

Council: 4 November 2008

Administration Policy Item: Councillor Mike Freer

Sustainable Communities Act

Background

Council believes more needs to be done nationally to increase local autonomy in promoting sustainability and recognises that the Sustainable Communities Act 2007 has the potential to facilitate this.

Relevant Previous Decisions

Barnet Council agreed in April 2007 to the principle of the then Sustainable Communities Bill, sponsored by Nick Hurd MP, and called on the Chief Executive to advise the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government of our support.

The Sustainable Communities Act is based upon this Bill.

Detail

Of particular note, Council welcomes sections in the Sustainable Communities Act which devolve more power from Whitehall to local authorities and communities by:

- giving local authorities more power over money spent by national agencies on local matters in their areas; and
- giving local authorities and their communities the power to influence government policy to assist them in promoting sustainable communities and thereby help local authorities to protect the wellbeing of their communities and citizens;

Recommendation

Council requests Cabinet to consider a report detailing the advantages and disadvantages of opting into the process of the Sustainable Communities Act, and, if appropriate determine the way forward.