

Circular number	18/2010	Date issued	31 March 2010
This circular is	For information	No response required	
This circular is	Relevant to the National Framework		
Status	This circular is to draw FRAs attention to the publication of the Putting the Frontline First Task Force Report on the Department's website.		

Putting the frontline first: Meeting the local government challenge.

Publication of Task Force Report.

Issued by:

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Addressed to:

**The Chair of the Fire and Rescue Authority
 The Chief Executive of the County Council
 The Clerk to the Fire and Rescue Authority
 The Clerk to the Combined Fire and Rescue Authority
 The Commissioner of the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority
 The Chief Fire Officer**

Please forward to:

**Treasurers
 Finance Directors
 RMB Chairs**

Summary

This circular is to draw FRAs attention to the publication on the Department's website of the report compiled by a Task Force set up to develop proposals to identify how authorities can be made more efficient and save money without negatively impacting the quality of frontline services.

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Publication of Task Force Report.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 In December 2009 the Government published its White Paper “Putting the frontline first: smarter government” which sets out Government’s case for smarter government to meet citizens’ demands for greater local accountability and transparency of public services.
- 1.2 Following publication of the White Paper, the Secretary of State asked Sir Richard Leese (Leader of Manchester City Council) and Sir Steve Bullock (Mayor of Lewisham Council) to lead a Task Force to develop proposals to identify how local authorities could be made more efficient without affecting frontline services.

2.0 Task Force Report

- 2.1 The Report was published on the Department’s website on 1 March 2010: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/puttingfrontlinefirst>. It challenges local authorities to take a strategic approach to managing their budgets and to take urgent and radical action to transform services. In doing so, the Report sets out ten strategic questions for local authorities to evaluate themselves against, and a framework of actions, tools and resources to help councils protect frontline services.
- 2.2 The taskforce report includes practical advice on how to go about the process, where to find help and examples of savings that can be achieved by making changes. Regional efficiency experts will provide advice and support.
- 2.3 Below are the contact details for the sector improvement bodies mentioned in the report:

Audit Commission

www.audit-commission.gov.uk

CIPFA - the Chartered Institute for Public Finance and Accountancy

www.cipfa.org.uk

Idea - Improvement and Development Agency

www.idea.gov.uk

Leadership Centre

www.localleadership.gov.uk

Local Partnerships

www.localpartnerships.org.uk

LGE - Local Government Employers

www.lge.gov.uk

RIEPs - Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnerships

www.idea.gov.uk/idk/core/page.do?pagelId=8595384

SOLACE - Society of Local Authority Chief Executives

www.solace.org.uk

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