get Britain Working Plan (England and Wales only)**

England and Wales: Boards should check proposals with Connect to Work teams and Get Britain Working Plans in their wider areas.

Example interventions include:

- additional support to help economically inactive people into work
- Not in Education, Employment, or Training (NEET) prevention and reduction activity in advance of full implementation of the Youth Guarantee in England and the Young Person's Guarantee in Scotland, Work Experience programme in Northern Ireland and Wales Young Person's Guarantee

- local interventions to improve the retention of disabled people and people with health conditions within the workplace

## Enabling community wealth building

Example interventions include:

- creating a regional mutual or community bank – for example, banking services aimed at supporting community development, small businesses, the local social economy, or helping low earners acquire mortgages
- supporting local employment schemes
- offering business rate relief for those businesses that become Living Wage Accredited, using local authority discretionary rate relief powers to fund a fixed pot to deliver a local scheme (see [example scheme by Hounslow](https://www.hounslow.gov.uk/info/20070/business/1201/business_rates/4) ([https://www.hounslow.gov.uk/info/20070/business/1201/business\\_rates/4](https://www.hounslow.gov.uk/info/20070/business/1201/business_rates/4)))

## Developing and expanding existing local business support and networks for smaller businesses and social enterprises

Example interventions include:

- working with the local Growth Hub in England, Business Wales, Scottish Enterprise or Enterprise NI, and partners such as Chambers of Commerce and Business and Intellectual Property Centres on developing or leveraging existing relevant local business advice, support and networks
- strengthening provision for the local growth hub to support businesses at all stages of their development to start, sustain, grow and innovate
- supporting the existing regional delivery of Made Smarter Adoption in England bidding for and host international business events and conferences, with agreement of the Department of Business and Trade, that support wider regional growth sectors – this could include conferences for leading sectors locally
- supporting the establishment and ongoing running of an open air market
- improvements to town centre retail and service sector infrastructure, with wrap around support for small businesses, utilising existing support channels where possible

- business support activity for local entrepreneurs

Towns should consult their regional Department for Business and Trade export support team when planning export-related activities, including bidding to host any international business events or conferences. This will ensure cohesive, complementary, and aligned export support for local businesses, optimising value for money outcomes from the use of public funds.

## **Skills provision tailored to local opportunities and skills gaps, such as those identified in an area's Local Skills Improvement Plan (England only)**

Example interventions include:

- equipment and facilities for a specific programme or training course run by a skills provider or college linked to a local employer in need of skilled workers
- green skills courses, including retraining for those in high carbon sectors

## **Funding to support the development, improvement, and promotion of the visitor economy, such as local attractions, historical trails, cultural tours, campaigns and other related tourism products**

Example interventions, working with the relevant Local Visitor Economy Partnership or equivalent where possible, include:

- grants for the development, promotion, and upkeep of local tourist attractions
- developing other visitor experiences centred around the local offering (for example, cultural or historical offerings)
- campaigns highlighting the local area and its culture, heritage, leisure, and visitor attractions, aimed at both residents and visitors
- initiatives to encourage visitors from further afield to visit and stay for longer periods in the region (such as overnight), collaborating with other places where appropriate

# Cohesion

## Measures to improve community cohesion

Example interventions include:

- co-creating cohesion action plans by local authorities, agencies and partners, including the voluntary and community sector, businesses and communities, which diagnose local cohesion challenges and ensure tangible, measurable actions are put in place to address them
- projects that bring people together from different groups, including different faiths, for various objectives, including social mixing, intercommunity conversations, volunteering, and conflict resolution
- projects which celebrate and explore different cultures and lives, such as neighbourhood festivals and cultural exchange opportunities
- projects which build relationships within and between communities, such as mentoring and buddying schemes, town-hall discussions on local issues, and other means of creating productive dialogue
- projects which build capacity, capability and awareness in communities, such as English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) provision, hate crime awareness, tackling local misinformation and disinformation which impacts local cohesion, public education and communication campaigns, community ambassadors, and preparing communities to accept and support new arrivals and resettled cohorts

## Funding for impactful volunteering and social action projects to develop social and human capital in local place

Example interventions include:

- supporting local volunteering groups, such as youth charities and carer's groups
- supporting people, including young people, to develop volunteering and social action projects locally

## **Investment in capacity building and infrastructure support for local civil society, youth and community groups**

Example interventions include:

- renovating and developing existing or new community spaces, such as village halls, libraries (including libraries of things), youth facilities or community centres for local civil society and community groups to use
- community-based small grants and loans schemes
- developing community forums, youth engagements, governance structures, volunteering and social action projects and communication channels

## **Health and wellbeing**

### **Supporting community-level health provision**

Example interventions include:

- community mental health hubs
- social prescribing provision
- measures to encourage healthy eating such as community-level fruit and vegetable prescription schemes
- pilot programmes aimed at improving local health outcomes
- signposting to free NHS digital support tools, for example, NHS Better Health apps and websites

### **Integration and co-location of health and wellbeing services**

Example interventions include:

- bringing together different health and wellbeing services under one roof in an accessible high street location – where appropriate, this could be as part of a wider community hub which houses a range of community services and activities under one building, creating a place for people to mix with others
- turning disused or under-used high street buildings into health and wellbeing hubs
- utilising retail spaces for healthcare initiatives, such as clinical, community, diagnostic, and mental health and wellbeing services so that towns benefit from improved accessibility, reduced carbon footprint, and economic revitalisation – some example services are:
  - domestic abuse
  - homelessness
  - substance abuse
  - early years and ageing well services
  - mental health, mindfulness and suicide prevention plus young person mental and health resilience training
  - smoking cessation
  - exercise classes and support sessions
  - healthy eating and nutrition classes

## **Funding for local sport and activity facilities, events, teams and leagues, to foster community engagement and connection**

Example interventions include:

- refurbishing and maintaining existing sports facilities
- funding for community sports leagues
- redeveloping an unused area to build sports facilities
- developing new 3G sports pitches and other sports facilities

## **Funding to support preventative public health initiatives and campaigns**

Example interventions include:

- funding for support groups or specialist advice services on public health issues, such as stop smoking services
- encouraging the use of free campaign materials from NHS Better Health, available from the Department of Health and Social Care's [Campaign Resource Centre \(https://campaignresources.dhsc.gov.uk/\)](https://campaignresources.dhsc.gov.uk/) (these cover healthy pregnancy, early years, family nutrition and physical activity, and a range of adult health behaviours including smoking and mental health)

## **Provide drug and alcohol support for people with experience of homelessness and rough sleeping**

Example interventions include:

- setting up or supporting a Lived Experience Recovery Organisation (LERO) – this could involve working with existing LEROs and collaboration with existing community organisations and venues such as community centres, churches, and libraries
- establishing therapeutic and community-connection activities using shared community spaces, for example community gardens and art therapy groups

A LERO is an independent organisation led by people with lived experience of drug and alcohol recovery. LEROs deliver a range of harm reduction interventions, peer support and recovery support, and help people to access and engage in treatment and other support services.

## **Transport**

Boards should engage in a positive and collaborative manner with the relevant local authority and transport operators on the transport interventions set out below.

## **Support for active travel enhancements in the local area**

Example interventions include:

- improving existing footways and cycle routes, particularly in areas of health need
- creating new footways and cycle routes to key destinations, particularly in areas with poor health outcomes
- upgrading a junction or introducing crossings to mitigate severance, for example, between residential housing areas and the local high street

## **Funding can be used to improve local bus services**

Example interventions include:

- making improvements to local bus infrastructure, including bus stops, bus stations and interchanges, bus lanes and corridors, traffic signalling improvements, or bus priority schemes to improve bus speed and punctuality
- bringing forward delivery of schemes set out in the local Bus Service Improvement Plan in England, or equivalents in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland
- revenue support for new or existing local bus services, including flexible bus services (Demand Responsive Transport) or community transport services
- improving the quality of bus information for passengers and marketing of the local bus service offer
- reducing or simplifying fares

## **Funding for new, or improvements to local road networks to improve access within and to the town**

Example interventions include:

- traffic management improvements to relieve congestion
- road safety
- highway maintenance (including potholes)

## **Funding to improve rail connectivity and access**

Example interventions include:

- developing business cases for and delivering new stations along existing lines, with the support of additional local funding, if needed, and with the agreement of National Rail and the Department for Transport, or equivalents in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland
- improving accessibility and journey quality at and around stations
- improving passenger information

Boards should engage with Network Rail, train operators, and the Rail Delivery Group, as well as other rail organisations and bodies (such as Community Rail Partnerships) about any funding to improve rail connectivity and access in and around stations.

## **Reducing vehicle emissions**

Example interventions include:

- funding for electric vehicle charging facilities
- funding to procure zero emission buses and supporting infrastructure
- funding to subsidise the procurement of zero emission buses and supporting infrastructure by bus operators

## **Safety and security**

### **Design and oversight of the built and landscaped environment to ‘design out’ crime and encourage positive behaviour**

Example interventions include:

- using Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles to redesign parks, streets, and alleyways. This includes removing blind spots, improving sightlines, and adding clear pathways, ensuring public areas feel safe and open
- encouraging the active use of public spaces throughout the daytime, evening, and night

- improving streetlighting, such as improved lighting levels and smart street lighting
- fitting or upgrading CCTV
- installing multi-functional street furniture, designed to discourage misuse or vandalism
- installing signage in town centres to reinforce crime prevention messages and deter anti-social behaviour. such as “Keep it clean for everyone” or “Respect your town: CCTV in operation” - these can act as constant reminders to encourage pro-social behaviour
- using pavement markings or physical barriers to discourage loitering or clustering in high-risk areas, such as outside shops, while guiding pedestrians through safer, well-monitored pathways
- replacing graffiti-prone walls with community-designed art projects such as murals, which encourage respect for the area and reduce vandalism
- using public installations that both beautify and promote safety in town centres, for example, ‘Safe Zones’ to designate visible safe spaces with clear signage, where people can wait or seek help in busy areas, such as outside train stations or late-night venues
- installing digital or physical noticeboards in town centres where residents and businesses can report issues, highlight community events, or promote safety campaigns – these boards could also include live updates about public services, fostering engagement and collaboration

## **Policing interventions to target crime prevention in specific locations, in particular town centres**

Example interventions include:

- community or town wardens
- hotspot policing
- problem-oriented crime prevention and enforcement

Boards should engage with the local police force, when considering these interventions.

## **Interventions to tackle anti-social behaviour, crime and minimise reoffending**

Example interventions include:

- sports initiatives designed to tackle crime and minimise reoffending
- mentoring
- police-led diversion models for young offenders pre-charge
- targeted deterrence approaches
- halfway house initiatives

## **Co-location of crime reduction services**

Example interventions include:

- establishing multi-agency crime reduction hubs and bringing together local hubs where councils, police, social services, probation, businesses, mental health teams, and community organisations collaborate to share intelligence, coordinate resources, and plan joint interventions
- utilising retail spaces, funding can be used to create spaces, especially in town centres where the public can access guidance and support about anti-social behaviour and crime
- establishing and running a Business Crime Reduction Partnership

## **Improved town centre management**

Example interventions include:

- delivering coordinated town centre management, including establishing a town centre support team to work in partnership with councils, police, and local businesses
- testing the viability of establishing a Business Improvement Districts (BID) to help improve the local trading environment
- creating action plans for managing nightlife, including staggered closing times, late-night transport, and visible policing

## **Initiatives to reduce burglary**

Example interventions include:

- community-led Neighbourhood Watch
- providing of crime prevention guidance
- marking property for identification
- enhancing property security through target hardening
- cocoon watch
- providing crime prevention advice, support and guidance to neighbours and nearby residents of burgled properties)
- installing alley gating to improve security

## **Education and opportunity**

### **School-based programmes to support young people's development**

Example interventions include:

- targeted early help support initiatives to support children and young people with emerging mental health and wellbeing needs
- facilitating access to arts, music, sports and other enrichment activities

### **Support to both reduce levels of child poverty and to prevent the negative impacts of child poverty on children and families**

Example interventions include:

- supporting families in poverty to increase income and become financially resilient, for example by improving access to welfare and debt advice, including awareness and uptake of social security benefits
- cost of living support for disadvantaged families to mitigate the impacts of child poverty, for example, support for travel cost and fuel
- ensuring access to good quality healthy food, for example through use of food vouchers during school holidays and nutritional support programmes

- funding for children and families in poverty to overcome barriers to digital inclusion, for example access to the internet and or device support (funding can be used to extend existing initiatives)
- creation of community-led responses to child poverty which are accessible and destigmatising, for example community shops with access to discounted food, school uniforms and other equipment, community kitchens and guidance services

## **Support for families and young children**

Example interventions include:

- bolstering national breakfast club provision locally
- bolstering early years education and childcare provision, including through supporting new or expanded school-based nurseries
- additional support for family hubs and family help services including building or upgrading facilities, and expanding service provision

## **Funding to help families with the cost of childcare where it may alleviate cost of living pressures, or support employment**

An example intervention includes:

- including piloting models of community-delivered childcare, for example, exploring cooperative and collective provision by parents in line with the French Crèche parentales where parents would support 1 to 2 days a week in exchange for free childcare

## **Support for growing the local social economy, including community businesses, cooperatives and social enterprises**

Example interventions include:

- funding to help establish or develop a local co-operative organisation

- training for local business support providers (such as Growth Hubs in England) and other sector facilitators to help them promote, inform and deliver co-operative business solutions

## Support for community-based learning and development

Example interventions include:

- training and support programmes for local civil society and community group leaders to build the capacity of communities to meet their own needs, and to engage with and influence decision makers
- community-based adult learning programmes, including to develop confidence and life skills (including cooking and household repair), and to improve essential skills in maths, English (including English for speakers of other languages) and digital
- youth work, family learning and other early intervention work with children, young people and families

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Ministry of Housing,  
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# Plan for Neighbourhoods: list of powers

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The Plan for Neighbourhoods brings together residents, business leaders, and community leaders to begin to fix the foundations and take back control of their futures. To do this, places need to make the most of all the powers and tools they have available.

As part of designing a regeneration plan, we expect all Neighbourhood Boards, supported by their local authority, to demonstrate how they are using powers, where they apply.

The list covers England and partially covers Wales. It does not extend to Scotland or Northern Ireland.

Full lists of powers for towns in Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland will be published in due course.

## **Regeneration and high streets**

### **Asset of Community Value**

The Assets of Community Value (ACV) scheme can be found in the Localism Act 2011. Under the ACV scheme, parish councils and community organisations may nominate land or buildings to their district or unitary council. These nominations will then be considered by the local authority. If its principal use furthers the social wellbeing and interests of the local community, the local authority can register it as an “Asset of Community Value”. A moratorium period is applied when a listed asset is put up for sale, allowing community organisations time to put together a bid to buy it and protect it for community use. There is currently no community right to buy the asset, just to bid - this is called the Community Right to Bid. Boards can work with local authorities to explore how it might be used to protect local assets.

The government will be introducing a strengthened Right to Buy for community assets through the English Devolution Bill in 2025. More details will be provided in due course.

### **Neighbourhood Development Plan or a Neighbourhood Development Order**

Neighbourhood planning gives communities the direct power to develop a shared vision for their neighbourhood and shape the development and growth of their local area. Communities can choose to set planning policies through a neighbourhood plan that forms part of the development plan used in determining planning applications. They can also grant planning permission through Neighbourhood Development Orders and Community Right to Build Orders for specific development which complies with the order.

Further [information on neighbourhood planning \(https://www.gov.uk/guidance/neighbourhood-planning--2#what-is-neighbourhood-planning\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/neighbourhood-planning--2#what-is-neighbourhood-planning) is available.

## Local Listed Building Consent Orders

Local Listed Building Consent Orders enable local authorities to grant listed building consent for works of any description for the alteration or extension (but not demolition) of listed buildings in their area. They remove the need for individual applications. They can be used, for example, to grant consent for energy efficiency measures such as solar panels on listed buildings.

For more information, refer to Historic England's guidance on [Drawing up a Local Listed Building Consent Order \(https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/drawing-up-local-listed-building-consent-order-advice-note-6/\)](https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/drawing-up-local-listed-building-consent-order-advice-note-6/).

## Duty to preserve and enhance conservation areas

Local planning authorities have a duty to periodically develop proposals aimed at preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of their conservation areas, and to present these proposals at a public meeting in the local area.

For more information, refer to Historic England's guidance on [Conservation Area Appraisal, Designation and Management \(https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/conservation-area-appraisal-designation-management-advice-note-1/\)](https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/conservation-area-appraisal-designation-management-advice-note-1/).

## Local Listing

Local planning authorities can identify locally important heritage assets (known as non-designated heritage assets) in their area. Local planning authorities are encouraged to prepare local lists of non-designated heritage assets. While non-designated heritage assets, including those that are locally listed, do not have any additional statutory protections they should be taken into account in planning decisions. Local planning authorities should think about the role locally listing assets could play in protecting heritage, working with Neighbourhood Boards to do so.

For more information, refer to Historic England's guidance on [Identifying and Conserving Local Heritage \(https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/local-heritage-listing-advice-note-7/\)](https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/local-heritage-listing-advice-note-7/).

## Section 78 of the Building Act 1984

Section 78 of the Building Act 1984 relates to emergency measures for dealing with dangerous buildings. However, before exercising these powers, the local authority must notify both the owner and the occupier of the building about their intentions.

For more information, refer to Historic England's [Guide to Enforcement Action to Save Historic Buildings \(https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/stoppingtherot/\)](https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/stoppingtherot/).

## Repairs Notice

Historic buildings that have fallen into disrepair can fuel a sense of decline, even where their condition is the responsibility of a single negligent owner. Local authorities have powers to take action where a designated heritage asset has deteriorated to the extent that its preservation may be at risk.

Further information on these powers is set out within the government's published [guidance on the upkeep and repair of historic buildings. \(https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-upkeep-and-repair-of-historic-buildings/the-upkeep-and-repair-of-historic-buildings\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-upkeep-and-repair-of-historic-buildings/the-upkeep-and-repair-of-historic-buildings)

## Local Development Orders

Local Development Orders provide planning permission for specified types of development, in defined locations. They are flexible and locally determined tools that Local Planning Authorities use to help accelerate and incentivise the delivery of appropriate development in the right places and make investment more attractive.

## Use classes and permitted development rights

The Commercial, Business and Service use class (Class E) includes a diverse range of uses which are suitable for town centres and high streets, such as offices, shops, banks, cafes, and gyms, for example. The use class allows for a mix of such uses, including at different times of the day, to reflect changing retail and business models. Movement within the use class does not require planning permission.

There are also national permitted development rights that allow householders or business to improve or extend their homes or businesses without the need to submit a planning application, subject to various conditions and limitations to mitigate impacts.

An additional permitted development right provides for the change of use from Class E to residential use, subject to prior approval by the local planning authority.

## Clean Up Notices

The Town and Country Planning Act contains a Clean Up Notice power that boards might use. Section 215 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 provides a local planning authority with the power, in certain circumstances, to take steps requiring land to be cleaned up when its condition adversely affects the amenity of the area.

More information can be found in the government's [Town and Country Planning Act 1990 Section 215 Best Practice Guidance](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/town-and-country-planning-act-1990-section-215-best-practice-guidance) (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/town-and-country-planning-act-1990-section-215-best-practice-guidance>).

## Debt on vacant property

The Law of Property Act 1925 allows a local authority with a debt on a vacant property to register the debt as a charge, registered in Part 2 of the Local Land Charges Register. By using this charge local authorities can sell problematic long-term vacant properties, including those blighting communities, to get them back into active use once again.

## Design Codes

A place-led approach to planning and the application of design guidance, masterplans and design codes in England can provide property owners, developers and investors with clarity on the requirements new developments must meet. These tools are essential for securing investment, avoiding delay and assuring local communities that new developments adhere to established standards and preserve local character. With the implementation of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act (LURA) 2023, authorities will gain the ability to adopt design codes as supplementary plans. Design codes do not have to cover every detail of design but can be focused on aspects that are considered necessary for achieving acceptability and where a parameter can be established.

### **Case study: Newport and Ryde Commercial Frontage Design Guide (Isle of Wight)**

The Newport and Ryde Commercial Frontages Design Guide was introduced to help protect and enhance the historic character of these town centres while supporting their regeneration. The guide provides clear standards for commercial properties, focusing on preserving historic features and offering guidance on adapting buildings for new uses while maintaining a cohesive and attractive appearance. It is part of the High Street Heritage Action Zones initiative, designed to make Newport and Ryde more appealing and vibrant, fostering the growth of independent shops and creating welcoming spaces for visitors. The guide aims to ensure that both town centres remain relevant and inviting for future generations, supporting local businesses and tourism.

## **New-style supplementary plans (once introduced through the LURA 2023)**

New-style Supplementary Plans, once introduced through the LURA 2023, will offer planning authorities a more flexible approach to responding to

unexpected changes in their area, independent of the local plan preparation process.

## Fly tipping

The government has committed to force fly-tippers and vandals to clear up the mess they have created and is currently assessing options for delivering this. Further detail will be shared in due course.

The Environmental Protection Act (EPA) 1990 empowers local authorities to issue fixed penalty notices, including fines of up to £1000 for fly-tipping, £600 for householders who pass waste to an unlicensed carrier, and £500 for littering and graffiti. Councils also have the authority to stop, search and seize vehicles of suspected fly-tippers.

The [National Fly-Tipping Prevention Group](https://www.keepbritaintidy.org/national-fly-tipping-prevention-group) (<https://www.keepbritaintidy.org/national-fly-tipping-prevention-group>), chaired by Defra, works with councils, agencies and other organisations to promote good practice. Their website offers practical guides on key areas such as prosecutions and partnership working, and a range of case studies to share lessons learnt from local initiatives.

The [Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/code-of-practice-on-litter-and-refuse) (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/code-of-practice-on-litter-and-refuse>) sets out statutory standards for keeping land clear of litter and refuse. Defra has also published litter enforcement guidance for councils and others on the use of their fixed penalty powers for littering ('Code of practice on litter and refuse part 1A: enforcement guidance' in the link provided).

## Pavement licences

In England, local authorities and Boards can encourage businesses to apply for pavement licences. These allow furniture to be placed outside the premises, for the purpose of consumption or sale of food and drink, creating outdoor dining spaces. The temporary pavement licencing regime was made permanent in March 2024 through the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023.

Read the [guidance about pavement licences](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pavement-licences-guidance/pavement-licences-guidance) (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pavement-licences-guidance/pavement-licences-guidance>).

## **Business Improvement Districts (BID)**

A Business Improvement District (BID) is a designated area, created through a ballot process, where local businesses have voted in favour of investing in improving their trading environment. In these districts, eligible business rate payers are required to pay an additional levy on top of their business rates bill to fund projects and services that will benefit businesses in that area.

There are no restrictions on the types of projects or services that can be implemented through a BID. The only requirement is that it should be something that is in addition to services provided by local authorities. Improvements may include, but are not limited to, extra safety and security, cleansing and environmental measures. There are currently more than 330 BIDs across the UK.

## **High Street Rental Auctions (HSRA)**

High Street Rental Auctions (HSRA) are a new power for local authorities in England, introduced through the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 (LURA). The power came into force on 2 December 2024 and is supported by detailed guidance, packs and templates to assist local authorities with implementation. HSRAs offer a strategic solution to combat long-term commercial vacancies in town centres to bring them back into use, or risk having the lease auctioned by the local authority.

HSRAs empower local authorities to address high vacancy rates and improve the perception and utility of high streets. They encourage collaboration with landlords and promote minimum letting standards and open market rents. By bringing unused properties back into active use, HSRAs make tenancies more accessible for small businesses and community groups, revitalising town centres and boosting local economies.

While HSRAs are a useful tool, they will not be appropriate in all cases. Local authorities must ensure properties meet the vacancy and local benefit conditions outlined in the legislation. Authorities should prioritise working with proactive landlords and assess whether HSRAs are the best approach compared to alternative solutions. Premises with significant repair issues or complex redevelopment plans may fall outside the scope of HSRAs.

## **Box blight (removing surplus, ugly and nuisance phone boxes)**

On page 22 of the General Permitted Development Order 1995 and 2015, phone boxes erected under permitted development rights since 1995 have been done so under condition that they be removed 'as soon as reasonably practicable after they are no longer required for telecommunication purposes.'

Once a phone box is proven not to be in use, therefore, enforcement action can be taken if the local planning authority considers such action appropriate. Local planning authorities have 3 powers they can use:

- issue a 'planning enforcement notice' under Section 172 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 – there is a right of appeal to the Secretary of State and the decision may be capable of challenge through the Courts, the time for compliance is set out in the notice and failure to comply is an offence which on conviction can attract an unlimited fine
- issue a 'breach of condition notice' pursuant to Section 187A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 - it offers no opportunity for appeal to the Secretary of State, but may be capable of challenge through the courts; once a notice has been served the recipient has at least 28 days to comply, failure to do so is a criminal offence which on conviction can attract an unlimited fine
- apply for an injunction under Section 187B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 – under these provisions the council can apply for the County Court or High Court to grant an injunction against any breach of planning control

## **Creation of new footpaths**

The Highways Act 1980, section 26 gives local authorities to power to create public footpaths, where it would add to the convenience or enjoyment of a substantial section of the public or of local residents. It will need to take into account the effect that the creation would have on the rights of those with an interest in the land, taking into account the provisions for compensation.

## Community Infrastructure Levy

The [Community Infrastructure Levy \(CIL\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/community-infrastructure-levy) (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/community-infrastructure-levy>) is a charge that can be levied by local authorities on new development in their area. It can be used to fund a wide range of infrastructure to support the development on an area. This could include transport, schools, hospitals and green spaces. 162 (52%) local authorities currently charge CIL in England.

Where all or part of a chargeable development is within the area of a parish council, the charging authority must pass a proportion of the CIL receipts from the development to the parish council. This is known as the neighbourhood portion. Communities without a parish council can still benefit from the neighbourhood portion. If there is no parish council, the charging authority will retain the CIL receipts but should engage with the communities where development has taken place and agree with them how best to spend the neighbourhood funding.

## Housing

### Section 1 Localism Act 2011

The General Power of Competence (Section 1, Localism Act, 2011) enables local authorities to provide shelter and support to people who are ineligible for statutory accommodation under the Housing Act 1996 or access to public funds because of their immigration status. This power cannot be used to provide a service equivalent to statutory support through alternative avenues. The General Power of Competence under Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 provides a discretionary power to local authorities to do “anything that individuals generally may do”. Local authorities, however, cannot use the power to do anything that it is specifically legislatively prohibited, restricted or limited.

### Council tax premiums (empty home management)

Local authorities can charge a 100% council tax premium for properties unoccupied and unfurnished for 12 months, up to 200% extra on properties that have been left empty and unfurnished for 5 years, and up to 300% extra on properties left empty for 10 years. The premium is intended to encourage homeowners to bring their properties back into use.

## **Enforced sale procedures (empty home management)**

An enforced sale is a process by which the local authority can force the sale of a privately owned property or piece of land where a 'relevant debt' is owed to the local authority. Through this process, local authorities can take on empty homes, carry out works in default, and sell them on to new owners - putting the homes back into use. The council can then recoup the costs of the works, other expenses, and debts owed from the sale proceeds.

## **Brownfield passport (empty home management)**

The government has signalled its intention to introduce a 'brownfield passport' to ensure where proposals meet specified design and quality standards, the default answer is yes. The brownfield passport working paper sets out proposals for empowering local authorities to have a wider use of Local Development Orders to grant upfront planning permission across all or part of an authority's area to all developments that meet specified design and quality standards. This would streamline planning processes for much larger and broader areas for developers and enable building on brownfield to take place quickly on a much bigger scale.

## **Brownfield land registers**

Local planning authorities are able to grant permission in principle for residential development on (brownfield) sites in Part 2 of their Brownfield Land registers where they follow the required procedures. Permission in principle establishes the principles of development (use, location, amount of development) for the brownfield site giving developers/applicants more certainty. A developer cannot proceed with development, however, until they have also obtained technical details consent.

## **Defective premises, dangerous buildings, ruinous and dilapidated buildings, neglected sites, and emergency measures (Building Act 1984, Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982, Housing Act 2004)**

For premises that have deteriorated and pose a risk, sections 76, 77, 78 and 79 of the Building Act 1984 create powers for local authorities to approach the courts and/or require building owners to restrict use and/or take action to secure them for public safety. If there is an imminent risk to public safety, local authorities can take immediate action to remove the danger and recover expenses incurred from the building owner.

Similarly, section 29 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 can be used by local authorities to require an owner of a property to take steps to secure a property or allow the authority to board it up in an emergency.

Part 1 of the Housing Act 2004 relates to housing conditions. Local authorities must take enforcement action under the 2004 Act if they identify health and safety hazards at the most dangerous 'category 1' level using the Housing, Health and Safety Rating System risk assessment tool. The Housing Act 2004 and the housing health and safety rating system apply to all tenures, but local authorities rarely use their powers in owner-occupied homes and usually prioritise enforcement in the private rented sector over social housing.

### **Private sewers and drainage (domestic buildings)**

Under section 35 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, local authorities can require a property owner to address obstructed private sewers. This will enable proper drainage, removing health-hazardous waste from overflowing or remaining stagnant.

Section 59 of the Building Act 1984 and Section 17 of the Public Health Act 1961 can be used by local authorities to require a property owner to address defective or blocked drainage.

## Compulsory Purchase Power – Section 226

Section 226 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 provides local authorities in England and Wales with a compulsory purchase power to acquire land or properties to facilitate development, redevelopment or regeneration schemes provided there is compelling case in the public interest for use of the power and attempts have been made to acquire land or properties by agreement.

### Compulsory purchase powers case study

Number 335 High Street in Swanage, a Victorian mid-terrace property, had remained derelict for over 18 years before the council used a Compulsory Purchase Order to acquire it. This action resolved a longstanding issue of blight in the local area, transforming an eyesore into a functional asset. The acquisition significantly improved the property's condition and appearance, reduced anti-social behaviour in the vicinity, and prevented further damage to neighbouring buildings. Following its redevelopment, the property now provides essential self-contained temporary housing for households in the Purbeck District, addressing both housing needs and enhancing community well-being.

## Compulsory Purchase Power – Section 17

Section 17 of the Housing Act 1985 grants local authorities in England and Wales the compulsory purchase power to acquire land, houses or other properties for the provision of housing accommodation, provided there is compelling case in the public interest for use of the power. The acquisition must result in either a quantitative or qualitative improvement in housing.

## Empty Dwelling Management Orders

The Housing Act 2004 introduced a power for local housing authorities to take over management control of a qualifying residential property, known as Empty Dwelling Management Orders (EDMOs).

Local authorities can apply for an EDMO when a property has been empty for more than 2 years, subject to demonstrating that the property has been causing a nuisance and that the community support the proposal. EDMOs enable local authorities to take over the management of a property for up to 7 years and let it out to tenants.

# Work, productivity and skills

## Inclusive economy

Local authorities can help create a fair and prosperous local economy by:

- developing an inclusive economy charter
- creating a fair employment charter
- signing the 'Councils for a fair tax' declaration
- become Living Wage accredited
- signing the modern slavery charter

## Cohesion

### Well-being power

The well-being power is a legislative tool that was introduced through the Local Government Act 2000. It grants local authorities a general power to do anything that they consider likely to promote or improve the economic, social, or environmental well-being of their communities. This power is broad and flexible, enabling councils to take a wide range of actions beyond their traditional duties.

### Co-operative placemaking

Placemaking is not just about physical assets and spaces, it is also about people and relationships, and the collective action that they take to improve the place they live. Boards can work with their local authorities to promote co-operative placemaking - suggested actions from the Co-operative Councils Innovation Network include:

- develop a cooperative development strategy
- establish a cooperative development network
- commit to community engagement in local decision making including participatory budgeting
- have an asset transfer policy to manage land and assets to support community ownership, management and development (including community-led housing)

More examples and further information can be found [on Cooperative Councils' Innovation Network website \(https://www.councils.coop/growing-the-co-op-economy/cooperative-placemaking/\)](https://www.councils.coop/growing-the-co-op-economy/cooperative-placemaking/).

## Village Green status

Town and village greens developed under customary law are areas of land where local people engaged in lawful sports and pastimes. These might include organised or ad-hoc games, picnics, fetes, and similar activities. Most greens were registered in the late 1960s under the Commons Registration Act 1965. Provided the right to apply has not been excluded, anyone can apply under section 15(1) of the Commons Act 2006 to register land as a green if it has been used by local people for lawful sports and pastimes 'as of right' (i.e. without permission, force or secrecy) for at least 20 years.

## Community Asset Transfer (General Disposal of Consent)

Community Asset Transfer (General Disposal of Consent) is a mechanism that can be used to enable community ownership of assets, including buildings and land. Local authorities can transfer the ownership of these assets to community organisations at 'less than best consideration' i.e. for less than their full market value. This process is complex and can take some time, but it can be an effective way of increasing community empowerment. Boards should explore with local authorities whether this is a suitable route for taking ownership of their community assets.

## Health and wellbeing

## Planning policy

Good planning should enable and support healthy lives, through both promoting good health and preventing ill-health, especially where this would address identified local health and well-being needs and reduce health inequalities between the most and least deprived communities. Local planning authorities can develop local planning policies and guidance to support local strategies to improve health and wellbeing.

Many local authorities have introduced local plans and supplementary guidance to support healthier lives based on guidance from Royal Society for Public Health and Public Health England.

In addition to this, the National Institute for Health and Care Research funded a report for local authorities and was published September 2024. This [report \(https://zenodo.org/records/13341617\)](https://zenodo.org/records/13341617) sets out key considerations when implementing a policy for hot food takeaways and provides useful case studies and evidence.

### **Case study: TCPA Framework for a Healthy Places Supplementary Planning Document**

The TCPA Framework for a Healthy Places Supplementary Planning Document offers a structured approach for local authorities to embed health considerations into urban planning. It focuses on promoting well-being through better access to green spaces, active travel networks, and housing that supports healthy living. Developed in collaboration with councils across England, the framework highlights the use of public health data to guide decision-making and ensures health and well-being are prioritised in spatial planning. This initiative aims to create environments conducive to healthier lifestyles and improve long-term community outcomes.

### **Case study: Cardiff Council's Planning for Health and Well-being Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG)**

Cardiff Council's Planning for Health and Well-being SPG provides a localised approach to integrating health into urban design and development. The SPG emphasises community-focused elements such as safe walking and cycling routes, green spaces, and facilities that encourage physical activity and social interaction. By aligning planning policy with public health objectives, the guidance seeks to foster healthier, more connected neighbourhoods, demonstrating the council's commitment to well-being as a core planning consideration.

# Transport

## Street Scars

The Department for Transport issues statutory guidance (Specification for the Reinstatement of Openings in the Highway) which sets standards for reinstatements following street works by utility companies.

Local authorities have powers to inspect a sample of reinstatements for compliance with standards. A performance-based inspections regime in 2023 was introduced which means those with high defect rates are inspected more than those who comply with standards and must pay for more inspections. Local authorities can require utilities to repair any defects and can then charge for follow up inspections. Local authorities have powers to repair defects themselves and re-charge to cost to utilities.

Under section 70 of the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991, local authorities can issue a fine of up to £2,500, or fixed penalty notices, for late registration of reinstatement notices, which trigger inspections. If a utility company fails to permanently reinstate the street within six months of their interim reinstatement, unlimited fines could be pursued via a Magistrate's Court. Local authorities can set additional standards requiring, for example, a particular stone to be used in heritage areas. Sometimes, temporary reinstatements are put in place to re-open highways to traffic or whilst waiting for other materials. These standards, inspections and penalties do not apply to works carried out by local authorities but can be applied voluntarily.

## Local traffic authorities

Local highway and traffic authorities are responsible for managing their road network to benefit all users, including pedestrians (defined to include anyone using a mobility aid). Street design should aim to create a pleasant and inviting environment. Such environments, which encourage people to spend time and linger, have been shown to generate economic benefits and contribute to growth.

Measures that local highway and traffic authorities can take include, but are not limited to:

- ensuring footways are sufficiently wide to accommodate everyone, particularly disabled people, and to meet expected demand
- providing appropriately placed crossing points with accessibility features such as dropped kerbs and tactile paving
- enhancing the pedestrian environment through measures like planting, street art and the use of visually appealing materials
- offering adequate seating, shelter and other amenities to allow people to rest, enjoy the space and move around safely and accessibly
- positioning fixed street furniture such as litter bins and electric vehicle charge points, so they do not obstruct footways or reduce their width below the recommended minimum
- ensuring moveable street furniture such as advertising boards and café furniture is placed considerately, with action taken where obstructions occur
- maintaining footways to ensure they are level, free of trip hazards, cleared of litter, and gritted in cold weather

Local authorities have powers to alter road layouts, including footways, through various pieces of legislation including the Highways Act 1980, the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and the Traffic Management Act 2004.

A variety of good practice guidance is available to support local authorities. Manual for Streets and Manual for Streets 2 outline principles of street design that prioritise the needs of pedestrians and wheelchair users. Inclusive Mobility sets recommendations on minimum footways widths. Local authorities must also ensure that road changes comply with equalities legislation, particularly the Public Sector Equality Duty set out in the Equality Act 2010.

Local authorities are reminded that the pause on shared space designs incorporating a level surface, announced in the Inclusive Transport Strategy, remains in place. Level surfaces remove the kerb distinction between footways and carriageways, which can create difficulties for visually impaired individuals trying to navigate independently and safely.

## **Active Travel toolkit**

Local authorities play an important role in increasing walking and cycling in communities. Through influencing planning and taking a strategic view of travel infrastructure across their community, authorities can ensure that active travel infrastructure connects residents to services.

Local authorities are expected to produce Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans that identify city and town-wide networks and development of priority schemes to enable access to services, employment and education facilities.

The government has published toolkits and design assurance tools for local authorities:

- [Active travel: local authority toolkit](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/active-travel-local-authority-toolkit/active-travel-local-authority-toolkit)  
(<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/active-travel-local-authority-toolkit/active-travel-local-authority-toolkit>)
- [Active Travel England scheme design and review tools](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/ate-scheme-design-and-review-tools)  
(<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/ate-scheme-design-and-review-tools>)

## Safety and security

### Respect Orders

We will crack down on those making neighbourhoods feel unsafe and unwelcoming by introducing the new Respect Order, which will carry tough sanctions and penalties for persistent adult offenders.

Respect Orders will be behavioural orders, issued by the civil courts. They will enable courts to ban adult offenders from engaging in specific anti-social behaviours, such as drinking in town centres, but can also compel adult perpetrators to take action to address the root cause of their behaviour.

Failure to comply with Respect Orders will be a criminal offence. Police will have the ability to immediately arrest anybody who is breaching their Respect Order.

### Bus Services (No.2) Bill

The government is proposing to grant new powers to local authorities in England, through which they can enforce against anti-social behaviour and fare evasion on the bus network. Updates will be made in due course.

## Anti-social behaviour on public transport

### [Section 6 of The Public Service Vehicles Regulations 1990](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/1990/1020/regulation/6#commentary-key-732e8f8782ebaa6b18f2555d75702f3c)

(<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/1990/1020/regulation/6#commentary-key-732e8f8782ebaa6b18f2555d75702f3c>) states that passengers on a vehicle are not allowed to play music or use sound equipment in a way that causes annoyance to others. They also must not intentionally interfere with any equipment fitted to the vehicle.

## Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014

The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 includes a number of levers that Neighbourhood Boards can use in designing their plan:

- Public Space Protection Orders enable local authorities to deal with a particular nuisance in a defined public space, where the nuisance is negatively impacting the quality of life of those in that space
- A civil injunction is a civil court order that orders one or more parties to carry out or refrain from doing a specific act or acts – these are protective measures to protect someone against harm, preserve or prevent the loss of an asset, business or personal interest and prevent damage to reputation
- Community Protection Notices can be used by local authorities, police or social landlords to stop a person aged 16 or over, business or organisation committing anti-social behaviour which spoils the community's quality of life
- Closure Notices prohibit access to the premises for a period of time and can be used to close premises that are causing antisocial behaviour – this could include a nuisance to members of the public or disorder relating to the premises and in its vicinity
- Criminal Behaviour Orders (CBO) can provide long term relief for communities, including business communities, from the debilitating impact of anti-social behaviour – the prohibitions within the CBO tackle the specific anti-social behaviour shown by the offender, or groups of offenders
- Anti-social Behaviour Case Review gives victims of persistent antisocial behaviour reported to any of the main responsible agencies (such as the council, police, housing provider) the right to request a multi-agency case review where a locally set thresholds are met

- Community Remedies enable victims of low-level crime and anti-social behaviour to have a greater say in how offenders should be held account for their actions
- Fixed Penalty Notices for disorder deal with low-level antisocial behaviour (for example, littering, spitting or fly-posting, quickly and efficiently) and can be on the spot or by post, by the police or council

## Licensing Act 2003

The Licensing Act 2003 provides licensing authorities in England and Wales with a framework for making decisions about applications by businesses and individuals wishing to sell or supply alcohol, provide late night refreshment or provide regulated entertainment.

There are 4 licensing objectives that licensing authorities must consider when making decisions:

- the prevention of crime and disorder
- public safety
- the prevention of public nuisance
- the protection of children from harm

If a particular premises fails to promote these objectives, licensing authorities can refuse an application, or review or amend a licence.

Licensing is an important element of a multiagency approach that ensures that local night-time economies are well managed and thriving.

[Statutory guidance \(or the Section 182 guidance\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/explanatory-memorandum-revised-guidance-issued-under-s-182-of-licensing-act-2003) (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/explanatory-memorandum-revised-guidance-issued-under-s-182-of-licensing-act-2003>) is available to assist licensing authorities to carry out of their functions under the Act. This guidance promotes best practice and helps to ensure consistent application of licensing powers across England and Wales.

Further guidance is available from the Local Government Association:

- [Licensing Act 2003 Councillor's handbook \(England and Wales\)](https://www.local.gov.uk/publications/licensing-act-2003-councillors-handbook-england-and-wales-0) (<https://www.local.gov.uk/publications/licensing-act-2003-councillors-handbook-england-and-wales-0>)
- [Approaches to managing the night-time economy](https://www.local.gov.uk/publications/approaches-managing-night-time-economy) (<https://www.local.gov.uk/publications/approaches-managing-night-time-economy>)

## Gambling Act 2005

The Gambling Act provides licensing authorities with a wide range of powers to assess and set out the risks in their local areas as well as the ability to attach conditions to premises licences to manage these risks. The intent of the Gambling Act 2005 is to provide licensing authorities with the ability to manage local risks and make decisions using local knowledge. At the same time, it is also important that the ways licensing authorities approach local considerations across the country are consistent and follow the same framework principles.

Licensing authorities have discretion to regulate local provision of gambling and the Act gives wide-ranging powers to do so. Those include the power:

- to issue a statement of licensing policy, setting expectations about how gambling will be regulated in a particular area
- to grant, refuse and attach conditions to premises licences
- to review premises licences and attach conditions or revoke them as a result.

The policy statement is an opportunity for a licensing authority to identify and address gambling-related harms in its area and publish specific objectives for a locality. These objectives can inform decisions and actions, such as attaching conditions to premises licences and requiring applicants to provide certain information as part of their application, such as proximity to sensitive locations or vulnerable communities.

More information can be found on the [Gambling Commission's website](https://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/guidance/guidance-to-licensing-authorities/gla-part-1-general-guidance-on-the-role-and-responsibilities-of-licensing) (<https://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/guidance/guidance-to-licensing-authorities/gla-part-1-general-guidance-on-the-role-and-responsibilities-of-licensing>).

## Business Crime Reduction Partnership

Business Crime Reduction Partnerships (BCRPs) facilitate work between local businesses and police in a defined public area, for example a town centre to tackle and reduce crime affecting businesses. They work with police and local authorities; and are typically managed by a dedicated individual and funded by local businesses who then act as members of the Partnership, either as part of a wider Business Improvement District (BID) or run independently. We encourage Neighbourhood Boards to work with retailers to encourage them to join their local BCRP or BID to support local community efforts to reduce crimes.

**Case study: Bristol's Business Crime Reduction Partnership**

The Bristol Business Crime Reduction Partnership (BCRP) operates across several Business Improvement Districts (BIDs), including Bristol City Centre, Broadmead, and Redcliffe and Temple. It brings together local businesses, the police, and Bristol City Council to collaboratively address crime-related issues affecting the local economy. One of the key tools used by the BCRP is the intelligence-sharing platform "Disc," which allows businesses, the police, and the council to share information on criminal activities in real-time. This system enhances communication and ensures a more coordinated response to issues such as shoplifting and anti-social behaviour.

The partnership not only focuses on improving security through better information-sharing but also fosters stronger relationships between local businesses and authorities. This improved cooperation helps businesses feel more secure, contributing to a safer environment for both customers and staff. Additionally, monthly crime reduction meetings provide an opportunity for businesses to share insights, discuss concerns, and receive updates on crime trends, which supports ongoing crime prevention efforts.

## Education and opportunity

### Prevention partnerships and Youth Futures hubs

Too many children and young people today are facing poorer life outcomes because they are not effectively identified and supported. This can be caused by limited access to the same opportunities as their peers or because they have increasing levels of vulnerability, all of which can lead to them suffering from poor mental health and facing an increased risk of being drawn into crime.

The government has committed to the creation of a new Young Futures Programme, which will establish a network of Young Futures Hubs and Young Futures Prevention Partnerships, to intervene earlier to ensure this cohort is identified and offered support in a more systematic way, as well as creating more opportunities for young people in their communities, through the provision of open access to mental health and careers support.

The government will work with national and local partners, including local communities, to design and deliver the Young Futures Programme to reduce the risk of crime, and where there is work ongoing in the 75 communities Neighbourhood Boards should consider what role they could play as part of that.

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