



Office of the
Deputy Prime Minister

Creating sustainable communities

Local and Regional Government
Research Programme
Annual Newsletter
2004/05



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Deputy Prime Minister

Creating sustainable communities

Local and Regional Government Research Programme Annual Newsletter 2004/05

September 2004

Office of the Deputy Prime Minister: London

Following the reorganisation of the government in May 2002, the responsibilities of the former Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions (DETR) and latterly Department for Transport, Local Government and the Regions (DTLR) in this area were transferred to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM).

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Introduction

Welcome to the 2004/05 Local and Regional Government Research Programme Annual Newsletter.

The Newsletter provides details of new projects to be commissioned in 2004/05 and updates on current projects and recent research findings.

The Local and Regional Government Programme contributes research-based information for policy development and evaluation on the major elements of local government and regional governance such as the role and structure of local and regional government, cross-cutting issues, finance, local democracy and standards issues, regional governance and service quality. The programme

has continued to expand since its start in 1988/89. The budget for 2004/05 is £2.97m.

We are keen to generate interest amongst research contractors and welcome expressions of interest both from those who have worked for us in the past and those who are new to the programme. If you wish to be considered when we draw up shortlists for invitation to tender, please complete and return the enclosed form to us at the address given on it. If you have any general questions or comments about the research programme, or the work of the Unit, please contact:

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New Projects for 2004/05 include:

- In-house support to measurement of the LG Efficiency Review
- Standardised approaches to delivery across service/LA boundaries
- Evaluating the impact of the e-government agenda
- Research to support the development of LAAs
- A programme of work on user choice, engagement and performance reporting
- Connecting with communities: further research
- Evaluation of new models of governance at the neighbourhood level
- Futures thinking to support delivery of the local government strategy
- Governance arrangements and the liveability PSA
- Local government equality and diversity: further research
- ODPM analysis of local government elections data
- Examples of best practice in local government asset management and capital strategies
- An evaluation of the role of property owners in Business Improvements Districts
- An evaluation of local authorities' response to LABGI
- LG Finance Independent Inquiry – Research Support
- The rebilling costs faced by local authorities as a result of council tax capping
- Practical guidance and learning in relation to setting up elected regional assemblies
- A systematic review of evidence on regional government/governance

New Projects for 2004/05

If you would like to express an interest in tendering for any of these projects, please return the enclosed form as soon as possible.

1. In-house support to measurement of the LG Efficiency Review

Expressions of interest are not required for this project

The Efficiency Review of local government has identified a number of key areas for potential efficiency gains in the operation of local authority business and service delivery. Achievement of these efficiencies now needs to be monitored across Whitehall, as they relate to service areas that are the responsibility of a range of other government departments as well as ODPM. This project would seek to create an inter-departmental working group of statisticians and economists to liaise over approaches to monitoring and measurement and take on board any HMT guidance. It would act as an advisory and in-house expertise to support policy colleagues with responsibility for delivery on the Efficiency Review report.

2. Standardised approaches to delivery across service/LA boundaries

Expressions of interest are not required for this project

This project would seek to develop the evidence base, through case-studies and best practice examples: on the scope for efficiency gains through aggregation and standardised approaches to procurement, back-office functions and transactional services, and particularly, identifying approaches that can be more easily transferred and adopted by other local authorities; and, the potential for service delivery across authority boundaries and on a (sub) regional basis. For instance, examples might include the Kent and Swindon joint social care delivery vehicle and the Norfolk County Council experience of trading services.

3. Evaluating the impact of the e-government agenda

This project would aim to evaluate the impact of the e-government agenda, encompassing the National Projects and Partnerships and including e-democracy. It would build upon the process evaluation of e-Government that was published by ODPM in November last year. The evaluation would specifically address the impact of the National Projects and Partnerships in terms of: improvements in service quality, accountability, local democracy; the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of processes; and, the generation of sustainable capacity and skills. It will seek to establish how far these improvements can be directly attributable to the e-government agenda. It would include e-democracy both in terms of engagement between decision-makers and citizens and use of ICT in deliberative democratic activities.

4. Research to support the development of LAAs

Expressions of interest are not required for this project

The implementation of pilot LAAs can be supported by research in the same way as for the pilot LPSAs. Each stage of the pilots can benefit from the 'real-time' learning and feedback that can be developed from a research team examining what will be a complex and demanding process involving a wide range of people in several organisations. For instance, the research can give regular action learning on: data requirements and uses; target specification and agreement; negotiation skills and competencies; monitoring and evaluation procedures; building successful and effective relationships between Government Offices for the Regions, local authorities and central government departments involved in the process; the most productive use of meetings between central and local government; and, documentation before, during and after negotiation. All of this can contribute to the guidance for the design of effective roll out to ensure administrative efficiency, the capacity to foster creativity and good relationships and to facilitate the equitable treatment of local authorities.

5. A programme of work on user choice, engagement and performance reporting

There are several existing strands of research work that can be brought together to address policy issues on user choice, engagement and performance reporting as follows:

- We need to understand in greater detail the different models of choice identified in research. This is important if we are to address the central question of which models of choice we should be encouraging authorities to adopt, and in which circumstances. In particular, we are looking for research this year to analyse the financial costs of providing user choice, including comparisons between different models; and to consider the implications of, and changes, which are required in terms of culture, capacity and skills etc.
- We need to understand in general terms what users want from local government services in a similar way to the work that has been undertaken on the NHS. On choice we need to understand what kinds of choices local people actually want and the information and other requirements they need to exercise those choices. But it also goes wider than choice to encapsulate people's expectations of responsive local public services.
- We need more information on the nature and extent of user pressure in influencing service delivery. From this we need an understanding of the role which this plays in driving challenge and service improvement. If this bottom up pressure were to play a greater role over the longer-term, what are the pre-conditions which need to be in place so that users are able to contest the levels of performance of their local services? Also, what is the current and potential role of central government in promoting user pressure as a driver for service improvement?
- Performance information is important to the thinking behind the developing local government performance framework. How

can we ensure that Government departments and their Inspectorates have access to up to date data about local authority performance in order to be able to make well-informed decisions about engagement? What objective evidence do we have about the effectiveness of 'real-time' information systems in the public sector?

- There is a perception that we need to move towards defining a smaller set of national targets. What evidence is there that setting national targets drives up performance in local services? What sort of targets are most successful (floor targets, aspirational targets etc)? How do we set national targets to reflect user focus? The evaluation of the first generation of local PSAs will shed light on some of these kinds of issues.

6. Connecting with communities: further research

In the light of persistent findings (the latest being the 2003/04 BVPI user satisfaction results) on the link between ways councils provide information about their services and communicate with their citizens and levels of overall satisfaction with local authorities, it is proposed that there is a further stage of research work on the Connecting with Communities Project, which was jointly funded by the LGA, IDeA and ODPM. This stage might explicitly focus research on developing the brand image of local government, how effective some authorities have been in communicating with non-users of services and the particular mechanisms they have used to communicate customer-focused service delivery aims.

7. Evaluation of new models of governance at the neighbourhood level

The Local Government Association (LGA) recently undertook research to examine the nature and extent of sub-local authority governance arrangements. These can range from area committees and area forums to neighbourhood management and New Deal for Communities pathfinders. This was essentially a

quantitative postal survey which will benefit from more detailed qualitative and case study follow up. Evaluating what works in new and existing forms of sub-authority governance arrangements can provide valuable lessons for encouraging greater citizen and community engagement at the neighbourhood level. For example, it could provide useful practical evidence on issues of citizen capacity and equity, the potential for greater service diversity at the local level, delegation of budgets and increased accountability of councils. It is proposed that this would be a jointly funded research exercise with the LGA and could lead in due course to the piloting of other proposals and the kind of formative evaluation that can support learning and policy implementation. Necessary links will need to be established with NRU and Home Office research on this subject.

8. Futures thinking to support delivery of the Local Government Strategy

In order to support thinking on the full range of policy proposals within the Local Government Strategy, it is proposed to commission a set of futures exercises and thinkpieces from a selected group of researchers, local authority practitioners and central government policy makers. These would aim to identify a clear set of issues, opportunities and concerns for the context of future delivery, based on 'blue skies' thinking, that can be flagged up for future debate and which can help test out whether current thinking is on the right lines. Such an exercise can address the key overarching questions of the Strategy in turn, such as 'How can we achieve stronger, more confident and effective Local Government in 10 years time?' and 'What would be an effective settlement between national, regional and local government to support this vision?' There are a range of formal techniques for undertaking this kind of futures thinking exercise helping to foresee, manage and create future situations. For example, in terms of foreseeing and managing the future causal models, issues management and scenario modelling can be used to identify some of the key factors and trends likely to be faced within the proposals set out in the LG Strategy over the next 5-10 years. These can be

used with a select group of experienced and knowledgeable participants to produce a report with practical and clear findings and recommendations for issues that are likely to be pivotal uncertainties, significant trends, context shapers and potential jokers.

9. Governance arrangements and the Liveability PSA

Expressions of interest are not required for this project

A short in-house feasibility study is needed to develop potential indicators of the impact and perceptions of governance arrangements. The aim being to support thinking around measurement of the ODPM's proposed Liveability PSA. These indicators might usefully draw on: the governance indicators proposed within the Egan review of sustainable communities; quality of life questions developed by the Audit Commission on citizens' perceptions of the scope for influencing decisions in their local areas; questions that have been used in various surveys on citizens' views of the opportunities for active and effective participation; and, questions about the community leadership activities of councils.

10. Local government equality and diversity: further research

In 2002/03 the Local and Regional Government Research Programme funded a project which has provided a useful baseline picture of how local authorities are addressing equality and diversity issues in three core areas of their work: representation, participation and leadership; structures, committee organisation and staff; and, service procurement delivery and impact. Further research is now needed to build upon this study through examining approaches to three further strands: pay and workforce strategy; community leadership and participation; and, customer-focused service delivery. The research will also revisit outputs from the previous exercise including updating the review of existing research and literature on this important policy area in order to produce a useful digest of data, findings and policy implications.

11. ODPM analysis of local government elections data

Expressions of interest are not required for this project

Every year there is interest in a basic descriptive account of the outcome of LG elections and in analysing election outcomes by performance improvement data (BVPIs, CPA etc) and a range of other factors. For instance, a digest of figures could cover levels of participation and outcomes in both wards and local authorities. This might contain both raw data and tables listing top and bottom performers; changes since the last election etc, all potentially backdated at local authority level to 1973 (1964 in London) in order to give a definitive time series record. Other analyses might include: updating and revising models providing explanations for variation in turnout between wards/local authorities and regions; examining the impact of structural issues, such as single member/multi-member wards and all-out councils; and, looking at the relationship between local authority and regional assembly referendums/elections turnout and turnout in sub-authority elections e.g. to NDCs, parish councils and hospital trusts etc. All of these analyses require interrogation of a detailed dataset compiled by the Local Government Elections Centre at the University of Plymouth. It is proposed to create a call-off contract with them to enable more efficient and effective procurement of their services in a flexible and timely fashion.

12. Examples of best practice in local government asset management and capital strategies

Expressions of interest are not required for this project

It is proposed that the Office provides joint funding towards a Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors project, which is aimed at generating best practice examples of asset management and capital strategies by local authorities. A panel of experts will select a range of examples for further investigation in order to provide detailed descriptions of the factors underlying

effective practice and lessons that can be transferable to other local authorities.

13. An evaluation of the role of property owners in Business Improvements Districts (BIDs)

This project would aim to assess whether and how property owners are most effectively engaged in developing and contributing to BIDs under the current legislative mechanism. It will seek to evaluate the role that property owners have played in getting BIDs pilots off the ground and the amount/number of voluntary and non-voluntary contributions that have been secured from them. It will also focus on the extent to which property owners are involved in drawing up BIDs business plans, the ways they have become involved, and whether they are more involved in some areas than others. In particular, in those areas where property owners are more involved, is this key to securing the engagement of ratepayers in BIDs? Lastly, the evaluation will look at whether the interest and contributions of the property industry is sustained, and what factors underlie their on-going commitment in some areas rather than others.

14. An evaluation of local authorities' response to Local Authority Business Growth Incentives scheme (LABGI)

The LABGI scheme will allow local authorities to retain some of the business rates they collect, if their rates exceed a pre-set level. The aim is to provide a clear incentive for them to work in partnership with local businesses to maximise economic growth and regeneration. ODPM plans to review the scheme's effectiveness over a period of three years. To inform the review it is proposed to undertake research to help assess whether the scheme has the desired incentive effect, how it affects the behaviour of local authorities and their experience of operating it. The project will focus on LAs behaviour in terms of their specific interactions with the business community rather than their broader community leadership function. For example, how has the incentives scheme affected areas of working with business, such as the speed of processing planning applications, regulation? Whether it is

more streamlined and reflective of potential burdens on business, investment in infrastructure? Has the additional money been used to invest in improved infrastructure? What has been the impact on rateable value generated? The project will be primarily based on detailed case studies combining qualitative research with a range of stakeholders, including local authorities themselves, on their views of the ways in which LABGI has changed LA behaviour and quantitative analysis of relevant indicators of the impact.

15. LG Finance Independent Inquiry – Research Support

The Balance of Funding Review looked at the balance between funding for LG raised locally and that funded nationally. It was supported by a call-off research resource, which was used to examine the relationship between turnout and LG finance, public opinion on balance of funding issues and international experience. It is proposed that a similar facility is made available for the LG finance inquiry.

16. The rebilling costs faced by local authorities as a result of council tax capping

Expressions of interest are not required for this project

This project would aim to identify the various activities that arise from the rebilling of council taxpayers as a result of council tax limitation, and to devise a consistent way of producing reliable estimates of the costs of each activity. This work might include consultation with software suppliers, consideration of the associated work involved in recalculating council tax benefit entitlements and the examination of relevant outturn figures in councils' published accounts.

17. Practical guidance and learning in relation to setting up Elected Regional Assemblies

There is a need for a research project to support implementation and delivery of Elected Regional Assemblies in those areas that vote in referendums to introduce them. A call-off contract would provide the basis for short-term, flexible research support on areas, such as setting targets for improved economic performance, strategies to reduce regional health inequalities, strategic positioning/partnering and innovation in governance and institution building, that need examples of current and good practice from domestic and, potentially, international experience, or require quick reviews of the existing evidence base.

18. A systematic review of evidence on regional government/governance

Expressions of interest are not required for this project

In 2000, the Local and Regional Government Research Unit undertook a review of evidence on regional government in England which provided a useful baseline and information source for policy development on Elected Regional Assemblies and Regional Chambers. It also identified a range of issues on which we needed further evidence to fill gaps, and was sufficiently forward looking to make an assessment of future priorities and questions that the regional agenda might face. It is proposed that there is a repeat of this exercise to revisit and synthesise the developing evidence base but with more emphasis on emerging and future priorities. As part of the project, it would be useful to hold a series of roundtable discussions with researchers working in this area, and potentially undertake a repeat of the survey carried out in 2003 on governance structures and inter-relationships between Regional Chambers/Assemblies, RDAs/GORs and Local Authorities.

Guidance for Potential Contractors

This section gives general guidance on the way contractors are selected for research projects.

Expressions of Interest

Expressions of interest are very welcome, but they do not guarantee inclusion on the shortlist for invitation to tender. The information that contractors provide on the enclosed form will be used in drawing up a shortlist, usually of between 3-6 names depending on the nature of the project and extent of expertise amongst potential contractors. Projects included in the newsletter form the basis of work for the coming year. Inevitably, however, there are changes to the announced programme during that time. Policy priorities may change, generating new information requirements, or projects originally suggested may no longer be needed or may require modification. The programme is sufficiently flexible to allow for this. The enclosed organisational details form asks for information about the expertise and experience of potential tenderers which will, in part, allow us to develop shortlists for any *extra mural* projects.

Invitations to Tender

Formal invitations to tender will include:

- the specification of the project outlining the objectives, relevant details and what contractors are expected to provide in the tender;
- the standard contract conditions;
- the date for receipt of tenders; and
- the expected timing for the announcement of the award.

Three weeks is the usual period for submitting tenders, although for urgent projects that period may be shortened.

Tender Documents and their Assessments

A tender assessment panel will examine the tenders. The panel will look at the appropriateness, quality and cost of contractors' proposals, and they will take into account:

- understanding of the issues being addressed;
- familiarity with previous relevant research;
- the experience of the research team; and
- the proposed costs.

Interviews may be held to assist with this assessment. Normally these will involve the tenderer making a short presentation and discussing the proposals more fully, including responding to the questions of the interviewing panel.

Awarding Contracts

The assessment of tenders normally results in the selection of a preferred tender, although the Office is not bound to accept any tender. All tenderers are informed of the outcome. The successful tenderer then agrees a programme of work with the Office for inclusion in the formal contract.

Evaluation System

An evaluation system has been designed in consultation with previously used contractors and the Programme's policy customers. There is an internal procedure to evaluate all contracts within the Local and Regional Government Research programme on completion.

The purpose of the evaluation system is to improve the workings of the programme, by informing future research and enabling the process to run more smoothly and effectively in future. It will also enable contractors to be provided with comments from the Office on their satisfaction with both the management of the research and the quality of the outputs and will give contractors the opportunity to offer feedback to the Office.

Summary of the 2003/04 Research Programme

In 2003/04, the Local and Regional Government Research Programme consisted of 86 projects. There were 34 new projects and 52 on going from the previous year. Brief details of a number of key projects undertaken within each of the main research themes of the programme are given below.

Service Delivery and Improvement

Long-term Evaluation of Local Public Service Agreements (LPSAs)

Contractor: Office for Public Management (OPM), University of West England (UWE), Cardiff Business School, University of Cardiff

This long-term evaluation examines whether Local Public Service Agreements (LPSAs) have led to substantial improvement in local authorities' ability to deliver key services, with the emphasis on impact (and outcome) as well as an evaluation of the negotiation and implementation processes. This project commenced with a development phase (from March to September 2003) to define the main evaluative framework. This consisted of three case studies, a literature review and interviews with key stakeholders. Two working papers were published from the development phase – these can be found at the following link:

http://www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm_control/documents/contentservertemplate/odpm_index.hcst?n=5163&l=4

The main phase is now underway and will run until 2007. The main evaluation consists of in-depth interviews at 20 case study sites and qualitative research in central government departments at the beginning and end of the research. The research team will also organise workshops with case study sites and other stakeholders throughout the life of the project as issues emerge. The evaluation will develop a database of quantitative national and local LA performance and contextual background data to develop a statistical model to examine the impact of LPSAs. This will include data collected by an email survey of target owners.

The findings from this evaluation will be disseminated in a series of interim reports, regular dissemination events and a final report on completion in 2007.

2003/04 User Satisfaction Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPis)

In-house

All English local authorities are required to undertake five surveys to collate “user satisfaction” performance indicators on a triennial basis. These survey-based measures form part of the wider suite of Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPis). The second round of the surveys ran in 2003/04, with deadlines for data submission in spring 2004. For the General Survey, data has been collated and analysed. The initial top-line report, published on 30 June 2004, is available at the following link:

http://www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm_control/documents/contentservertemplate/odpm_index.hcst?n=5169&l=4

Top-line findings from the Planning, Benefits, Tenants and Libraries surveys and further outputs from the General Survey are expected to report throughout Autumn 2004.

The 2003 Local Government Workplace Survey

Cardiff Business School, University of Cardiff

The purpose of the 2003 Local Government Workplace Survey was to evaluate the effects of the Best Value regime and other performance initiatives on staff perceptions of their working environment and organisational performance. The results suggest that there has been some change in both management practice and perceived performance outcomes in local government organisations. The extent to which these increases in performance outcomes are sustained will largely depend on whether there is the capacity to drive through those processes, which are needed to inform and empower workers to deliver better services.

A report was published in April 2004 and can be found at:

http://www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm_control/documents/contentservertemplate/odpm_index.hcst?n=5148&l=4

Learning from the Experience of Recovery: New Research Publications

INLOGOV, University of Birmingham

A research team led by Professor Chris Skelcher at INLOGOV, University of Birmingham has recently completed the first year of a long-term evaluation project exploring the experience of recovery in CPA rated 'poorly' performing authorities. An annual report, which drew together the first year's findings, and two papers in a series of policy papers were published in March 2004. The annual report described the policy context in which the research was undertaken and explored the causes of poor performance in the five case study sites. The researchers identified three sets of factors, which were common across poor performers:

- The motivational investment of key players to maintain the status quo;
- The fallacy of success based on previous achievements; and,
- The absence of a source of sufficient authority within the council for challenge and change.

Full copies of the report and thematic papers can be found at:

http://www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm_control/documents/contentservertemplate/odpm_index.hcst?n=5156&l=4

Beacon Councils research support to Rounds 5 and 6

MORI Social Research Institute

A User Satisfaction Report for Round Six, which looks at citizens' views of local government performance on each theme has just been produced by MORI – it is due to be published shortly on the ODPM website. There was a similar report for Round Five (July 2003) and commissioned theme research on good practice co-ordinated by Warwick University (May 2003). The Round Five theme research reports were published on ODPM's website and included:

Benefits Administration
Better Local Public Transport
Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships
Early Years
Housing Renewal
Services for Older People
Supporting People
Transforming the School Workforce
Promoting Sustainable Tourism
Supporting Social Care Workers

Evaluation of Innovation Forum and Shared Priorities

Contractor: Warwick Business School, University of Warwick and INLOGOV, University of Birmingham

The overall objectives of the first phase of this research are to evaluate both the success **overall** of the Innovation Forum projects and Shared Priorities programme and of **a range of projects** in terms of a) Improvements in service delivery at the local level b) The effectiveness of new processes by which new forms of service delivery are generated and implemented and c) The impact of new forms of service delivery. The intention of the Shared Priorities is to set out a new framework of partnership working between central and local government and to build a new relationship of mutual trust and respect between all levels. The work of the Innovation Forum for Excellent Authorities builds on the Shared Priorities characteristics above and in addition, challenges existing methods of service delivery by piloting new ways of working which cannot be achieved without changes to current frameworks, and requires central government to engage with and support the work by removing central barriers to change, granting the authorities involved freedom to operate outside current constraints. The first phase involves a mapping exercise, visits to Shared Priority demonstration and Innovation Forum projects and interviews with key national stakeholders, to baseline positions. It is intended to commission a second phase of research, which will consider changes over time, and in greater depth.

A report is due for publication Autumn 2004

The role of staff in delivering high quality services

Contractor: PricewaterhouseCoopers with Cardiff Business School, Cardiff University

This project has provided a detailed understanding of the mechanisms through which local authorities are involving staff in decision-making processes relating to performance improvement and procurement. The way staff is recruited, trained, managed and involved in decisions, has the potential to significantly impact on the quality of service provided by a local authority. As such the research also considered the emerging outcomes of these processes of staff involvement and consultation.

The research approach included a literature review, a survey of local authority HR managers, and case studies in twelve local authorities. It also drew upon a survey of local authorities and contractors (being conducted by the Employers' Organisation (EO)) looking at the way authorities handle workforce matters during contracting. *Final report published April 2004*

Making choices

Contractor: New Local Government Network (NLGN)

This project examined the benefits, practicalities and implications of increased user choice ('delegated decision making') in local public services in Britain. The project also sought to identify practical measures for Government and authorities to enhance user choice in public services and mapped out areas of local authority services where choice might be readily delivered.

The report draws on evidence from the UK and abroad about choice in local authority services through literature review and interviews at the local and national level. It comments in detail on three main schemes offered by local authorities: direct payments for community care; choice-based lettings; and housing stock transfers. *Final report published March 2004.*



Local and Regional Government Research Programme 2004/05

Organisational Details

This form can be downloaded at:

http://www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm_localgov/documents/page/odpm_locgov_030338.hcsp

We would be grateful if you could complete and return this form to help us build up a clearer profile of the expertise amongst potential tenderers for our research projects. You are encouraged to return it as you may otherwise miss the opportunity to be considered to undertake research projects for the Unit.

A single copy of this form should accompany expression of interest form(s).

Contact name:			
Job Title:			
Name of organisation:			
Address:			
Postcode:			
Tel:		Fax:	
e-mail:			
Where did you hear about the newsletter			

MAIN AREAS OF EXPERTISE

LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE

Capital finance
 Revenue finance
 Taxes and charges

Beacon Councils
 Electronic government
 Local PSAs
 Procurement

SERVICE DELIVERY

Best Value
 Best Value Performance indicators

REGIONAL GOVERNANCE

RDAs
 Regional chambers

Devolution/regional government
Regional governance structures

DEMOCRATIC RENEWAL

Stakeholder participation
Political management structures

CROSS CUTTING ISSUES

Community leadership/planning
Partnership working
Equality Issues
Diversity Issues

GENERAL

European/international experience

Preparation of guidance
Public satisfaction measures
Local government law
Innovation, cultural and
organisational change
Ethical considerations

METHODOLOGY

Large scale data manipulation
Quantitative data analysis
Qualitative techniques
Design/facilitation of focus groups
Design and use of case studies
Survey design
Survey fieldwork and analysis
Policy evaluation techniques
Data mapping/GIS
Literature reviews.

Please list any other relevant skills or subject expertise that may be of interest:

Have you undertaken research previously for the ODPM (or its predecessors)?
If yes, please give the title of the project/s and dates undertaken below. *Please continue on separate sheet if necessary.*

Send completed forms to:	Date form completed:
Demelza Birch Local and Regional Government Research Unit Office of the Deputy Prime Minister Floor 5/D5, Eland House Bressenden Place, London SW1E 5DU OR e-mail to: lg_research@odpm.gsi.gov.uk	



Local and Regional Government Research Programme 2004/05

Expression of Interest

Please complete one form per project (copy as required)

This form can be downloaded at:

http://www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm_localgov/documents/page/odpm_locgov_030338.hcsp

Whilst responding does not guarantee inclusion within any tendering shortlist, you are advised to complete and return the form as you may miss the opportunity to be considered.

We would be very interested in receiving any supporting material you may have about you and/or your organisation.

Project Number:	Project Title:		
Contact name:			
Job Title:			
Name of organisation:			
Address:			
Postcode:			
Tel:		Fax:	
e-mail:			

Please briefly outline the relevant experience of your organisation, specifically related to the above project. You are asked to list details of specific projects below.

Please provide details of your capability and expertise to undertake the above project (e.g. methodological expertise, numbers of relevant staff etc):

Please provide details of recent relevant projects undertaken or in progress. Please give the title of the project, and details of the sponsoring organisation (with contact name and details). ***Please continue on separate sheet if necessary.***

Send completed forms to:

Demelza Birch
Local and Regional Government Research Unit
5/D5, Eland House
Office of the Deputy Prime Minister
Bressenden Place, London SW1E 5DU

OR

e-mail to: lg_research@odpm.gsi.gov.uk

Date form completed:

Patterns of Governance

Evaluation of New Council Constitutions and the Ethical Framework

Contractor: University of Manchester

Parts II and III of the Local Government Act 2000 introduce to English local government new forms of political management and statutory requirements for each local authority to adopt a Code of Conduct and to set up a Standards Committee. The Government's objectives in introducing this legislation range from very specific improvements in decision-making and operational processes to quite broad impacts across the whole authority. This research project initially aims to fully understand the approaches local authorities have adopted in implementing arrangements required by, and reflecting, this legislation. This will include an assessment of the 'quality' of activity that is taking place and how well the interaction between the various 'elements' or 'players' involved works. Before going on to evaluate the impact of the legislation, the research team will also develop a framework for analysis. The need for a clear framework reflects the importance of robust measures of achievement for a number of policy objectives, such as improved transparency, accountability, efficiency in New Council Constitutions and improved clarity and trust through standards arrangements. There are two key objectives for this study: to evaluate the impact of New Council Constitutions and the New Ethical Framework. This involves establishing the extent to which these policies have produced desired effects over and above what would have occurred without the legislation. The analysis will make use of measures developed within the study and comparisons with pre-legislation baseline information on leadership, public engagement and trust, partnership working and council decision-making. This will provide regular findings that can be fed back in the form of practical lessons-based learning to local government and through this to inform the development of these policies.

*First Annual Report published in May 2003.
Second Annual Report, 2 surveys and issues papers published July 2004
Ongoing programme of report publication to 2006.*

Strengthening Local Democracy: Making the Most of the Constitution

Contractor: INLOGOV, University of Birmingham

Commissioned in Autumn 2002, this project sought to investigate the manner in which LAs were implementing the New Council Constitutions framework in ways that went beyond the basic models provided by the legislative and regulatory framework. INLOGOV researchers gathered together a diversity of good practice approaches that were seen to strengthen local democracy. These illustrated how authorities had:

- improved elements of their constitution (e.g. council meetings, the Executive, decision-making).
- enhanced the role and capacity of Members to operate effectively in the new constitutional context (e.g. role profiles, councillor development, resources)
- provided linkages between the constitution and other aspects of the modernisation agenda (e.g. with the LSP)

The resulting report is available at:

http://www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm_control/documents/contentservertemplate/odpm_index.hcst?n=5130&l=4

Launched at an LGA conference in July 2003, it provides both practical examples and checklists to assist councils in reviewing and planning the development of their constitutions.

More Vibrant Local and Community Leadership by LAs

Equality and Diversity in Local Government in England

Contractor: Office for Public Management (OPM)

Commissioned in 2002, this research sought to examine local government practice in terms of delivering on the equality and diversity agenda. The contractor, OPM, undertook scoping interviews, a survey of local authorities and case study work. The research found that there was a very wide range of practice in this area. Local authorities tended to monitor their workforces, but reported difficulties in monitoring and assessing services. Many initiatives focused on either ethnic minorities or disabled people, rather than the broader diversity agenda. A series of regional seminars was organised to disseminate findings to local authorities in 2004. *Final report July 2003. Seminars February & March 2004.*

Local Strategic Partnerships: Formative evaluation and action research

Contractor: Local Government Centre, University of Warwick

Commenced in March 2002, this 3-year project seeks to (a) establish a long-term evaluatory framework (b) undertake a formative evaluation of processes and preliminary impacts, and (c) provide action learning to support LSPs and the development of LSP policy at local, regional and central levels. Preliminary outputs from the evaluation show that although it is relatively early to assess LSP progress (and given great variation) LSPs are nonetheless making decent progress. The scoping and evaluatory framework was completed in December 2002. A report of a 2002 survey of all LSPs was published in February 2002. An interim case study report, the Local Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy (LNRS) study, the Public Service Boards (PSB) involvement study and the LSP uses of PIs study were all published in Spring 2004. Four action learning sets (community engagement,

performance management, mainstreaming and governance) were published in Summer 2004.

Forthcoming outputs include: Interim project report due Autumn 2004. 2004 survey of LSPs due for publication in early 2005. A series of 7 issues papers, further call-down studies and 4 further action research set reports (strategic planning, rationalisation, 2-tier working and regional issues) to be delivered on an ongoing basis until the final report is produced in Summer 2005.

Citizen Participation and Democratic Renewal

Civic Education: Good Practice Guidance for Local Government

Contractor: Centre for Local & Regional Government Research, Cardiff University

The main aim of this research is to provide web-based good practice guidance for local authorities on the design and delivery of 'civic education'. Civic education is defined here as the provision of information, education and capacity building to enable citizens to understand more about how local government works and to participate more effectively in local democracy. The research is using a variety of methods to find out what local authorities are already doing by way of civic education and related activities. It will then use the findings, including case studies, to provide examples of good practice for the guidance.

A literature review of what information is already available on the subject is to be published in October 2004. The good practice guidance and a research report are due to be published in November 2004.

Local e-Government and social inclusion

Contractor: De Montfort University

This project is looking at how local authorities are using e-government to respond to the needs of the socially excluded and in doing so contribute to the development of a more inclusive society. E-government and ICT can be used to enhance access to services and democratic processes.

But care must be taken to ensure those from 'hard-to-reach' groups are not further excluded because they cannot afford, do not have the skills and/or desire to use technology to engage with their local council. This project will provide detailed information on 'good' and innovative local authority practice in this area.

The research will focus on the experiences of local authorities recently awarded Beacon status for the theme 'social inclusion through ICT'. But it will also draw upon examples from a wider range of authorities informed, in part, by a review of existing literature, research and guidance.

Final report to be published Autumn 2004

Local Government Finance

Balance of Funding Review – International lessons

Contractor: Cardiff Business School, Cardiff University

This project was commissioned as part of the evidence review, which has fed into the Balance of Funding Review. The research focused on an identification of international practices and lessons regarding central/local funding for local government, and its impact upon the democratic and efficient function of local government. Part 1 focused on broad international lessons and part 2 on more detailed assessments of the Swedish system of local income tax and the Spanish 'mixed basket' approach.

Part 1 published in November 2003. Part 2 reports published in Spring 2005.

Balance of Funding Review – Public knowledge and attitudes

Contractor: NOP World

This project was commissioned as part of the evidence review, which has fed into the Balance of Funding Review. The research comprised deliberative focus groups assessing public awareness and attitudes to balance of funding issues. It looked across a wide range of issues of relevance to the Review Group and identified peoples' immediate attitudes towards various

aspects and potential amendments to balance of funding issues (accountability, transparency, voter turnout, willingness to pay for discretionary services etc.).

Published in November 2003

Balance of Funding Review – Voter turnout

Contractor: University of Plymouth

This project was commissioned as part of the evidence review, which has fed into the Balance of Funding Review. This quantitative research involved analysing local authority voter turnout data against data regarding the relative local/central balance of funding. It concluded that there was no significant relationship.

Published in November 2003

Asset Management Plans and Capital Strategies

Contractor: York Consulting

This research is an evaluation of the implementation and development of asset management plans and corporate capital strategies, the arrangements that currently form an assessment element of the Single Capital Pot (SCP). This three-year study involves evaluating local authority processes and emerging outcomes as well as consideration of the Government Office assessment role. The study will also contribute to a wider evaluation of the SCP and to the overall evaluation of the local government modernisation agenda. On the basis of this research, York Consulting has also been commissioned on a call-off contract basis to provide training and guidance to Government Office staff in assessing asset management plans.

First interim report published January 2003.

Second AMPS report and SCP report to be published 2004. Further work throughout project.

Modelling Options for Transitional Arrangements

Contractor: Frontier Economics

Frontier Economics was commissioned in Autumn 2003 to model and evaluate alternative options for transitional arrangements for non-domestic rates in England. Researchers have

been using data provided by the Valuation Office Agency to estimate the impact of a variety of schemes. Now in its final stage, the work is informing the Office's decision-making in the period up until the announcement both of the final scheme and the UBR multiplier. A summary of the work will be published in early-October 2004.

Regional Government/Governance

Identifying the flow of public expenditure into the English regions

Contractor: a team led by Professor Iain McLean of Nuffield College, Oxford

The research had two key aims: to identify the form and level of public expenditure (domestic and European) flowing into individual English regions; and, to identify – for each expenditure flow – what determines the levels of that expenditure (the allocative mechanism). The research involved observing, in real time, the current approach to producing regional expenditure estimates within government departments. The final report analysed the reliability of these approaches, and produced recommendations for alternative (better) methods. Based on these, the research also produced a series of revised regional expenditure estimates. HM Treasury, who co-funded the research, has sought to adopt many of the recommendations for future regional expenditure data collection exercises.

Final report and summary published September 2003.

Evaluation of the role and impact of regional chambers

Contractor: ARUP with the Constitution Unit, UCL

Commencing in June 2003, this research evaluates the extent to which, collectively and individually, Regional Chambers have met their objectives, implicit and explicit. The team completed a feasibility study in December 2003 setting out the methodological framework for the evaluation. The first stage of the evaluation has now been completed, and involved interviews

with regional stakeholders as well as a collection of documentary evidence. Thematic case studies and interim monitoring of chamber activity will be undertaken before the next round of interviews in 2005. Findings will be disseminated to Regional Chambers, via a series of seminars before the submission of the final report.

Feasibility report January 2004. Interim annual reports October 2004 and August 2005. Final report December 2005.

Long-term evaluation of the operation and effectiveness of elected regional assemblies

Contractor: A team led by the SURF Centre, University of Salford

Commencing in June 2003, this is an evaluation into the extent to which, collectively and individually, Elected Regional Assemblies within England have met their objectives. To date, the team has worked on the feasibility stage, setting out the research design. The feasibility report, published in January 2004, recommends that an action research element to the research design be added in order to help clarify the objectives against which to evaluate progress. The contractors are currently working on the baseline stage, involving a series of interviews and focus groups, and collection of quantitative data. A report is due in December 2004.

Feasibility report produced January 2004. Baseline report due December 2004. Formative evaluation report due 2007, and final summative evaluation report due 2011. A series of outputs is to be produced annually during the life of the research.

Attitudes towards devolution and regional identity

Contractor: National Centre for Social Research (NCSR)

The Office funded a module of 10 questions in the 2003 British Social Attitudes Survey (BSA). This was a module of attitudinal questions, which attempt variously to ascertain awareness of, and views on, the establishment of Regional Chambers, proposed Elected Regional Assemblies, levels of regional identity and attitudes to devolution elsewhere in the UK.

The dataset was delivered in January 2004. Findings are formally published by NCSR, as part of the wider BSA survey, in November 2004. *Final dataset delivered end January 2004.*

News

Local And Regional Governance Network

2003/04 also saw the launch of the ODPM Local and Regional Government Research Network. This consists of approximately 30 leading academics and management consultants on local and regional government and is one of four such ODPM networks – the others covering planning, housing and urban and neighbourhood studies. They have been created in response to a perception that there is a need for improved links and shared understanding between researchers and policy makers. Current linkages are, at times, ad-hoc, project by project and difficult to sustain. There is also a need to raise the profile of ODPM's research programmes. The benefits for policymakers are that: the networks should be able to translate research results into policy and policy concerns into research; they can help provide access to current ideas and innovative thinking; provide links to enable policy makers and academics to share ideas and learn from each other; hold seminars on key issues and latest research thinking; and, access to advice on specific issues. The kinds of activities the network perform include seminars on key issues, thematic papers on research topics and 'blue skies' issues, research-based advice and comments on papers and reports and signposting research needs to ODPM. ***The next seminar for the network will be on 28th September and will be on the Local Government Strategy – local:vision document.***

Governance And Quality of Life: ODPM/ESRC/PwC Programme of Fellowships and Studentships (Wave 3)

The Local and Regional Government Programme is in the lead on the third wave of an established joint Postgraduate Research

Programme between the ESRC and ODPM (and, this year, with co-funding from PriceWaterhouseCoopers), comprising a further cohort of awards to run from 2004/05 to 2008/09. This third wave of the Programme comprises 3 Postdoctoral Fellowships and 7 PhD studentships, focused on local and regional governance and quality of life issues.

The initiative has three broad aims:

- To provide timely research and a flexible resource to support, in this specific instance, the local and regional governance agenda, but also broader ODPM policies;
- To strengthen our links with external researchers and research funders, so that we can benefit from emerging thinking and findings; and,
- To increase research capacity to support evidence-based policy across the work of the Office.

The focus of this year's programme is sub-national governance and the extent to which it – currently or potentially – addresses issues of direct concern to achieving improved quality of life. The nature of the programme – with its emphasis upon the relationship between governance and outcomes – aims to help develop understanding and ideas.

The programme comprises the following projects:

Studentships

- Electronic government, local government innovation and quality of life (Dr Stephen King, Leeds Business School)
- Enabling or disabling governance? (Professor Marian Barnes, University of Birmingham)
- Community leadership and trust in local government (Professor Jo Silvester, Goldsmith's College)

- Improving the effectiveness of multi-agency governance arrangements for homelessness services (Dr Oliver James, Exeter University)
- Older people's engagement with neighbourhood renewal (Dr Thomas Scharf, Keele University)
- Disability and liveable environments: a comparative study of sub-national governance (Professor Rob Imrie, Royal Holloway)
- Consultative forums, devolution and quality of life: a cross-national comparison (Dr Joe Painter, Durham University)

Fellowships

- Governance and service performance and their relationship to citizen trust and participation (Michael Lister, University of Birmingham)
- The Northern Way: filling an imaginary geography or a collective voice for the North? (Dr Sara Gonzalez, Newcastle University)
- Economic development and multi-level policy-making in the north east region (James Wadwell, Durham University)

From the very first year of the programme and right throughout its lifetime, we would expect a range of outputs to be feeding into policy development and delivery (individual papers, seminars, bespoke analysis etc) from individual projects, and to work with the individual researchers and the Programme Director to identify findings across the programme as a whole. The programme enables access to a cohort of researchers (and their supervisors) across a number of years, allowing the research to proceed in an interactive and informed manner.

WEBSITE DETAILS OF SOME OTHER RELEVANT GOVERNMENT RESEARCH PROGRAMMES

Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM)

Details of ODPM research on housing, planning and land use, and on the Neighbourhood Renewal Unit, can be found in the science and research pages at:
<http://www.odpm.gov.uk>

Department for Transport (DfT)

Details of Department for Transport research on the Integrated Transport Research Strategy, and the Roads and Local Transport Research Programme can be found in the science and research pages at:
<http://www.dft.gov.uk>

Department for Education and Skills (DfES)

<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/research>

Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd>

Home Office (HO)

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/index.htm>

Department for Trade and Industry (DTI)

<http://www.dti.gov.uk/er/emar/index.htm>

<http://www.womenandequalityunit.gov.uk/research/index.htm>

<http://www.sbs.gov.uk/research/>

Department of Health (DoH)

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/home/fs/en>

Scottish Executive

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/topics/research>

National Assembly for Wales

<http://www.wales.gov.uk/subiresearch/index-e.htm>

Local and Regional Government Research Programme Publications

Full details of the Unit's publications appear on the Office's website at:
http://www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm_control/documents/contentservertemplate/odpm_index.hcst?n=4522&l=1

The list below includes details of all reports published since 2000.

Service Quality

Handling of workforce matters in procurement: monitoring the impact of amendments to Part II of the Local Government Act 1988, ODPM, August 2002.

Local Authority Procurement: A Research Report. D. Birch, DTLR, 2001.

Improving local public services: final evaluation of the Best Value Pilot Programme. S. Martin et al., DETR, 2001.

Best Value and Audit Commission Performance Indicators for 2000/2001 Volume I – User Satisfaction Performance Indicators: Guidance on Methods of Data Collection. DETR, 2000.

Balancing Creative Tensions: Better Practice in Implementing Best Value. M. Allison and J. Hartley, Local Government Centre, University of Warwick, and Vertex and Oracle, DETR, 2000.

Generating and Sharing Better Practice. M. Allison and J. Hartley. Local Government Centre, University of Warwick, DETR, 2000.

Mapping Partnerships in Eleven Local Authorities. Paper 8, DTLR/Newchurch Partnership Series. DETR, 2000.

The Beacon Council Scheme 2000/2001: A Handbook on Measurements of User

Satisfaction in Local Government Service Delivery. MORI, DETR, 2000.

Beacon Councils Year Two Themes Research Summary, DETR, 2000.

(Beacon Round 2 Theme Research)

Community Safety – Reducing and Preventing Vehicle Crime. Beacons Preliminary Supporting Research. Crime Concern, DETR, 2000.

Competitiveness & Enterprise – Better regulation of business to protect consumers and encourage enterprise. Beacons Preliminary Supporting Research. University of Birmingham. DETR, 2000.

Education – Increasing the attainment of under-achieving groups. Beacons Preliminary Supporting Research. University of Newcastle, DETR, 2000.

Health – Effective local strategies to tackle the wider causes of ill health. Beacons Preliminary Supporting Research. University of Birmingham, DETR, 2000.

Making the Most of Culture, Sport and Tourism – Stimulating economic and social regeneration through culture, sport and tourism. Beacons Preliminary Supporting Research. University of Birmingham, DETR, 2000.

Modern Service Delivery – Good access to council services. Beacons Preliminary Supporting Research. University of Birmingham, DETR, 2000.

Older people – supporting independent living for older people. Beacons Preliminary Supporting Research. DETR, 2000.

Planning – Town centre regeneration. Beacons Preliminary Supporting Research. URBED, DETR, 2000.

Social Services – Improving standards for children in foster care. Beacons Preliminary Supporting Research. University of York, DETR, 2000.

Sustainable Development/Local Environmental Quality – Maintaining a high quality local environment. Beacons Preliminary Supporting Research. AEA Technology, DETR, 2000.

Younger People's Issues – Tackling drug misuse. Beacons Preliminary Supporting Research. Cardiff School of Social Services, DETR, 2000.

Local Democracy and Standards Issues

Strengthening Local Democracy: Making the Most of the Constitution, ODPM July 2003.

Local Strategic Partnerships Report of 2002 Survey, ODPM and DfT, February 2003.

LSP Newsletter, February 2003.

Council Tax Consultation: guidelines for local authorities, G. Stoker, W. Hatter and N. Gilby, University of Manchester, MORI, ODPM 2002.

Continuity or Change? Officers and New Council Constitutions, P. Fox, M. Lyons, C. Skelcher, ODPM, University of Birmingham, ODPM 2002.

The Implementation of New Council Constitutions and the New Ethical Framework: Report of ELG Survey Findings for ODPM Advisory Group.

The Development of Overview and Scrutiny in Local Government, University of Birmingham, ODPM 2002.

Parish Council Standards Cases: An estimate of their volume and nature. Allegations of Misconduct in English Local Authorities.

Public attitudes to directly elected mayors, DTLR, 2001.

Political executives and the new ethical framework. C. Skelcher and S. Snape, INLOGOV, University of Birmingham, IDEa, 2001*

1998 British Social Attitudes Survey: Secondary Data Analysis of the Local Government Module. N.I. Chivite-Matthews and J. Teal, DTLR 2001.

Improving Public Services: Final Evaluation of the Best Value Pilots Programme – published Feb 2001.

Improving Public Services: Evaluation of The Best Value Pilot Programme Final Report, published 5 February 2001.

Revisiting Public Perceptions of Local Government: A Decade of Change. National Centre for Social Research, DETR, 2000.

It Is Our Money Anyway ...: Lessons Learnt From Giving The Public a Voice in Local Authority Spending Decisions. National Centre for Social Research, DETR, 2000.

New Council Constitutions: Modular Constitutions for English Local Authorities. Inlogov, University of Birmingham, The Stationery Office 2000. (Full report 1 also available)

New Council Constitutions: Consultation Guidelines for English Local Authorities. C. Copus and F. Taylor, INLOGOV, and G. Stoker, University of Manchester, The Stationery Office 2000.

Turnout at Local Elections: Influences on levels of voter registration and electoral participation. Plymouth University and Maxwell Stamp PLC, DETR, 2000.

New Forms of Political Management: Self-evaluation toolkit. S. Snape, Inlogov, University of Birmingham, IDEa, 2000.*

New Forms of Political Management. INLOGOV, University of Birmingham and S. Leach, De Montfort University, IDEa, 2000. *

User Satisfaction Performance Indicators: Guidance on Methods of Data Collection – published April 2000.

Process Evaluation of the Negotiation of Pilot Local Public Service Agreements.

Beacon Council Scheme

Monitoring and Evaluation of the Beacon Council Scheme: Final Process Outcomes Report, Warwick Business School, ODPM, 2002.

Leading and Learning: Perceptions and attitudes towards the Beacon Council Scheme and motivations for attending events, Warwick Business School, ODPM, 2002.

Why LAs do or do not apply to become Beacon Councils, Warwick Business School, ODPM, 2002.

Identifying trends in Beacons applications and selections, Warwick Business School, ODPM, 2002.

Determining whether the best LAs apply to become Beacon Councils, Warwick Business School, ODPM, 2002.

The Beacon Council Scheme Round 5:

10 individual theme research papers plus other research. Various authors plus Warwick Business School, ODPM, 2003.

User/public satisfaction with service delivery: Overall and theme specific performance. MORI, 2003.

The Beacon Scheme Round 4:

User/public satisfaction with service delivery: Overall and theme specific performance. MORI, 2002.

The Beacon Scheme Round 3 (2000 – 2001):

11 Individual Theme Research Papers. Various authors, 2001.

User/public satisfaction with service delivery: Overall and theme specific performance. MORI, 2001.

Cross-Cutting Issues

Public Participation in Local Government Report, D. Birch, ODPM, 2002.

Youth Participation in local Government: A Qualitative Study, D. Molloy, C. White, N. Hosfield, National Centre for Social Research, ODPM, 2002.

Local e-Government Process Evaluation of the Implementation of Electronic Local Government in England, ODPM, 2003.

Local e-Government – a survey of local authorities. ODPM, 2003.

Equality and Diversity in Local Government in England, OPM, ODPM, 2003.

Equality and Diversity in Local Government in England: A Literature Review, S. Morgan, ODPM, 2003.

A Review of Local Authority Statutory and Non Statutory Service and Policy Planning Requirements, L. Woodhouse, DTLR, 2002.

Work-Life Balance: A Survey of Local Authorities. D. Birch and D. Purdy, DETR, 2001.

It is our money anyway ...Lessons learnt from giving the public a voice in local authority spending decisions, L. Spencer, G. Elam, R. Turner, National Centre for Social Research, DETR, 2000.

Revisiting Public Perception of Local Government: A Decade of Change, C. Bromley, N. Stratford, N. Rao, National Centre for Social Research, Goldsmiths College, DETR, 2000.

Law Relating to Local Government. C. Crawford, S. Sauvain, A. Coulson, and M. Clarke, DETR, 2000.

Innovation and Best Practice in Local Government: A Good Practice Guide. University of Birmingham, DETR, 2000.

Innovation and Best Practice in Local Government: A Research Report. University of Birmingham, DETR, 2000.

Policy Action Team 17: Joining it up locally – The Evidence Base. W. Russell Barter with P. McCafferty and L. Woodhouse, DETR, 2000.

Finance

Implementation of Asset Management Plans and Corporate Capital Strategies: Baseline Report.

The Development and Implementation of Corporate Capital Strategies and Asset Management Plans, ODPM, 2003.

Evaluation of the Capital Challenge Pilot Scheme, York Consulting, DTLR, 2001.

Council Tax Consultation: guidelines for local authorities Main Report, University of Manchester and MORI, ODPM, 2002.

Links between the finance and non-finance elements of local government: a literature review, University of Bristol, ODPM, 2002.

Scoping study on the implications of local authority fixed and variable costs for revenue grant distribution, PriceWaterhouseCoopers, DTLR, 2001.

Local Government Grant Distribution – An International Comparative Study. PriceWaterhouseCoopers, 2000.**

A Catalogue of Data relating to local government finance. B. Robson, DETR, 2000.

Revenue Grant Distribution System: Research on Local Government Perspectives. ORC International, DETR, 2000.

Business Perceptions of Local Government and Local Government Involvement with the Business Community. York Consulting, DETR, 2000.

Doing the Business: A Guide for Local Authorities on Engaging the Business Community. York Consulting, DETR, 2000.

Measuring Performance in the Management of Local Authority Property. DTZ Pbeda.

Regional Issues

Identifying the Flow of Domestic and European Expenditure into the English Regions, I. McLean, et al, ODPM, 2003.

Inclusiveness of Regional Chambers, M. Sandford, ODPM, 2002.

Data Catalogue, A.E. Green et al, ODPM, 2002.

Regional data: review of needs, uses, gaps and priorities, A.E. Green and D. Owen, ODPM, 2002.

Regional Government in England: A preliminary review of literature and research findings. W. Russell Barter, DETR, 2000.

Notes

** Publications available from:*

Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA)

Layden House

76-86 Turnmill Street

London EC1M 5QU

Telephone: 020 7296 6564

***Available from:*

PriceWaterhouseCoopers,

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The Local and Regional Government Programme contributes research-based information for policy development and evaluation of the major elements of local government and regional governance such as the role and structure of local and regional government, cross-cutting issues, finance, local democracy and standards issues, regional governance and service quality.

The Newsletter provides details of new projects to be commissioned in 2004/05 and updates on current projects and recent research findings.