

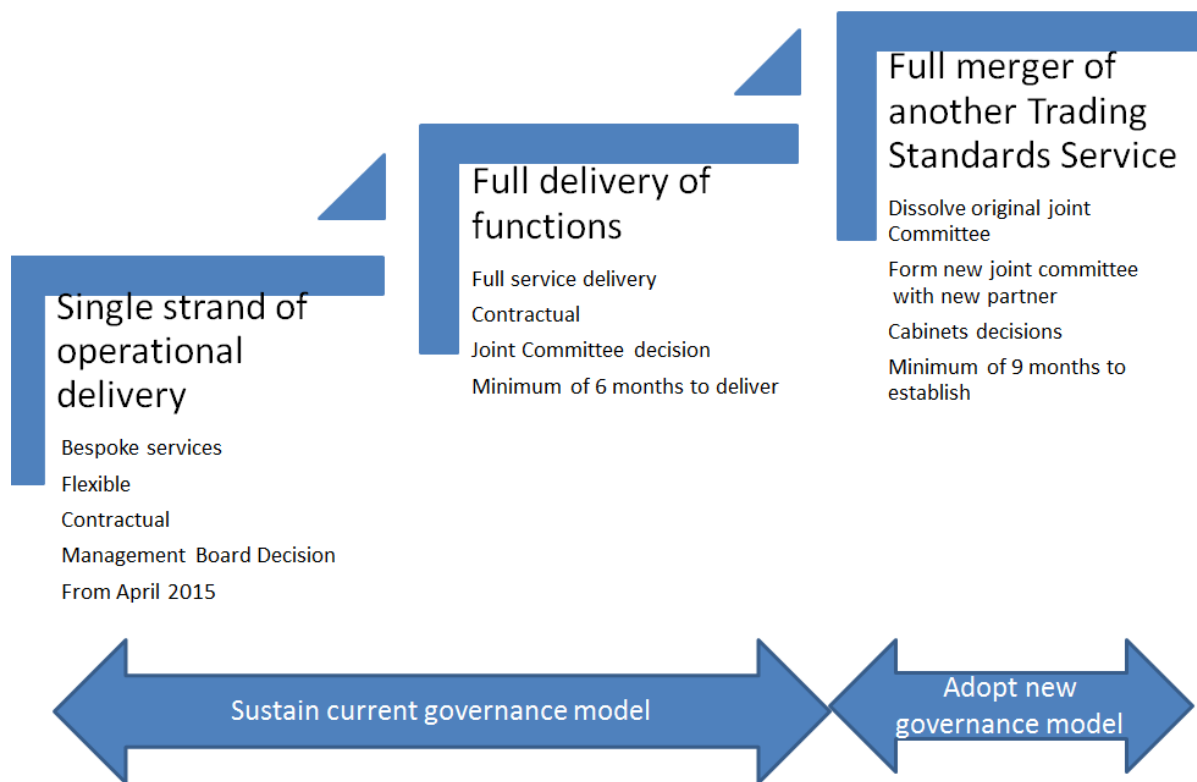
Appendix C: Options for Future Growth

A new joint Trading Standards service would provide a strong foundation for future growth. This would help further enhance the ability of the service to deal with local, regional and national concerns and to enhance efficiency through reducing unit costs further. Growth can come from delivering more services for businesses or from delivering services for other local authorities or regulatory partners.

In relation to the delivery of services for other local authorities growth would mean expanding outside of our current geographic boundaries.

The model that is recommended for the delivery of the new shared service enables such future growth in several ways.

Options For Future Growth



Single strand of Operational Delivery

The Joint Service can offer bespoke services, delivering specific functions or activities on behalf of other local authority services or other organisations on a contractual basis. For example the delivery of an Animal Health function, or a business advice service for a local authority, or to deliver a major investigation or initiative for a national body such as the Food Standards Agency or the National Trading Standards Board. These services would be flexible in terms of volume and time to take into account the specifications of the 'client'; the impact on core service delivery; and the capability of the Joint Service to deliver.

The decision to provide these functions would be made by the Management Board.

The provision of functions in this way could be delivered from April 2015.

Full delivery of functions

The Joint Service can be contracted by another local authority to deliver a complete regulatory service, for example the delivery of a complete Trading Standards (and / or Environmental Health) service.

The decision to provide complete services would be made by the Joint Committee.

The provision of complete services could be considered from April 2015. It is anticipated it would take a minimum of 6 months to put the necessary contractual legalities in place.

Full merger of another Trading Standards Service

The Joint Service can create a new partnership with another local authority to deliver a new larger joint service. This would be overseen by a newly constituted Joint Committee including membership from the new partner authority.

The decision to enter into a new partnership arrangement such as this would need to be made all Cabinets entering into the partnership.

It is anticipated it would take a minimum of 9 months to establish the necessary governance arrangements for any new Joint Service.