

Migration of National Projects makes further good progress

- **Councils continue to reap benefits of local e-government programme**

18 October, 2005 - The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) announced today the migration of three local e-government National Projects to their permanent local authority homes. The announcement indicates further good progress in the Government's drive to secure the long-term rollout of products under the National Projects.

The National Projects migrated today are:

- e-Pay (London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham)
- e-Democracy (North Lincolnshire Council)
- National e-Procurement Project (London Borough of Newham)

Announcing the successful migrations, Minister for Local e-government Jim Fitzpatrick said: "The local e-government National Projects Programme has been a major catalyst for innovation and transformation in local government. The commitment of local authorities to developing and promoting the products of the National Projects ensures that others will continue to benefit from the improvements in services and efficiencies these products deliver."

Caroline Stanger, Director of Business Support and Development at Cambridgeshire County Council and Chair of the National Projects migration programme said: "I'm delighted that so many local authorities have shown the imagination and entrepreneurial approach needed to take on these products and develop them further. Most of the local e-government National Projects have finished - but the products will continue to be developed by local authorities for the benefit of other local authorities."

The news follows ODPM's announcement in February that ownership of the national projects would be offered to local authorities as part of its long-term strategy for local e-government and its determination to secure the long-term rollout of the products.

In the meantime, coordination of rollout and marketing of National Project outputs continues with a series of Regional EXPO events next month across England.

Martin Scarfe, local e-gov National Projects Programme director, said: "Results from July's Implementing Electronic Government (IEG 4.5) returns show that English councils have now created a solid base from which to move towards using e-government to deliver more efficient services. The ongoing local e-gov EXPO 2005/06 series of events aims to facilitate debate across English local authorities on how this can best be effected.

"The outputs from the ODPM's successful local e-gov programme will have long term benefits for English councils, helping them to transform the delivery of local services beyond 2005 and leverage technology investments to deliver efficiency savings.

"The focus now is on using these innovations to deliver the required transformations and efficiencies. Key to this is encouraging the citizen, where appropriate, to make the move to e-services."

Ownership of the remaining National Project products is still to be confirmed. Each has been offered to the current lead authority. If a lead authority does not wish to continue responsibility for the ownership of products, they will be offered to other councils and then to other suitable bodies including the Improvement and Development Agency (I&DeA), the lead authorities of the Regional Centres of Excellence, other Government Departments where appropriate, and the private sector. Any local e-gov National Project products not taken up after this process will be discontinued. Transfer of ownership is due to be completed by December 2005.

-Ends-

Notes to editor

Local e-government National Projects transferred to date:

Knowledge Management (ACKnowledge)	Leeds City Council
LAWS (APLAWS)	Camden London Borough
LAWS	West Sussex County Council
LAWS (LGOL-Net)	Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council
NOMAD	Cambridgeshire County Council
PARSOL (Regulatory Services)	London Borough of Wandsworth
Enterprise Workflow (Performance Management Framework)	St Helens Metropolitan Borough Council
Smartcard	Bracknell Forest Council
e-Democracy	North Lincolnshire Council
National e-Procurement Project	London Borough of Newham
e-Pay	London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham

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