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**Permitted development rights: supporting temporary recreational campsites, renewable energy and film-making consultation**

Thank you for giving the Society of Local Council Clerks the opportunity to comment on this important consultation document.

The Society of Local Council Clerks is the professional body representing town and parish council clerks in England and Wales. More than 4,000 local council clerks are in membership serving over 6,000 town and parish councils throughout England and Wales.  Influencing, shaping and guiding the planning system is a high priority for many of our members.  This issue is, therefore, of special significance and importance to the Society and its members.

In formulating this response, we have consulted with our members.

We have concentrated on those questions that are of the greatest relevance and significance to local councils in England.  Taking each question in turn.

**Q34. Do you agree that the permitted development right allowing for development by local authorities should be amended so that the development permitted can also be undertaken by a body acting on behalf of the local authority?**

Yes/No/Don’t Know. Please give your reasons.

Yes.  We support this.  This would reduce complexity, costs and other burdens as well as increasing certainty and flexibility to local authorities (including town and parish councils) wishing to undertake development in their area.  The present lack of certainty and flexibility in this important respect often acts a barrier to town and parish councils and other local authorities.

There will also be wider economic and other benefits such as promoting and supporting, swifter, and improving the quality of, development.

We note and continue to welcome that the definition of local authorities includes town and parish councils.

**Q35. Do you think that any of the proposed changes in relation to the permitted development right could impact on: a) businesses b) local planning authorities c) communities?**

Yes/No/Don’t know. Please give your reasons. It would be helpful if you could specify whether your comments relate to a) business, b) local planning authorities, or c) communities, or a combination.

Yes.  As above, we think there would be positive impacts on town and parish councils, other local authorities, businesses, local planning authorities and communities.