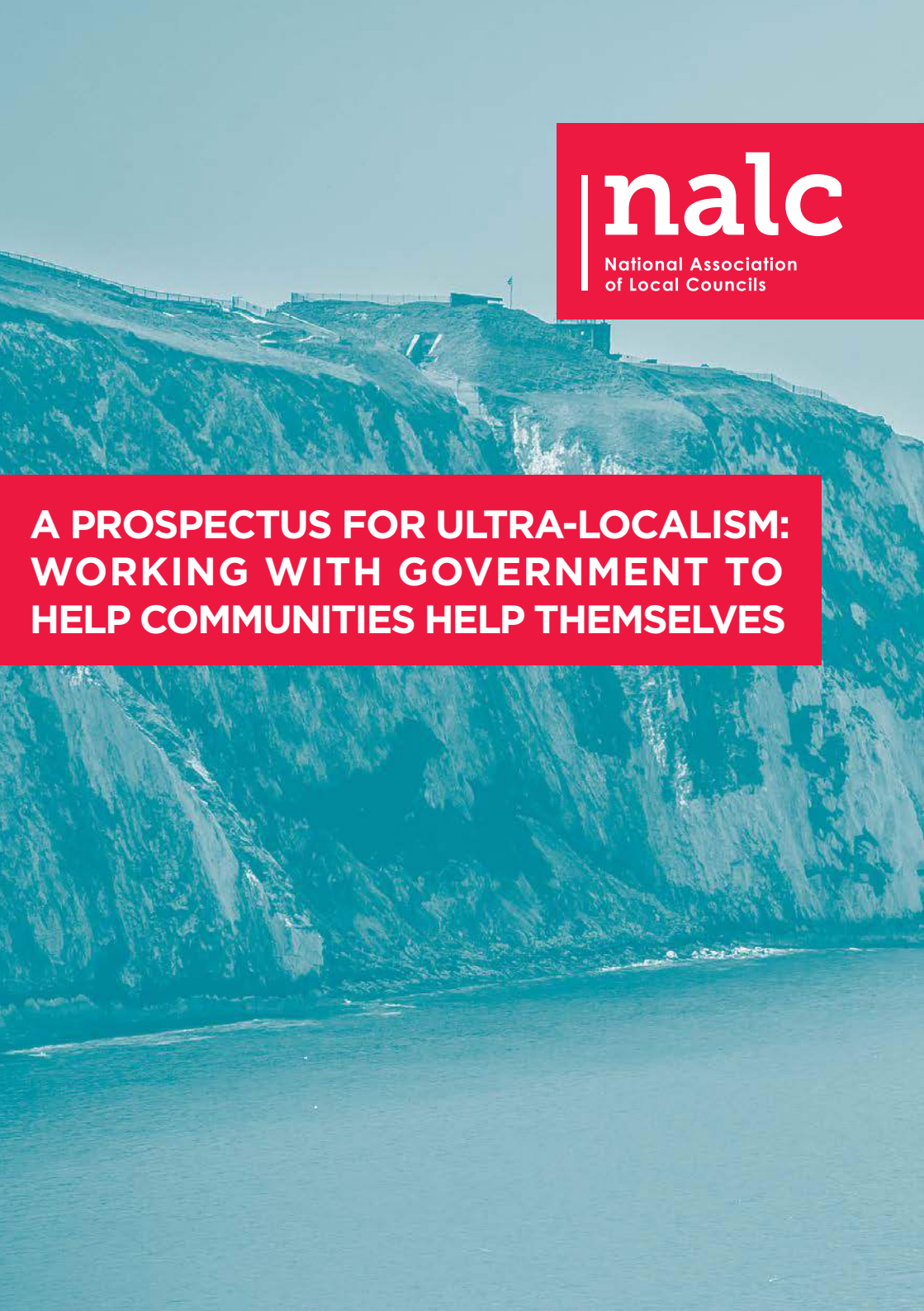




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National Association
of Local Councils

**A PROSPECTUS FOR ULTRA-LOCALISM:
WORKING WITH GOVERNMENT TO
HELP COMMUNITIES HELP THEMSELVES**

Published by
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OUR OFFER

Provide democratic local leadership that is accountable, open and transparent and builds community cohesion and resilience.

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Ensure we are well run, becoming more efficient and effective, driving up standards of practice and behaviour and learning from others.

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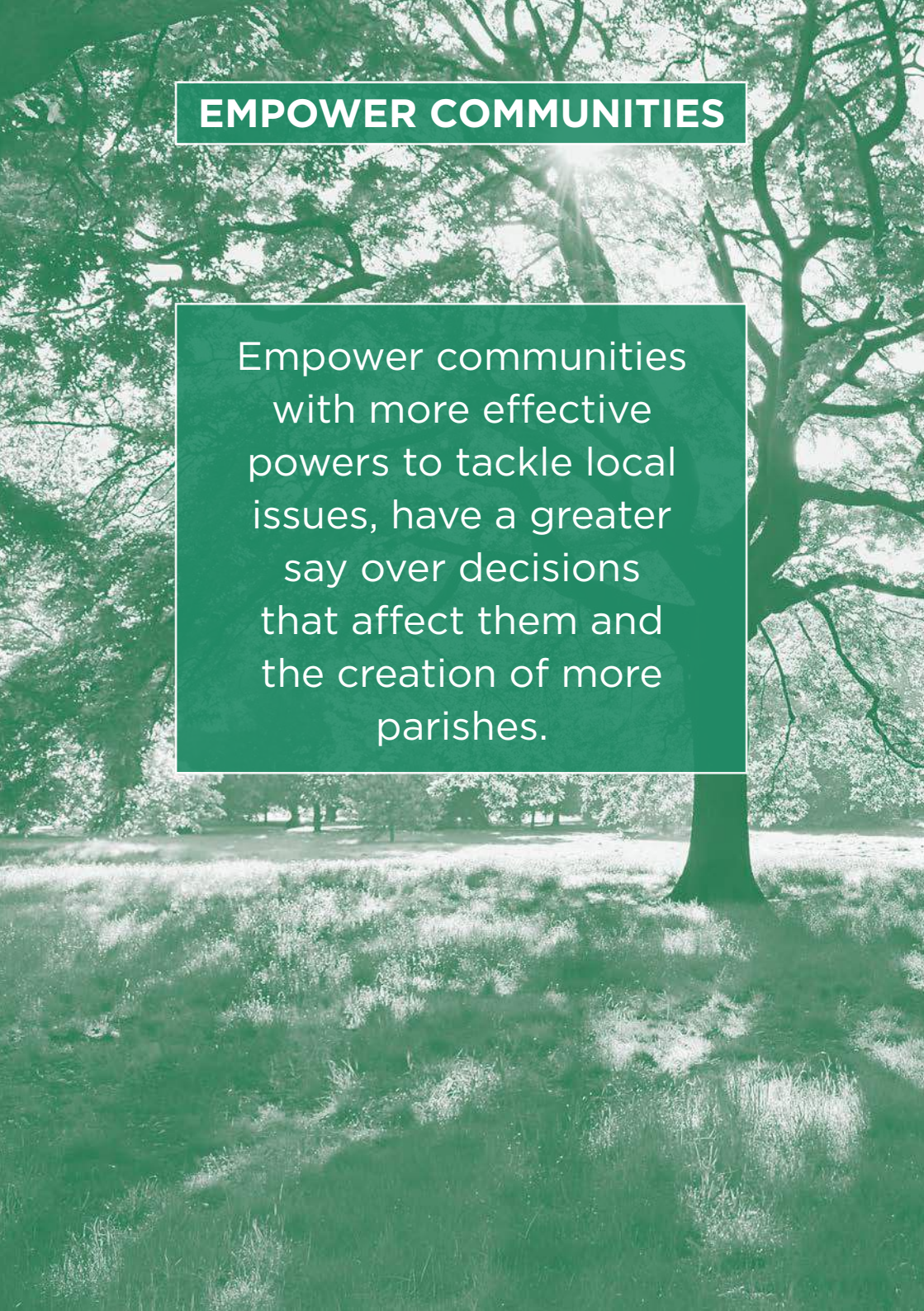
Plan for the future of neighbourhoods by protecting and enhancing local assets and services, place shaping to meet housing and other development needs.

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Work in partnership with principal councils, businesses, local groups and others to improve quality of life and well being and enhance the cultural, economic and social prosperity of the area.

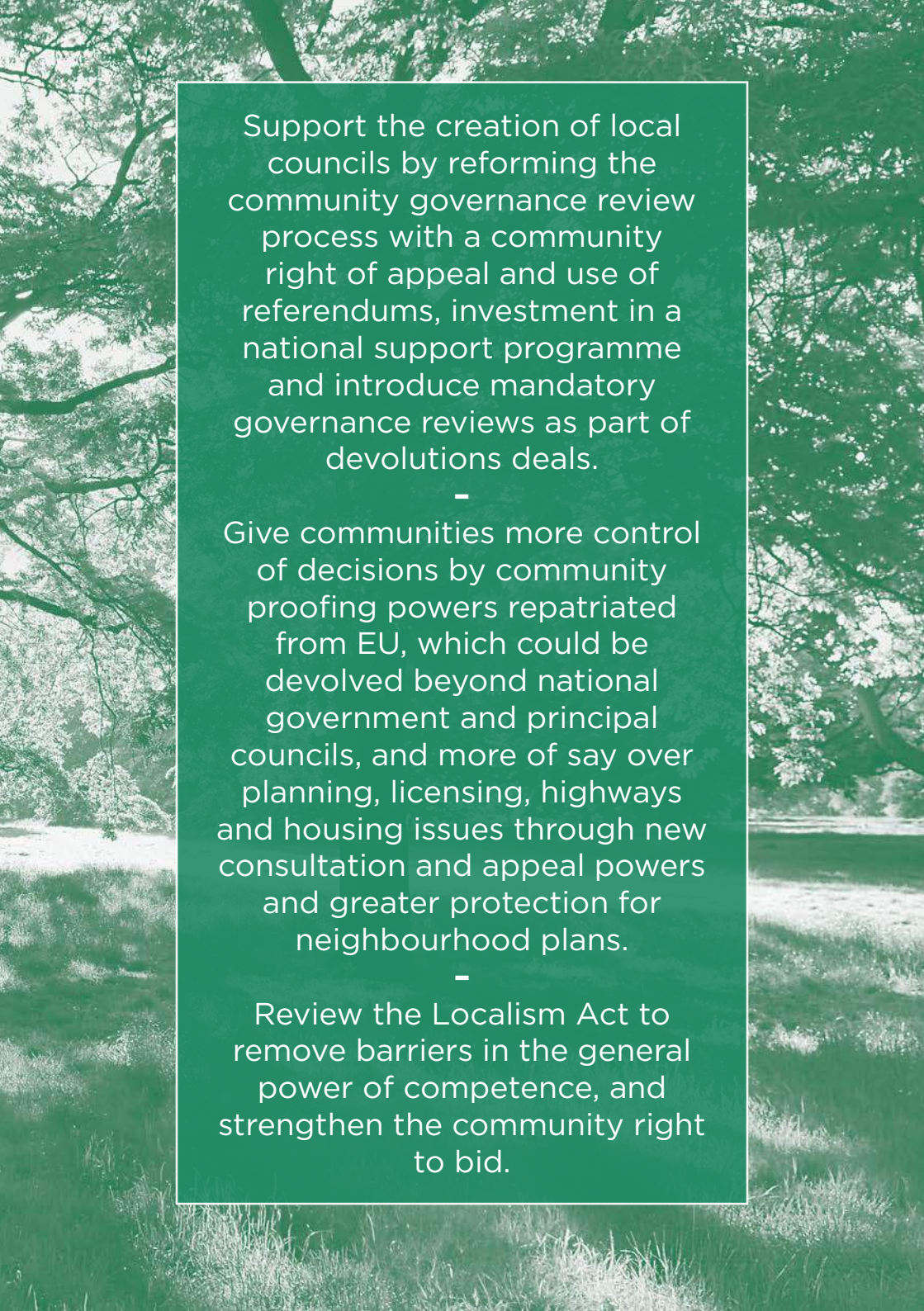
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Being fiscally responsible by engaging and communicating with residents and businesses about investing the precept in local priorities, services and projects.



EMPOWER COMMUNITIES

Empower communities with more effective powers to tackle local issues, have a greater say over decisions that affect them and the creation of more parishes.



Support the creation of local councils by reforming the community governance review process with a community right of appeal and use of referendums, investment in a national support programme and introduce mandatory governance reviews as part of devolutions deals.

—

Give communities more control of decisions by community proofing powers repatriated from EU, which could be devolved beyond national government and principal councils, and more of say over planning, licensing, highways and housing issues through new consultation and appeal powers and greater protection for neighbourhood plans.

—

Review the Localism Act to remove barriers in the general power of competence, and strengthen the community right to bid.



BUILD CAPACITY AND SUPPORT COUNCILLORS

Build the capacity of local councils through training and development, an effective regime for serving councillors and encourage more and diverse people to become councillors.



Enhance local decision making by encouraging more people to become councillors, making it easier to stand and serve including changes to allowances systems, gathering elections data and promoting contested elections.

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Reform the standards regime to allow local councils to impose sanctions for breaches of code of conduct and the allowances system to better support the changing needs of all councillors.

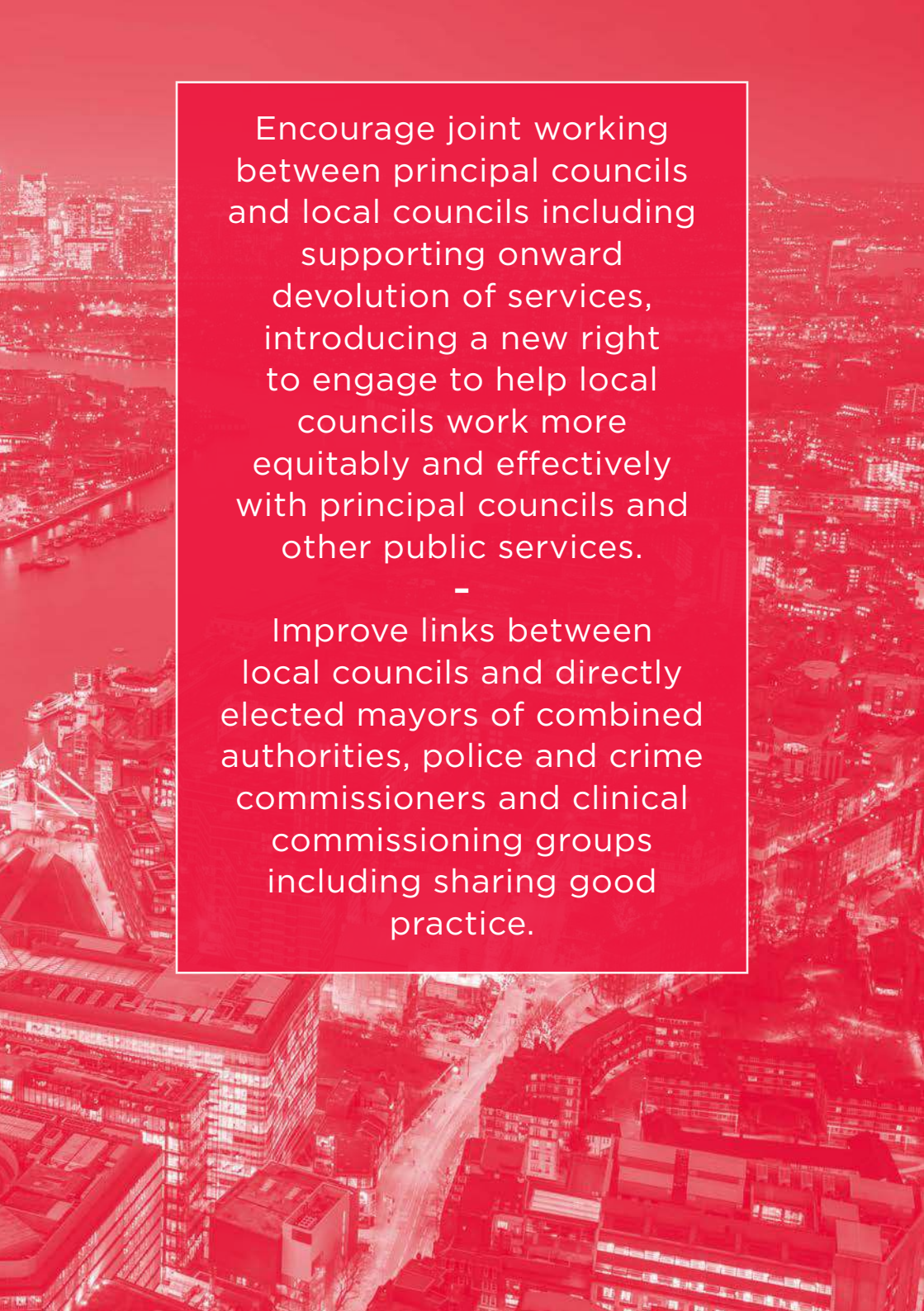
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Promote and support good governance by working with the sector to deliver the National Improvement Strategy for local councils including through investment and other assistance.

An aerial night view of London, showing the River Thames, the London Eye, and various city buildings. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent red filter. A white rectangular box is positioned at the top, and a larger white rectangular box is in the center, both containing text.

MORE DEVOLUTION AND ENGAGEMENT

More devolution to
local councils,
strengthen relationships
and engagement
between councils at all
levels and improve
links at the sub-regional
level.

An aerial photograph of a city, likely London, showing a river (the River Thames) and a large bridge (the London Bridge) in the background. The city is densely packed with buildings, and the river is filled with boats. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent red rectangle containing white text.

Encourage joint working
between principal councils
and local councils including
supporting onward
devolution of services,
introducing a new right
to engage to help local
councils work more
equitably and effectively
with principal councils and
other public services.

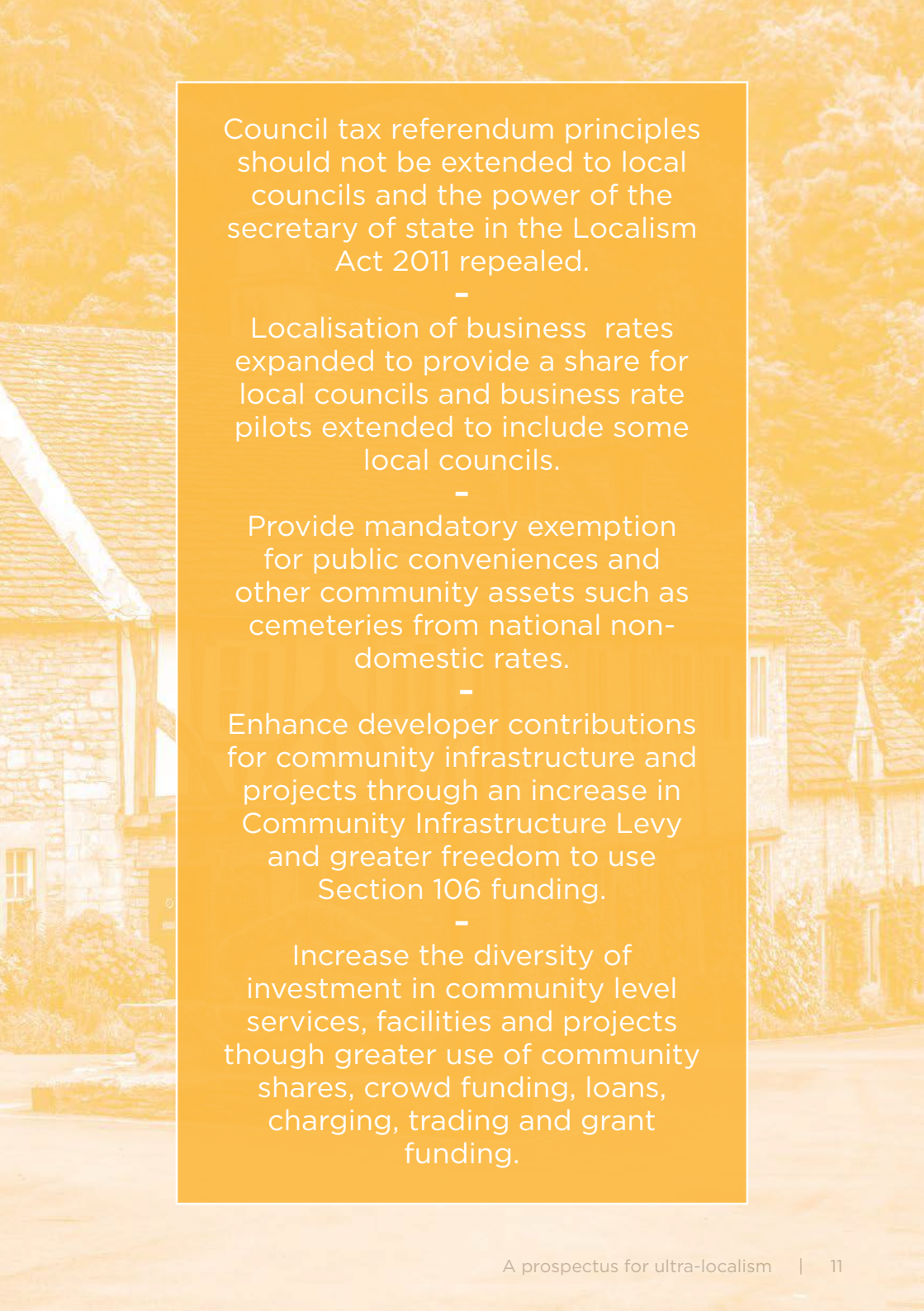
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Improve links between
local councils and directly
elected mayors of combined
authorities, police and crime
commissioners and clinical
commissioning groups
including sharing good
practice.



MORE DEVOLUTION AND ENGAGEMENT

A flexible and diverse
funding framework
through not extending
council tax referendums,
reform of non-domestic
rates and increase
income from other
sources.



Council tax referendum principles should not be extended to local councils and the power of the secretary of state in the Localism Act 2011 repealed.

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Localisation of business rates expanded to provide a share for local councils and business rate pilots extended to include some local councils.

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Provide mandatory exemption for public conveniences and other community assets such as cemeteries from national non-domestic rates.

–

Enhance developer contributions for community infrastructure and projects through an increase in Community Infrastructure Levy and greater freedom to use Section 106 funding.

–

Increase the diversity of investment in community level services, facilities and projects though greater use of community shares, crowd funding, loans, charging, trading and grant funding.

AT A GLANCE



10,000 local councils



100,000 councillors



£3b investment

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