

GCSE in Geography A - Geographical Foundations
GCSE in Geography B - Evolving Planet

November 2008



Geography under the spotlight - why change?

Importance of Geography in the 21st Century

Understanding the issues

- *Climate change*
- *Sustainability*
- *Our world in the media spotlight*

What is bringing about these changes?

The world has moved on

- *QCA*
- *Greater emphasis by centres on fieldwork*
- *More up to date content looking at a variety of scales*

How will this impact on Geography and Geography teachers?

An increased necessity to teach a specification which reflects the world we live in



How have we made sure our new specification is what you want?

We asked you

- *We have consulted with Edexcel, OCR and AQA centres*
- *Feedback*
- *Focus groups*
- *Questionnaires*

We acted on what you told us

We have modelled our new content and assessment on the responses



And what are the main differences?

Main differences - Geography A

Geographical skills including map-work and GIS, in Unit 1

Bigger focus on climate change and sustainability, in Unit 1

Wider choice of content in optional topics, within Units 2 and 3

Unit 1 topics are compulsory



And what are the main differences?

Main differences - Geography B

Bigger focus on climate change and sustainability, throughout but particularly within Unit 3

Wider choice of content in optional topics, within Units 1 and 2

Decision making exercise in Unit 3 has been revamped

A tailored progression to GCE with same teaching style

*So what is important
about GCSE
Geography A?*



Overview of Geography A

<i>Unit</i>	<i>Unit title</i>	<i>Method of Assessment</i>	<i>Availability</i>	<i>First Assessment</i>	<i>Weighting</i>	<i>Structure of Assessment</i>
1	<i>Geographical Skills and Challenges</i>	<i>External</i>	<i>January/June</i>	<i>June 2010</i>	<i>25%</i>	<i>External Assessment - mixture of multi-choice, short answer and extended answer</i>
2	<i>The Natural Environment</i>	<i>External</i>	<i>January/June</i>	<i>June 2010</i>	<i>25%</i>	<i>External Assessment - mixture of multi-choice, short answer and extended answer</i>
3	<i>The Human Environment</i>	<i>External</i>	<i>January/June</i>	<i>June 2010</i>	<i>25%</i>	<i>External Assessment - mixture of multi-choice, short answer and extended answer</i>
4	<i>Investigating Geography</i>	<i>Controlled Assessment</i>	<i>June</i>	<i>June 2010</i>	<i>25%</i>	<i>Controlled Assessment task</i>

The specification

*Unit 1 - 25% 1 hour external
assessment Jan/June
50 marks*

*Unit 2 - 25% 1 hour external
assessment Jan/June
50 marks*

*Unit 3 - 25% 1 hour external
assessment Jan/June
50 marks*

*Unit 4 - 25% internal
assessment with controlled
conditions June 50 marks*

Unit One

Geographical Skills and Challenges

*Unit 1: Geographical Skills and
Challenges
This unit is made of two sections,
both of compulsory material:*

*Section A - Geographical Skills
This covers cartographic, graphical,
geographical enquiry, ICT and GIS*

*Section B - Challenges for the Planet
This covers issues that have arisen
from climate change and sustainable
development*



The specification

Unit Two

The Natural Environment

This unit is made of two sections, both containing optional topics:

*Section A - The Physical World
Students should complete one of the following topics:
Coastal Landscapes; River Landscapes;
Glaciated Landscapes; Tectonic Landscapes*

*Section B - Environmental Issues
Students complete one of the following topics:
A Wasteful World; A Watery World*

Unit Three

The Human Environment

This unit is made of two sections, both containing optional topics:

*Section A - The Human World
Students should complete one of the following topics:
Economic Change, Farming and the Countryside, Settlement Change, Population Change*

*Section B - People Issues
Students should complete one of the following topics:
A Moving World; A Tourist's World*



*So what is
important about
GCSE Geography B?*



Overview of Geography B

<i>Unit</i>	<i>Unit title</i>	<i>Method of Assessment</i>	<i>Availability</i>	<i>First Assessment</i>	<i>Weighting</i>	<i>Structure of Assessment</i>
1	<i>Dynamic Planet</i>	<i>External</i>	<i>January/June</i>	<i>June 2010</i>	<i>25%</i>	<i>External Assessment - mixture of short answer and extended answer</i>
2	<i>People and the Planet</i>	<i>External</i>	<i>January/June</i>	<i>June 2010</i>	<i>25%</i>	<i>External Assessment - mixture of short answer and extended answer</i>
3	<i>Making Geographical Decisions</i>	<i>External</i>	<i>June</i>	<i>June 2010</i>	<i>25%</i>	<i>External Assessment - mixture of short answer and extended answer</i>
4	<i>Researching Geography</i>	<i>Controlled Assessment</i>	<i>June</i>	<i>June 2010</i>	<i>25%</i>	<i>Controlled Assessment task</i>

The specification

There are four units in the GCSE in Geography B - Evolving Planet

Unit 1 - 25% 1 hour external assessment Jan/June 50 marks

Unit 2 - 25% 1 hour external assessment Jan/June 50 marks

Unit 3 - 25% 1 hour external assessment Jan/June 50 marks

Unit 4 - 25% internal assessment with controlled conditions June 50 marks

Unit 1

Dynamic Planet

This unit is made up of three sections. Section A is compulsory, and Sections B and C contain optional topics

Section A - Introduction to the Dynamic Planet

Compulsory topics: Restless Earth, Climate and Change, Battle for the Biosphere and Water World.

Section B - Small Scale Dynamic Planet

Optional topics: complete one of either Coastal Change or River Processes and Pressures.

Section C - Large Scale Dynamic Planet

Optional topics: complete one of either Oceans on the Edge or Extreme Climates.



The specification

Unit 2

People and the Planet

This unit is made up of three sections. Section A is compulsory, Sections B and C contain optional topics.

Section A - Introduction to People and the Planet

Compulsory topics: Population Dynamics, Consuming Resources, Living Spaces and Making a Living.

Section B - Small Scale People and the Planet

Optional topics, complete one of either Changing Cities or Changing Countryside.

Section C - Large Scale People and the Planet

Optional topics, complete one of either Development Dilemmas or World at Work.

Unit 3

Making Geographical Decisions

This unit will assess the students' ability to make decisions regarding geographical issues and justify them.

It includes the pressures (conflicts), players and options that are involved in making geographical decisions and is related to sustainable development and environmental issues.

This unit is based on a pre-released resource booklet which students will study and then use in the examination.



How will the changes to coursework affect how I teach?

Unit 4

For this unit students need to complete a fieldwork investigation and report. They must complete one of the tasks provided by Edexcel

Controlled conditions - what does it mean?

Wide choice of fieldwork tasks - complete one task from a choice of eight, for both Geography A and B

Many themes

*Easy to follow as themes remain the same even though tasks change every year
Eight themes for Geography A and four themes for Geography B*

What is controlled assessment?

Task Setting

*High level of control
Edexcel sets the tasks and these change each year*

Task Taking

*a Research and data collection
- limited level of control
b Analysis and evaluation of findings
- high level of control*

Task Marking

*Medium level of control
Centres mark the tasks and Edexcel moderates them*



Controlled Assessment FAQs



Titles – can candidates all do the same title (broad area vs micro-task?)

Advance notice of tasks (1 yr vs 2 year?)

Number of tasks and choice (can you do the same fieldwork each year?)



Amount of fieldwork expected (and volume of data collection)?

Guidance on use of GIS and level of sophistication?

Presentation / graphing up under what level of control?

Degree of task change between each year (QCA requirement)?



Range of outputs or products

PowerPoint

*Webpage /
Wiki*

Write-up

DVD / images

Notes / logs

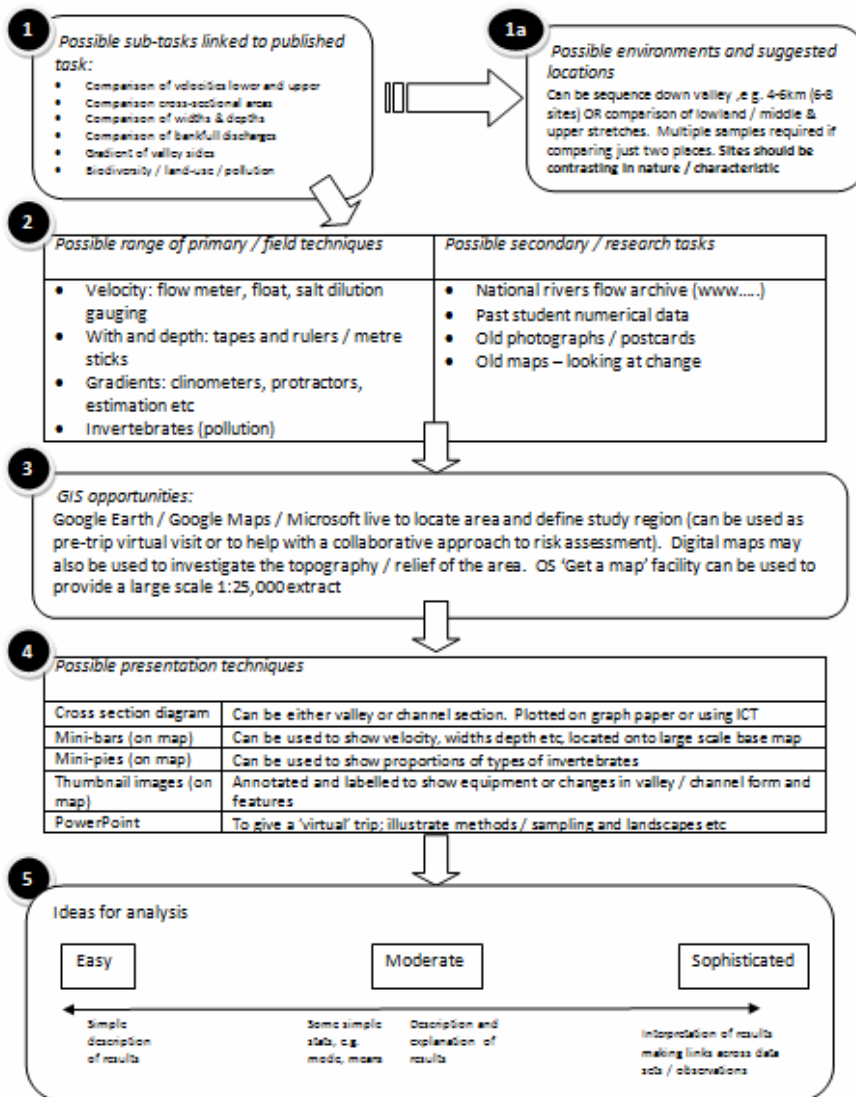
Custom GIS

*'Mix and Match'
~ 2000 words*

*Outputs or
products*

Dedicated support for CA

TASK TITLE – example: Rivers environments are very different in their upper and lower sections



UK International

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About Us Home

Who we are

- Our history
- Our people
 - The Senior Management Team
 - The Edexcel Board
 - The Qualifications Committee
 - Job vacancies
- Our mission
- Our recruitment
 - Our diversity
 - Our benefits
 - Our structure and location
 - Our current recruitment

What we do

- Customer Service Research
- Tell Edexcel
- Service to Customer Awards

Ask the Expert

What is Ask the Expert?

Ask the Expert was developed after extensive consultation to find out what services and support you need. We understand that you need concise and definitive answers in writing, so Ask the Expert puts you in direct email contact with over 200 of our senior subject experts. Upon receiving your questions, our experts will send you a written response within two working days.

What type of question should I send to Ask the Expert?

Our experts are there to answer your **detailed, subject-specific** questions concerning the teaching of qualifications. Please check our Enquiry Guide to ensure that your question is best answered by our experts. Questions that are more general or to do with the administration of the qualification, such as past results or entry-related enquiries, should be directed to our customer service team.

Alternatively, you can use our online question and answer service, Ask Edexcel.

By only sending appropriate questions to Ask the Expert, you will help us ensure that the service is more responsive.

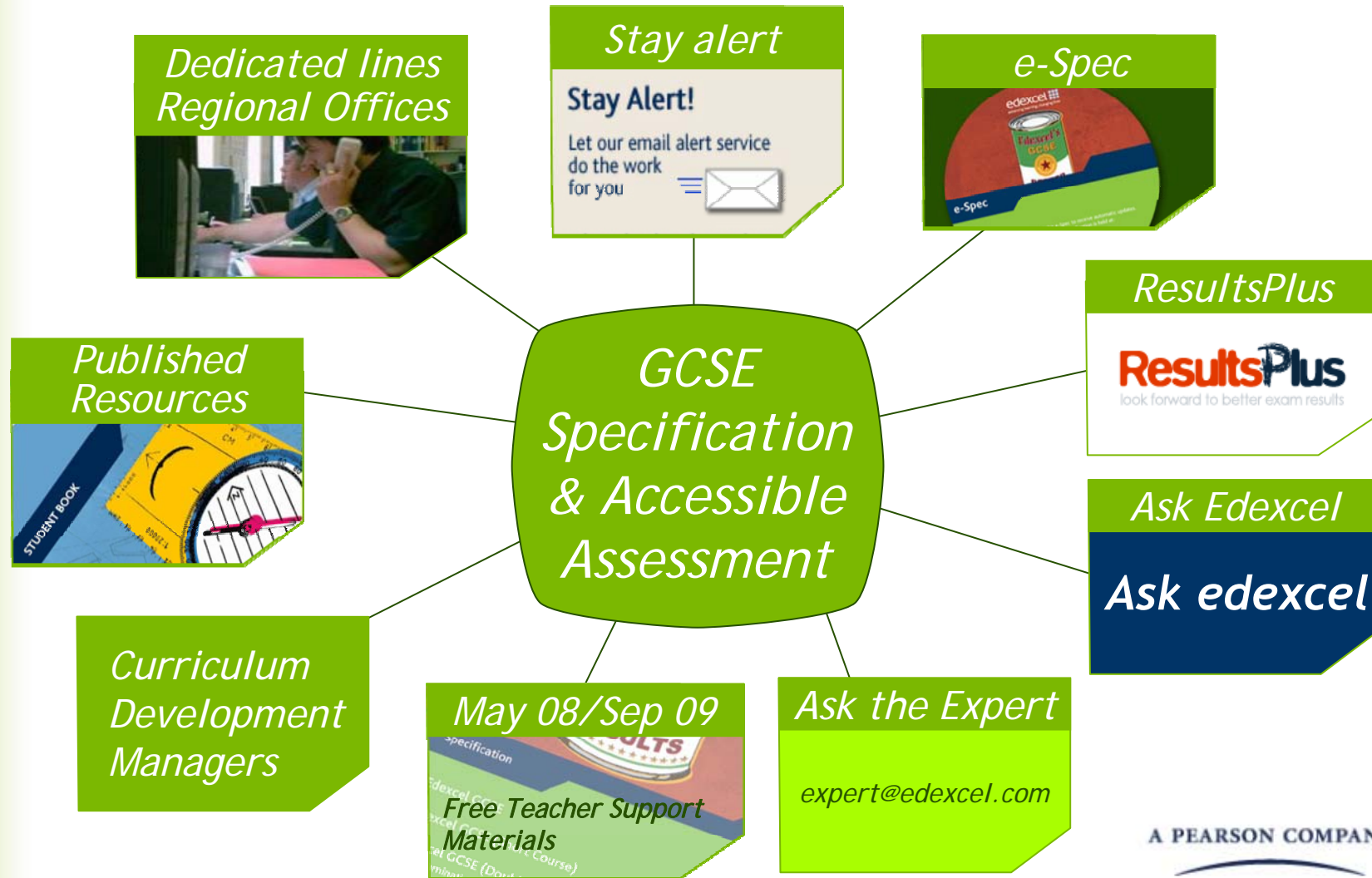
Who are the Experts?

Our experts are our senior examiners, moderators and verifiers who all have extensive backgrounds and experience in their respective subjects. What's more, our experts are heavily involved in our specifications and developing qualifications. There is no-one better qualified to answer your questions.

Supporting websites

	The ONS site has become increasingly complex to use, but none the less is an excellent resource. Search by area or postcode; also downloadable dataset to use on a range of topics and resolutions www.statistics.gov.uk .
	Put in your postcode to find out what your area is like. Good indicators such as demographics, crime figures and property. www.upmystreet.co.uk
	This takes you to the Environment Agency website and the 'what's in your backyard' section. Here you can find out about flood risk and local sources of river pollution. Postcode search. www.environment-agency.gov.uk
	Takes you to the home page of the BBC. A very large site with news and also geography related reports. In particular, look out for podcasts and the 'Listen-again' section. www.bbc.co.uk
	http://local.live.com/ this website allows you to get maps and air photos at high resolution for locations in UK. Use postcode search. New 3D mapping available. An alternative to Google Maps
	Flash Earth www.flashearth.com lets you select the best resolution air photo / satellite image from a range of sources. This is good for detail in rural areas.
	Draw pictures and label things on a digital map using simple clicks and drags. Easily move the map to anywhere in the world. www.quikmaps.com Very user friendly - can embed maps into your own website
	Field Studies Council. Their publications section has some useful (and cheap) field-guides, e.g. plants of sand dunes, clouds, rocks and minerals etc. www.field-studies-council.org
	Valuation Agency site. Get council tax and business rates for any property in the England and Wales. www.voa.gov.uk Good for CBD studies or generating key Qs / hypothesis (link with bid rent)
	Check out residents of any UK postcode based on Census data. Credit ratings, affluence, social grades, house prices and types, crime rates, health, ethnic mix. Instant and good for quality of life surveys.
	The National Rivers Flow Archive http://www.nrl.ac.uk/ih/www/index.htm allows you to download historical discharge data for a range of rivers in England, Wales, Scotland and N Ireland.
	MORI (http://www.mori.com) have some excellent social publications for download; also some free high quality Barometers - see especially their quality of life work
	http://www.magic.gov.uk/ A multi-agency GIS resource for the countryside. Overlay your own data / information relating environmental schemes and designations.
	The Geograph British Isles project aims to collect a geographically representative photograph for every square kilometre. Look by postcode as to what your area is like - why not upload pictures yourself!
	The Natural England website http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ . This has been formed as a merger between English Nature, DEFRA and the Countryside Commission. Some good free publications

What are we doing to help you?



September 2008
Free teacher support book

*Mapping charts
highlighting
what's new
whichever spec
you currently
use*

*Some great
lesson ideas
that you can use
as tasters in
year 9*

*Controlled
assessment
exemplars with
moderator
comments*

*September 2008
Free e-Spec*

Video of a senior examiner explaining the changes and the rationale behind them

Links from spec to SAMs so you can see the questions that will be asked for each part of the spec content

Video of students discussing their experience of studying the GCSE subject

Innovating with INSET / CPD online



Attendee List (2)

- John Burton
- Sarah Windsor

Trainer Briefing Room | Connect Pro Meeting

Meeting Present Layouts Pods Help

Trainer Briefing Room | Connect Pro Meeting

John Burton

al Windsor

INSET online

Welcome we will be starting shortly....

Full Screen

John Burton

Chat

Sarah Windsor: Hi John



*February 2009
Getting ready to teach*

To coincide with the national programme of implementation events

*Free Scheme
of Work with
lesson plans*

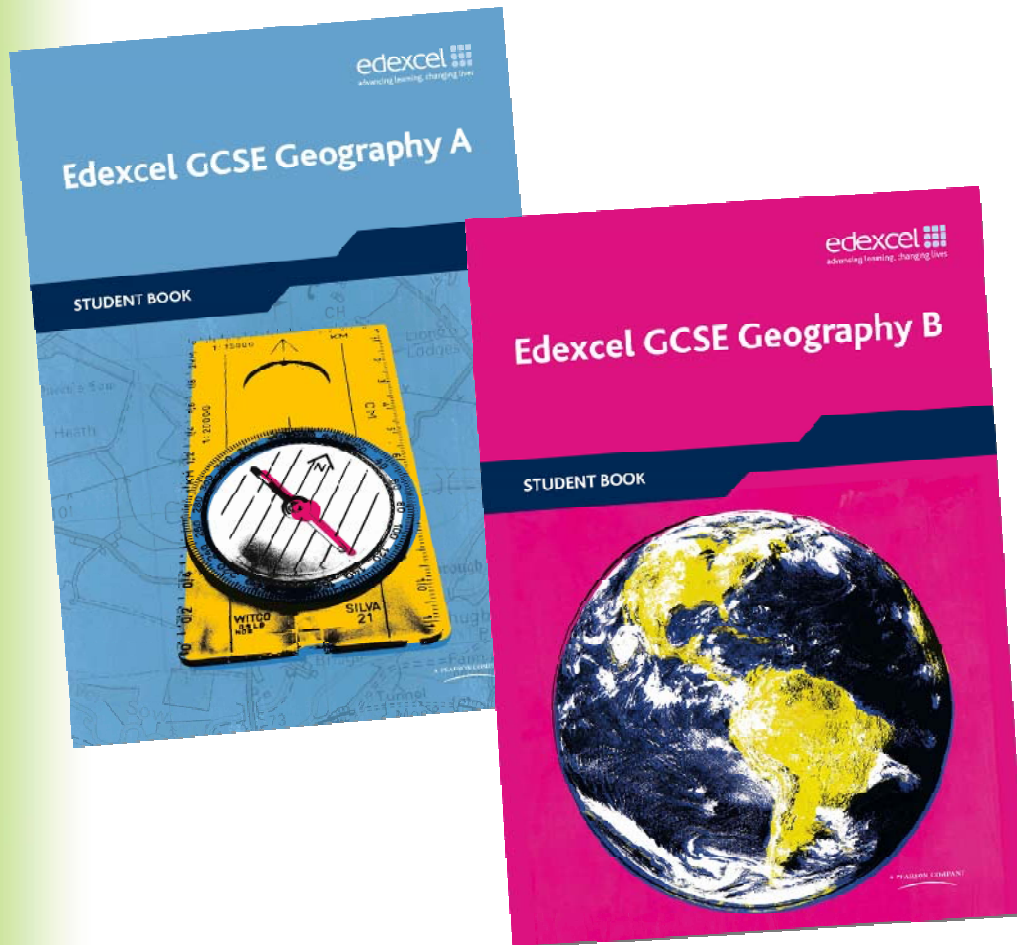
*Free extra
SAMs papers*

*Free further
controlled
assessment
exemplars*

*All the
support you
need*



Edexcel published resources



*Highly
respected
authors*

*Free
evaluation
pack*

*Direct links
to the
specification*

Engaging

*We will also endorse
materials by other
publishers.*

What do I need to do next?

Staying with Edexcel?

*Coming on board from
another AB?*

www.edexcel.com/gcse2009

*Sign up for e-mail
alerts for your
subject*

September 2008

*Getting started packs
to your centre*

*Implementation
Events*

Spring 2009

*Welcome pack
September 2009*

*Why you should choose Edexcel
for your GCSE in Geography 2009 Specification*

*Retained
popular
features and
greater
flexibility*

*The most
comprehensive
package of
support and
services
available*

*A specification
that allows for
better results
for all your
students*

Our commitment

We have been getting better at listening to you - this is our promise:

- ✓ *We will help you improve results through investment in technology, training and support*
- ✓ *When you contact us we will respond quickly and effectively*
- ✓ *We will work harder to ensure the information you need is clear and easily accessible*
- ✓ *This isn't all we are doing but it's the things we know are important to you, and to us*