



## Civic Voice briefing: new clause in Growth and Infrastructure Bill giving local choice over permitted development reforms

### Introduction

Civic Voice, the national charity representing 75,000 civic volunteers across England, is urging Members of Parliament in the House of Commons on 16<sup>th</sup> April to support the amendment:

“Development orders: development within the curtilage of a dwelling house”  
[<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2012-2013/0157/13157.1-4.html>],  
inserted into the Growth and Infrastructure Bill by the House of Lords.

- ☞ Passed by the House of Lords against Government wishes, the new clause had cross-party support having been tabled by Lord True (Conservative), Lord Tope (Lib Dem), Lord McKenzie of Luton (Labour), and the Earl of Lytton (Crossbench) [<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldhansrd/text/130326-0001.htm#13032658000813>].
- ☞ The amendment, which would allow a local authority to opt out of proposed legislative measures to extend permitted development rights if it believes it is not appropriate for its area, will be considered by the House of Commons on 16th April.
- ☞ The Department for Communities and Local Government has confirmed it will seek to overturn the amendment. The Lords narrowly backed this amendment by 217 votes to 211 which means it could be removed if not enough MPs support it on April 16<sup>th</sup>
- ☞ The amendment is a modest concession which does not block the Government's reform being adopted automatically wherever local communities want it. Instead, it allows local decision making and demonstrates Localism in action.
- ☞ The relaxation of permitted development is championed by Planning Minister Nick Boles who has admitted that it is impossible to estimate its impact on economic growth [<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/9529049/Nick-Boles-I-dont-know-if-conservatory-push-will-work.html>].
- ☞ In the consultation “Extending permitted development rights” (December 2012) 1,400+ responses were made to the Government, and 375 MPs were contacted by Civic Voice members opposed to the measures, demonstrating the strength of feeling generated.

### Summary

**Civic Voice is asking all MPs to back this important amendment when it is debated in the House of Commons on April 16th and to support its retention in any enacted legislation introduced under the Growth and Infrastructure Bill.**

### Contact

Ian Harvey, Civic Voice,  
07877 096968 / 0151 708 9920 / [ian.harvey@civicvoice.org.uk](mailto:ian.harvey@civicvoice.org.uk) / @civic\_voice /  
[www.civicvoice.org.uk](http://www.civicvoice.org.uk)