

## Come to our seminars

The network analyses and responds to all relevant finance and related initiatives and consultations that are published by the DCLG and other government departments.

Recently there have been significant overlaps between initiatives, some of which we are still in the process of uncovering. It is crucial we understand these relationships, so that we can alert government to potential unintended consequences and be prepared ourselves to deal with them if the consequences are intended! The network hosts regular seminars, so districts nationwide can engage in informed discussion and generate a fuller and broader understanding of key and upcoming issues. Look out for news of our next seminar in spring 2012 that will examine the implications of the localism bill. To find out about past seminars and download papers, visit [www.districtcouncils.info/news](http://www.districtcouncils.info/news)

## Attend our assembly meetings

We host three assembly meetings a year. Generally a minister attends to speak on a key issue. These meetings are a great opportunity to get involved in key decisions of the network.

[www.districtcouncils.info/assembly](http://www.districtcouncils.info/assembly)  
or email [emma.tucker@local.gov.uk](mailto:emma.tucker@local.gov.uk)

## Promote your work on [www.districtcouncils.info](http://www.districtcouncils.info)

We have over 300 case studies on our website – a rich source of best practice. If you have any district news, borough news or case studies you would like to share or celebrate through the network, please email

[emma.tucker@local.gov.uk](mailto:emma.tucker@local.gov.uk)

## Sign-up for our e-newsletter

We issue six e-newsletters every year. If you don't already receive them, or think a member of your team would like to receive them, email

[emma.tucker@local.gov.uk](mailto:emma.tucker@local.gov.uk)

and we'll add you onto our distribution list.

## Keep up to date online

We post regular news updates on our blog at [www.districtcouncils.info/news](http://www.districtcouncils.info/news) where you can keep up to date and comment.

District Councils'  
Network



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Focused on place

District Councils' Network

# A district view

Find out about how the District Councils' Network is representing the needs and views of district councils nationwide at the highest levels of government. **Get involved in the work of the District Councils' Network and have your say.**



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## Representing you

**Districts nationwide are facing some tough challenges. We need to work together to make our voice heard and promote the benefits of the network to districts nationwide.**

The District Councils' Network is making its voice heard by being responsive to government on issues which are important to our communities and by providing constructive comment. As part of the Local Government Group we are building strong links to other national organisations. We are working to maximise the impact of the network by focussing on key priorities. In late 2011/early 2012 these will include:

## Welfare reform

**Between 2013 and 2017 the government plans to introduce their universal credit proposals, in the biggest change to the current welfare system, our country has seen. District councils unique position to deliver must be recognised within the proposals.**

It is essential that face-to-face delivery is maintained at a local level to support the most vulnerable people. Local government has invested in, and is efficient at delivering joined up face-to-face services on behalf of a number of agencies. District councils nationwide have readily available networks

the resource review, planning reforms, the localism bill, health reforms, welfare reforms and public service reforms. Ultimately, together these reforms will change the nature of local government, so we need to be involved in shaping how they will impact.

We believe districts are uniquely placed to voice the needs of our communities, and we will be working hard to establish districts place at the forefront of these changes.



that can be utilised and expanded cost effectively. Local government can be trusted and incentivised to deliver the government's vision of higher levels of self service by coordinating and delivering programmes and services locally. District councils have a proven track record of performance improvement, reducing costs year on year, being responsive to change and local needs, and linking customer needs together.

We are working with IRRV, CIPFA, LGG, and CIH to publish a set of principles reflecting our views and enabling the success of the new scheme. For more information please contact our welfare reform lead [agraham@rushcliffe.gov.uk](mailto:agraham@rushcliffe.gov.uk) (CE at Rushcliffe BC).

## Business rates reform

**This autumn the government will push ahead with radical proposals that will allow councils to keep proceeds of business rates for the first time since 1988. We need to ensure district councils receive a meaningful share of the business rate rewards.**

The changes are designed to free councils from Whitehall spending controls and incentivise councils to encourage the growth of local businesses and develop their local economy. Within this, districts play a vital role – both as planning authorities and as the principal drivers of economic development in two-tier areas.

To make this worthwhile, district councils need to receive a meaningful share of any business rate reward payment, particularly in relation to renewable energy.

## Open public services

**The government's Open Public Services white paper aims to modernise public services based on five key principles. It is fundamental that district councils and the network consider the implications and ramifications of these proposals.**

We also need to be compensated for the initial negative impact on business rate income from long-term town centre regeneration schemes.

To add your voice, contact our business rate lead [david.cook@kettering.gov.uk](mailto:david.cook@kettering.gov.uk) (CE at Kettering BC) or comment on the DCLG's consultation at [www.communities.gov.uk](http://www.communities.gov.uk)



We will be drafting a full response to the white paper. If you would like to contribute to our response, or find out more, please contact our lead [phlankester@stratford-dc.gov.uk](mailto:phlankester@stratford-dc.gov.uk) (CE at Stratford DC).

