

English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill

RUNNING LIST OF ALL AMENDMENTS ON REPORT

*Tabled up to and including
11 March 2026*

[Amendments marked ★ are new or have been altered]

Clause 2

THE EARL OF CLANCARTY
BARONESS GRIFFIN OF PRINCETHORPE
LORD FREYBERG
BARONESS PRASHAR

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

“(h) the arts, culture and heritage.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment adds the arts, culture and heritage as an area of competence for strategic authorities.

Clause 9

THE EARL OF CLANCARTY
LORD FREYBERG

Clause 9, page 11, line 4, leave out “7” and insert “8”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment is connected to an amendment in the Earl of Clancarty's name to clause 2, which would add the arts, culture and heritage as an area of competence.

THE EARL OF CLANCARTY
BARONESS MCINTOSH OF PICKERING
LORD FREYBERG

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

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment is connected to an amendment in the Earl of Clancarty's name to clause 2, which would add the arts, culture and heritage as an area of competence.

LORD SHIPLEY

Leave out Clause 9

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would remove the ability of Mayors to appoint commissioners.

After Clause 22

LORD SHIPLEY
BARONESS PIDGEON

After Clause 22, insert the following new Clause—

“People’s Question Time

- (1) The mayor for the area of a mayoral strategic authority or mayoral combined authority must twice in every financial year hold and attend a meeting under this section (to be known as a “People’s Question Time”) which is to be open to all members of the public.
- (2) The purpose of a People’s Question Time is to afford an opportunity to members of the public to put questions to the mayor and to enable the mayor to respond.
- (3) The form of, and procedure for, a People’s Question Time is to be such as the mayor may determine.
- (4) At least one month prior to the date on which each People’s Question Time is to be held, the mayor must—
 - (a) determine the place at which the meeting is to be held, and
 - (b) take such steps as will in the mayor's opinion give adequate notice of the date and place of the meeting to members of the public.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment requires the mayor of a mayoral combined authority or combined county authority to hold a public meeting known as a “People's Question Time” twice a financial year to answer questions from the public. This ensures regional mayors are subject to the same level of democratic scrutiny as the Mayor of London, mirroring the existing mayoral provisions contained in section 48 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999.

After Clause 37

BARONESS MCINTOSH OF PICKERING

After Clause 37, insert the following new Clause –

“Sustainable drainage assessments

- (1) In their functions under this Part related to planning applications, strategic authorities must conduct and publish a sustainable drainage assessment.
- (2) The assessment under subsection (1) must include consideration of whether existing public sewerage systems have capacity to support proposed developments in planning applications.”

LORD BEST
LORD SHIPLEY

★ After Clause 37, insert the following new Clause –

“Chief Planner

After section 1 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (local planning authorities), insert –

“1A Local planning authorities and strategic authorities: Chief Planner

- (1) Each local planning authority and each strategic authority, as defined in section 1(2) of the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Act 2026 (strategic authorities), must appoint an officer, to be known as Chief Planner, for the purposes of their functions in relation to planning and spatial development.
- (2) Two or more authorities may, if they consider that the same person can efficiently discharge for both or all of the authorities the functions of Chief Planner, concur in the same appointment of a person as Chief Planner for both or all of these authorities.
- (3) An authority may not appoint a person as Chief Planner unless satisfied that the person has appropriate qualifications and experience for the role.”

Member's explanatory statement*This amendment would require authorities with planning and spatial development functions to appoint a Chief Planner to lead this professional work.*

After Clause 61

LORD PACK

After Clause 61, insert the following new Clause –

“Restriction on powers to change years of local elections

- (1) In the Local Government Act 2000, for section 87 (power to change years in which elections held) substitute –

“87 Restriction on changing years of ordinary elections

- (1) The years in which ordinary elections of any local authority councillors or mayors are 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.”
- (2) In section 88 (separate power to make incidental provisions) omit “or 87” in both places it occurs.
- (3) In the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, in section 50 (ordinary elections), after subsection (5) insert –
- “(5A) An order under this section must not include provision to cancel, postpone or otherwise change the year in which an ordinary election of Police and Crime Commissioners would otherwise be held.”
- (4) In the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 –
- (a) in section 7 (implementation of proposals by order), after subsection (3) insert –
- “(3A) Except where an order provides for the dissolution of a local authority, an order under this section must not include provision to cancel, postpone or otherwise change the year in which an ordinary election of councillors for a local authority or mayors would otherwise be held.”;
- (b) in section 10 (implementation of recommendations by order), after subsection (4) insert –
- “(4A) Except where an order provides for the dissolution of a local authority, an order under this section must not include provision to cancel, postpone or otherwise change the year in which an ordinary election of councillors for a local authority would otherwise be held.”.
- (5) Any existing power in any other enactment which permits the Secretary of State by order or regulations to change the year in which a local government election is held shall cease to have effect in relation to that power.

- (6) Any Act whose effect shall include or solely be the changing of the years in which ordinary elections of councillors, mayors, or Police and Crime Commissioners are to be held, shall not be presented to His Majesty and become an Act of Parliament on the Royal Assent being signified, unless and until the Secretary of State has –
- (a) made a statement to both Houses of Parliament certifying that due regard has been given to the impact of the proposed change on the administration and costs of any other elections or referendums scheduled to be held on the same day,
 - (b) made such relevant financial provision as is necessary to ensure that parish councils, town councils, or other smaller authorities do not incur additional financial liabilities resulting from the loss of cost-sharing arrangements with the cancelled or postponed election, and
 - (c) laid before Parliament a written statement setting out the arrangements for ensuring that the democratic mandate of any authority not subject to the change is not undermined by the administrative separation of the polls.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment ensures that the years in which ordinary elections for local councillors, mayors, and Police and Crime Commissioners are held can only be changed by an Act of Parliament.

BARONESS SCOTT OF BYBROOK
LORD JAMIESON

After Clause 61, insert the following new Clause –

“Limitation on delay to elections resulting from local government reorganisation

- (1) The Secretary of State may not make any order or regulations to delay the ordinary elections of councillors of any specified authority if –
 - (a) the order or regulations result from any change to local government organisation under or by virtue of this Act, and
 - (b) the effect of the order or regulations is to delay any such election by a period exceeding 53 weeks from the date on which it was originally scheduled to be held.
- (2) For the purposes of this section, “any order or regulations” includes –
 - (a) an order under section 87 (power to change years in which elections held) of the Local Government Act 2000;
 - (b) an order under sections 7 (implementation of proposals by order), 10 (implementation of recommendations by order) of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007;
 - (c) any other delegated power exercisable by order or by regulations in relation to the scheduling of ordinary elections of councillors.”

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause would prevent the Secretary of State from delaying by more than one year any local government election, if the delay results from local government reorganisation under this Act.

BARONESS SCOTT OF BYBROOK
LORD JAMIESON

After Clause 61, insert the following new Clause –

“Pilot schemes for new local electoral procedures: amendment

- (1) The Representation of the People Act 2000 is amended as follows.
- (2) In section 10 (pilot schemes for local elections in England and Wales), after subsection (4) insert –
 - “(4A) An order under subsection (1) shall be made by statutory instrument, and no such order shall be made unless a draft of the statutory instrument containing the order has been laid before, and approved by a resolution of, each House of Parliament.”
- (3) Omit section 11 (revision of procedures in the light of pilot schemes).”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment seeks to (1) apply the affirmative resolution procedure to orders establishing pilot schemes for new local government electoral procedures, and (2) repeal the Secretary of State's order-making power to apply the piloted procedures generally to other local government elections.

LORD PACK

★ After Clause 61, insert the following new Clause –

“Limitation on powers to delay or change years of local elections

- (1) The years in which ordinary elections of any local authority councillors, mayors, or Police and Crime Commissioners are held may be changed only by an Act of Parliament, subject to the exception in subsection (2).
- (2) The Secretary of State may by order or regulations make provision to delay the ordinary elections of councillors of a specified authority if –
 - (a) the specified authority has submitted a written request to the Secretary of State for such a delay,
 - (b) the Secretary of State is satisfied that the request is justified, having particular regard to –
 - (i) the necessity of the delay to implement a change to local government organisation under or by virtue of this Act,
 - (ii) the financial implications for the authority and the impact on the efficient administration of local government, and
 - (iii) the views of the Electoral Commission, which the Secretary of State must seek and publish prior to making the order or regulations,
 - (c) the effect of the order or regulations is to delay such an election by a period not exceeding 53 weeks from the date on which it was originally scheduled to be held, and

- (d) the power under this subsection has not been exercised in relation to that specified authority at any time within the five years preceding the date of the request.
- (3) For the purposes of subsection (2), “order or regulations” includes –
 - (a) an order under section 87 of the Local Government Act 2000 (power to change years in which elections held),
 - (b) an order under section 7 or 10 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, and
 - (c) any other delegated power exercisable in relation to the scheduling of ordinary elections.
- (4) A statutory instrument containing an order or regulations is subject to affirmative resolution procedure.
- (5) Except as provided for in subsection (2), any existing power in any other enactment which permits the Secretary of State by order or regulations to change the year in which a local government election is held shall cease to have effect.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would provide that the year of ordinary elections for local authority councillors, mayors and Police and Crime Commissioners may only be changed by Act of Parliament, except where the Secretary of State delays an election for up to 53 weeks at the request of the relevant authority and subject to specified conditions, including consultation with the Electoral Commission.

LORD PACK

★ After Clause 61, insert the following new Clause –

“Local government elections: single transferable vote

- (1) Elections of councillors for local authorities in England must be conducted using the single transferable vote system.
- (2) The Secretary of State must by regulations make provision for the conduct of elections under the single transferable vote system.
- (3) Regulations under subsection (2) may amend or modify any enactment relating to the conduct of local government elections in England, including –
 - (a) section 6 the Local Government Act 1972 (term of office and retirement of councillors);
 - (b) section 36 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 (local elections in England).
- (4) For the purposes of implementing subsection (1), the Local Government Boundary Commission for England must conduct electoral reviews of local authorities in England.
- (5) A review under subsection (4) must –
 - (a) establish multi-member electoral wards for the election of councillors,

- (b) seek to ensure that each ward returns not fewer than three and not more than five councillors, unless the Commission considers that exceptional local circumstances justify a different number, and
- (c) have regard to the need to secure –
 - (i) equality of representation,
 - (ii) the reflection of community identities and interests, and
 - (iii) effective local government.
- (6) Reviews carried out under this section must be completed before the first ordinary day of election for councillors occurring after the end of the period of three years beginning with the day on which this Act is passed.
- (7) A statutory instrument containing regulations is subject to the affirmative resolution procedure.”

After Clause 62

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
THE EARL OF CLANCARTY
LORD FREYBERG

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);
- “relevant authority” means a local planning authority construed in accordance with Part I of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, or a licensing authority within the meaning of section 3 of the Licensing Act 2003 (licensing authorities)
- (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 relevant 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.”

BARONESS PINNOCK

After Clause 63, insert the following new Clause—

“Local authority acquisition of dormant assets

- (1) The Secretary of State must by regulations enable a local authority to carry out functions relating to compulsory acquisition of land under section 226A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (inserted by Schedule 16 of this Act) where the local authority is satisfied that any land of community value to be purchased within the authority area is dormant.
- (2) Land of community value is considered dormant if—
- (a) the land has been included in the authority’s list of assets of community value under section 86A (inserted by Schedule 29 of this Act) for five years continuously,
 - (b) a notice of relevant disposal under section 86M was issued at least once during the five year period under sub-paragraph (a),

- (c) there has been a preferred community buyer whose offer was rejected despite the buyer offering the value price determined under section 86T or an agreed price with the owner by the end of the negotiation period (see section 86S(4)), and
 - (d) the owner has not entered into a relevant disposal of the land with any other buyer during the permitted sale period under section 86M(6).
- (3) Regulations made under this section are subject to affirmative resolution procedure.”

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause would allow the Secretary of State to authorise a local authority to engage the compulsory acquisition function under Schedule 16 of this Act if the land is considered dormant.

After Clause 73

BARONESS MCINTOSH OF PICKERING

After Clause 73, insert the following Clause –

“Local planning authority: duty to consult fire and rescue services

- (1) Where a local planning authority is considering a planning application relating to energy infrastructure, the local planning authority must consult the local fire and rescue service for the place which the application relates to.
- (2) The local planning authority must have regard to any increased fire risk arising from the infrastructure project when assessing the application.”

Member's explanatory statement

This probing amendment seeks to ensure that where a planning application relates to energy projects (for example, battery energy storage systems), fire and rescue services are statutory consultees.

Clause 89

BARONESS MCINTOSH OF PICKERING

Clause 89, page 86, line 35, 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.”

Schedule 3

BARONESS MCINTOSH OF PICKERING

Schedule 3, page 123, 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 130, 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

Leave out Schedule 3

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment relates to another amendment in Lord Shipley's name removing the power to appoint Mayoral Commissioners in the Bill.

Schedule 5

BARONESS MCINTOSH OF PICKERING

Schedule 5, page 146, 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.”

Schedule 20

BARONESS MCINTOSH OF PICKERING
LORD FREYBERG
THE EARL OF CLANCARTY

Schedule 20, page 227, 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 229, 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.

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