

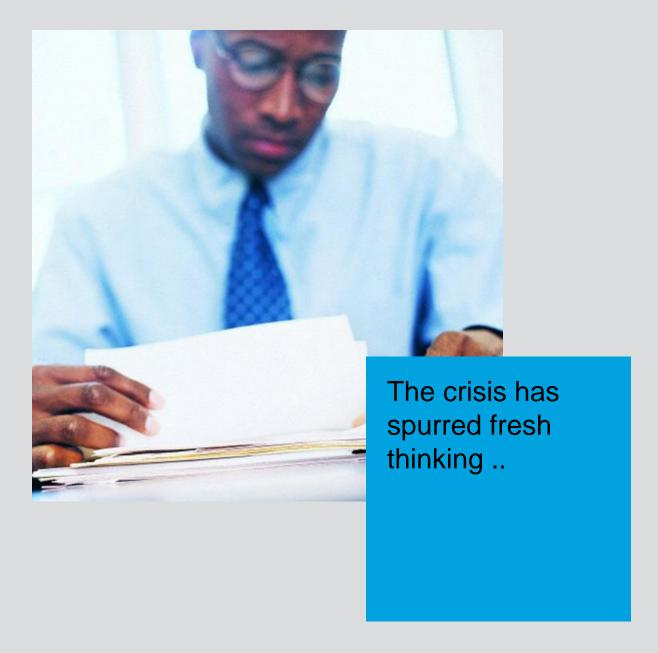
#### Revolution – or Evolution?

Revolution – a major sudden impact

Evolution – a change over generations

# Change at a time of challenge

- Austerity
- Aging populations
- Healthcare costs
- Welfare reform
- Education .....and more



## How are public services evolving?

The sector remains buoyant – with public sector finance professionals keen to take on new responsibilities

- Public contact
- Closer liaison with scrutineers



## Themes are emerging.....

- How well is the financial position understood?
- The implications of long-term commitments
- The sustainability of public services



"Good public sector financial reporting helps decision making"

Government spending accounts for more than 1/3 of GDP.

## The spotlight is on us...

- Global standards must be in place
- Good governance a 'no brainer'
- But how to implement in a fragmented service?

# Our stakeholders don't want a dividend .. But they DO want .

Safe and clean streets Education

Policing Healthcare

Roads Hospitals

Employment Investment encouraged

Tourism Taxes spent wisely

#### The Good.....

- A focus on purposes and outcomes
- Real engagement
- Full accountability
- Values of whole organisation promoted
- Informed decisions
- Risk management
- Capacity and capability

#### and the Bad

- Arrogance
- Low levels of accountability
- Poor working relationships
- Closed culture
- Lack of clarity
- Poor information for decision makers







## Why accruals-based reports?

- Improve decision making
- Information about value of assets
- Identification of cost of capital
- Highlighting critical policy areas
- Better quality information
- Reducing scope of selective policies
- Improve long- term financial sustainability



The change to IPSAS is much more than an accounting exercise

It transforms the whole government finance function.

# Harmonisation brings many benefits

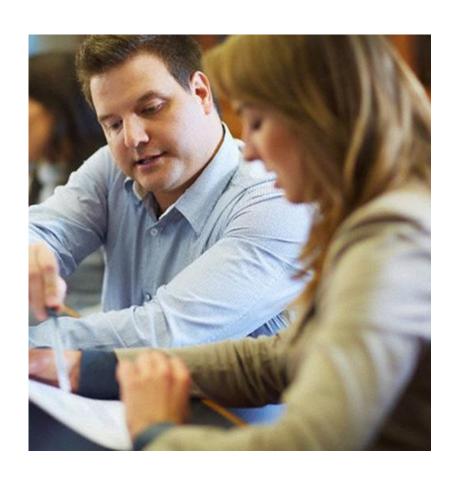
Assist understanding

Reduce costs

Simplify training

Raise credibility

Democratic accountability



#### **ACCA's Certificate in IPSAS**

Enables public sector to train staff

Strong and more relevant skills

But ...

We must also focus on PEOPLE



17