



The Sustainable Communities Act proposal form

Using this form

This form should be used to submit proposals under the Sustainable Communities Act to the LGA for short listing. Please complete all sections and then **email a copy to selector@lga.gov.uk**. These must be received by **July 31st 2009**, and you will receive confirmation that the form has been received.

Once submitted, information within this form may be made publicly available, unless you request for it to be kept private. We will treat information submitted sensitively. If you wish to attach any relevant presentations or graphs etc. please attach them separately in the email.

For questions regarding the act or the role of the Selector, please see our [FAQs](#). Any further questions can be directed to selector@lga.gov.uk.

Section 1: Proposal Summary

Proposing Authority

Under the terms of the Sustainable Communities Act, all proposals must be submitted by a local authority, or group of authorities, in England. Any group, organisation or individual may originate or develop a proposal. However all proposals will require Local Authority endorsement and submission to the Selector.

Parish councils and other organisations and agencies must seek support and formal endorsement from a proposing local authority (defined in the Act as county councils, district councils (including metropolitan, non metropolitan and unitary authorities), the common council of the city of London or the Council of the Isles of Scilly).

1.1 Lead Authority name

London Borough of Islington

1.2 Is this proposal submitted by this authority alone, or is it a joint proposal with other local authorities? (If joint please list authorities)

Submitted by London Borough of Islington

1.3 Who is the lead contact (s) in the authority for this proposal? Please provide email address and telephone number - *The LGA will direct any enquiries to this contact.*

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Supporting Organisations

Whilst proposals may only be submitted by a local authority, we acknowledge that local partners and outside organisations may wish to register support for the proposal. This is entirely voluntary.

1.4 Please provide details below of supporting organisations to your proposal. Please explain if the organisation is a charity, company, unincorporated association or other body. If a charity or company please provide registration numbers. If a local partnership please explain the relationship to the Local Strategic Partnership for the area.

Not relevant.

Summary of your proposal

Please summarise your proposal. You may wish to include:

- The main elements of your proposal
- What issues your proposal is addressing and how it will promote the sustainability of the local community
- Who is affected by this proposal and how?
- Which public bodies might be affected?
- What are the main actions needed from Government?
- What do you expect this proposal to achieve?

1.5 Please enter your summary below (*word limit 1000 words*)

Background

As a strategic transport authority Transport for London has the responsibility for managing traffic on the red routes in order to ensure reliable bus journey times and reduce congestion.

However the footways are not of strategic importance; they are of local importance, many of the red routes acting as our High Streets and town centres.

What forms the character of these streets isn't the width or traffic capacity of the carriageway, it is the social and economic activities that are carried out alongside our streets.

Local residents and businesses cannot understand why the footways are managed and licensed differently to the surrounding area just because there is a red line painted in the gutter.

It is proposed that the local authority take over the licensing and enforcement of footways along the red routes.

The Main Elements

Specifically this will include:

- Utility works on the footway
- Scaffolding and mobile platforms
- Hoarding
- A-Boards
- Shoring
- Dispensing units
- Enforcement powers for tables and chairs
- Skips and building materials (off of the carriageway)

Community Benefits

All residents will benefit from treating whole neighbourhoods consistently. With borough wide policies and management that residents have been consulted on; local authorities can deliver what the local communities expect.

Residents will see their main streets managed in a way that suits their community rather than a remote broad brush approach that they find confusing and inconsistent with the rest of their borough.

Actions

The government can

- a. reassign the footways alongside red routes to the boroughs together with appropriate funding for maintenance or;
- b. TfL will pass over the licensing duties for the footways to the boroughs under s8 of the Highways Act, while either retaining maintenance responsibility or appointing the borough as their footway agent.

Benefits

By allowing boroughs to manage highway obstructions and clutter our neighbourhoods will be improved by:

A boards and other obstructions will no longer interfere with street sweeping;
scaffolding & hoarding licence fees and conditions will be consistent across neighbourhoods;
businesses will be treated equally for licensing A boards and dispensers and utility companies will be managed to suit local conditions rather than London wide procedures.

Section 2: About your proposal

The form asks a set of questions to gather as much information as possible to allow for assessment and short-listing by the Selector. A word-limit is stated for each part of the form.

We appreciate that SCA proposals will vary in range and scope, and some questions will be more relevant than others for any one proposal. Please do not feel that answers are required for every questions or that the full word limit need be used in respect of each and every question box. If you are submitting a joint proposal, please include evidence for all areas.

Impact on sustainability (*word limit 2000 words*)

2.1 Please explain how your proposal promotes sustainability as defined locally (for example in your Sustainable Communities Strategy or LAA)

By adopting a consistent approach across boroughs, residents and businesses will benefit from a consistent approach to managing their public space.

Residents and businesses will have just one application point for licensing and permits, managed to locally agreed policies and coordinated with similar activities in the neighbourhood.

Local management allows residents and businesses to contribute to the management process, developing the streets to suit their needs resulting in a stronger sense of ownership and stewardship of their streets.

Encouraging more use of our local town centres, promotes local regeneration, reduces travel and fosters civic ownership.

2.2 Over which geographic area will your proposal impact? (e.g. neighbourhood, town, city, sub-region)?

The impact will be felt across the borough. The red routes cut through our local town centres with their visitors being drawn from all local areas and beyond.

Each centre has its own character; serving as destinations for shopping; restaurants and entertainment business and commerce.

By tailoring the management of the public space to suit these particular characteristics they will retain and develop their own identity.

This individual character will attract the target visitors, improving regeneration and reducing traveling.

2.3 Who would benefit from your proposal?

The benefits will be widespread and include:

- residents whose local town centres are managed to suit them;
- businesses who benefit from the increased trade;
- the whole community that benefits from less travel and reduced congestion
- the borough will benefit from local stewardship of the public space, nurturing civic responsibility

2.4 What steps will you take to mitigate any adverse affects on sustainability from your proposal (if relevant)?

There are no adverse affects

2.5 What project, activities and changes would take place in your area if your proposal was successful?

The management of these footways would be absorbed into our existing street management structure.

It will be more convenient for residents and businesses to apply for licenses and permits to use the footway.

The local process allows businesses and residents to resolve their particular needs with local council officers.

Residents will be consulted when developing policies and procedures that will be consistent across the community.

2.6 Does your proposal involve transfers of responsibilities between public bodies in the area? If so what are these? What budgetary implications might be involved?

Responsibility for managing the footways will move from Transport for London to the local borough.

The service is self financing so it is not expected to have any financial implications.

Local authorities are required to 'have regard' to a set of specific issues when deciding whether to support SCA proposals. These are matters listed in Schedule 1 of the Act, as passed by Parliament¹. It is worth noting that the issues listed in the Act are not supposed to be exhaustive and that ideas can cover anything that promotes the sustainability of the local area.

Many of these matters may not be relevant to any one proposal. If you are submitting a joint proposal please include evidence for all areas.

2.7 Please identify which, if any, of the issues authorities are required to have regard to, are relevant to this proposal and include any data and information which you feel would be helpful in the assessment process.

a) the provision of local services

YES

b) the extent to which the volume and value of goods and services that are- i) offered for sale, ii) procured by public bodies, and are produced within 30 miles (or any lesser distance as may be specified by a local authority in respect of its area) of their place of sale of the boundary of the public body.

Not relevant.

c) the rate of increase in the growth and marketing of organic forms of food production and the local economy

Not relevant.

d) measures to promote reasonable access by all local people to a supply of food is adequate in terms of both amount and nutritional value

Not relevant.

e) the number of local jobs

YES

¹ The Sustainable Communities Act is available here :

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2007/ukpga_20070023_en_1

- f) measures to conserve energy and increase the quantity of energy supplies which are produced from sustainable sources within a 30 mile radius of the region in which they are consumed

Not relevant.

- g) measure taken to reduce the level of road traffic including, but not restricted to, local public transport provision, measures to promote walking and cycling and measures to decrease the amount of product miles

YES

- h) the increase in social inclusion, including an increase in involvement in local democracy

YES

- i) measures to increase mutual aid and other community projects

- j) measures designed to decrease emissions of greenhouse gases

YES

- k) measures designed to increase community health and wellbeing

YES

- l) planning policies which would assist with the purposes of this Act, including new arrangements for the provision of affordable housing

Not relevant.

- m) measures to increase the use of local waste materials for the benefit of the community

Not relevant.

Existing Barriers

(Please do not write more than 1000 words for 2.8 and 2.9)

2.8 What are the existing barriers to implementing your proposal?

The lack of understanding by Transport for London (TfL) that footways on the red routes contribute little or nothing to the strategic movement of traffic in London. The footways serve local communities and should be managed to suit their needs. The 'one size fits all' policy across London is not the appropriate way to deliver public expectations. It is within TfL's existing powers to transfer this responsibility to the boroughs.

2.9 What actions are needed by Government to make your proposal possible?

In the absence of any action by TfL, to amend the regulations to give the London Boroughs control of the footways on the Transport for London Road Network (TLRN)

Part 3: Local Authority Endorsement

This section should be completed by the proposing local authority. (Under the terms of the act this means a county council in England, a district council (including metropolitan, non metropolitan and unitary authorities), a London borough council, the Common Council of the City of London or the Council of the isles of Scilly)

3.1 Have consultation requirements been met? (500 words max)

Please confirm that your authority has met the statutory requirements for consultation on this proposal, via one or more panels of local representatives and persons from under-represented groups constituted in accordance with the Act and statutory guidance as set out in [*Strong Safe and Prosperous Communities*](#).

You may wish to describe who has been involved in discussions and development of the proposal (*e.g. council, local community organisations and residents groups, parish or town councils, local partnership bodies, local or national organisations, political parties, church and faith organisations, local businesses or chambers of commerce and others*).

If you have not done so already please give brief details of relevant panel meetings.

Please note if you are submitting a joint application please provide details of consultation and local support across all areas.

We told our local communities about the SCA through the Council website, our borough-wide resident magazine; residents' eBulletin; the Members' Bulletin; and directly to a range of community and third sector groups. This generated over 100 ideas to be put forward by residents, community groups as well as some staff members and councillors.

Council officers examined all the original proposals to sift out ones that appeared to go against existing council policy; where the council already has powers to take the action proposed; or where the proposal does not fall within the scope of the SCA for some other reason.

These proposals then went to a newly formed SCA panel to consider. This panel included residents from groups that councils have traditionally struggled to engage or forum members of such groups, including a blind resident, a resident with learning disabilities, and a resident (with an interpreter) who spoke English as a second language. The panel held its meeting on Monday 29 June and members looked in detail at a number of proposals each in some detail. Their comments and indications of interest or enthusiasm enabled us to sift further the proposals which were considered by, and agreed by, our Council's Executive.

3.2 What are the views from this consultation? You may wish to provide evidence of local support for your proposal? This might include petitions or letters of support from the public, local councillors, Members of Parliament, businesses, public bodies and agencies? Please

describe this evidence below. *(The local authority submitting the proposal is likely to wish to review such material and to summarise its content. Onward submission to the Selector of all original documentation will not normally be required).*

Some members of the SCA panel strongly supported this proposal but others were concerned about practical implications of the transfer in terms of co-ordination between TfL and the borough level, although these concerns were focused on traffic, rather than footways.

The council's Executive supported the proposal, which originated from a motion to council which gained cross-party support.

Proposals may include a change/transfer of functions from one person to another. If this is relevant to your proposal please confirm that the duties under clause 2, subsection 3 of the act (consulting with organisations affected by a change in location of a function) have been carried out.

3.3 Please give brief details of consultation with any affected organisations

We have noted the City Charter identifies scope for more devolution to London boroughs. We have had some discussions already with TfL about this proposal.

3.4 Confirmation of council support

The process for formal endorsement is a matter for local discretion; however we anticipate that authorities will wish to gain political endorsement and clearance for the proposal through the relevant processes at local level. Please give details of how formal approval has been attained.

The proposals were agreed at the Council's Executive meeting on 9 July 2009.

3.5 General comments

This is an opportunity for the local authority to express any additional comments or views on the proposal: This may include: *(1500 words max)*

- the council's view of levels of local support for the proposal
- any local opposition or objections that the Selector should be aware of
- relevance of the proposal to the area's Sustainable Community Strategy and Local Area Agreement
- outcome of any local authority discussions with agencies or public bodies affected
- potential regional/national significance of the proposal, if replicated elsewhere
- any major resource implications for the council or its local partners
- any other factors influencing viability and achievability of the proposal



Part 4: Assessment by the Selector

SCA proposals will be assessed by the LGA as Selector. This will include consideration, short listing and negotiation with the Secretary of State via the LGA Selector panel made up of councillors from the four parties represented on the LGA

The LGA Selector Panel is committed to undertaking the role in a transparent manner; as such reasons for decisions on proposals will be made available.

There will be no appeals process in relation to decisions of the Selector Panel.

4.1 Do you confirm your agreement to abide by the outcome of the Selector's assessment and decision-making processes?

Yes.

4.2 Would your council, accompanied by the originators of the proposal, wish to make a short verbal presentation to the Selector Panel, should this opportunity be available?

Yes.

Thank you for completing this form.

Please email it to selector@lga.gov.uk by 31 July 2009.