

July 2008

Ownership and control

How can my friends, neighbours and I own and run local services ourselves?

Communities in control: real people, real power was launched on 9 July 2008. This White Paper is about passing power to communities and giving real control and influence to more people. Please visit www.communities.gov.uk for more information.

We would like to encourage community groups to discuss and feedback to us about the topics raised in the White Paper. Please use this topic discussion guide in conjunction with the Community Power Pack which is also available from our website.

Points to consider

The White Paper looks at how citizens can move beyond being consulted or holding officials to account, and to how people can own and run services for themselves, either by serving on local boards and committees, or through social enterprises and co-operatives.

The Government places enormous value on this activity, not only because of the positive impact on people and neighbourhoods, but also because by being involved in running local services individuals can develop their skills, confidence and expertise.

Key policies

- Establishing an **Asset Transfer Unit** to encourage local authorities to transfer more local assets (for example, community centres) to the ownership or management of local people, where appropriate
- Encouraging local authorities to **ensure social enterprises can compete fairly for contracts** and working with colleagues in other Government departments to ensure that procurement processes do not unfairly disadvantage social enterprises.

Questions for discussion

- In your view has the White Paper captured the correct points on owning and running local services?
- How far do you think that these policies will address the issues raised?
- What more do you think needs to be done to address these issues?