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STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

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**2005 No. 157**

**The Local Authorities' Plans and Strategies  
(Disapplication) (England) Order 2005**

**Citation and commencement**

1. This Order may be cited as the Local Authorities' Plans and Strategies (Disapplication) (England) Order 2005 and shall come into force on the day after the day on which it is made.

**Interpretation**

2. In this Order—

“English local authority” has the meaning given by section 99(7) of the Local Government Act 2003; and

“excellent authority” means an English local authority categorised as excellent by reason of an order made by the Secretary of State under section 99(4) of the Local Government Act 2003.

**Disapplication of duty to publish new homelessness strategies**

3.—(1) Section 1(4) of the Homelessness Act 2002<sup>(1)</sup> shall not apply to local housing authorities<sup>(2)</sup> which are excellent authorities.

(2) Paragraph (3) applies where a local housing authority cease, by reason of an order made by the Secretary of State under section 99(4) of the Local Government Act 2003, to be categorised as excellent.

(3) Where this paragraph applies the authority shall be treated as an excellent authority for the purpose of paragraph (1), for a period—

- (a) of such length, no shorter than one year and not exceeding two years, as the Secretary of State may specify in writing to the authority, and
- (b) beginning with the date on which the order mentioned in paragraph (2) comes into force.

**Disapplication of duty to submit home energy conservation reports**

4.—(1) Section 2 of the Home Energy Conservation Act 1995<sup>(3)</sup> (in this article, “the Act”), and the power of the Secretary of State to give directions under section 5 of the Act, shall not apply to energy conservation authorities<sup>(4)</sup> which are excellent authorities.

(2) Where, at the date on which this Order comes into force, an excellent authority have prepared a report and published and sent it to the Secretary of State in accordance with section 2(6) of the Act, section 3(2) of the Act shall not apply in relation to that authority.

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(1) 2002 c. 7.

(2) For the relevant definition of “local housing authority”, see section 4 of the Homelessness Act 2002.

(3) 1995 c. 10.

(4) For the definition of “energy conservation authority”, see section 1(1) of the Home Energy Conservation Act 1995.

(3) Paragraph (4) applies where an energy conservation authority cease, by reason of an order made by the Secretary of State under section 99(4) of the Local Government Act 2003, to be categorised as excellent.

(4) Where this paragraph applies the authority shall be treated as an excellent authority for the purposes of paragraph (1), for a period of one year beginning with the date on which the order mentioned in paragraph (3) comes into force.

### **Disapplication of duty to prepare youth justice plans, and amendment of provisions relating to such plans**

5.—(1) Section 40(1) of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998<sup>(5)</sup> shall not apply to local authorities<sup>(6)</sup> which are excellent authorities.

(2) In consequence of paragraph (1), sections 39 to 42 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 shall apply, in relation to local authorities which are excellent authorities, subject to the modifications set out in Schedule 1 to this Order.

(3) Notwithstanding paragraph (1)—

- (a) an excellent authority who, at the date on which this Order comes into force, have formulated a youth justice plan for the current year, may implement that plan, and
- (b) an excellent authority other than one described in sub-paragraph (a) may formulate and implement a youth justice plan,

and in either case sections 39 to 42 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 shall apply in relation to the authority as though unmodified by this Order.

(4) Paragraph (5) applies to a local authority who—

- (a) have not formulated a youth justice plan, and
- (b) by reason of an order made by the Secretary of State under section 99(4) of the Local Government Act 2003, cease to be categorised as excellent.

(5) Where this paragraph applies the authority shall be treated as an excellent authority for the purpose of paragraph (1), for a period of one year beginning with the date on which the order mentioned in paragraph (4)(b) comes into force.

### **Disapplication of duties to prepare and publish rights of way improvement plans, and amendment of provisions relating to such plans**

6.—(1) Subject to paragraphs (2) to (4), section 60 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000<sup>(7)</sup> (in this article, “the CROW Act”) shall not apply to local highway authorities<sup>(8)</sup> which are excellent authorities.

(2) An excellent authority may prepare and publish a rights of way improvement plan in accordance with section 60(1) and, if they do so, section 60(2) to (5) and section 61 of the CROW Act shall apply to the authority.

(3) Where, at the date on which this Order comes into force, an excellent authority have prepared a rights of way improvement plan under section 60(1), but have not published it—

- (a) the authority may publish the plan and, if they do so, section 60(2) to (5) and section 61 of the CROW Act shall apply to the authority, or

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(5) 1998 c. 37.

(6) For the relevant definition of “local authority”, see section 42(1) of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

(7) 2000 c. 37.

(8) For the relevant definition of “local highway authority”, see section 45 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, referring to section 329(1) of the Highways Act 1980 (c. 66).

- (b) the authority may decide not to publish the plan and, if they do so, they shall publish a report of their decision and of the reasons for it in two or more local newspapers circulating in their area.
- (4) Where, at the date on which this Order comes into force, an excellent authority have prepared and published a rights of way improvement plan under section 60(1)—
  - (a) the authority may implement the plan and, if they do so, section 60(2) to (5) and section 61 of the CROW Act shall apply to the authority, or
  - (b) the authority may decide not to implement the plan and, if they do so—
    - (i) the plan shall be of no effect, and
    - (ii) the authority shall publish a report of their decision and of the reasons for it in two or more local newspapers circulating in their area.
- (5) Paragraphs (6) and (7) apply in a case where an excellent authority—
  - (a) by virtue of paragraph (1), do not prepare and publish a rights of way improvement plan,
  - (b) by virtue of paragraph (3)(b), decide not to publish such a plan, or
  - (c) by virtue of paragraph (4)(b), decide not to implement such a plan.
- (6) Notwithstanding paragraphs (1) to (4) of this article, where this paragraph applies the authority shall remain under a duty—
  - (a) to take action for the management of local rights of way and for securing an improved network of local rights of way, with particular regard to the matters specified in section 60(2) of the CROW Act, and
  - (b) before doing so to consult the bodies and persons specified in section 61(1)(a) to (h) of the CROW Act.
- (7) Where this paragraph applies and the authority cease, by reason of an order made by the Secretary of State under section 99(4) of the Local Government Act 2003, to be categorised as excellent, the authority shall be treated as an excellent authority for the purposes of paragraph (1), for a period—
  - (a) of such length, no shorter than one year and not exceeding two years, as the Secretary of State may specify in writing to the authority, and
  - (b) beginning with the date on which the order comes into force.
- (8) In paragraph (6)(a), “local rights of way” has the meaning given by section 60(5) of the CROW Act.

**Disapplication of duties to prepare local transport plans and bus strategies, and amendment of provisions relating to such plans**

7.—(1) Sections 108(3) and 110(1) (duties to prepare local transport plan and bus strategy) of the Transport Act 2000(9) shall not apply to local transport authorities(10) which are excellent authorities.

- (2) In consequence of paragraph (1)—
  - (a) the provisions of Part 2 of the Transport Act 2000 mentioned in Part 1 of Schedule 2 to this Order shall apply in relation to excellent authorities subject to the modifications set out in that Part of that Schedule;

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(9) 2000 c. 38.

(10) For the relevant definition of “local transport authority” in relation to England, see section 108(4) of the Transport Act 2000.

- (b) the provisions of the Transport Act 1985<sup>(11)</sup> mentioned in Part 2 of Schedule 2 to this Order shall apply in relation to excellent authorities subject to the modifications set out in that Part of that Schedule.
- (3) An excellent authority who, at the date on which this Order comes into force—
  - (a) have prepared a local transport plan or
  - (b) are taken by the operation of section 109(5) of the Transport Act 2000 to have a local transport plan,
 may at any time decide that they will cease to exercise their powers under Part 2 of that Act by reference to the plan and, if they do so, the plan shall cease to have effect from the date of their decision.
- (4) Notwithstanding paragraphs (1) and (3), an excellent authority may prepare a local transport plan and, if they do so, the Transport Act 2000 and the Transport Act 1985 shall apply in relation to the authority as though unmodified by this Order.
- (5) Paragraph (6) applies where a local transport authority—
  - (a) by virtue of paragraph (1), do not have a local transport plan, or
  - (b) by virtue of paragraph (4), decide not to implement a local transport plan.
- (6) Where this paragraph applies and the authority cease, by reason of an order made by the Secretary of State under section 99(4) of the Local Government Act 2003, to be categorised as excellent, the authority shall be treated as an excellent authority for the purposes of paragraph (1), for a period—
  - (a) of such length, no shorter than one year and not exceeding two years, as the Secretary of State may specify in writing to the authority, and
  - (b) beginning with the date on which the order comes into force.

### **Disapplication of duty to prepare action plans in relation to air quality**

- 8.—**(1) Section 84(2)(b) of the Environment Act 1995<sup>(12)</sup> (duty to prepare an action plan) shall not apply to local authorities<sup>(13)</sup> which are excellent authorities.
- (2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1)—
    - (a) an excellent authority may prepare an action plan and, if they do so, the provisions of Part 4 of the Environment Act 1995 shall apply in relation to the authority as though unmodified by this Order; and
    - (b) an excellent authority who do not prepare an action plan shall remain under a duty to exercise their powers in pursuit of the achievement of air quality standards and objectives in the designated area.
  - (3) In consequence of paragraph (1), section 85 of the Environment Act 1995 shall apply in relation to excellent authorities with the modifications shown in paragraph (4).
  - (4) In section 85 (reserve powers)—
    - (a) in subsection (4)—
      - (i) after the word “above” in the first place in which it occurs, insert “and subject to subsection (5B) below”;
      - (ii) for the words “that subsection” substitute the words “subsection (3) above”;
    - (b) in subsection (5), at the beginning insert “Subject to subsection (5B) below,”;

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<sup>(11)</sup> 1985 c. 67.

<sup>(12)</sup> 1995 c. 25.

<sup>(13)</sup> For the relevant definition of “local authority”, see section 91(1) of the Environment Act 1995.

(c) after subsection (5A)(14), insert—

“(5B) The powers to give directions under subsections (3), (5) and (5A) above may not be exercised so as to require a local authority which is an excellent authority to prepare an action plan for a designated area.

(5C) But directions given to an excellent authority by the Secretary of State under subsections (5) or (5A) above may require the authority to exercise its powers in pursuit of the achievement of air quality standards and objectives in a designated area.

(5D) In subsections (5B) and (5C) above, “excellent authority” has the meaning given to that term by the Local Authorities' Plans and Strategies (Disapplication) (England) Order 2005.”

(5) Paragraph (6) applies where a local authority cease, by reason of an order made by the Secretary of State under section 99(4) of the Local Government Act 2003, to be categorised as excellent.

(6) Where this paragraph applies the authority shall be treated as an excellent authority for the purposes of paragraph (1), for a period of one year beginning with the date on which the order mentioned in paragraph (5) comes into force.

Signed by authority of the First Secretary of State

31st January 2005

*Phil Hope*  
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State Office of  
the Deputy Prime Minister