

Welcome to the first edition of Re:Source, an information update from the PMO. We will use it to update you on news and progress on the local government sector's reform plan, to share our analysis of the data you have provided us with over the past eight months, and, when possible, give advance notice of future surveys / data requests.

This first edition of *Re:Source* follows the publication of the **Interim Report to the Local Government Efficiency Review Implementation Group** in July. It will provide a snapshot of the key findings of the Interim report (see article below), which reflects a substantial contribution of time and staff resources from all local authorities.

We'd like to thank all LGER Liaison Officers and staff involved in the preparation of the data returns, which have proven invaluable to supporting the Sector's response to the Reform Agenda. We know that you are being placed under increasing pressure to provide information to different bodies, and we appreciate your willingness to facilitate our requests for information, often at very short notice.

## Local government delivers €830m in savings between 2008 -2012.

The Interim Report submitted to the Local Government Efficiency Review (LGER) Implementation Group by the County and City Managers' Association (CCMA) shows that **€830 million** in financial savings *have already been delivered* at local government level between 2008 - 2012 through efficiency gains and reductions in expenditure and staff numbers. Local authority staff are to be acknowledged for their commitment and hard work, which

have allowed the sector to achieve these savings **while maintaining front line services.**

## Financial Savings Achieved: €830m

Table 1	
Local Authority Savings	2008 - 2012
Revenue Payroll Savings	€236,508,322
Non Pay Expenditure Savings	€406,691,129
Agency Services Division G	€92,576,366
Total Revenue Savings	€735,775,817
Capital Payroll Savings	€94,515,408
<b>Total Savings</b>	<b>€830,291,225</b>

## Smarter procurement by Councils =

Energy costs reduced by €1.3m
Computer software and maintenance costs reduced by €3.7m
Consultancy services reduced by 20%, due to greater utilisation of internal resources
Materials, plant hire and minor contracts spend reduced by €70m, some €53m more of a reduction than expected under the LG Efficiency Review.

**Interested?** The full Interim Report is available [here](#) and a summary version is available from the PMO.



Hubert Kearns, Chair of the CCMA



## Who's who?

Established in January 2012 by the CCMA, the PMO is co-ordinating the Public Service Reform Plan within the local authority sector, and is available as a resource to support local authorities to deliver on the 106 recommendations detailed in the LGER report the sector is responsible for. These recommendations are, in effect, a menu of considerations which are to be pursued in the short, medium and long term, and also identified a range of efficiency savings and other revenue options. A number of the recommendations will require legislative change, or action supported by agencies in the public sector other than within the local government system. Interested? Click [here](#) to access the full report.

The Office will operate in Dublin, Cork and Mayo until end 2014 under the stewardship of Ray O'Dwyer, Senior Responsible Officer, and has been resourced by staff from seven local authorities.

According to Hubert Kearns, Chair of the CCMA, "The message is getting out that local government in Ireland is more than up for the challenge we've been set – the CCMA's Interim

Report demonstrates the sector's excellent record of achieving savings and delivering efficiencies across all programmes of work."

He added, "The reform agenda offers us an opportunity to drive forward the change we want to see in the sector – either way, change is coming and there is no longer room in local authorities for doing things the way they've been done"

## What's next?

The PMO team are currently compiling data submitted by your local authorities on HR, debt collection practices, invoicing, and online services. This information is informing potential shared service, shared procurement initiative, or shared ICT project evaluations currently being undertaken by local authorities.

The PMO is also assisting local authorities by helping to prepare additional questionnaires that will assist in these project evaluations. If approved, these projects will facilitate delivery of additional savings and efficiencies for the sector. Roundtable

discussions with nominated staff within the local authorities will be taking place in September. If you'd like more information or would be interested in attending one of these discussions, please contact your local authority's Liaison Officer or the PMO.

### Public Service Reform Oversight Group

Joe Harford, Hubert Kearns, Michael Malone, Paul McSweeney, Ray O'Dwyer, Martin Riordan, Geraldine Tallon, John Tierney

### PMO Staff at August 2012

Senior Responsible Officer  
Mr. Ray O'Dwyer

### PMO West

(Mayo County Council)

**Change Manager:** Paddy Mahon

**PMO Staff:** Breda Hyland

### PMO East

(Parnell Square)

**Change Managers:**

Gerry Duane, Peter Caulfield

**PMO Staff:**

Cathleen Murphy, Pat Lonergan, Torry Schellhorn, Stephen Deegan, Tom Rooney, Maria O'Neill

### PMO South

(Cork County Council)

**Change Manager:**

Katherine Walshe