

1. A set of principles designed to articulate the most effective role of local government as argued in this consultation document might take the form set out below. These principles are designed with a focus on local government but they also establish core aspects of the relationship with central government and – crucially – with citizens:
 - A local government comprises councils, composed of members democratically elected by the citizens of a local area, and having powers and duties which Parliament grants, including the power to promote and improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of citizens in their area
 - B local government enables democratic local decision making and action by, and on behalf of, communities
 - C local government should be free to exercise its functions in the interests of their citizens without unnecessary direction or control from central government or other agencies, while recognising that central government should intervene where there is critical or sustained underperformance
 - D local government must exercise its functions fairly and openly, and to seek to ensure that all local citizens are aware of their rights and responsibilities in relation to those functions
 - E local government must seek to ensure that people are informed about what the council is doing, and can participate in the affairs of councils, both in accordance with electoral law through local elections, and through a wide range of formal and informal other means; these might include local polls, referendums, the ‘councillor call for action’, petitions, neighbourhood engagement, community planning, consultations, public meetings and engaging with their local councillor
 - F all those participating in local public life should act in accordance with the *Seven Principles of Public Life* promulgated by the Committee on Standards in Public Life, and in line with accepted standards of financial management and efficiency. Those elected as members of councils have the responsibility to maintain the trust of their electorate and to act in accordance with their council’s statutory *Code of Conduct for Members*
 - G local government should have the powers and the responsibility to provide leadership for its area, being responsive to its communities and having an understanding of their needs and priorities, so as to develop in partnership with local public sector partners, business, and third sectors a vision for the prosperity and well-being of the area which they will work together to deliver
 - H local government should exercise a challenge role in relation to the services provided for its citizens by other local and regional public service providers