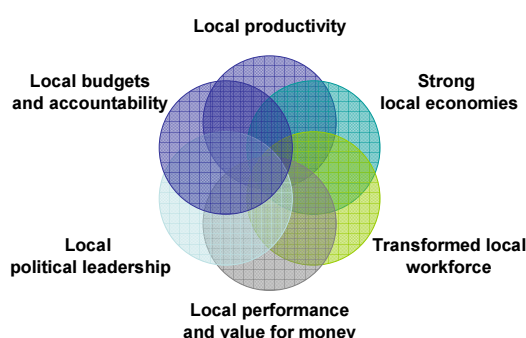


## Summary of RSG Submission

### Six key RSG top slice outcomes



1. To lead the transformation of local public services, councils will need to go beyond just joint working with partners across the public, private and voluntary sectors to get the very best outcomes for their communities and neighbourhoods, and improve **local productivity**. This means pooling resources, redesigning services and reinventing state activity through the development of the voluntary sector and other local groups. Our offer on local productivity is designed to:
  - identify the key productivity gains for local government, achieved through a mix of national and international data combined with local experience;
  - develop clear proposals to make sure councils deliver these savings quickly;
  - push those parts of local government that are falling behind;
  - develop a sector-wide approach to benchmarking to drive down unit costs and improve productivity;
  - increase the skills of councillors and officers in reviewing and taking action on spend data.
2. Local government will need to become smaller and more flexible than it is now, delivering high-quality outcomes – not necessarily services. Councils will have to deliver a **transformed workforce**, employing their staff differently to achieve

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more for local people and be able quickly to evolve new ways of working in response to changing priorities and needs. We will support local government in making sure we have a workforce capable of responding to major changes in the way the public sector operates. Our offer on a transformed workforce is designed to:

- help councils develop a flexible and productive workforce;
- ensure an affordable and flexible pay, reward and conditions system for the whole of local government;
- work with the different public sector employers to address the challenges and opportunities in local workforces.

3. Tough decisions about local services are best taken locally by the people who are accountable to residents and know their areas best. Central to this is the need to transform the way the public sector works and cut out the middlemen to save billions of pounds and allow councils to do more for less through **local budgets with greater accountability to local people**. Local government creates the climate in which individuals, families and businesses can come together as communities and local budgets will create more freedom to do that. Through our support to councils on local budgets, we will radically transform the way services are organised, allowing savings to be made and for people to take more responsibility over their own lives. Our offer on local budgets is designed to:

- help bring together different parts of the public sector in an area in a local budget, using expertise of having undertaken this work in different areas before;
- develop new systems of governance that work well for local people where there are local budgets;
- help councils and their partners commission and design services around people's needs, not institutional silos;
- support councils in operating transparently and sharing information with local residents in a useful way.

4. As part of this, councils have a role with local business leaders in stimulating growth and creating **strong local economies** in their areas. Local enterprise partnerships - tackling issues such as planning and housing, local transport and infrastructure priorities, employment and enterprise and the transition to the low carbon economy - are central to this vision. Our offer on strong local economies is designed to:

- ensure that Local Enterprise Partnerships deliver tangible benefits for their areas;

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- ensure councils are successful in planning and financing infrastructure projects;
  - achieve a cultural shift in councils to help residents take charge of their neighbourhoods;
  - support councils in stripping away and streamlining regulation.
5. Democratic local accountability underpins all of this. The big public sector challenges require strong **local political leadership**, with constant development and renewal of local politicians. We will provide development programmes and direct support to improve the skills of councillors across local government to:
- help councils change the way they work with local people so they have more control over their lives and are less dependent on services;
  - devolve power to neighbourhoods and local people;
  - work more effectively with and through the voluntary and community sector;
  - ensure that local government recruits new talent to increase the range of ages and backgrounds of councillors.
6. The government has signalled a radical approach to decentralising power and enhancing **local performance and value for money** by providing transparent information to local people. Inspection is being significantly scaled back and CAA abolished. Councils will need to work with their partners to monitor and assess their own performance and provide assurance on the effectiveness of local services. We will help councils improve their performance and deliver value for money for local people by:
- helping councils take responsibility for reviewing and challenging their own performance rather than through central government targets;
  - supporting councils in sharing knowledge, so that local government learns from the best and demonstrably takes responsibility as a sector for its own improvement and performance;
  - proactively identifying councils who are struggling and providing councillor and officer peer support, to turn around struggling councils, challenging complacency and encouraging councils to try and do things differently.