Localism and the Big Society

The Big Society concept was introduced by the government following the general election held in 2010. The vision is to create a society where people, neighbourhoods and communities have more power and responsibility and use it to create better services and outcomes.

As a council, the ethos of the Big Society is not new to us. We are already doing a number of things to help empower our residents. Details about this can be found on our Localism and Big Society at WDC page.

The Localism Act

The Localism Act aims to make the aims of the Big Society a reality. It sets out a programme of change which aims to transfer power from central government to local councils, communities and individuals on many issues that directly affect their lives. The Act became law in November 2011 but the changes that it makes will be gradually introduced.

Localism is about doing everything at the lowest possible level and only involving central government if absolutely necessary. The vision is that local people will manage and control the community services they want, wherever possible. Councils will enable and support residents and the voluntary and community sector, providing services that local people need but cannot provide themselves.

The government has published a plain English guide to the Localism Act. This can be downloaded at the bottom of this page.

More about Localism:

- Neighbourhood Planning - This is about helping communities to influence the future of where they live
- Community Rights - Information about the three community rights introduced by Localism - the Right to Build, Right to Challenge and Right to Bid
- Other Localism Provisions - Changes to local housing, finance and Council standards
- Localism and Big Society at WDC - Our Ward Budget scheme, Big Society case studies and how we plan to better engage with our communities

External links

- Plain English guide to the Localism Act
A plain English guide explaining the main measures of the Localism Bill under four headings.

Wycombe District Council is not responsible for the content of external websites. Links open in a new window.

Contact information

Policy and Performance
Site information

Accessibility
The site has been built to XHTML 1.0 and CSS 3 standards, complying with W3C WAI Web Guidelines 2.0, Level AA.

Copyright © Wycombe District Council
Queen Victoria Road, High Wycombe, HP11 1BB
Phone: 01494 461 000 (emergencies out of hours phone: 01494 463 890) | Email: info@wycombe.gov.uk