

**LGA FIRE SERVICES  
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE  
14 JULY 2008**



**PUBLIC EXPENDITURE PLANS -  
STRATEGY FOR THE  
FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE**

**BY BILL WILKINSON**

# BACKGROUND



- Timetable and arrangements not resolved till autumn
- Likely to be short turnaround
- .....so be ready/gather the evidence in advance
- Strategy
  - realistic approach on both sides
  - acknowledge and address weak areas
  - make the most of strengths

# A REALISTIC DEBATE ON BOTH SIDES

- Has modernisation delivered? - show where it has, where it hasn't
- Can efficiency savings continue to be realised in a service resourced by risk?
- Is New Dimensions being fully funded?
- Is the wider rescue/civil contingency role being fully funded?
- Economic and financial prospects will paint a gloomy backdrop

# WEAKNESSES

- Belief centrally that modernisation hasn't fully delivered
- Outcome of Audit Commission review could undermine the Strategy
- Lack of compelling evidence leaves the Service vulnerable

# STRENGTHS

- The Service opens doors/is respected
- Public support/reaction to cuts
- Support wider Government and local priorities
- Evolution of the Service over the last 30 years
- Achievements since 2002/momentum
- Environmental targets

# ACTION

- Respond positively to the Audit Commission's lines of inquiry
- Respond positively to the Government's priorities for CSR09
- Collect evidence:
  - achievements since 2002
  - capacity improvements
  - LAA involvements/partnerships
  - collaboration
- LGA members views on priorities?
- Information and awareness strategy for the Service
- Research projects