



Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority
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Sharing CFOs and CEOs A CEO's perspective

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Sharing CFO's -Who says so?

- The Government
- Taxpayers
- Notably, not professional association or representative organisations for senior fire officers



What's driving it and what's the "price"

Drivers

- Service Improvement?
- Cost reduction

The "Price"

- Less time for each authority
- Lower *presence*
- Adaptation to ways of working required



Differing perspectives

- **Eric Pickles wants neighbouring councils to share chief executives**
Birmingham Post 21st October 2010
- **Eric Pickles pledges to cut 'bloated' council pay,** Telegraph 5th June 2010



Is it really a good idea at this time?

- Budgets are tight and getting tighter
- Staff are “under attack” – worried about job security, pay and conditions, pensions etc
- Public expectations of FRS’s are **not** diminished
- Now is the time for strong, visible and prudent leadership



Real Challenges / Opportunities

- For the authority – readiness to take on new ways of working and ideas
- For the authority – a less hands-on approach by CFO's

Lowering the risks

- “Matching” and prior / early consideration
- Trial periods with secondment possibilities



Not an isolated subject

- Member's expectations and the competencies required of CEO's
- Cannot be considered without some discussion of how far down the continuum of mergers are feasible



In closing

- Need to also consider the perspectives of existing CEO's
- With whom might we share?
- How will the employment issues be handled and by whom?