

Local Authority
Websites
National Project

LAWs

www.laws-project.org.uk



OFFICE OF THE
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER



local e-gov

www.localgov.gov.uk

What is LAWs?

Helping local authorities deliver services online

The Local Authority Websites (LAWs) National Project is part of an £80m programme initiated by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. It will help Local Authorities deliver higher quality and a wider range of services online at lower cost. LAWs will help ensure that all Councils meet the target of 100% electronically delivered or supported services by 2005.

By March 2004, LAWs will deliver a comprehensive set of open source, zero license fee, easy to use solutions that can be used individually or as an integrated system. Modules include a robust content management system, secure e-mail service, data-connectivity middleware and e-forms based transactions such as change of address and complaints. Several modules are ready to be deployed immediately.

These solutions will be customer-focused, standards-based, relatively inexpensive and easy to implement and use. Private sector companies will be engaged to ensure they are fully supported in the longer term, providing commercial quality documentation, installation procedures, help desk and maintenance contracts (including fully hosted options). These will be made available at a realistic cost to help every Council, even those with scarce IT resources, adopt the LAWs outputs.

The LAWs project builds on a number of Pathfinder projects including Camden APLAWS, Tameside web-based services for local authority functions, the Sunderland Public Access Gateways and the Welland Community Portals. The continuing, close involvement of a number of Local Authorities will ensure that the solutions are relevant, appropriate to different types of Councils and easy to adopt.

A number of partners are delivering the various components of LAWs.

Starter Kit (Tameside)

- › Transactional web site structure and website content (covering all ESD toolkit services)
- › Secure email hub (LGOL-Hub)
- › Message brokering, connectivity middleware (LGOL-Net) to access data from existing 'back-end' systems

Content Management System (Camden)

- › APLAWS Content Management System
- › XML template kit

Community Engagement (The Welland Partnership)

- › Community engagement modules
- › Usability and accessibility testing and best practice guidelines
- › Better Connected progress review

Information Architecture & Standards (Camden)

- › Local Authority Category List (mapping to the Government Category List)
- › Website architecture and metadata standards
- › Syndication standards for local authorities

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Organisational Development (West Sussex)

- > Process maps
- > Roles and responsibilities
- > Performance and impact metrics

Roll-out and Productisation

- > Hosted options
- > 'Out-of-the-box' install, support and help desk
- > A web hosted option
- > Documentation, training, on-going support

How do I get involved with LAWs?

Pilot Authorities

Councils that would like to make use of any of the LAWs modules can apply to become pilot authorities. They will be fully supported and may deploy parts of, or the whole of, the LAWs suite.

Associates

Some councils will want to keep in close contact with the project but will not want to become early adopters. These councils will form part of a broader stakeholder group (the User Advisory Group) that will provide regular advice to the project on technical and business issues and review outputs.

Commercial Partners

Private sector organisations who offer products or services related to the LAWs project will have an opportunity to advise the project on technical and business issues as part of this stakeholder group. LAWs will maintain a Service Providers Advisory Group that will represent the commercial sector in much the same way as the UAG represents the local authority sector.

Events & Communication

- > The Information Architecture and Standards strand is joining forces with the Standards Body, LGOL-Net, and I&DeA to host a number of Road Shows to demonstrate the LAWs solutions.
- > Registration forms are available on the LAWs site, www.laws-project.org.uk

If you want to be involved with LAWs or would like further information please contact the LAWs team at info@laws-project.org.uk

For more information on this or the other National Projects please contact peter.blair@odpm.gsi.gov.uk or chris.haynes@odpm.gsi.gov.uk.

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