

# News

## Part 1



OFFICE OF THE

"We are reducing overheads for small businesses and rewarding councils who develop business in their area. We are also encouraging business and councils

# **LOCAL GOVERNMENT BILL – POST ROYAL ASSENT**

## **ANNEX TO PRESS NOTICE**

### **PART 1 – CAPITAL FINANCE – SECTIONS 1-24**

Creates the framework for the new prudential capital finance system. Government borrowing controls based on "credit approvals" will be scrapped. Local authorities will be free to borrow and take out leases without Government consent, provided they can afford these commitments without

The Government are committed to keeping all ring-fencing under review, with the aim of removing it when possible.

***OTHER GRANTS ETC (CHAPTER 2)***

**SECTIONS 34, 35, 36 & 37 – BEST VALUE GRANT, GRANTS IN CONNECTION WITH DESIGNATION FOR SERVICE EXCELLENCE &**

**PART 5 – NON-DOMESTIC RATES – SECTIONS 60-73**

strategy/plan which is 'fit for purpose') they will not be required to submit these documents.

## **PART 8 – MISCELLANEOUS & GENERAL**

### ***CHARGING & TRADING***

#### **SECTIONS 93 & 94 – CHARGING**

Provides all Best Value Authorities in England and Wales with a general power to charge for discretionary services. It will encourage authorities to enhance their existing services and to develop new ones, in particular in relation to their well being, that will help to improve the overall service they provide to their community.

#### **SECTIONS 95-96 - TRADING**

Gives wider powers to enable local authorities to trade with private bodies and

also ensures that local authority transferees will be offered either retention of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) or a broadly comparable scheme.

## ***2004 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS***

### **SECTIONS 103 & 104 – POWER TO CHANGE DATE OF ELECTIONS IN ENGLAND & POWER TO CHANGE DATE OF ELECTIONS IN WALES**

Allows the date of local government and Greater London Authority elections in 2004 to be moved so that they can be held on the same day as the European Parliamentary election, making voting more convenient for voters. Builds on steps Government has already taken towards modern elections by moving to a rolling system of registration, extending the rights of electors to a postal



**SECTION 118 – APPROPRIATE SUM UNDER SECTION 137(4) OF THE  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

Provides a power for the upper limit for expenditure by parish and town

intention of doing so; and from promoting the teaching in any maintained school of the acceptability of homosexuality as a 'pretend family relationship'.

#### SCHEDULE 7. CLA MEETINGS