

NATIONAL PROJECTS

at the heart of excellent services

PRESS RELEASE

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INDEPENDENT STUDIES CONFIRM VALUE OF LOCAL E-GOVERNMENT NATIONAL PROJECTS

New authoritative studies, commissioned by the local e-gov National Projects, have provided compelling evidence of the benefits of e-Government to local authorities.

Independent analysis has revealed that six projects alone could lead to direct annual cost savings across England of around £300 million, with added service improvement for citizens to the value of around £1.3 billion.

In addition the National Projects can play a key role in enabling local authorities to meet their challenges and targets. Of the six projects analysed, all prove to be of high benefit in at least one of the Gershon Efficiency Review headings, and all can be of significant help in meeting the Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) ratings as well as supporting authorities to reach their e-Government targets.

As well as the new analysis, the studies also provide guides to local authorities on how to go about introducing specific e-Government initiatives, as well as common success factors and risks. They also each include case studies of local authorities that are successfully implementing e-Government solutions.

Supported by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM), the 22 local e-gov National Projects are a key part of the strategy for local e-Government. They offer councils cost-effective, proven, standards-based products, services and implementation roadmaps with which to build effective e-services tailored to their citizens and each council's own needs.

Some 80 percent of all English councils are already involved in at least one National Project.

Phil Hope MP, Minister for Local e-Government, said:

“The reports published today provide a credible advocacy for the National Projects to key decision-makers in local authorities. This helps to give local authorities a clear route for improving efficiency and progressing towards the targets set out by the Gershon review. This is an exciting time, and I would encourage all local authorities to carefully consider how best they can adopt e-Government products and services and enjoy the real benefits this brings.”



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Martin Scarfe, Chair of the National Projects Communications Programme, said:

“If anyone needed evidence that e-Government can be a huge driver for service improvement and cost efficiencies, these studies provide it in full. Together with clearly huge cost savings, they also show real, practical benefits at the individual authority level. The National Projects are designed by councils for councils, and allow managers to implement an existing and proven working model designed specifically to meet their needs. I strongly suggest that officers read these guides, summaries of which are being sent today to every English local authority.”

The analysis, carried out by Capgemini, focuses on the following projects: CRM (Customer Relationship Management), Workflow, LAWs (Local Authority Websites), NOMAD (Mobile Working), PARSOL (Planning and Regulatory Services on-line) and Valuebill (Council Tax / Business Rate Valuation).

The ODPM set up the local e-gov National Projects Programme in order to help all English local authorities achieve the 2005 local e-Government targets and develop a vision for e-Government within their own authorities. Although the funding comes from the ODPM, the National Projects are run by local authorities for the benefit of other local authorities.

The Projects are focused in two distinct areas:

1. Exploration of technology-based solutions that form the building blocks for developing local e-Government.
2. Application of technology to improve services and achieve savings in line with Electronic Service Delivery and Efficiency areas

‘Local e-Gov EXPO 2005’ is a series of National Project conferences and exhibitions taking place in January and April. These events will showcase the projects with a focus on effectiveness and efficiency, and are aimed at local authority strategic decision makers.

www.localgovnp.org.uk/events/expo

NOTES

1. For further information please contact the National Projects press office at 020 7492 0997, media@localgovnp.org.uk
2. The full guides and their summaries can be found on the National Projects website at www.localgovnp.org.uk/benefits
3. Summary of benefits identified

Cost savings: around £306 million (range £163m-476m) Increased revenue: around £56 million (range £24m-£48m) Service improvement: around £1,343 million (range £745m-1,896m)
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