

English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill

RUNNING LIST OF ALL AMENDMENTS IN GRAND COMMITTEE

*Tabled up to and including
18 December 2025*

The amendments are listed in accordance with the following Instruction –

Clauses 1 to 4	Clause 38
Schedule 1	Schedule 19
Clauses 5 and 6	Clause 39
Schedule 2	Schedule 20
Clauses 7 to 9	Clauses 40 to 43
Schedule 3	Schedule 21
Clauses 10 to 20	Clauses 44 to 46
Schedule 4	Schedule 22
Clauses 21 to 23	Clause 47
Schedule 5	Schedule 23
Clause 24	Clauses 48 to 50
Schedule 6	Schedule 24
Clause 25	Clauses 51 and 52
Schedule 7	Schedule 25
Clause 26	Clauses 53 to 57
Schedule 8	Schedule 26
Clauses 27 and 28	Clauses 58 and 59
Schedule 9	Schedule 27
Clauses 29 and 30	Clauses 60 and 61
Schedule 10	Schedule 28
Clause 31	Clauses 62 and 63
Schedule 11	Schedule 29
Clause 32	Clauses 64 to 73
Schedule 12	Schedule 30
Clause 33	Clause 74
Schedules 13 and 14	Schedule 31
Clause 34	Clause 75
Schedule 15	Schedule 32
Clause 35	Clauses 76 to 84
Schedule 16	Schedule 33
Clause 36	Clause 85
Schedule 17	Schedule 34
Clause 37	Clauses 86 to 93
Schedule 18	Title

[Amendments marked ★ are new or have been altered]

Clause 2

BARONESS SCOTT OF BYBROOK
LORD JAMIESON

- ★ Clause 2, page 2, line 18, leave out paragraph (a)

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment seeks to probe whether, within a strategic authority's competence, it would have the power to borrow in order to nationalise local transport.

BARONESS SCOTT OF BYBROOK
LORD JAMIESON

- ★ Clause 2, page 2, line 24, leave out paragraph (g)

Member's explanatory statement

This probing amendment seeks to determine what is meant by "public safety", and on what legal definition this remit is set out.

THE EARL OF CLANCARTY
BARONESS MCINTOSH OF PICKERING
LORD FREYBERG
BARONESS PRASHAR

Clause 2, page 2, line 24, at end insert —

“(h) the arts, creative industries, cultural services and heritage.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment adds the arts, creative industries, cultural services and heritage as an area of competence for strategic authorities.

BARONESS ROYALL OF BLAISDON

- ★ Clause 2, page 2, line 24, at end insert —

“(h) rural affairs.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would add "rural affairs" to the list of areas of competence in clause 2 of the Bill.

After Clause 2

BARONESS SCOTT OF BYBROOK
LORD JAMIESON

★ After Clause 2, insert the following new Clause –

“Powers of strategic authorities

- (1) A strategic authority may exercise functions within an area of competence only within a powers framework set by the Secretary of State, who must by regulations made by statutory instrument –
 - (a) specify the scope and limits of the powers that may be exercised in relation to each area of competence,
 - (b) identify any functions reserved to central government, and
 - (c) impose any conditions or statutory objectives applicable to the exercise of those powers,and a strategic authority must publish a statement setting out which such powers it has assumed and how those powers relate to the functions of its constituent councils.
- (2) Regulations under this section are subject to the affirmative resolution procedure.”

Member's explanatory statement

This probing amendment seeks to clarify how strategic authorities will be expected to identify, seek, and assume powers within the areas of competence, and how accountability for those powers will be maintained. It establishes that powers must sit within a framework set by the Secretary of State, ensuring clarity over scope, limits and conditions, and transparency for constituent councils and Parliament as to where responsibility lies.

Clause 3

BARONESS SCOTT OF BYBROOK
LORD JAMIESON

★ Clause 3, page 2, line 33, leave out subsection (4)

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment seeks to probe whether the affirmative procedure is deemed sufficient scrutiny for these Secretary of State powers relating to the creation of single foundation strategic authorities.

BARONESS SCOTT OF BYBROOK
LORD JAMIESON

★ *The above-named Lords give notice of their intention to oppose the Question that Clause 3 stand part of the Bill.*

Schedule 1

BARONESS SCOTT OF BYBROOK
LORD JAMIESON

- ★ Schedule 1, page 89, line 15, leave out paragraph (b)

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment, and other amendments tabled Baroness Scott of Bybrook, remove the ability of the Secretary of State to create, or make certain changes to the governance or composition of, combined authorities without the consent of the councils involved.

BARONESS SCOTT OF BYBROOK
LORD JAMIESON

- ★ Schedule 1, page 89, line 33, leave out paragraph (b)

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment, and other amendments tabled Baroness Scott of Bybrook, remove the ability of the Secretary of State to create, or make certain changes to the governance or composition of, combined authorities without the consent of the councils involved.

BARONESS SCOTT OF BYBROOK
LORD JAMIESON

- ★ Schedule 1, page 91, line 6, leave out paragraph 8

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment, and other amendments tabled Baroness Scott of Bybrook, remove the ability of the Secretary of State to create, or make certain changes to the governance or composition of, combined authorities without the consent of the councils involved.

BARONESS SCOTT OF BYBROOK
LORD JAMIESON

- ★ Schedule 1, page 91, line 8, leave out paragraph 9

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment, and other amendments tabled Baroness Scott of Bybrook, remove the ability of the Secretary of State to create, or make certain changes to the governance or composition of, combined authorities without the consent of the councils involved.

BARONESS SCOTT OF BYBROOK
LORD JAMIESON

- ★ Schedule 1, page 91, line 14, leave out paragraph 11

BARONESS SCOTT OF BYBROOK
LORD JAMIESON

- ★ Schedule 1, page 92, line 36, leave out paragraph 16

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment seeks to probe the proposal for the new combined authority, in circumstances where it is directed by the Secretary of State rather than by the communities it is intended to serve.

BARONESS SCOTT OF BYBROOK
LORD JAMIESON

- ★ Schedule 1, page 93, line 34, leave out paragraph 17

BARONESS SCOTT OF BYBROOK
LORD JAMIESON

- ★ Schedule 1, page 96, line 14, leave out paragraph 19

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment seeks to probe the proposal for the creation or expansion of a combined authority where the Secretary of State directs the inclusion of existing areas, rather than by the communities it is intended to serve.

BARONESS SCOTT OF BYBROOK
LORD JAMIESON

- ★ Schedule 1, page 98, line 13, leave out paragraph 20

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment seeks to probe the proposal for the creation or expansion of a combined authority where the Secretary of State directs the inclusion of existing areas, rather than the communities it is intended to serve.

BARONESS SCOTT OF BYBROOK
LORD JAMIESON

- ★ Schedule 1, page 99, line 10, leave out paragraph 21

BARONESS SCOTT OF BYBROOK
LORD JAMIESON

- ★ Schedule 1, page 102, line 36, leave out paragraph (b)

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment, and other amendments tabled by Baroness Scott of Bybrook, remove the ability of the Secretary of State to create, or make certain changes to the governance or composition of, combined county authorities without the consent of the councils involved.

BARONESS SCOTT OF BYBROOK
LORD JAMIESON

- ★ Schedule 1, page 103, line 10, leave out paragraph (b)

BARONESS SCOTT OF BYBROOK
LORD JAMIESON

- ★ Schedule 1, page 104, line 5, leave out paragraph (b)

BARONESS SCOTT OF BYBROOK
LORD JAMIESON

- ★ Schedule 1, page 104, line 17, leave out paragraph (b)

BARONESS SCOTT OF BYBROOK
LORD JAMIESON

- ★ Schedule 1, page 105, line 10, leave out paragraph 33

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment, and other amendments tabled by Baroness Scott of Bybrook, remove the ability of the Secretary of State to create, or make certain changes to the governance or composition of, combined county authorities without the consent of the councils involved.

BARONESS SCOTT OF BYBROOK
LORD JAMIESON

- ★ Schedule 1, page 105, line 12, leave out paragraph 34

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment, and other amendments tabled by Baroness Scott of Bybrook, remove the ability of the Secretary of State to create, or make certain changes to the governance or composition of, combined county authorities without the consent of the councils involved.

BARONESS SCOTT OF BYBROOK
LORD JAMIESON

- ★ Schedule 1, page 105, line 13, leave out paragraph 35

BARONESS SCOTT OF BYBROOK
LORD JAMIESON

- ★ Schedule 1, page 106, line 34, leave out paragraph 38

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment, and other amendments tabled by Baroness Scott of Bybrook, remove the ability of the Secretary of State to create, or make certain changes to the governance or composition of, combined county authorities without the consent of the councils involved.

BARONESS SCOTT OF BYBROOK
LORD JAMIESON

- ★ Schedule 1, page 107, line 34, leave out paragraph 39

BARONESS SCOTT OF BYBROOK
LORD JAMIESON

- ★ Schedule 1, page 110, line 16, leave out paragraph 41

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment, and other amendments tabled by Baroness Scott of Bybrook, remove the ability of the Secretary of State to create, or make certain changes to the governance or composition of, combined county authorities without the consent of the councils involved.

BARONESS SCOTT OF BYBROOK
LORD JAMIESON

- ★ Schedule 1, page 112, line 13, leave out paragraph 42

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment, and other amendments tabled by Baroness Scott of Bybrook, remove the ability of the Secretary of State to create, or make certain changes to the governance or composition of, combined county authorities without the consent of the councils involved.

BARONESS SCOTT OF BYBROOK
LORD JAMIESON

- ★ Schedule 1, page 113, line 15, leave out paragraph 43

Clause 6

BARONESS SCOTT OF BYBROOK
LORD JAMIESON

- ★ *The above-named Lords give notice of their intention to oppose the Question that Clause 6 stand part of the Bill.*

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment seeks to probe why the Government consider it necessary to amend the LURA 2023. Specifically, it would introduce general decision-making arrangements for Combined Authorities and County Combined Authorities, replacing the bespoke constitutional arrangements currently set out in the LURA 2023.

Clause 8

BARONESS SCOTT OF BYBROOK
LORD JAMIESON

★

Clause 8, page 8, leave out lines 27 to 28

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment removes the new subsection inserting a new section into the LURA to provide the Secretary of State with the power to designate a mayoral strategic authority as an established mayoral strategic authority.

Clause 9

BARONESS MCINTOSH OF PICKERING

Clause 9, page 11, line 29, leave out “7” and insert “8”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment, connected with others in the name of Baroness McIntosh of Pickering, seeks to ensure that Mayors in rural areas must appoint an extra commissioner, who would have responsibility for rural affairs.

LORD SHIPLEY
BARONESS SCOTT OF BYBROOK
LORD JAMIESON

The above-named Lords give notice of their intention to oppose the Question that Clause 9 stand part of the Bill.

Member's explanatory statement

By opposing this and another Question, Lord Shipley seeks to remove the ability of Mayors to appoint commissioners, as this means that they are not elected

Schedule 3

BARONESS MCINTOSH OF PICKERING

Schedule 3, page 121, line 4, at end insert—

“(1A) The mayor must appoint a commissioner with competence for rural affairs if their authority is a majority or intermediate rural authority according to the Rural Urban Classification.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment, connected with others in the name of Baroness McIntosh of Pickering, seeks to ensure that Mayors in rural areas must appoint an extra commissioner, who would have responsibility for rural affairs.

BARONESS MCINTOSH OF PICKERING

Schedule 3, page 128, line 27, at end insert—

“(1A) The mayor must appoint a commissioner with competence for rural affairs if their authority is a majority or intermediate rural authority according to the Rural Urban Classification.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment, connected with others in the name of Baroness McIntosh of Pickering, seeks to ensure that Mayors in rural areas must appoint an extra commissioner, who would have responsibility for rural affairs.

LORD SHIPLEY

Lord Shipley gives notice of his intention to oppose the Question that Schedule 3 be the Third Schedule to the Bill.

Member's explanatory statement

By opposing this and another Question, Lord Shipley seeks to remove the ability of Mayors to appoint commissioners, as this means that they are not elected.

Clause 11

BARONESS SCOTT OF BYBROOK
LORD JAMIESON

★

Clause 11, page 14, line 33, leave out subsection (1)

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment seeks to probe why the Government propose to change the precept arrangements as set out in the LURA 2023.

Clause 15

BARONESS SCOTT OF BYBROOK
LORD JAMIESON

- ★ *The above-named Lords give notice of their intention to oppose the Question that Clause 15 stand part of the Bill.*

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment seeks to prove why additional powers for the Mayor of London may be conferred by secondary legislation.

After Clause 15

BARONESS PIDGEON

After Clause 15, insert the following new Clause —

“Power to require attendance at Assembly meetings

- (1) Section 61 (power to require attendance at Assembly meetings) of the Greater London Authority Act 1999 is amended as follows.
- (2) In subsection (1), for “or (5)” substitute “, (5), (5A) or (5B)”
- (3) In section 61, after subsection (5) insert —
 - “(5A) This subsection applies to the Mayor of London.
 - (5B) This subsection applies to —
 - (a) any person who has professional competence, specialist knowledge or relevant experience connected to the delivery, management or oversight of services provided in or on behalf of Greater London, and
 - (b) any person who is a member of, or a member of staff of, a body which employs individuals with such competence, knowledge or experience.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment extends the categories of persons whom the London Assembly may require to attend its meetings or produce documents. It adds a new subsection to section 61 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999 to include the Mayor of London and those professionals providing services related to Greater London.

BARONESS PIDGEON

After Clause 15, insert the following new Clause —

“Greater London Authority Act 1999: amendment of Schedule 6

- (1) The Greater London Authority Act 1999 is amended as follows.

- (2) In Schedule 6 (procedure for determining the Authority’s consolidated council tax requirement), in paragraph 8(4), leave out “at least two-thirds of the Assembly members voting” and insert “the Assembly”.

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment alters the voting requirement for the Assembly to change the Authority’s consolidated council tax requirement by replacing the two-thirds majority currently required under paragraph 8(4) of Schedule 6 to the Greater London Authority Act 1999 with a simple majority of the Assembly.

Clause 19

BARONESS SCOTT OF BYBROOK
LORD JAMIESON

★

Clause 19, page 23, line 6, at end insert –

- “(f) the progress of housebuilding as a consequence of devolution, including whether housing targets are being met and whether the right types of housing are being delivered to meet local needs,
- (g) the rate and distribution of economic growth in devolved areas, with particular reference to the impact of newly devolved powers,
- (h) any tax changes made within devolved areas under the powers conferred by this Act, including analysis of their fiscal impact and effect on local services, and
- (i) changes to the organisation, delivery, and funding of social care in devolved areas, including an assessment of outcomes for service users.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment expands the reporting requirements placed on the Secretary of State. It seeks to probe how the Government will assess the wider consequences of devolution, including the impact on housebuilding and whether local housing targets are being met; the effect of devolved powers on economic growth; the fiscal implications of tax changes introduced by devolved authorities; and the consequences of devolution for the delivery, funding, and outcomes of social care services.

Clause 22

THE EARL OF CLANCARTY
BARONESS MCINTOSH OF PICKERING
LORD FREYBERG
BARONESS PRASHAR

Clause 22, page 25, line 38, after “social” insert “, cultural”

Schedule 5

BARONESS MCINTOSH OF PICKERING

Schedule 5, page 144, line 11, at end insert—

- “(3) The regulations must make provision for a licence to prohibit the provider of micromobility vehicles from providing a pedal cycle or electrically assisted pedal cycle to a person who does not have insurance.”

After Clause 37

BARONESS ROYALL OF BLAISDON

★

After Clause 37, insert the following new Clause—

“Duty to consider the needs of rural communities

- (1) When considering whether or how to exercise any of its functions a combined authority, a CCA and each district council or county council that is a strategic authority must have regard to the needs of rural communities in relation to land use, the development of land and regeneration, housing, employment, health and wellbeing.
- (2) When considering whether or how to exercise any function, the mayor for the area of a combined authority and the mayor for the area of a CCA must have regard to the considerations set out in subsection (1).”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would require strategic authorities and their mayors, when considering whether or how to exercise any of their functions, to have regard to the needs of rural communities.

Schedule 20

BARONESS MCINTOSH OF PICKERING

LORD FREYBERG

THE EARL OF CLANCARTY

Schedule 20, page 225, line 22, at end insert—

- “(2A) The mayoral combined authority must include amongst the projects identified measures that will promote growth through the safeguarding and promotion of existing cultural, creative, and community infrastructure such as grassroots music venues, theatres and other live performance spaces.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment, connected with another in the name of Baroness McIntosh of Pickering, seeks to ensure that local growth plans include provision about cultural venues.

BARONESS MCINTOSH OF PICKERING
LORD FREYBERG
THE EARL OF CLANCARTY

Schedule 20, page 227, line 23, at end insert—

“(2A) The mayoral CCA must include amongst the projects identified measures that will promote growth through the safeguarding and promotion of existing cultural, creative, and community infrastructure such as grassroots music venues, theatres and other live performance spaces.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment, connected with another in the name of Baroness McIntosh of Pickering, seeks to ensure that local growth plans include provision about cultural venues.

Clause 42

BARONESS SCOTT OF BYBROOK
LORD JAMIESON

★ Clause 42, page 41, leave out lines 35 to 39

Member's explanatory statement

This probing amendment seeks to understand why the provision is limited solely to current employees of a constituent council of a combined authority, and does not extend to other employers participating in the LGPS. It aims to explore the rationale for excluding staff of housing associations, admitted bodies, and other local employers who play a significant role in the community, and to question whether this distinction is justified or creates unnecessary inconsistency within the scheme.

BARONESS SCOTT OF BYBROOK
LORD JAMIESON

★ Clause 42, page 42, leave out lines 1 to 4

Member's explanatory statement

This probing amendment seeks to explore the workability and functionality of the duty requiring a combined authority to assist in identifying or developing LGPS investment opportunities, and to test concerns that such a requirement would place the authority in conflict with the scheme manager's fiduciary responsibilities, which must remain independent and solely focused on the interests of scheme members.

BARONESS SCOTT OF BYBROOK
LORD JAMIESON

★ Clause 42, page 42, leave out lines 11 to 14

Member's explanatory statement

This probing amendment seeks to probe the workability of the provision requiring scheme managers to participate in an asset pool company either as shareholders or through mandatory contracts. The intention is to test how this provision affects scheme managers' flexibility and their fiduciary duties to act solely in the interests of scheme members, as well as whether participation in asset pool companies is appropriate for all funds or future pooling arrangements.

BARONESS SCOTT OF BYBROOK
LORD JAMIESON

★

Clause 42, page 42, leave out lines 38 to 40

Member's explanatory statement

This probing amendment seeks to clarify the form and mechanism through which administering authorities would be expected to put forward local investment opportunities identified within their asset pools. It aims to test how such opportunities would be presented, assessed, and communicated in practice, and whether the Bill provides sufficient clarity to ensure that any process operates consistently with scheme managers' fiduciary duties and existing LGPS governance structures.

Clause 44

LORD ADDINGTON

Clause 44, page 44, line 27, after the first "to" insert "the level of public access to fitness, sports and recreational facilities within the authority's area, and"

After Clause 44

BARONESS WALMSLEY

After Clause 44, insert the following new Clause –

"Mayoral functions: advertising

- (1) Within six months of the day on which this Act is passed, the Secretary of State must make regulations to enable mayors and local authorities to carry out functions relating to the display of advertising.
- (2) Such regulations must –
 - (a) transfer or otherwise provide for the exercise of powers under section 220 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (regulations controlling display of advertisements) to mayors and local authorities, and
 - (b) provide that such functions include –
 - (i) a duty to consider the impact of advertisements on public health, and
 - (ii) the regulation of content of advertisements deemed to have an adverse impact on local health or likely to exacerbate inequalities in health outcomes.

- (3) Regulations under this section may amend provision made by or under an Act passed –
 - (a) before this Act, or
 - (b) later in the same session of Parliament as this Act.
- (4) Regulations under this section are subject to the affirmative resolution procedure.”

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause would provide mayors and local authorities with the power to regulate advertising, and include duties on their use of that power in relation to public health and health inequalities.

Clause 45

LORD GODDARD OF STOCKPORT

Clause 45, page 49, line 37, at end insert –

- “(c) arrange for the deputy mayor for fire and rescue to exercise one or more of the Mayor’s fire and rescue authority functions.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment requires a Mayor with Fire and Rescue Authority functions to delegate those functions to a Deputy Mayor for Fire and Rescue, ensuring governance arrangements parallel to those for policing.

Clause 59

LORD BLUNKETT

Lord Blunkett gives notice of his intention to oppose the Question that Clause 59 stand part of the Bill.

Schedule 27

LORD PARKINSON OF WHITLEY BAY

Schedule 27, page 286, line 16, leave out paragraph 6

LORD BLUNKETT

Lord Blunkett gives notice of his intention to oppose the Question that Schedule 27 be the Twenty-Seventh Schedule to the Bill.

After Clause 61

LORD PACK

After Clause 61, insert the following new Clause —

“Local Government Act 2000: repeal of section 87

- (1) The Local Government Act 2000 is amended as follows.
- (2) Omit section 87 (power to change years in which elections are held).
- (3) In section 88 (separate power to make incidental provisions) omit “or 87” in both places it occurs.”

Member's explanatory statement

This new Clause repeals section 87 of the Local Government Act 2000, removing the Secretary of State's power to alter the years in which ordinary local government elections are held by secondary legislation.

LORD PACK

After Clause 61, insert the following new Clause —

“Changes to years in which ordinary elections are held

In the Local Government Act 2000, for section 87 substitute —

“87 Changes to years in which ordinary elections are held

- (1) The years in which ordinary elections of councillors of any local authority are to be held may be changed only by an Act of Parliament.
- (2) No provision may be made under this Act enabling the Secretary of State or any other person to change the years in which ordinary elections of councillors are to be held by order, regulations or other delegated legislation.”

Member's explanatory statement

This new Clause removes the delegated power in section 87 of the Local Government Act 2000 and replaces it with a requirement that any change to the years in which ordinary local elections are held must be made by primary legislation.

BARONESS PINNOCK

After Clause 61, insert the following new Clause —

“Mayoral election: alternative vote system

- (1) Within three months beginning on the day on which this Act is passed, the Secretary of State must by regulations make provision for the use of the alternative vote system in elections of mayors.

- (2) Regulations under this section may not be made unless a draft has been laid before Parliament and approved by a resolution of each House.”

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause would require the introduction of the Alternative Vote System for elections of mayoral elections within three months.

After Clause 62

LORD BLUNKETT

After Clause 62, insert the following new Clause –

“Full council meetings: specified day

- (1) The Secretary of State may, by regulations made by statutory instrument, specify dates and times when local authorities in England must hold their full council meetings.
- (2) The power in subsection (1) may only be exercised following consultation with the Local Government Association.
- (3) Regulations made under this section are subject to the affirmative resolution procedure.”

BARONESS MCINTOSH OF PICKERING

After Clause 62, insert the following new Clause –

“Local authorities: meetings

- (1) The Secretary of State may by regulations establish arrangements where, in circumstances specified in those regulations, a meeting of a local authority is not limited to a meeting of persons who are all present in the same place.
- (2) Circumstances specified may include circumstances affecting –
 - (a) individual councillors, such as illness or disability, or
 - (b) a council as a whole, such as adverse weather or flooding.
- (3) Regulations under this section are subject to affirmative resolution procedure.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment seeks to ensure that local authorities can hold council meetings online, for example if travelling to the council chamber was made difficult by heavy snowfall or flooding.

After Clause 63

BARONESS MCINTOSH OF PICKERING

★

After Clause 63, insert the following new Clause –

“Agent of change: integration of new development with existing businesses and facilities

(1) In this section –

“agent of change principle” means the principle requiring planning policies and decisions to ensure that new development can be integrated effectively with existing businesses and community facilities so that those businesses and facilities do not have unreasonable restrictions placed on them as a result of developments permitted after they were established;

“development” has the same meaning as in section 55 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (meaning of “development” and “new development”);

“licensing functions” has the same meaning as in section 4(1) of the Licensing Act 2003 (general duties of licensing authorities);

“provision of regulated entertainment” has the same meaning as in Schedule 1 to the Licensing Act 2003 (provision of regulated entertainment).

(2) In exercising any functions under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 or any licensing functions concerning development which is or is likely to be affected by an existing business or facility, a local authority shall have special regard to the agent of change principle.

(3) An application for development within the vicinity of any premises licensed for the provision of regulated entertainment shall contain a noise impact assessment.

(4) In determining whether noise emitted by or from an existing business or community facility constitutes a nuisance to a residential development, the decision-maker shall have regard to –

(a) the chronology of the introduction of the relevant noise source and the residential development, and

(b) what steps have been taken by the developer to mitigate the entry of noise from the existing business or facility to the residential development.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would place a duty on local authorities to have regard to the agent of change principle when exercising development or licensing functions.

After Clause 73

LORD PACK

After Clause 73, insert the following new Clause —

“Local authority responsibility for cattle grids

- (1) Within three months of the day on which this Act is passed, the Secretary of State must, by regulations, make provision to ensure that local authorities have primary responsibility for the maintenance and oversight of cattle grids in their local authority area.
- (2) Regulations under this section are subject to negative resolution procedure.”

Clause 74BARONESS SCOTT OF BYBROOK
LORD JAMIESON

- ★ *The above-named Lords give notice of their intention to oppose the Question that Clause 74 stand part of the Bill.*

Member's explanatory statement

This is a probing amendment which seeks to understand why a Local Audit Office is necessary.

Clause 75BARONESS SCOTT OF BYBROOK
LORD JAMIESON

- ★ Clause 75, page 72, leave out lines 5 to 23

Member's explanatory statement

This is a probing amendment designed to understand why the Government proposes creating a Local Audit Office to maintain a register of audit providers if the LAO will also have the power to designate another organisation as the external registration body responsible for holding such a register.

BARONESS SCOTT OF BYBROOK
LORD JAMIESON

- ★ Clause 75, page 72, leave out lines 20 to 23

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment removes the LAO's ability to charge fees.

BARONESS SCOTT OF BYBROOK
LORD JAMIESON

- ★ Clause 75, page 74, leave out lines 5 to 11

Member's explanatory statement

This probing amendment removes the clause to seek clarity on why the Local Audit Office should be given powers to form, acquire interests in, or provide financial or other assistance to audit firms. The intention is to understand the rationale for allowing the regulator to act as a market participant.

BARONESS SCOTT OF BYBROOK
LORD JAMIESON

- ★ Clause 75, page 74, line 19, at end insert —

- “(4) Where the Office decides to carry out local audits under this Act, it must comply with all statutory requirements and professional auditing standards applicable to local audit providers under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.
- (5) In particular, the Office must ensure that its audit practice is subject to the same regime of independent supervision, inspection and enforcement as applies to private firms approved to undertake local audits, including those arrangements overseen by the Financial Reporting Council and recognised supervisory bodies.
- (6) The Office must ensure that no part of its audit practice is exempt from the quality assurance, regulatory oversight or enforcement mechanisms that apply to any other local audit provider.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment seeks to ensure that, if the Local Audit Office elects to carry out local authority audits itself, its audit work will be subject to the same standards, scrutiny and independent oversight as apply to private firms undertaking local audits.

Clause 76

BARONESS SCOTT OF BYBROOK
LORD JAMIESON

- ★ Clause 76, page 75, line 7, at end insert —

- “(1A) The specific individual who acts as the Key Audit Partner (KAP) for a local council audit must rotate off the engagement after a maximum of 10 years.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment introduces a maximum ten-year rotation period for the individual acting as the Key Audit Partner (KAP) on a local council audit completed by the LAO.

After Clause 85

LORD NORTON OF LOUTH

After Clause 85, insert the following new Clause —

“Review of the Act

- (1) The Secretary of State must —
 - (a) carry out a review of the operation and effect of this Act,
 - (b) set out the conclusions of the review in a report,
 - (c) publish the report, and
 - (d) lay a copy of the report before Parliament.
- (2) The report must be published before the end of the period of five years beginning with the day on which this Act is passed.
- (3) The report must, in particular —
 - (a) assess the extent to which the objectives intended to be achieved by this Act have been achieved, and
 - (b) assess whether those objectives remain appropriate and, if so, the extent to which they could be achieved more effectively in any other way.
- (4) In carrying out the review, the Secretary of State must publish an invitation for interested parties to make submissions on the operation of the Act.”

Clause 89

BARONESS MCINTOSH OF PICKERING

Clause 89, page 85, line 11, at end insert —

- “(A1) Before making any regulations under this Act, the Secretary of State must publish an assessment of the impact of this Act on rural areas, including its costs and benefits.”

Clause 93

BARONESS PINNOCK

Clause 93, page 88, line 36, leave out “Devolution and Community Empowerment” and insert “Delegation and Local Authority Functions”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment changes the title of the Bill to more accurately reflect its provisions related to the rebalancing between central and local governments.

English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill

RUNNING LIST OF ALL AMENDMENTS IN GRAND COMMITTEE

*Tabled up to and including
18 December 2025*

18 December 2025

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS