

Environment Bill Policy Statement

8. Delivering environmental ambition at the local level

Local government has an essential role to play responding to challenges at a local level, leading specific and locally appropriate responses and driving innovation. Local authorities - as local experts, place-shapers, and conveners of their communities – must be empowered to play a fundamental role in delivering the environmental action needed in local areas.

The Bill bolsters the role of local leaders by providing additional powers and flexibilities to deliver action. This Bill delivers this through:

- improved and increased powers to take more effective action to address the challenges in each local area
- greater certainty through the planning system on how to plan effectively for the local environment
- providing more certainty and simplicity for developers by mandating biodiversity net gain, and ensuring that all new developments enhance biodiversity and help deliver thriving natural spaces for communities
- ensuring that producers can be held responsible for the full net costs of managing products at end of life, reducing local authorities' financial burdens from waste management, including litter collection
- stronger abilities to improve health and social outcomes for local citizens
- supporting local authorities as place shapers through new tools and data for effective spatial planning

The Bill creates a framework in which strong local government leadership will be enhanced to drive the necessary, and once in a lifetime environmental improvements to reverse decades of biodiversity loss and improve air quality.

Government will fully fund all new burdens on local authorities arising from the Bill in order to make our ambition a reality. We are committed to working in partnership with local government, businesses and wider stakeholders on the implementation of these measures, to identify and secure the capacity and skills to deliver a cleaner, greener and healthier environment.