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# A Framework for Local Authority Asset Management

## 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:

## Summary

Guidance has been produced by CLG to assist in the more effective use of asset base as a foundation for delivering high performing public services. As part of the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review, each Government department is developing an asset management strategy. As part of that process CLG were asked to produce an asset management strategy for local government.

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## A Framework for Local Authority Asset Management

### 1.0 Background

- 1.1 Fixed assets make up a significant proportion of resources that local authorities, including Fire and Rescue Authorities, have to manage (for local government this amounts to nearly £239 billion in value as at March 2007). Effective asset management therefore is extremely important in terms of delivering better outcomes for citizens, creating a sense of place and generating efficiency gains.
- 1.2 Communities and Local Government have produced 'Building on Strong Foundations - a framework for local authority asset management' which is also relevant to Fire and Rescue Authorities. The Framework aims to raise the profile of local authority asset management whilst providing an overview of the current policies that authorities should be mindful of when planning their asset management strategies.

### 2.0 The Framework

- 2.1 As part of the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007, Government departments were asked to develop asset management strategies. At the same time, CLG were asked to produce a strategy for local government. Because of the different challenges facing authorities it was recognised that a 'one size fits all' approach would not be appropriate and consequently a 'framework' approach has been adopted. The resulting publication brings together key policies and influences that shape local authority asset management.
- 2.2 The Framework also draws attention to the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) Public Sector Asset Management Guidelines which were published on 16 January 2008. CLG have also commissioned the RICS to produce a series of topic based local authority asset management pamphlets.
- 2.3 It is important that elected members and senior officers are fully involved in getting the most from their authority's assets. This Framework has been put together to help with this. It provides an overview of the current policies that local authorities, including Fire and Rescue Authorities, should be mindful of when planning their asset management strategies.
- 2.4 The Framework can be downloaded from the CLG website at <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/assetmanagement>. The RICS Public Sector Asset Management Guidelines can be accessed at <http://www.publicsectorassetmanagement.com/>.

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