

# GERSHON EFFICIENCIES IN SCHOOLS

## REPORT BY MANAGER OF LMS AND PLANNING

HEREFORDSHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM

9TH JUNE 2005

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### Schools Affected

All schools

### Purpose

1. To inform Schools Forum of the efficiency savings that DfES is intending schools to deliver as part of the wider implementation of the national Gershon efficiency savings.

### Financial Implications

2. No immediate implications however the savings achieved by schools will be ring fenced nationally within the Schools Budget and provide funding for future government education initiatives.

### Report

3. Following the publication and acceptance by Government of the efficiency review by Sir Peter Gershon, the DfES plans to achieve over £4.3bn in annual efficiency gains by 2007-08 contributing towards the Government's overall efficiency target of over £20bn. At least half of this total will be recyclable, enabling it to be reinvested in front line activities such as schools.
4. As part of this programme of efficiencies the DfES plans, by 2007-08 to:
  - reduce the total number of civil servant posts
  - enable frontline professionals in schools, colleges and higher education institutions to use their time more productively, which will generate around 30% of the total efficiency gains
  - improve procurement of goods, services and new school buildings, using a new procurement centre of excellence to strengthen procurement practice across the education and children's services sectors – expected to deliver around 35% of total efficiency gains.
  - Streamline the delivery system through improvements such as the lighter touch process for Ofsted inspection, streamlined data collection and reduced reporting and monitoring requirements introduced in the New Relationship with Schools.
  - Free up resources in the cost of the DfES, its Non Departmental Public Bodies and Ofsted - reducing administrative costs by at least 15%.
  - Pursue efficiency gains by other means such as improvements in school level financial management through the increased use of financial benchmarking information and dissemination of best practice.

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Further information on the subject of this report is available from Dr Eddie Oram, Director of Education on 01432 260801

5. The particular efficiencies that form the DfES's programme relating to schools is set out in the list below. In general terms schools are not expected to initiate any action other than respond to national initiatives. The measuring and monitoring of the efficiency gains will be implemented nationally using information provided by schools and LEAs such as Consistent Financial Reporting and Section 52 School Budgets.
6. Examples of school based efficiency gains are

### **School Workforce and related reforms Work stream**

1. Administrative staff – the benefit from administrative staff taking on administrative tasks otherwise carried out by teachers, and freeing up teacher time.
2. Cover Supervisors – using appropriately trained support staff covering for short term teacher absences to reduce the amount spent on supply teachers
3. Pay restructuring – benefit from introducing new pay structure for upper pay spine (UPS)
4. Modernisation of Teachers Pension Scheme – benefit of modernisation of TPS being applied to new entrants from 2006 and eventually all members of TPS
5. Overall schools financial management – improvements in use of resources

### **Improvements through use of ICT Work stream**

6. Time savings gained by teachers through improved access to digital content via Curriculum on-line and laptop computers
7. Time saved in lesson delivery through effective use of interactive whiteboards
8. Improved asset management as a result of ICT
9. Improved management of teaching and learning through ICT
10. Extension of computer based marking to save teacher time
11. Sharing of e-learning tools and resources to achieve time savings in lesson preparation and administration.

### **Procurement Work stream**

12. Improved capital procurement through Building Schools for the Future
13. Improvements in maintenance through the effect of the regional centres of excellence and the DfES Centre for Procurement Excellence.
14. Improved schools procurement - as above.
15. Improvements in LEA procurement – as above
16. Improved procurement in the children, young people and families sector – improved procurement by local authority children's services and greater

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emphasis on prevention services reducing the demand for the limited more intensive high cost services.

## **Policy, Funding and Regulation Work stream**

17. Resources freed up for front line through more efficient Local Education Authorities by ensuring the vast majority of increased funding reaches pupils and is spent on pupil provision.
  18. Cash freezing LEA grants – central standards fund will be frozen at 2004-05 levels
  19. Development of on-line ordering catalogue for schools – new approach to distributing information to schools saving on stock control and distribution.
  20. Integration of 140 school focussed websites – easier access/ lower cost
  21. Reduced cost of inspection – reduced preparation time and inspection days.
  22. Reduced bureaucracy in schools initiatives – New Relationship with Schools will free up time for school leaders meeting accountability requirements.
  23. Efficiency gains from streamlined exam process – improvements in administration in public exams
  24. Improving the structures and delivery of local government services for children and families – streamlining services through the creation of Children's Trusts
  25. LEA cost savings arising from changes to administration of Student Support
5. The above list can be regarded as a shopping list for future DfES initiatives until 2007/08 and schools can expect to participate in many of the above activities.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT: Forum Members note the list of expected initiatives.**

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