

**GERSHON EFFICIENCY AGENDA – ANNUAL STATEMENT OF EFFICIENCY
BACKWARD LOOK 2005/6**

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Cllr E Woodburn
LEAD OFFICERS: Hilary Mitchell & Sue Borwick
REPORT AUTHOR: Hilary Mitchell

Summary: To seek the approval of the Executive to the content of the Annual Efficiency Statement Backward Look 2005/6, before it is submitted to Government

Recommendations:	That Executive notes progress against the Gershon targets and approves the Annual Efficiency Statement Backward Look 2005/6.
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Impact on delivering corporate objectives Achieving efficiency is one of the objectives in the Well-Managed Council Striving for Excellence theme in the Corporate Plan

Impact on other statutory objectives (eg Crime and Disorder and LA21)

Financial and human resource implications Efficiencies delivered can be measured through the budget and result in resources being freed up which can be reinvested in priority services.

Project and Risk Management The Gershon projects are managed through existing mechanisms, including the Resources Steering Group and Corporate Team

Key Decision Status No
Financial No
Ward No
Other ward implications? No

1. INTRODUCTION

Under the Gershon Efficiency programme 2005/8 the Council is required to identify and deliver £945,000 efficiency gains in under a number of specified headings. The Council has already identified where it expects to find these efficiencies and has advised the ODPM (now DCLG) of its plans in Annual Efficiency Statements – Forward Looks for 2005/6 and 2006/7. The Backward Look 2005/6, attached to this document, is the report on the first year's progress in meeting our targets.

2. ARGUMENT

The attached report of progress against the Gershon targets is formatted as required by the Government's guidance. We are required to show efficiencies as cashable or non-cashable, under a number of specified headings, to meet given targets over a three year period,

The attached Backward Look shows that the Council is on target in its total efficiencies achieved for 2005/6, with more than 50% of the total shown as cashable efficiencies (ie can be reinvested in Council services). However there are contributors to the efficiency targets which are windfalls (ie interest on capital receipts) which will not recur. This means that for future years we will require a change of approach to identifying and more importantly delivering efficiencies , and ingenuity in measuring the impact of those efficiencies. The Corporate Team, through Resources Steering Group, is putting in place the means to transform the way we conduct business in order to work more efficiently.

This is the first of the Annual Efficiency Statements submitted by the Council that will be subject to External Audit. This is likely to take place in Autumn 2006.

List of Appendices

Annual Efficiency Statement -Backward Look 2005/6

List of background documents

- AES - Measuring Reporting Gains
- AES - One Year On
- Efficiency technical note (ETN) for Local Government
- Delivering Efficiency in Local Services - Further Guidance for Local Authorities
- Measuring Efficiency Gains - ODPM Guidance 16th May 2005

List of consultees

Over the past year : Corporate Team, Leader, OSC P&R