

# **New local governance models in the UK : integrating services pathfinder**

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**Chiltern**  
District Council



**South Bucks**  
District Council



# Local Government in the UK

National Government

Regional Assemblies

County Councils

District Councils

Parish Councils



Education

Functions

Social care

Planning

Housing

Libraries

Leisure

Transportation

Waste disposal

Public Health

Building control

Waste collection

Car parking

■ County councils

■ District councils



Bucks  
County Council  
470,000 population

Chiltern  
District Council  
85,000 population

Wycombe  
District Council  
160,000 population

Aylesbury Vale  
District Council  
160,000 population

South Bucks  
District Council  
65,000 population



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# Context

- Grant funding reducing
- Customer satisfaction falling
- Customer expectations rising
- Efficiency targets increasing



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# Local Government White Paper October 2006

- Unitary authority - abolish and start again
- Improvements and more efficiency within current framework – no timescale
- Pathfinder – integrate over six years but retain own sovereignty



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# Pathfinder Vision I

- Combine strengths of CCs and DCs
- Retain high level of local democratic accountability
- Make more sense to customers
- Retain local distinctiveness



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# Pathfinder Vision II

- Generate higher savings through planned and managed transition
- Encourage innovation and reduce risk
- Better co-ordinated strategic leadership and policy making

In summary

- Combine local emphasis of two tier structure with many cost benefits of a unitary



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# Implementing the vision

- Joint procurement for eg back office services in house in 1 council, outsourced, or joint venture
- More joined up customer services
- Joining up community engagement and with other public sector
- Joint waste authority
- Joint communication and change management mechanisms



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# Financial case

- Unitary proposed £6.2m savings
- But transition costs to unitary estimated between £11.4m - £25m
- Pathfinder estimates savings of £5.4m and invest to save



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# Establishing governance mechanisms

- Joint Leaders Group
  - provide strategic links
  - commission and monitor JIB
- Joint Improvement Board (JIB)
  - project manage joint working
  - financial and performance monitoring
  - set up August 2007



# Establishing governance mechanisms

- Joint scrutiny committee
  - equal number of members from all 5 authorities
  - scrutinise joint arrangements
  - joint scrutiny of public sector bodies



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# Community Engagement

- 256 Local Councillors as community leaders
- Bring together CC and DC mechanisms
- Include police Neighbourhood Action Groups
- Health/Fire & Rescue to join in later?
- Improve customer influence and make savings



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# Communications/ Change Management

- Senior manager seminar
- Pathfinder newsletter
- All Councillors event
- Intranet site
- Change management programme



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# What will success look like?

- Customer satisfaction improved
- Local communities feel engaged
- Ongoing financial savings



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