



Office of the
Deputy Prime Minister

Creating sustainable communities

To Chief Executives of:
District and County Councils
London Boroughs
The Greater London Authority
Joint Authorities
National Park Authorities
The Broads Authority

The Clerk:
City of London
Council of the Isle of Scilly

The Clerk:
Parish councils in England

Paul Rowsell
Head of Division
Democracy & Local Governance Division
Office of the Deputy Prime Minister
Zone 5/E8
Eland House
Bressenden Place
London SW1E 5DU

Enquiries: 020 7944 4262
Fax: 020 7944 4109
E-mail: cathryn.evans@odpm.gsi.gov.uk

Web site: www.odpm.gov.uk

12 April 2006

Local Authority Byelaws in England: A Discussion Paper

I am writing to inform you that we have today published the enclosed Discussion Paper on local authority byelaws in England. The paper also touches on certain byelaws that can be made by private sector organisations such as transport operators.

This Paper is one in a series of *local:vision* documents issued by ODPM as part of its ongoing dialogue with local government and local communities about working together to deliver better outcomes for people and places. It follows a commitment in the recently published Cabinet Office/ODPM report *Consents Regimes: Removing Unnecessary Bureaucracy* to review byelaw-making procedures and, in particular, the Secretary of State's role in confirming byelaws.

In particular the Paper looks at :

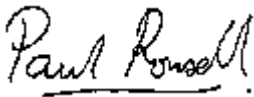
- whether the Secretary of State's role in confirming local byelaws continues to bring added value to the byelaw-making process;
- improving local consultation on proposals for new byelaws;
- the handling of proposed byelaws where there are substantive local objections, including rights of appeal;
- trends away from using byelaws to regulate public behaviour, for example Control Orders on alcohol consumption and dogs which are replacing byelaws on these matters; and
- whether a modern process for tackling a range of unacceptable behaviour and enforcing general standards of conduct might be through a new "community respect order".

The Paper covers a range of local authority and other byelaws which a number of different Government Departments oversee and which are all confirmed by the relevant Secretary of State. We envisage that the debate generated by this Paper will contribute to future policy decisions by Government on both improving and streamlining the byelaw-making process, and on possible new instruments for tackling some of the matters which currently are potentially the subject of byelaws.

As part of the on-going process for reforming and modernising local government, the Government intends to publish in the middle of the year a White Paper on the future of Local Government. Comments and views received before June in response to this Discussion Paper will help to inform the content of the White Paper.

Any queries or comments you may have on this Discussion Paper should be directed to Cathryn Evans (tel 0207 944 4262; email cathryn.evans@odpm.gsi.gov.uk) or William Tandoh (tel 0207 944 8765; email william.tandoh@odpm.gsi.gov.uk).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Rowsell". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined.

Paul Rowsell