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# **Regional Economic Structures and Regional Scrutiny Update**

**Presentation to Housing And Sustainable Communities Panel  
5 February 2009**



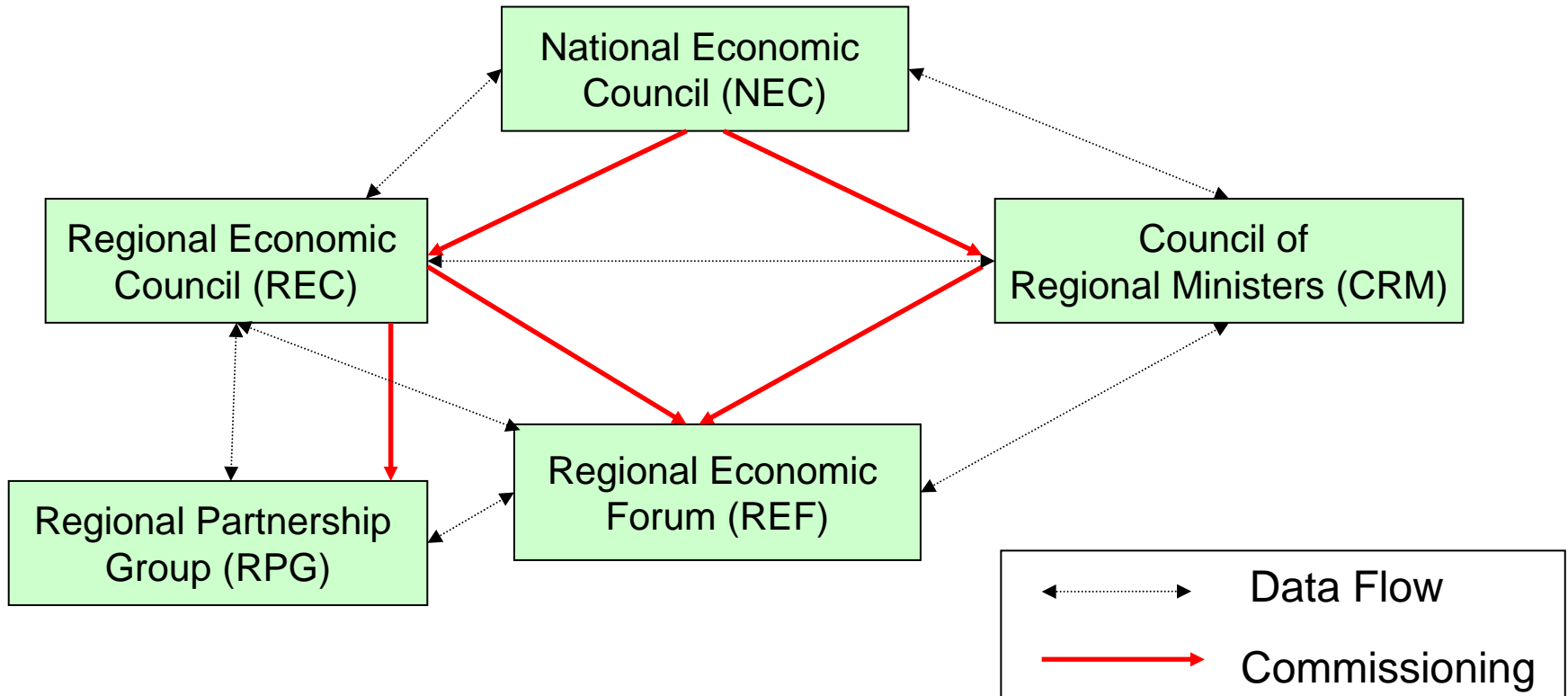
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# National and Regional Economic Architecture



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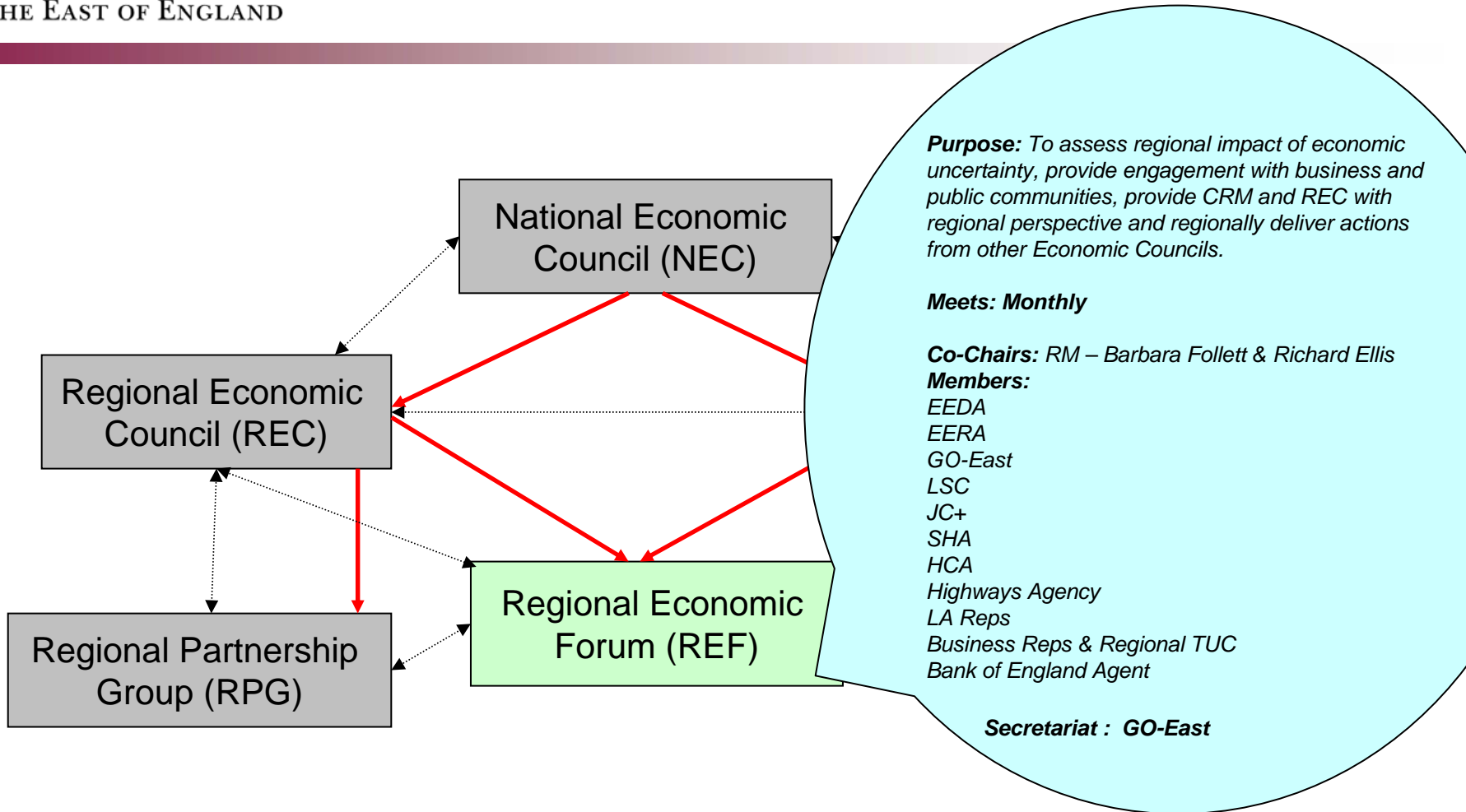
# Overview





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# Regional Economic Forum





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# Council of Regional Ministers

**Purpose:** Forum for RMs to share best practice between regions, make recommendations to and disseminate message/ actions from REC and NEC.

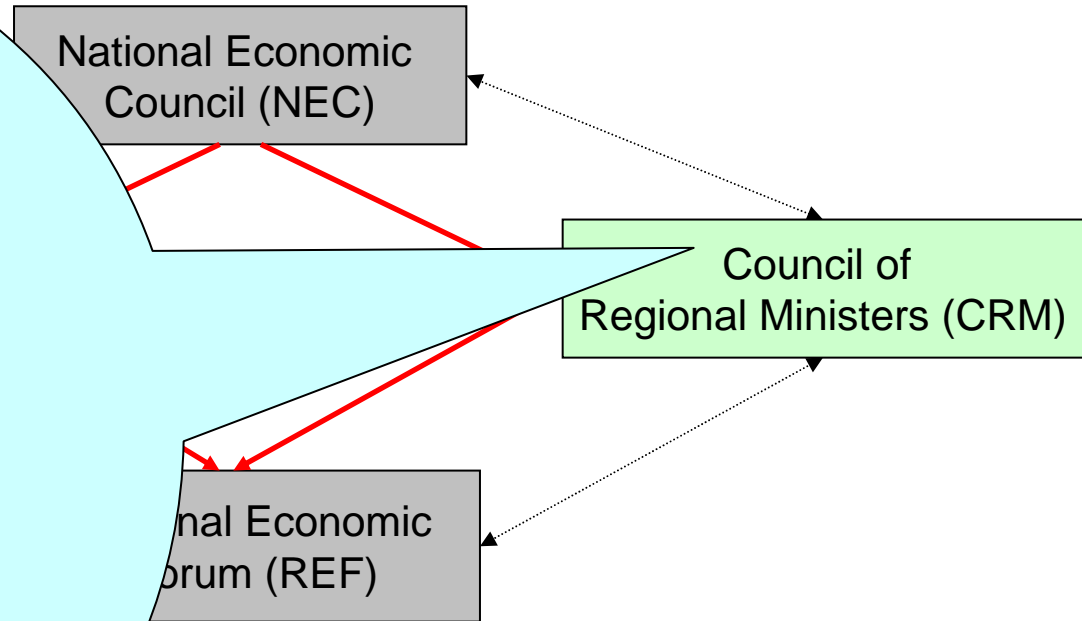
**Meets Fortnightly**

**Chair:** Liam Byrne & Yvette Cooper  
**Deputy Chair:** John Healy

**Members:**  
Regional Ministers  
SOS/MOS Scotland  
SOS/MOS Wales  
SOS /MOS Northern Ireland

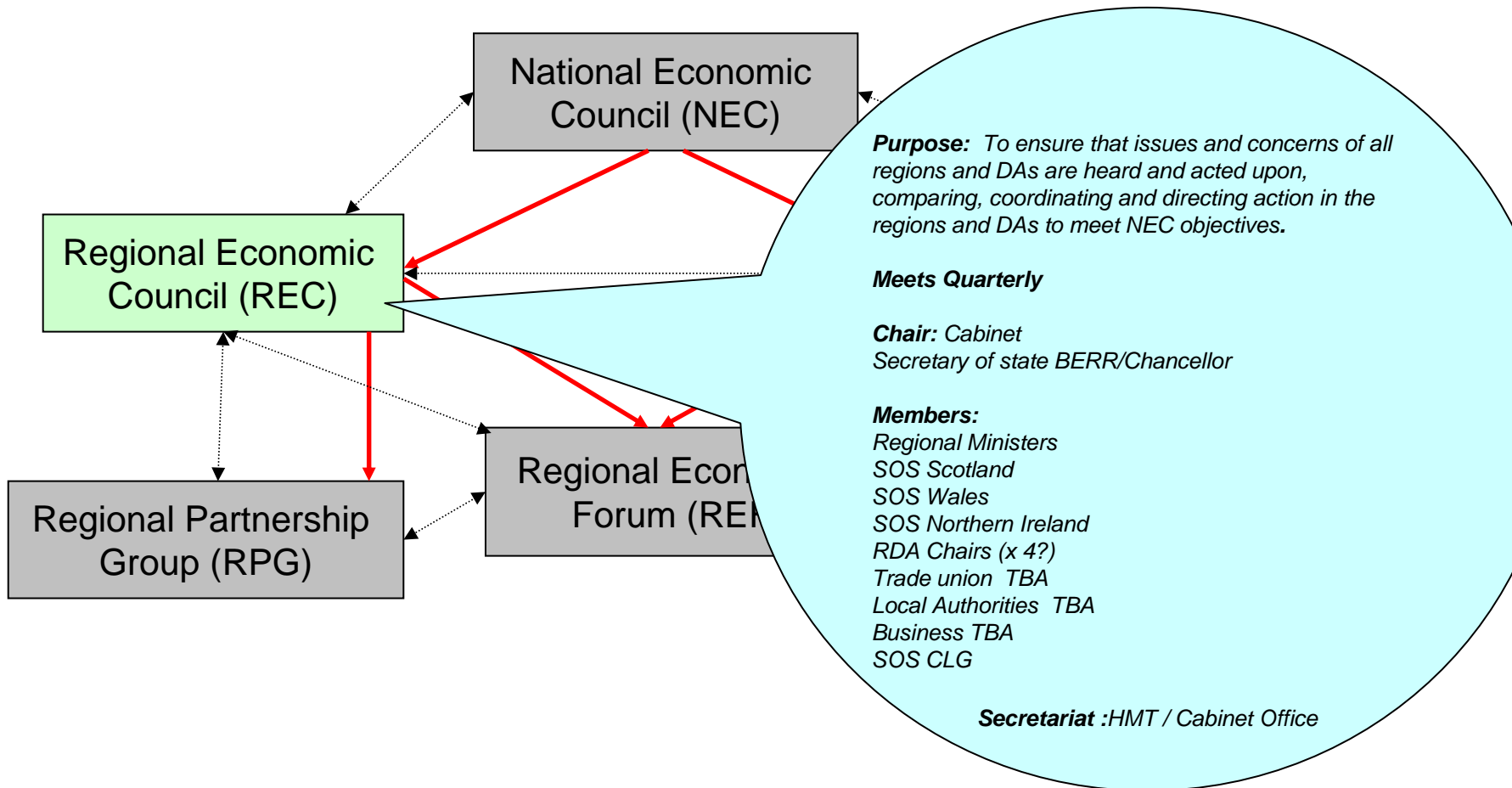
**Secretariat:** GO Network /RCU  
**Support:** EEDA providing weekly briefing

**Followed by debrief with Deborah Cadman, Richard Ellis and Terence Ilott**



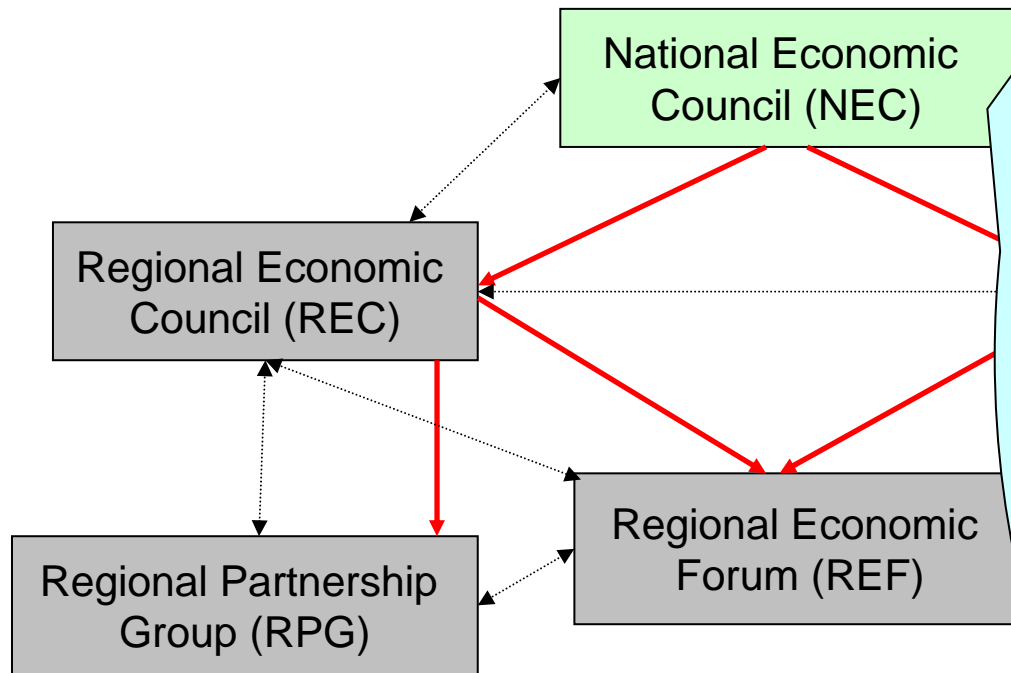


# Regional Economic Council





# National Economic Council



**Purpose:** To frame and coordinate the appropriate departmental and cross Governmental policy responses to economic uncertainty.

**Meets Fortnightly**

**Chair:** Prime Minister

**Members:** Chancellor of the Exchequer  
Secretaries of State for:

FCO  
BERR  
DIUS  
DCSF  
DECC  
DEFRA  
DWP  
CLG  
Scotland  
Wales  
Northern Ireland

Chief Sec Treasury

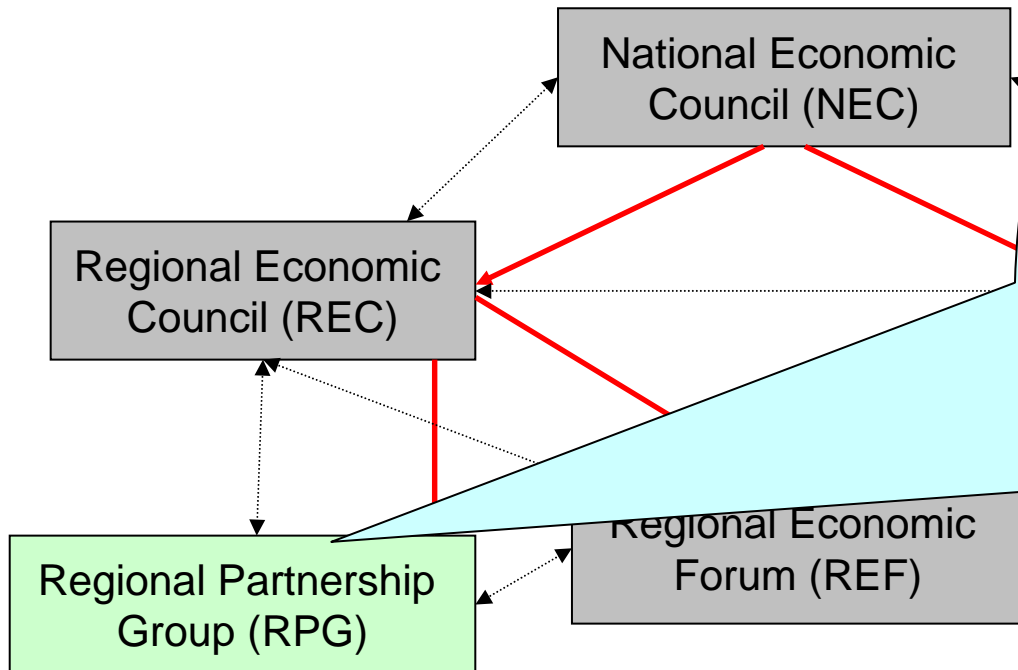
Ministers for:

Housing  
Science  
City  
Economic Competitiveness And Small  
Business  
Communication, technologies and  
broadcasting

**Secretariat :** Cabinet Secretary  
Perm Secretary HMT



# Regional Partnership Group



**Purpose:** Forum for key regional and sub-regional bodies to take a collective, strategic perspective on regional issues.

**Meets:** Quarterly

**Chair:** RM - Barbara Follett

**Deputy:** GO-East Regional Director

**Members:**

County and Unitary Authority Leaders

Regional LAA Groupings

EEDA

EERA

HCA

JC+

LSC

TGSEP

Highways Agency

English Nature

English Heritage

NHS East of England

County, District and UA Reps

Business Reps

**Secretariat :** EERA – Colin Robertshaw

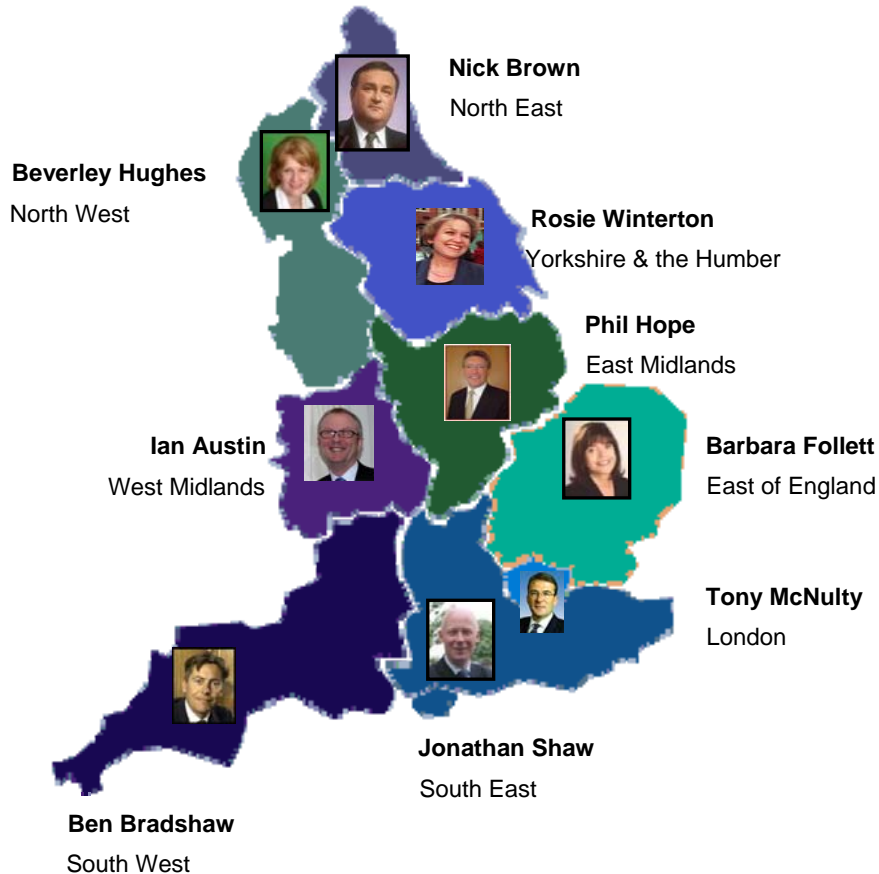


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# Regional Select Committees and Regional Grand Committees



# History



- March 2007: **CLG Select Committee:** “*there should be more thorough and consistent scrutiny of the regions at Westminster*”
- July 2007: **Governance of Britain** Green Paper issued
  - Spoke about improving regional accountability
  - Set basic role of Regional Ministers
- **Sub National Review:** recommendation for greater accountability of regional institutions





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# Background: Modernisation Committee inquiry



House of Commons  
Select Committee on  
Modernisation of the House of  
Commons

## Regional Accountability

Third Report of Session 2007-08

*Report, together with formal minutes, oral and  
written evidence*

*Ordered by The House of Commons  
to be printed 2 July 2008*

HC 282  
Published on 10 July 2008  
by authority of the House of Commons  
London: The Stationery Office Limited  
£0.00

What scrutiny models  
might work

Role of the  
House of Commons

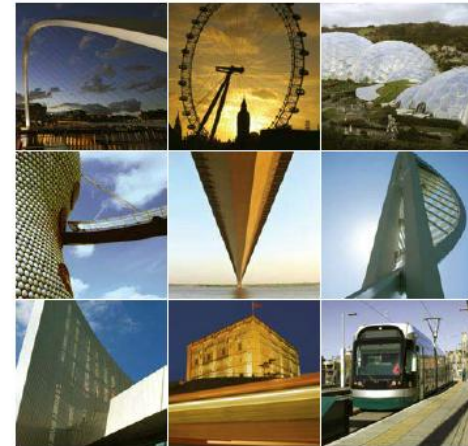
Resources needed

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LEADER of the  
HOUSE OF  
COMMONS



## Regional Accountability

The Government's response to the Modernisation Committee's  
Third Report of session 2007-08



  
Governance of Britain



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# Regional Select Committees

- **Eight committees to be set up**
- Undertake **focussed inquiries with recommendations for change**
- Scrutinise “**regional strategies and work of regional bodies**”
- Membership to reflect **national political balance**



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# Regional Grand Committees

- Again, **eight to be set up.**
- Membership - **all the MPs in the region**
- Consider the “**state of the region**”
- Put **questions to Regional Ministers**
- Will cover a **wider range of subjects** than in a focussed Select Committee inquiry





# What will this mean for regional agencies?

- No prescribed list of issues or bodies to examine: **each committee to decide what / who to scrutinise.**
- Likely to focus on those activities where there is a **regional aspect to decision-making and delivery.**
- So could include...
  - Strategic Health Authorities
  - Regional Development Agencies
  - JobCentre Plus
  - Learning and Skills Council
  - Homes and Communities Agency
  - Arts Council
  - Sports England
  - And GOs themselves





# Next steps

