

press release

IDeA

improvement and development agency

For Immediate Release

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Summary of responses to consultation of the 2005 targets

40% of English councils are either confident or very confident they will meet the 2005 deadline for getting all services online, while 18% are not confident about meeting the deadline.

The results of the survey were announced at a conference organised by the Improvement and Development Agency for local authority e-champions.

An international report, called Local e-government now: a worldwide view from the IDeA and the Society of Information Technology Management was also launched at the conference held on Thursday September 26th.

The report involves professional organisations, local government training and development organisations, local authorities, municipal companies and academic institutions from 15 companies in five continents.

Around a third of all e-champion councils responded to the survey carried out by the Improvement and Development Agency.

Two-thirds of those who responded said central government action or support is essential to their council meeting the e-government target.

The IDeA's e-government director John Thornton said: "Within four hours, we had a response from 20% of authorities and within eight hours, 25%. Overall, a third of authorities responded to the survey. "What it told us is that 40% of English local authorities are confident or very confident of meeting the 2005 target. Also, about 18% said that they weren't confident, which could equate to about 70 authorities." Just under three-quarters of those surveyed said central government support is very important or essential and thought there should be some central co-ordination on standards. 60% said there was a greater need for co-ordination across

departments

and the same percentage were concerned about authentication.

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