

**Comments on:**

**'Transformational Government'**  
**-Enabled by Technology**

First I would like to compliment Ian Watmore and his colleagues on an excellent job in producing this strategy document.

I would like to bring out an orthogonal thought on the consequences of the implementation of this strategy. The 'e-enablement' of government services (central and local) provides an ideal environment and opportunity to increase the level of home working – for some or most of the time – for a large proportion of government and council staff at all levels.

Strong promotion of this opportunity will have a significant effect on many fronts:

- Economic - major savings for the employer (assisting with meeting Gershon targets) plus improvements in productivity and staff retention
  - savings for the employee – travel costs, subsistence, time wasted in queues and traffic.
  - Savings for UK plc from time saved in reduced congestion
- Social - improved work/life balance for staff
  - reduction in traffic congestion and parking pressures
  - improved inclusion in the workforce for the disabled, for single parents and for women 'returners'
  - skills updating – access for life long learning
- Environmental – reduction in pollution
- Energy - reduction in energy consumption

Some of the above will have a major beneficial financial impact on public funds, and will also send a strong message to the private sector.

I would very much like to see a paragraph in the final strategy document strongly highlighting the potential benefits of greater working from home, as made far more feasible by the implementation of the strategy.

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*12<sup>th</sup> January 2006*

