



# **Efficiency & Savings in Local Government – A DoE Perspective**

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**Environment**

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# The Vision is unchanged

“a strong, dynamic local government creating communities that are vibrant, healthy, prosperous, safe, sustainable and have the needs of all citizens at their core”



Arlene Foster – 31 March 2008



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# Key Executive Decisions

- **Election in May 2011 to 26 Councils**
- **Reduction from 26 to 11 Councils is still the objective**
- **Timescale dependent on proposals to be put to the Executive**
- **Unlikely to fund in the current climate**

# Next Steps

- **Paper to the Executive with options for the delivery timetable**
- **Potentially – shadow council in 2014 and move to 11 new Councils in 2015**



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# Legislation - Bills

- **Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (Northern Ireland) 2010**
- **Local Government (Finance) Bill – in progress through Assembly**
- **Boundaries Bill – awaiting Executive consideration**
- **Reorganisation Bill – awaiting Executive consideration**



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# Legislation

- **Reorganisation Bill – not possible to get through the Assembly before dissolution**
- **But keen to proceed with consultation on policy proposals on the Bill**
- **Planning Bill – deliver a reformed planning system**
- **Hope to introduce Bill to Assembly in December 2010**



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# Next Steps

- Keen to proceed with Community Planning power and power of well being
- Happy to re-engage with Ministers on transferring functions when Executive decide on way forward



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# Collaboration and Efficiency

- **Minister wants to ensure Council co-operation and collaboration to benefit ratepayers**
- **Was keen to see maintenance of 11 Council clusters approach (and VTCs)**
- **But VTCs couldn't continue to be funded if have no role**
- **Governance proposals from Sector (26 Councils) – Minister asked for re-consideration of VTC role**



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# Collaboration and Efficiency

- **Expect plans and business case on costs and efficiencies by end of year**
- **Minister sees this as hugely important**
- **Benefits all accrue to Councils**
- **Commonsense approach – can't continue 26 or 11 times replication of services**



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# FUTURE

- **Potentially 2014 shadow period**
- **Potentially 2015 elections to 11 Councils**
- **Dependent on Executive decisions after the election in 2011**
- **Collaboration and efficiency agenda agreed and well in progress**



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**Thank You?**



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