

**Some key achievements on Northamptonshire's Improvement and Efficiency Programme projects:**

<p><b>Kettering Carbon Reward Scheme</b></p>	<p>The smart meter's pilot has passed the half-way mark where the energy savings being delivered by the project can now be seen. The initial results show that just over half of customers on the pilot have reduced their annual energy usage and 47% have achieved a saving of over 5%.</p>
<p><b>Local Councils Training and Development</b></p>	<p>The first tier of local government in Northamptonshire comprises 1,900 councillors and 175 clerks serving in 208 parish and town councils. This project has demonstrated how a relatively small increase in inputs can result in a big increase in outputs by tipping resources over a critical, and previously limiting, threshold. The funding has already had an impact on improvement, for example, eighty local councillors received planning training in the year to September 2009 against just eighteen the previous year. Feedback from training courses indicates the major impact of the project; comments such as "This training should be made compulsory for all new councillors", "This has been a real eye opener" and "We now ask all new councillors to attend this workshop and will be increasing our commitment to training". Northants CALC Principal Officer, Danny Moody said "The funding has allowed us to transform the training and development programme, not just tweak it here and there – communities are the real winners".</p>
<p><b>Category Mapping of Expenditure</b></p>	<p>This initiative is identifying the key trade, SME and geographical features of our combined supplier base to enable efficiencies and service improvements in sub-regional procurement opportunities. Expenditure patterns are currently being scrutinised.</p>
<p><b>Social Benefits in Procurement</b></p>	<p>This is an innovative project which is seeking to identify and implement best practice within procurement in relation to community benefits and Equalities legislation.</p>
<p><b>Buying Energy Efficiently</b></p>	<p>This initiative encouraged the councils to collaboratively purchase energy for their higher usage sites which were included in a flexible procurement arrangement – this avoids using traditional fixed term and fixed price contracts, enabling energy to be bought in lots to take advantage of favourable price movements.</p>

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