



Office of the
Deputy Prime Minister

Creating sustainable communities

Chief Executive

Office of the Deputy Prime Minister
Local e-Government
3/C5 Eland House, Bressenden Place
London SW1E 5DU

Tel: 020 7944 4258 Fax: 020 7944 4994
E-Mail: localegov@odpm.gsi.gov.uk

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E-Government

I am writing to update you on developments since June in relation to e-government.

IEG4 Process

We consulted all local authorities on the proposed content of the IEG4 proforma in the summer. We now plan to publish the final IEG4 proforma during October 2004¹, with a deadline for the completion of IEG4 returns on the esd-toolkit of midnight on **Monday 20th December 2004**.

This year, all local authorities will be required to submit IEG4 returns online² via the esd-toolkit. If your authority is not already an active user of the esd-toolkit, then you should allow officers adequate time to register and acquaint themselves with this facility prior to the submission deadline. A national training programme designed to support local authority officers in using the esd-toolkit backs up this initiative. See www.esd-toolkit.org for further details.

Priority Outcomes

On 1st September, the Improvement & Development Agency (IDeA) published '**Priority Outcomes: Explanatory Notes for Practitioners**' designed to support our original ODPM guidance on '*Defining e-government outcomes for 2005 to support the delivery of priority services and National Strategy transformation agenda for local authorities in England*'³. These notes represent the only additional guidance on the priority outcomes that has been endorsed by the ODPM. They can be accessed at http://www.idea.gov.uk/transformation/?id=priority_outcomes. Progress on the achievement of the priority outcomes will be assessed through the IEG process this year and next.

¹ A separate version of the IEG4 proforma will also be made available during October 2004 for National Park Authorities, reflecting their different priority outcome requirements.

² IEG4 returns submitted by email will only be accepted for National Park Authorities, the Greater London Authority, the London Development Agency and Transport for London who are not catered for through esd-toolkit arrangements.

³ See http://www.odpm.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2004_0112

IEG Grant Certification (02-04)

On 13th September, we supplied authorities with an audit form (IEG (02-04)) designed to facilitate auditor certification of IEG1 and IEG2 grant related expenditure under the terms of Special Grant Report 97 (SGR 97). Local authority claims for eligible expenditure against grant allocation should be signed by the Chief Finance Officer and then certified by the appointed auditor and returned to the ODPM by 31 December 2004.

National Projects

The DiTV and Knowledge Management National Projects have both completed since June. Full details of these and other projects are now available on the new National Projects Programme portal website <http://www.localgovnp.org/>.

e-Government Partnerships

All e-government partnerships completed their local e-government programme funded work at the end of July. We are now in the process of evaluating this work, with a view to disseminating the results of the partnerships programme and lessons learnt.

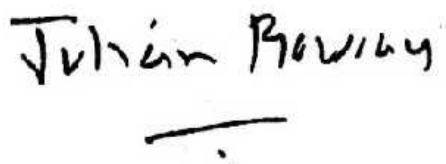
e-Innovations Programme

Phase 1 e-Innovations projects are now well under way with over 30 local authority projects developing new ways of moving forward the e-government agenda.

Phase 2 of the programme will begin later this year with a Ministerial announcement inviting local authorities to submit ideas. The plan is then to refine the best ideas into potential projects at a series of workshops to be convened early next year.

Once again, I am grateful for the ongoing support of your authority to the e-government programme and hope that the recent developments described here will help us to continue to work together in realising the benefits from our investment in e-government. Further information of the whole of the ODPM's local e-government programme can be found at our portal website www.localgov.gov.uk. You may also contact our team by telephone on 020 7944 4258.

Yours sincerely



JULIAN BOWREY
Programme Manager