

Subject: **Sustainable Communities Act**

Submitted to: **Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

Date: **16th February 2012**

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Background

1. Launched in 2008 the Sustainable Communities Act (SCA) set out to provide local councils and local communities with the opportunity to ask national government to devolve more power to councils to improve the sustainability of local areas.
2. HBC took the decision to opt into the Act in 2009 and was one of a hundred Councils to put forward a proposal under the first round of the SCA.

Round 1

3. After a period of [consultation](#) with representatives from the local community, the Council's Cabinet (13th July 2009) agreed to submit the following proposal:

“The Government is requested to enact legislation to enable the transfer of Highway Authority powers to those District Councils who are willing and able to take on sole responsibility for on street parking.”

4. The Government response to the proposal was:

“Counties can already transfer whichever highways and traffic authority responsibilities they wish to districts. The Government believes that power should be decentralised to the lowest appropriate level, and we will continue to consider how best to achieve this. County and district councils should work closely together to ensure they agree about what is best for their local area, and what powers are best transferred to the district council.”

Round 2

5. In December 2010 Greg Clarke Minister for Decentralisation [wrote](#) to all local authorities to encourage submission of proposals under the second round of the SCA as 'an invitation to inspire Big Society.'

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6. The second round is open and takes the form of a rolling programme enabling proposals to be submitted any time.
7. Area Management Boards were alerted to the rolling programme for subsequent SCA submissions at their meetings in June/July 2011.
8. Council support was offered to work up ideas into proposals if and when received. To date no drafts have been received by HBC.