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**APSE REGIONAL MEETING  
2 JULY 2007**

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
MODERNISATION AND REFORM**

**JAMES HUTCHINSON  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM DIVISION**



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## Latest Position

- Review of decisions of RPA as they related to local government
- Parallel modernising programme

## Review

- Review to consider role and function of local government in context of devolved administration
- Context for review is the strategic direction of the RPA, in its entirety, as agreed by the Executive
- Process for review to be discussed by Executive at meeting on 5 July

## Review Terms of Reference

- Role and function of local government in the context of a devolved Assembly and Executive
- Number of councils required to deliver this is in context of 3 options consulted upon as part of the RPA process
- Functions that the Executive believe should be delivered by local government – in context of those considered by the RPA process



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## Review Timetable and Key elements

July / August – desk research, analysis and bilateral discussions with Ministers and others

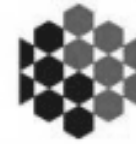
September - emerging findings paper to Executive

September / October – engagement with key stakeholders including Environment Committee to refine findings

November – Report to Executive



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## Modernising Programme

- Two strands
  - Legislative framework and capacity building.
  - Service improvement



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## Legislative Framework & Capacity Building

- Intended to strengthen way in which Councils work
- By modernising policy & legislative framework
- By addressing capacity of Councils to deliver accountable, citizen-centred services



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## Legislative Framework & Capacity Building

- Local Government finance arrangements
- Remuneration & Severance arrangements for Councillors
- Ethical standards, including mandatory code of conduct for Councillors
- Regulatory framework in relation to Council's participation in limited companies
- Provisions to allow Council's to participate in PPP & PFI





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## Legislative Framework & Capacity Building

- Performance management framework
- New governance arrangements within Councils
- Strategy to support capacity of elected members and staff to deliver strong, accountable, citizen-centred local government



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## Service Improvement

- Intended to improve way in which Councils work
- To deliver business-related services – standardised, simple, VFM
- To enable resources to be released to improve front-line service delivery



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## Service Improvement

- Front-line customer service mechanisms
- Back-office service delivery (HR, finance, procurement, & estates)
- Common ICT infrastructure for local government



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# Questions

