Communities and Local Government Committee

The Communities and Local Government Committee is appointed by the House of Commons to examine the expenditure, administration, and policy of the Department for Communities and Local Government and its associated bodies. Current membership

Dr Phyllis Starkey MP (Labour, Milton Keynes South West) (Chair)
Sir Paul Beresford MP (Conservative, Mole Valley)
Mr Clive Betts MP (Labour, Sheffield Attercliffe)
John Cummings MP (Labour, Easington)
Andrew George MP (Liberal Democrat, St Ives)
Mr Greg Hands MP (Conservative, Hammersmith and Fulham)
Anne Main MP (Conservative, St Albans)
Dr John Pugh MP (Liberal Democrat, Southport)
Alison Seabeck MP (Plymouth Devonport)
Andy Slaughter MP (Ealing, Acton and Shepherd’s Bush)
Mr Neil Turner MP (Labour, Wigan)

The following were also members of the Committee during the period covered by this report:

Jim Dobbin MP (Labour Co-op, Heywood and Middleton)
Mr Bill Olner MP (Labour, Nuneaton)
Emily Thornberry MP (Labour, Islington South and Finsbury)
David Wright MP (Labour, Telford)

Powers

The committee is one of the departmental select committees, the powers of which are set out in House of Commons Standing Orders, principally in SO No 152 These are available on the Internet via www.parliament.uk.

Publications

The Reports and evidence of the Committee are published by The Stationery Office by Order of the House. All publications of the Committee (including press notices) are on the Internet at www.parliament.uk/clgcom

Committee staff

The current staff of the Committee are Huw Yardley (Clerk of the Committee), Sarah Ioannou (Second Clerk), Josephine Willows (Inquiry Manager), Emma Gordon (Committee Specialist), Lorna Horton (Senior Committee Assistant), Nicola McCoy (Committee Assistant), Stewart McIvenna (Committee Support Assistant), and Hannah Pearce (Select Committee Media Officer).

Contacts

All correspondence should be addressed to the Clerk of the Communities and Local Government Committee, House of Commons, 7 Millbank, London SW1P 3JA. The telephone number for general enquiries is 020 7219 1353; the Committee’s email address is clgcom@parliament.uk
1. Beyond Decent Homes

Alison Inman, Chair, and Gwyneth Taylor, Policy Director, National Federation of ALMOs, and Paul Tanney, Chief Executive, East Durham ALMO gave oral evidence; Richard Jones, Secretary, and Mark Butterworth, Director, Residential Landlords Association, gave oral evidence; and Professor Tony Crook, Professor of Housing Studies, University of Sheffield gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Monday 30 November at 4.00 p.m.

2. Petition

The Committee considered the petition to the House from the residents of Dronfield on the proposed building of a hazardous waste incineration plant on the site of Sheepridge Business Park (Petition 18).

Ordered, That the Clerk of the Committee respond to this petition stating that it appears to the Committee to concern matters wholly within the responsibility of local government, and that the Committee has therefore not considered the matters raised.

3. CLG’s Winter Supplementary Estimate 2009-10

The Committee reported memos for publication.

4. GEO Estimates Memoranda

The Committee reported memos for publication.
4. **Beyond Decent Homes**  
*Ordered*, That the following written evidence relating to beyond decent homes be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

Memoranda from:  
*Sheffield Homes Ltd* (BDH 54)  
*Stockport Homes* (BDH 55)  
*Family Birmingham* (BDH 56)  
*Peabody* (BDH 57)

*Ordered*, That the written evidence submitted by the Construction Industry Council and reported to the House on 9 November 2009 be withdrawn and replaced by a revised memorandum submitted by the witness; and that the revised memorandum be reported to the House for publication on the Internet.

5. **Traditional retail markets**  
The Committee considered this matter.

6. **Preventing Violent Extremism**  
*Ordered*, That the following written evidence relating to preventing violent extremism be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

Memoranda from:  
*Birmingham Activist Citizens Group* (PVE 65)  
*Grassroots* (PVE 66)  
*Iftikhar Malik* (PVE 67)  
*New Local Government Network* (PVE 68)  
*Dr H.A. Hellyer* (PVE 69)

Ed Husain, Co-Director & Co-Founder, Quilliam Foundation, Ted Cantle, Professor, Institute for Community Cohesion (iCoCo), and Anna Turley, Deputy Director, New Local Government Network gave oral evidence.

Dr. Muhammad Abdul Bari, Secretary General, Muslim Council of Britain, Humera Khan, Co-Founder, An Nisa Society, and Massoud Shadjareh, Chair, Islamic Human Rights Commission gave oral evidence.

Huda Jawad, Forward Thinking, Naz Koser, Chief Executive, Ulfah Arts, and Ratna Lachman, Director, JUST, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Monday 7 December at 4.20 p.m.]

**Monday 7 December 2009**  
Members present:
Dr Phyllis Starkey, in the Chair

Mr Clive Betts   Mr Greg Hands
Sir Paul Beresford   Mr Andy Slaughter

1. Petition
The Committee considered the petition to the House from Darryl Godbold, Trish Lepulelei, Local Residents and others on the proposed development of Hadleigh Tennis Club (Petition 1).

Ordered, That the Clerk of the Committee respond to this petition stating that it appears to the Committee to concern matters wholly within the responsibility of local government, and that the Committee has therefore not considered the matters raised.

2. Preventing Violent Extremism
Ordered, That the memorandum from the National Association of Muslim Police (PVE 71) relating to preventing violent extremism be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

3. Beyond Decent Homes
Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to beyond decent homes be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

Memoranda from:
Welsh Assembly Government (BDH 58)
Councillor Bob McCann (BDH 59)

Simon Nicol, Director, BRE Housing Group, Richard Hand, Partner, Ridge and partners, and James Sparrow, Director, Savills Ltd, gave oral evidence.

Rt Hon John Healey MP, Minister of State for Housing, Department for Communities and Local Government, Peter Marsh, Chief Executive, Tenant Services Authority, and Sir Bob Kerslake, Chief Executive, Homes and Communities Agency, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Monday 14 December at 4.20 p.m.

Monday 14 December 2009

Members present:
Dr Phyllis Starkey, in the Chair

Mr Clive Betts   Alison Seabeck
John Cummings   Mr Andy Slaughter
1. The Work of the Committee in 08-09

Draft Report (The Work of the Committee in 08-09), proposed by the Chair, brought up and read.

The draft Report was agreed to; the formal minutes relating to the consideration of the Report are published in the First Report of the Committee, HC 179.

2. Future programme

The committee considered this matter

3. Beyond Decent Homes

Ordered, That the following memorandum from the Scottish Government (BDH 60) relating to beyond decent homes be reported to the House for publication on the internet

4. GEO Annual Report 2008-09

The Committee reported memos for publication.

5. Preventing Violent Extremism

Guy Wilkinson, National Inter Religious Affairs Adviser & Secretary for Inter Religious Affairs to the Archbishop of Canterbury, Church of England, Mr. Michael Whine, Board of Deputies of British Jews, Dr Indarjit Singh OBE, Network of Sikh Organisations and Mr Brij-Mohan Gupta, General Secretary, Hindu Council UK gave oral evidence

Suleman Nagdi MBE, Prevent Co-ordinator, Federation of Muslim Organisations, and Fahad Mohamed, Managing Director, Somali Family Support Group gave oral evidence

Dr Paul Thomas, Course Leader, Diploma in Professional Studies, Youth and Community Work, University of Huddersfield, Bob McDonald, Principal Lecturer, International School for Communities, Rights and Inclusion at University of Lancashire and Yaser Mir, Senior Lecturer, International School for Communities, Rights and Inclusion at University of Lancashire gave oral evidence

[Adjourned till Monday 11 January at 4.20 p.m.

Monday 11 January 2010

The Committee met in the Amana Centre, Birmingham

Members present:
Dr Phyllis Starkey, in the Chair
Mr Clive Betts
Alison Seabec

Dr John Pugh
1. **Departmental Annual Report**  
The Committee reported memos for publication

2. **Beyond Decent Homes**  
*Ordered*, That the following memoranda from Birmingham City Council (BDH 39A), and the Audit Commission (BDH 52), and relating to beyond decent homes be reported to the House for publication on the internet

3. **GEO Annual Report 2008-09**  
The Committee reported memos for publication.

4. **Preventing Violent Extremism**  
The Committee reported memos for publication

Councillor Margaret Eaton OBE, Chairman, Local Government Association, and Robin Tuddenham, Group Director for Safer and Stronger Communities, Calderdale Council gave oral evidence.

Sheila Lock, Chief Executive Leicester City Council, Heather Wills, Head of Community Cohesion & Equalities, Adult & Community Services, London Borough of Barking & Dagenham, and Councillor Alan Rudge, Cabinet Member, Equalities & Human Resources, Birmingham City Council gave oral evidence.

Sir Norman Bettison QPM, ACPO lead for Prevent, Association of Chief Police Officers, and Jonathan Charlton, Strategic Policy Adviser, Prevent, Greater Manchester Police Authority, and Councillor Paul Murphy, Chairman, Greater Manchester Police Authority, representing the Association of Police Authorities gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Monday 18 January at 4.00 p.m.]

**Monday 18 January 2010**

Members present:
Dr Phyllis Starkey, in the Chair

Mr Clive Betts  
Andrew George  
Ann Main  

Dr John Pugh  
Alison Seabeck  
Mr Andy Slaughter

1. **Specialist Advisor’s Interests**  
Alveena Malik, specialist advisor to the Committee, made a further declaration of interest (see Appendix)

2. **Preventing Violent Extremism**
Resolved, That the Committee take the evidence to be given by Mr Charles Farr, Director General of the Office for Security and Counter-Terrorism, in private.

Minhaz Khelya, from Blackburn, Rob Clews from Gloucestershire, and Lisa Carroll from East Midlands, Members of the Project Safe Space Steering Group, UK Youth Parliament, gave oral evidence.

Nahid Majid, Convenor of the Tackling Extremism Together Working Group on Regional and Local Strategies, and Arun Kundnani, Editor, Institute of Race Relations, gave oral evidence.

John Denham MP, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, and Shahid Malik MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary, Department for Communities and Local Government, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 19 January at 10.00 a.m.]

ANNEX

Declarations of interests by the Committee’s specialist advisers

Alveena Malik declared the following interests: a Ministerial appointment to the CLG Faith expert panel, chaired by the Secretary of State John Denham. The Faith panel may cover issues related to the Prevent agenda and in the event that this occurs Ms Malik has agreed to withdraw from the discussion to avoid any conflict of interest with the role of Special Advisor to the Prevent Inquiry.

Tuesday 19 January 2010

Members present:
Dr Phyllis Starkey, in the Chair

Sir Paul Beresford
Mr Clive Betts
Alison Seabeck
Mr Andy Slaughter

1. Petition
The Committee considered the petition to the House from Residents in the constituency of mid-Dorset and North Poole, proposing amendments to the Mobile Homes Act 1983 (Petition 2).

Ordered, That the Clerk of the Committee respond to this petition stating that it appears to the Committee to concern matters wholly within the responsibility of local government, and that the Committee has therefore not considered the matters raised.
1. Beyond Decent Homes
The Committee considered this matter

2. CLG’s Winter Supplementary Estimate 2009-10
The Committee considered this matter

3. FiReControl

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to FiReControl be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

Memoranda from:

FIRE 01 Jamie Hockley
FIRE 02 Kent Fire and Rescue Authority
FIRE 03 Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Authority
FIRE 04 Merseyside Fire & Rescue Authority
FIRE 05 Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Service
FIRE 06 Lancashire Combined Fire Authority
FIRE 07 Fire Protection Association
FIRE 08 Dorset Fire Authority
FIRE 09 Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Fire Authority
FIRE 10 LGA
FIRE 11 South East Fire & Rescue Services’ Regional Management Board
FIRE 12 Yorkshire & Humberside Regional Management Board
FIRE 13 Oxfordshire Fire Authority
FIRE 14 West Sussex County Council
FIRE 15 Cllr. Jeremy Hilton
FIRE 16 Gloucestershire Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee
FIRE 17 Surrey Fire and Rescue Authority
FIRE 18 London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority (LFEPA)
FIRE 19 Gloucestershire County Council
FIRE 20 North East Fire and Rescue Regional Management Board
FIRE 21 Wiltshire and Swindon Fire Authority
FIRE 22 The Chief Fire Officers Association
FIRE 23 West Midlands Fire Service
FIRE 24 Fire Officers’ Association
FIRE 25 Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service
FIRE 26 Department for Communities and Local Government
FIRE 27 Fire Brigades Union

Resolved, That the Committee request written evidence from EADS.

4. Government Equalities Office

Resolved, That the Committee take evidence from Government Equalities Office
5. Local authority investments: the role of the Financial Services Authority

Draft Report (Local authority investments: the role of the Financial Services Authority), proposed by the Chair, brought up and read.

The draft Report was amended and agreed to; the Formal Minutes relating to the consideration of the Report are published in the Second Report of the Committee, HC 287.

6. Preventing Violent Extremism

Charles Farr, Director-General of the Office for Security and Counter Terrorism, gave oral evidence.

Monday 25 January 2010

Members present:
Dr Phyllis Starkey, in the Chair

Mr Clive Betts
Ann Main
Alison Seabeck

1. Petition
The Committee considered the petition to the House from persons resident in the Old Bexley and Sidcup Parliamentary Constituency stating their concerns for the future of Heron Court, a sheltered housing scheme in Sidcup (Petition 3).

Ordered, That the Clerk of the Committee respond to this petition stating that it appears to the Committee to concern matters wholly within the responsibility of local government, and that the Committee has therefore not considered the matters raised.

2. FiReControl
Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to FiReControl be reported to the House for publication on the internet: from EADS (FIRE 28).

3. Government Equalities Office
Maria Eagle MP, Minister of State, and Jonathan Rees, Director General, Government Equalities Office, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Monday 1 February at 4.20 p.m.]
Monday 1 February 2010

Members present:
Dr Phyllis Starkey, in the Chair

Mr Clive Betts       Dr John Pugh
John Cummings        Alison Seabeck
Ann Main             Mr Andy Slaughter

1. FiReControl

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to FiReControl be reported to the House for publication on the internet: from Cornwall Fire and Rescue Service (FIRE 29) and East Midlands Fire and Rescue Control Centre (FIRE 30).

2. The Supporting People programme

The Committee considered the Government’s response

3. Preventing violent extremism

The Committee considered this matter

[Adjourned till Monday 8 February at 4.00 p.m.

Monday 8 February 2010

Members present:
Dr Phyllis Starkey, in the Chair

Mr Clive Betts       Andrew George
Sir Paul Beresford   Alison Seabeck
John Cummings

1. Petition

(a) The Committee considered the petition to the House from the residents of Canvey Island, who objected to the proposed removal of the swimming pool at Concord Beach.

(b) The Committee considered the petition to the House from Brian Keeler, the residents of Castle Point and others, objecting to the proposed development in High Road, Benfleet.

Ordered, That the Clerk of the Committee respond to these petition stating that it appears to the Committee to concern matters wholly within the responsibility
of local government, and that the Committee has therefore not considered the matters raised.

2. **FiReControl**
   (a) *Ordered*, That the following written evidence relating to FiReControl be reported to the House for publication on the internet: from the National Audit Office (FIRE 31) and Intagraph UK (FIRE 32).

(b) Matt Wrack, President, Fire Brigades Union (FBU); John Bonney, President, Chief Fire Officers Association (CFOA); Cllr Brian Coleman and Cllr Fred Walker, Local Government Association (LGA) gave oral evidence.

Roger Diggle, FiReControl Project Director, and Robin Southwell, CEO, EADS; Shahid Malik, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Sir Ken Knight, Chief Fire and Rescue Advisor, Shona Dunn, Director for Fire and Resilience, Department for Communities and Local Government gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Monday 22 February at 4.20 p.m]

**Monday 22 February 2010**

Members present:
Dr Phyllis Starkey, in the Chair

Mr Clive Betts                      Ann Main
John Cummings                      Mr Andy Slaughter

1. **FiReControl**
   *Ordered*, That the following written evidence relating to FiReControl be reported to the House for publication on the internet: from Councillor Andre Gonzalez de Savage, Portfolio Holder with Responsibility for Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service (FIRE 33).

2. **Autumn Performance Reports**
The Committee considered this matter

Draft Report (*CLG’s Departmental Annual Report 2009 and the performance of the Department in 2008-09*), proposed by the Chair, brought up and read.
The draft Report was amended and agreed to; the Formal Minutes and evidence relating to the consideration of the Report are published in the Third Report of the Committee, HC 391.

[Adjourned till Monday 8 March at 4.20 p.m.]

Monday 8 March 2010

Members present:
Dr Phyllis Starkey, in the Chair

Mr Clive Betts
John Cummings

Alison Seabec

1. Beyond Decent Homes
Draft Report (Beyond Decent Homes), proposed by the Chair, brought up and read.

The draft Report was amended and agreed to; the Formal Minutes and evidence relating to the consideration of the Report are published in the Fourth Report of the Committee, HC 60-I.

2. Petition
The Committee considered Petitions to the House from:
(a) Stop Inicnernators in Disguise (S.I.D) objecting to the building of an incinerator at New Cheshire Business Park in Wincham;
(b) members of Rushden, Northamptonshire, and the surrounding areas, urging the Secretary of State to direct Northamptonshire County Council to repair the roads in that area;
(c) residents of Stanway Road and surrounding areas, objecting to plans to extend the boundary fencing and gates of the business operating on 77 Stanway Road;
(d) Mr Finch, The Canvey War Memorial Committee and other residents of Castle Point, objecting to Castle Point Borough Council’s management of the Canvey Island War Memorial Fund;
(e) Friends of Elvaston, residents of Derbyshire, and others, objecting to the proposed planning application to lease Elvaston Castle Country Park to private developers;
(f) residents of Watchet, objecting to insufficient funds being available to repair Watchet footbridge;
Ordered, That the Clerk of the Committee respond to these petition stating that it appears to the Committee to concern matters wholly within the responsibility of local government, and that the Committee has therefore not considered the matters raised.

3. Specialist Advisor’s Interests
Kelvin MacDonald, specialist advisor to the Committee, made a further declaration of interest (see Appendix)

4. Market Failure
The Committee considered the Local Government’s response to this report.

5. Departmental Supplementary Estimates
The Committee considered this matter

6. Preventing violent extremism
Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to Preventing violent extremism be reported to the House for publication on the internet: from Radical Middle Way (PVE 73).

[Adjourned till Monday 15 March at 4.20 p.m.]

Monday 15 March 2010

Members present:
Dr Phyllis Starkey, in the Chair

Mr Clive Betts Mr Andy Slaughter

1. Housing and Planning
Rt Hon John Healey MP, Minster for Housing and Planning, Richard McCarthy, Director-General, Housing and Planning, Department for Communities and Local Government, and Sir Bob Kerslake, Chief Executive, Homes and Communities Agency, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 16 March at 10.00 a.m.]

Tuesday 16 March 2010

Members present:
Dr Phyllis Starkey, in the Chair

Mr Clive Betts Alison Seabeck
Andrew George Mr Andy Slaughter
1. **FiReControl**

Draft Report *(FiReControl)*, proposed by the Chair, brought up and read.

The draft Report was amended and agreed to; the Formal Minutes and evidence relating to the consideration of the Report are published in the Fifth Report of the Committee, HC 352-I.

2. **Preventing violent extremism**

Draft Report *(Preventing violent extremism)*, proposed by the Chair, brought up and read.

The draft Report was amended and agreed to; the Formal Minutes and evidence relating to the consideration of the Report are published in the Sixth Report of the Committee, HC 65-I.

[The Committee adjourned.]