



One Public Estate launch with Rt Hon Francis Maude MP

Speech by LGA Chair Cllr David Sparks OBE, 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2014

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Local and central government working together might not make the headlines, but the One Public Estate programme is making a big difference to people's lives.

It's not just getting taxpayers' a better deal. It's boosting regeneration, promoting integration and encouraging co-operation.

All of you here today are living proof of this.

So today we're making One Public Estate bigger and better than ever before. And I'd like to thank our central government colleagues for being here today.

Last year, the Cabinet Office asked councils to be their partners in this programme. Why? Councils' strong record of delivering results on property rationalisation.

Since then, we haven't disappointed. At the LGA, we've been working in partnership with the Cabinet Office – linking councils across the country to our experts and Senior Whitehall advisers.

The Treasury predicts that more than 13 billion pounds of local authority capital receipts will be raised from 2015-18. The work of councils and our central government partners on the One Public Estate programme

will greatly contribute to this. And I'd like to congratulate the original pilot councils here today for their contribution to achieving this target.

There's no doubt in my mind that local government will continue to lead the way. And I'd like to add my welcome to the 20 new councils joining One Public Estate. This prestigious programme has worked for other councils and can work for you too.

Today, we're lucky enough to meet in such an iconic building, and in a way that's what today is about – property.

It's about how we can best use the property we have in local areas – or even the place we go to work every day – but in ways that help people.

It's about how public land and property - earth, bricks and mortar – can be a starting point. A starting point for a radical rethink on how services are delivered for our residents.

First off, with councils facing a 5.8 billion pound shortfall by 2016, we can't afford **not** to try new things to protect people's services.

And One Public Estate is saving money. All across the country, councils are cutting running costs by sharing their assets and making sure workspaces are modern and fit for business.

The result? Estimated savings of £88 million in capital receipts by the time schemes developed in the first year are completed.

But's it's also about people: boosting local economies and supporting regeneration will benefit the hardest hit in our communities.

In Bristol, the programme transformed an old railway shed into a cutting-edge business incubation hub for up to 40 start-ups. And local

authorities there are working with the Homes and Communities Agency to release a former British Rail depot and sidings for 200 homes.

All across the country, initiatives like these are expected to create 5,500 jobs and 7,500 homes over the next five years.

But finding innovative new ways to make savings and create jobs is just part of the answer.

For me, the most important word in the title One Public Estate is the first word – One. Above all, the programme is about learning to work as one – as partners - across the public sector.

In many cases, the programme is bringing local partners under one roof – destroying internal divisions to deliver one, integrated service, tailored to people's needs.

In Leeds, for example, they're creating 13 integrated 'health and social care' neighbourhood teams – sharing more information to deliver a more efficient service. You'll be hearing more about this later.

But – of course – it's not just about 'joining-up' local services, it's also about all levels of government - working together as one.

In Nottingham, for example, the Department for Work and Pensions has stationed its youth employment services in Nottingham City Council's main HQ building.

This is improving service delivery and giving young people the local skills they need for their local job market – one of the key asks in our recent '100 days' campaign.

All over the country, making the most of public land and property is leading to big savings. And One Public Estate has the potential to save even more public money.

Removing physical walls between people is breaking down barriers to co-operation. And – in turn - better co-operation between local and central, health and social care, and other partners is improving service quality.

In one year's time, I look forward to be hearing 20 more success stories from our 20 new councils!

I'd be happy to answer any questions you might have.