

Annex Two –SCA additional proposals for further consideration put forwards by Executive on the 9th June 2009

SCA - Additional Proposals for Further Consultation

The Executive feels that the following composite issues are worthy of further consideration and that they do give the real possibility of a change of legislation:-

1. Greater powers to bring into use empty buildings and unused land. 'Councils should have the power and funding to buy any houses/apartments that are unsold for more than a year and make them available as affordable housing for people on their housing waiting list. This would both help to re-start the housing market and force developers to sell to a housing association/local council or cut their prices to meet what people can afford to pay in the current recession rather than they be left standing empty”.
2. Allocation of personal carbon budgets
3. Give the council powers to restrict usage of outdoor heating e.g. gas heaters used in pubs.
4. Restrictions on heating in e.g. shops who leave their frontage wide open.
5. Relaxation of conservation rules on listed buildings to allow double-glazing and better insulation as well as renewable energy installations (solar water, photovoltaics) on roofs etc.
6. Council to have powers to require retailers to take back packaging issued with goods
7. Recycling/Waste Management in the City: Give the council powers to:
 - a) restrict wasteful packaging and promote recyclable or compostable packaging for take away food sales (i.e. eliminate polystyrene boxes in favour of paper and card)
 - b) to require retail outlets and/or companies to collect recyclable containers (i.e. bottles and cans) against a deposit. For examples of this, look at Germany.
 - c) promote the use of (standard size and shape) returnable bottles, boxes and packaging, e.g. for food.
8. On the spot fines (including powers for PCSOs and Parking Wardens) for parking on verges and footpaths.

The following six issues are of concern to residents and we would support them. However, as they are diametrically opposite to the present governments policies we fear that they stand little chance of being embraced by the Government which would be necessary to enable legislative changes to be made:

- a) Legislate to ensure that the final decision on housing allocations target numbers for the LA area is made by the local authority through the LDF process rather than at the regional level whilst also requiring discussion of housing targets at the regional level.
- b) Re-regulate bus service operations
- c) Let York keep 100% of Council house rental income
- d) Require the local authorities to give preference to locally sourced food, building materials, paper, wood, fuel, etc. through its contracts. (NB requires changes to European legislation)
- e) Ensure that all landfill tax and LATS penalties are returned to local authorities for investment in further recycling, reduction, reuse and repair measures
- f) Retain business rates income locally.