

2014/15 Business Plan - initial proposition

Our top priorities for local government are:

- **Funding for local government** – reform of the finance system so councils have confidence their financing is sustainable and fair, the opportunities to raise more funds locally and greater ability to promote collective working across local public services
- **Economic growth, jobs and prosperity** – councils are recognised as central to economic growth
- **Public service reform** – independent councils are at the centre, and seen to be at the centre, of public service reform, delivering more effective services for local people and holding other providers to account.

In our work on **Rewiring Public Services** we have described the changes needed at local and national level so public services can help communities meet people's future needs and aspirations. We have set out an approach that is innovative, deliverable and sustainable and which will tackle long-term structural issues.

Underpinning all of this are our core services to councils, helping them with sector-led support, improvement and innovation.

We will support councils with improving performance, effectiveness and efficiency. Our approach is based on four key principles:

- Councils are responsible for their own performance
- Councils are primarily accountable to their local communities
- Stronger local accountability and increased transparency drive improvement
- Councils have collective responsibility for the performance of local government as a whole.

The improvement and innovation services that we provide in support of this are funded by RSG topslice.