

Modernising Local Government

The Communication Challenge



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**“Lying is done with words,
and also with silence”**

Adrienne Rich



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Brief for to-day

- what is being done on implementation
- what is being done on communications – future plans?
- barriers to communications



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Implementation

- Establishment of Local Government Reform Unit
- Local Government Taskforce
- Cross-departmental group for transfer of functions



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Timetable

- Instruction for Legislation (Sep / Oct 2006)
 - Transfer of Functions Order
 - Structures Order
- Shadow Period (Autumn 2008 – May 2009)



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Local Government Reform Unit

- Transfer of Functions team
- Policy Development & Implementation Team
- Programme Office
 - Developing, managing and delivering programme plan; including a communications strategy.



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Terms of Reference for Local Government Taskforce

‘The Local Government Taskforce will produce proposals for modern and effective local government in light of the requirements of the Review of Public Administration and other drivers for change. The Taskforce will draw on independent expert advice and best practice from elsewhere but will seek solutions appropriate to local need and circumstances.’

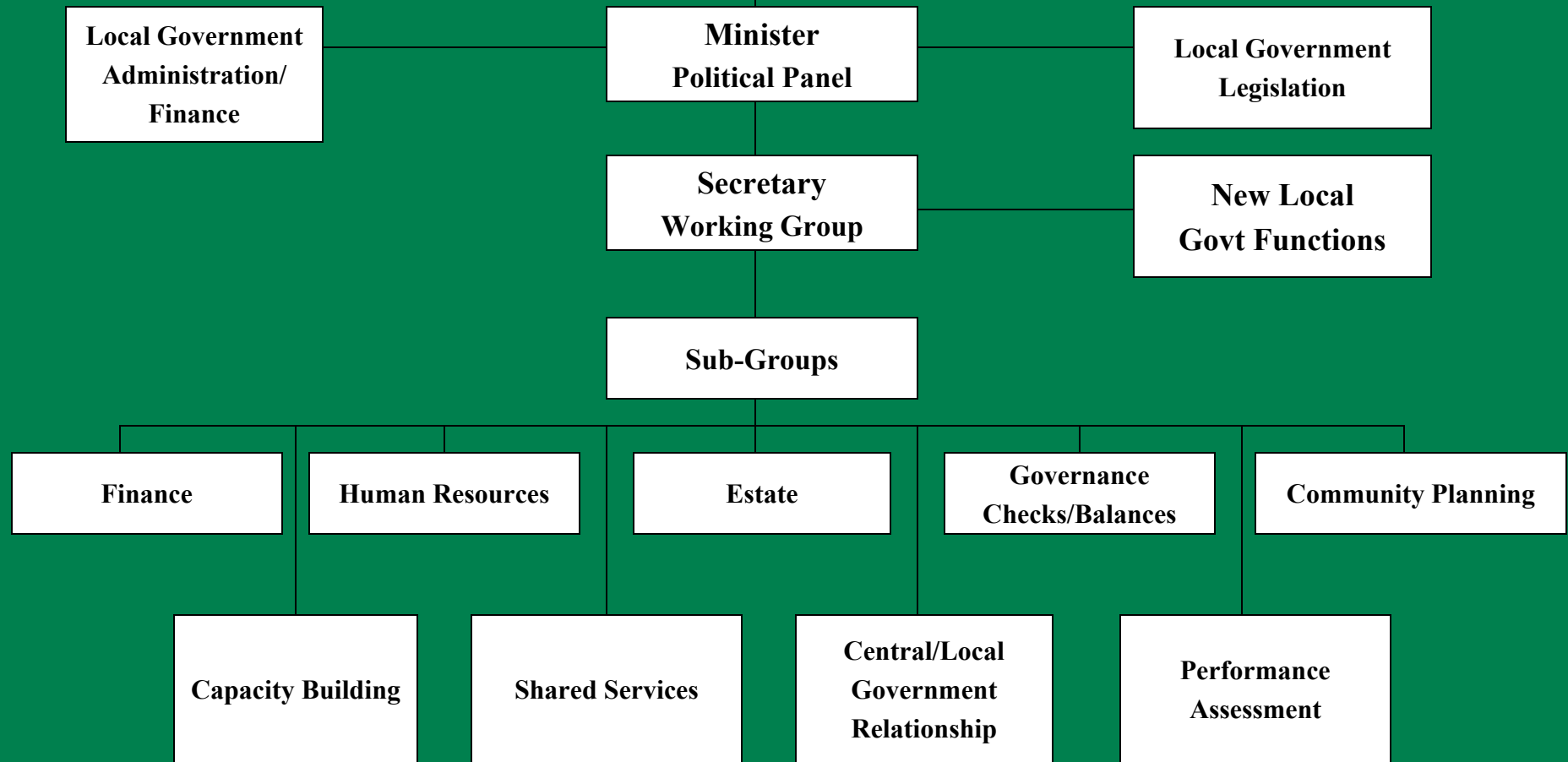


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TASKFORCE



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Current Activity on Communications

- Development of a communications strategy – responsibility of the programme office.
- Seeking clarity on roles & responsibilities
- Establishment of a small communications group to consider;
 - who
 - what
 - how
- Established a presence on DOE website – through Local Government Reform Unit.
- What more can we do immediately.



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