

English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill

AMENDMENTS
TO BE MOVED
IN GRAND COMMITTEE

[Supplementary to the Marshalled List]

Amendment
No.

Clause 9

LORD BASSAM OF BRIGHTON

- 50A★ Clause 9, page 11, line 4, leave out “not more than 7”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would remove the statutory cap on the number of commissioners that may be appointed by a mayoral authority.

BARONESS WILLIS OF SUMMERTOWN

- 51A★ Clause 9, page 11, line 9, at end insert –

“(1A) The Mayor must appoint a person for each of the areas of competence listed in section 2 of the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Act 2026.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment, and another in the name of Baroness Willis of Summertown, would ensure that there was a commissioner responsible for each of the areas of competence outlined in section 2 of this Bill.

LORD BASSAM OF BRIGHTON

- 51B★ Clause 9, page 11, line 28, leave out “not more than 7”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would remove the statutory cap on the number of commissioners that may be appointed by a mayoral authority.

BARONESS WILLIS OF SUMMERTOWN

52A★ Clause 9, page 11, line 34, at end insert –

“(1A) The Mayor must appoint a person for each of the areas of competence listed in section 2 of the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Act 2026.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment, and another in the name of Baroness Willis of Summertown, would ensure that there was a commissioner responsible for each of the areas of competence outlined in section 2 of this Bill.

Schedule 9

LORD MOYLAN

115A★ Schedule 9, page 157, line 28, at end insert –

“(1C) The key route network must consist only of classified numbered roads carrying strategic motor traffic.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment ensures that the highways or proposed highways that constitute the KRN are genuinely strategic.

LORD MOYLAN

115B★ Schedule 9, page 158, line 25, at end insert –

“(1C) The key route network must consist only of classified numbered roads carrying strategic motor traffic.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment ensures that the highways or proposed highways that constitute the KRN are genuinely strategic.

Schedule 10

LORD BLUNKETT

121A★ Schedule 10, page 173, line 15, at end insert –

“*Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984*

22 Section 32 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (power of local authorities to provide parking places) is amended as follows.

23 After subsection (2), insert—

- “(2A) A local transport authority or designated upper-tier local authority outside Greater London may prohibit pavement parking in their local area and may exempt individual streets.
- “(2B) Prohibitions under subsection (2A) may—
 - (a) exempt certain vehicles, or
 - (b) allow pavement parking in specified circumstances.
- “(2C) The Secretary of State may, by regulations, set out the process by which local transport authorities or designated upper-tier local authorities should exercise their powers under subsections (2A) and (2B) and may require them to conduct a consultation.
- “(2D) The Secretary of State may issue guidance on the provision of pavement parking by local transport authorities or designated upper-tier local authorities.
- “(2E) Prohibitions made under subsection (2A) may be enforced by civil enforcement officers employed by the local transport authority or designated upper-tier local authority.
- “(2F) A statutory instrument containing regulations under subsection (2C) is subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament.””

Clause 44

LORD HUNT OF KINGS HEATH

165A★ Clause 44, page 45, line 14, at end insert—

- “(f) the degree of ease or difficulty with which persons have access to high quality wheelchair and community equipment provision,”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would include wheelchair and community equipment provision in the list of 'general health determinants' that authorities need to have regard to as a cause of health inequality.

After Clause 56

LORD BASSAM OF BRIGHTON

196A★ After Clause 56, insert the following new Clause—

“Mayoral special advisers

- (1) A mayor may appoint mayoral special advisers.

- (2) A “mayoral special adviser” is a person (“P”) who holds a position within a mayoral strategic authority and whose appointment to that position meets the requirements in subsection (3).
- (3) The requirements are—
 - (a) P is appointed to assist the Mayor after being selected by the Mayor personally;
 - (b) the appointment will end not later than—
 - (i) the day on which the Mayor ceases to hold office, or
 - (ii) if earlier, the end of the day after the day of the poll at the election following the appointment.
- (4) A mayor making any mayoral special adviser appointments must—
 - (a) prepare an annual report about mayoral special advisers serving, and
 - (b) lay the report before the relevant Strategic Authority.
- (5) An annual report made on mayoral special advisers must contain information about the number and cost of the mayoral special advisers.
- (6) The pay and remuneration of mayoral special advisers should be determined by the mayor with reference to the responsibilities of the role, experience of the candidate and allowances scheme for commissioners.
- (7) The Secretary of State must publish a code of conduct for mayoral special advisers (“the code”).
- (8) Before publishing the code (or any revision of it) the Secretary of State must consult the mayors of strategic authorities.
- (9) The code must provide that a mayoral special adviser may not—
 - (a) authorise the expenditure of public funds, or
 - (b) exercise any power in relation to the management of any part of the mayoral or strategic authority.
- (10) The code must provide that a mayoral special adviser may—
 - (a) engage in political activity, and
 - (b) provide party-political advice to the Mayor.
- (11) The code must form part of the terms and conditions of service of any mayoral special adviser.
- (12) A person appointed under this section is not to be regarded, for the purposes of Part I of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (political restriction of officers and staff), as holding a politically restricted post under a local authority.”

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause would insert a new section allowing mayors to appoint special advisers, to require mayors to publish an annual report on costs of any mayoral special adviser appointments they make and to have reference solely to the pay scales for commissioners and responsibilities of the role before making any decisions on their remuneration. It also extends these provisions to Greater London.

LORD BASSAM OF BRIGHTON

196B★ After Clause 56, insert the following new Clause—

“Local accounting officers

- (1) Within one year beginning on the day on which this Act is passed, the Secretary of State must by regulations make provision for the establishment of local accounting officers in each established mayoral strategic authority area.
- (2) Regulations made under this section must—
 - (a) make provision for the Head of Paid Service in an established mayoral strategic authority to be the principal local accounting officer responsible for the value for money of mayoral strategic authority spending, including any monies given by the Secretary of State,
 - (b) make provision for the scrutiny of the local accounting officer within a strategic authority area by relevant local scrutiny bodies,
 - (c) make provision for the designation of other members of staff as additional accounting officers.
- (3) The principal local accounting officer has—
 - (a) in relation to the accounts of the established mayoral strategic authority, and
 - (b) in relation to the performance by persons designated as accounting officers in pursuance of any provision of this Act of their responsibilities as accounting officers,

the responsibilities which are from time to time specified by the Treasury.
- (4) Regulations under this section are subject to affirmative resolution procedure.”

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause would require the introduction of local accounting officers, including the designation of the Head of Paid Service in established mayoral strategic authorities to create local accountability for spend and allow places to innovate subject to local value for money considerations and scrutiny by relevant bodies and responsibilities set out by the Treasury. This is modelled on Devolved Administration processes.

Schedule 29

BARONESS BENNETT OF MANOR CASTLE

This amendment is intended to replace Amendment 203 and corrects its position on the Marshalled List

223A★ Schedule 29, page 296, line 37, after “economic” insert “, environmental”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment and another in my name to Schedule 29 seek to extend the community right to buy to include assets that further the environmental wellbeing of local communities, alongside economic and social benefits; provided that the land is not allocated otherwise for the local development plan.

BARONESS BENNETT OF MANOR CASTLE

This amendment is intended to replace Amendment 204 and corrects its position on the Marshalled List

- 224A★** Schedule 29, page 296, line 38, after “economic” insert “, environmental”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment and another in my name to Schedule 29 seek to extend the community right to buy to include assets that further the environmental wellbeing of local communities, alongside economic and social benefits; provided that the land is not allocated otherwise for the local development plan.

Clause 65

LORD BORWICK
BARONESS BRINTON
BARONESS GREY-THOMPSON

- 235A★** Clause 65, page 64, line 16, leave out “may” and insert “must”

Member's explanatory statement

This probing amendment, and others in the name of Lord Borwick, seeks to ensure that the Secretary of State makes regulations related to the licensing of taxis and private hire vehicles within six months of the day on which this Act is passed.

LORD BORWICK
BARONESS BRINTON
BARONESS GREY-THOMPSON

- 235B★** Clause 65, page 64, line 17, at end insert “, which must require taxis to conform with minimum taxi accessibility requirements under section 160(1) to (3) of the Equality Act 2010 within three years of the day on which such regulations are made.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment, and another in the name of Lord Borwick, seeks to commence section 160(1) to (3) of the Equality Act 2010 in relation to minimum taxi accessibility requirements, and ensure that the standards prescribed under clause 65 of this Bill conform with those taxi accessibility requirements in the Equality Act 2010.

After Clause 68

LORD BORWICK
BARONESS BRINTON
BARONESS GREY-THOMPSON

235C★ After Clause 68, insert the following new Clause—

“Minimum accessibility requirements for taxis

- (1) In section 160(1) of the Equality Act 2010 (taxi accessibility regulations), after “regulations”) insert “which must be adhered to in the prescribing of standards for the licensing of taxis under section 65 (standards relating to the grant of a regulated licence) of the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Act 2026.”
- (2) The Secretary of State must, by regulations under section 216(3) of the Equality Act 2010, commence section 160(1) to (3) (taxi accessibility regulations) of that Act on the day on which this Act is passed.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment, and another in the name of Lord Borwick, seeks to commence section 160(1) to (3) of the Equality Act 2010 in relation to minimum taxi accessibility requirements, and ensure that the standards prescribed under clause 65 of this Bill conform with those taxi accessibility requirements in the Equality Act 2010.

Clause 71

LORD BORWICK
BARONESS BRINTON
BARONESS GREY-THOMPSON

235D★ Clause 71, page 68, line 21, at end insert—

- “(A1) The Secretary of State must make regulations under section 65 within six months of the day on which this Act is passed.”

Member's explanatory statement

This probing amendment, and others in the name of Lord Borwick, seeks to ensure that the Secretary of State makes regulations related to the licensing of taxis and private hire vehicles within six months of the day on which this Act is passed.

After Clause 73

LORD PACK

241A★ After Clause 73, insert the following new Clause—

“Local Authority Social Media Strategies

- (1) A local authority must prepare and publish a social media strategy.

- (2) The strategy must set out—
 - (a) how the local authority intends to use individual social media platforms,
 - (b) governance and oversight arrangements for social media use, and
 - (c) arrangements for review of the strategy.
- (3) The strategy must include a risk assessment addressing—
 - (a) risks relating to misinformation and disinformation,
 - (b) risks to public trust and confidence, and
 - (c) risks relating to data protection, information security, and the use of automated or algorithmic tools.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would require local authorities to publish a social media strategy, including a risk assessment, setting out how the authority and its elected officials intend to use individual social media platforms.

Clause 92

LORD BORWICK
 BARONESS BRINTON
 BARONESS GREY-THOMPSON

- 260A★** Clause 92, page 86, line 18, leave out subsection (3)

Member's explanatory statement

This probing amendment, and others in the name of Lord Borwick, seeks to ensure that the Secretary of State makes regulations related to the licensing of taxis and private hire vehicles within six months of the day on which this Act is passed.

LORD BORWICK
 BARONESS BRINTON
 BARONESS GREY-THOMPSON

- 261A★** Clause 92, page 87, line 20, at end insert—

- “(z2a) section 64 (“national minimum standard” and “regulated licence”);
- “(z2b) section 65 (standards relating to the grant of a regulated licence);
- “(z2c) section 66 (standards relating to the suspension or revocation of a regulated licence);
- “(z2d) section 67 (standards relating to the renewal of a regulated licence);
- “(z2e) section 68 (further provision about standards);
- “(z2f) section 69 (guidance);
- “(z2g) section 70 (relationship with existing licensing legislation);
- “(z2h) section 71 (regulations);
- “(z2i) section 72 (interpretation);”

Member's explanatory statement

This probing amendment, and others in the name of Lord Borwick, seeks to ensure that the Secretary of State makes regulations related to the licensing of taxis and private hire vehicles within six months of the day on which this Act is passed.

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19 January 2026
