



Localism Bill Committee

20th January, 2011.

The members of the Localism Bill Committee have been announced this morning. It will sit twice a week for 6 weeks from Tuesday 25th January until Thursday 10th March. (Parliament is in recess from 17th – 28th February)

- Tuesdays 10:30am – 1:00pm and 4:00pm – 6:00pm
- Thursdays 9:00am – 10:25am and 1:00pm – 3:00pm.

We understand the first week will be dedicated to oral evidence. Therefore, 8 hours per week for a 5 week period will be given over to examining the Clauses of the Bill. This equates to 40 hours for all 207 Clauses of the Bill, averaging out at approximately 11.5 minutes for each Clause.

The makeup of the Committee reflects the composition of the House of Commons, so there is always a Government majority. In this case 13 Conservatives, 11 Labour MPs and 3 Liberal Democrats and one DUP MP. It consists of the following:

Conservative (13)

David Amess (Chair) – Southend West

Gavin Barwell – Croydon Central

Fiona Bruce - Congleton

Greg Clark – Tunbridge Wells (Minister of State for Decentralisation, CLG)

Richard Harrington – Watford

John Howell – Henley

Brandon Lewis – Great Yarmouth

James Morris – Halesowen and Rowley Regis

Robert Neill – Bromley and Chislehurst (Minister for Planning, CLG)

Eric Ollerenshaw – Lancaster and Fleetwood

Henry Smith – Crawley

Iain Stewart – Milton Keynes South

Bill Wiggin – North Herefordshire (Assistant Government Whip)

Labour (11)

Hugh Bayley (Chair) – York Central

Nic Dakin – Scunthorpe

Simon Danczuk – Rochdale (Member of CLG Select Committee)

Jack Dromey – Birmingham Erdington (Shadow Minister for CLG)

Julie Elliott – Sunderland Central (PPS to Caroline Flint as Shadow Secretary of State for CLG)

Pat Glass – North West Durham

Barbara Keeley – Worsley and Eccles South (Shadow Minister for CLG)

Siobhain McDonagh – Mitcham and Morden

Nick Raynsford – Greenwich and Woolwich
Alison Seabeck – Plymouth Moor View (Shadow Minister for Housing)
Angela Smith – Penistone and Stocksbridge

Liberal Democrat (3)

Stephen Gilbert – St Austell and Newquay (Member of CLG Select Committee)
Andrew Stunnell – Hazel Grove (Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, CLG)
David Ward – Bradford East

DUP (1)

David Simpson – Upper Bann

Background & Procedure

The Committee will debate the Bill as they would do in the Commons chamber, with broadly the same rules of debate applying. The Committee can also take evidence from experts outside of Parliament which is intended to give Committee members more information on which to base their decisions. A call for written evidence has been issued and representations can be made at any time while the Committee is sitting.

Amendments for debate are selected by the Chairman of the Committee and only members of the Committee can vote on amendments at this stage. Amendments proposed by MPs will be published daily and reprinted as a marshalled list of amendments for each day the Committee discusses the Bill.

Once the Committee has finished examining the Bill, it is printed again with the amendments made by the Committee. The Committee reports its conclusions and amendments to the Commons at the Report Stage where MPs will debate the Bill further.

Report Stage

The Bill returns to the floor of the Commons for MPs to debate and consider further amendments to the Bill. There is no set time period between the end of Committee Stage and the start of the Report Stage. All MPs may speak and vote and suggest amendments to the Bill.

The Report Stage is normally followed immediately by the Bill's Third Reading.

Third Reading

The Third Reading will be the final chance for the Commons to debate the contents of the Bill. It usually takes place immediately after Report Stage as the next item of business on the same day. Amendments cannot be made to the Bill during the Third Reading in the Commons.

At the end of the debate, the House will vote on whether to approve the Third Reading of the Bill. The Bill will then progress to the House of Lords for its first reading.

House of Lords

The Bill will follow the same process through the House of Lords, although the committee stage will be undertaken by a Committee of the Whole House. The Committee may choose to vote on any amendment, and all Members present can vote.

When a Bill has passed through its Third Reading in the Lords, they will return to the Commons for the Lords amendments to be considered. Both Houses must agree on the exact wording of the Bill. A Bill may go back and forth between each House until an agreement is reached.

Once a final version of the Bill is agreed, it can receive Royal Assent and become an Act of Parliament.

Guidance on submitting written evidence

What should written evidence cover?

Submissions should address matters contained within the Bill and concentrate on issues where you have a special interest or expertise, and factual information of which you would like the Committee to be aware. It is helpful if the submission includes a brief introduction about you or your organisation. The submission should not have been previously published or circulated elsewhere.

How should written evidence be submitted?

Your submission should be emailed to scrutiny@parliament.uk. Please note that submissions sent to the Government department in charge of the Bill will **not** be treated as evidence to the Public Bill Committee.

Submissions should be in the form of a Word document. A summary should be provided. Paragraphs should be numbered, but there should be no page numbering. Essential statistics or further details can be added as annexes, which should also be numbered. To make publication easier, please avoid the use of coloured graphs, complex diagrams or pictures. As a guideline, submissions should not exceed 3,000 words.

You should also include a separate covering email containing the name, address, telephone number and email address of the person responsible for the submission. The submission should be dated.

What will happen to my evidence?

The written evidence will be circulated to all Committee Members to inform their consideration of the Bill. Most submissions will also be published. They will be posted on the internet as soon as possible after the Committee has started sitting, and will also be printed in hard copy at the end of the Committee's deliberations.

For further information please contact Jeremy Handel on 020 7491 9992 or jhandel@politicaldevelopments.com