

UK Location User Group – Report to Location Council

Introduction

1. This document reports on progress of the UK Location User Group since the last UK Location Council meeting. In summary:
 - The 4th UK Location User Group met on 12th May 2011;
 - The UK Location Evaluation Sub Group is working closely with UKLP;
 - A joint AGI / Demographic User Group workshop has been defined and will be held on 9 June.

4th UK Location User Group

2. The User Group met on the 12th May 2011, in Nottingham, kindly hosted by Jeremy Morley at the University of Nottingham. Nick Illsley, standing in for Mick Cory who was detained by Ministerial business, chaired the meeting. The meeting was reasonably well attended, although a slight drop off in attendance by some sectors since the last meeting is to be noted.
3. There was a very broad agenda, covering:
 - An update on programme activity
 - A report from the User Evaluation sub-Group
 - The National Archives made a presentation on Licensing and Charging followed by discussion
 - View for Evaluation proposals
 - Ordnance Survey made a presentation on derived data, again followed by discussion
 - A discussion on the UK Location Strategy.
4. The view for evaluation proposals and UK Location Strategy comments will be more fully reported to UK Location Council elsewhere in the Agenda. However, a note of the meeting may be found at Appendix 1 to this report.

User Evaluation Sub Group

5. As reported at the last UK Location Council, the User Evaluation Sub Group has been established, it's purpose initially being seen as:
 - Leading and coordinating an evaluation of the services being developed to help inform the future development of the UK Location Information Infrastructure.
 - Assisting in identifying the benefits from the UK Location Programme; and
 - Informing other users of their availability and the benefits from these services.

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But this role has now evolved into acting as the focal point for user testing and evaluation from user perspective.

6. The group has now met 4 times, and is currently finalising a Customer Survey on the functionality and user experience of the 'location' services on defra.gov.uk, and organising several specialists in web service design to work with the data.gov.uk team in application testing. The group will continue to work with UKLP to ensure that this done in a way that is both technically sound and politically helpful.

Next Meeting

7. The next User Group meeting is planned for the first week in September.

M. J Cory
Chair
User Group

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Appendix 1 – Summary of the User Group Meeting on 12 May 2011

Programme Update

Ray Boguslawski provided an update on progress, included details of the number of location datasets now available on data.gov.uk

The User Group accepted that the number of metadata records and for data and view services quoted as now available on data.gov.uk could only be seen as a rough guide and agreed that there was a need to search data.gov.uk and check more thoroughly.

The group still felt that licensing was still an issue. They felt that a greater awareness of the derived data exemption process under PSMA was required and therefore the process needs to be publicised more widely. They also agreed that a coordinated approach applications for exemption would be beneficial, with the outcomes being made known to the user community wherever possible.

Andrew Flemming (MoD) mentioned that the release of data on data.gov.uk was having no impact on the business process (for his users) at the present time. He did wonder whether the move to making data available on data.gov.uk would, in turn, lead to the ending of individual commercial agreements MoD have with organisations such as EA for the provision of specifically required data sets. The group noted that change would not be an instant thing, and would impact users over differing timescales.

The group felt that announcements on PDC, Data Framework and Transparency Strategy this summer would start to change the landscape, and there was a feeling that these need to go further than simply reflecting a compliance with INSPIRE.

Evaluation Sub Group

Stefan Carlyle, Chair of the Evaluation Sub Group, gave a presentation on the progress made by the sub group to date, the proposed next steps and the longer term role of the group.

Members of the wider group asked whether the sub group was looking at things purely from a technical perspective or if they had a wider remit. Stefan commented that it was both – with the group being actively engaged with the technical team in the programme to do some acceptance testing during the current development phase, but were also informing them of the wider functionality and requirements that the user will want and expect to see.

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The group felt that data.gov.uk should be seen as the place where the user can find data, but should not be considered as being the delivery point.

Andrew Flemming said that MoD had produced a number of reports detailing the pitfalls they experienced when working with WMS, WFS etc. and he offered to share these with the sub group. He also promised to share a report that MoD had produced following some research into different types of users, which he summarised had identified three types:

- 1) The casual user (Google/Bing) – more interested in end product.
- 2) The advanced user – added value product creator (data consumer)
- 3) The geek – GI specialist

Following further discussion the group were not clear which users UKLP are actually targeting – and said that we all need to be really clear who the end user for the programme actually is. Is it one or more of the above? If more, then they suggested that we should to look to focus on the specialist or consumer first off, before looking at the much wider issue of the more casual user.

Stefan advised the group that the sub group were developing a survey based on the user experience and perception of the location services on UKLP and that this was still work in progress and will not be distributed until after it has been evaluated by the User Sub group. The User Sub group are assessing the questions, how they fit within the wider data.gov.uk picture, and how widely they will be distributed. Clearance from Cabinet Office will need to be obtained. The offer that it could be used at a MoD user conference in June was declined as this would be too soon – a more realistic time would be the autumn for wider dissemination.

There was also a short discussion about what geography is bringing to the table (what benefits). The group felt that it is actually a key enabler, and as a consequence the benefits going forward will expand rapidly. Interoperability of the data was seen by the group as being key. Using geography to enable comparison will bring benefits, but where data is not interoperable will require much work, interoperability will reduce this.

All agreed that it was essential to have the right membership for the sub group (and wider user group) as things move forward; the right people need to be involved at the appropriate time; given the role that subgroup is playing in helping to develop the service.

Finally, there was a suggestion that another sub-group could be established to look at putting use cases together. On reflection it is felt that this is a role that the wider user group should fulfil, with the current sub group having a role in checking if these were fit for purpose.

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Licensing

Jim Wretham and Jo Swift (TNA) gave a presentation on the current position with licencing under the Open Government Licence (OGL) and gave details of the new licences which have been developed and are to be launched later this month, and offered to circulate information/guidance on the new licences the user group members.

The group wondered whether all use models/situations had been considered and suggested, for example that more overarching licences such as specialist developer licences would be helpful. The group also felt that FAQ's will be important, and that having use cases for the different licences would be very helpful.

Licensing is still an issue for the 3rd sector. Ellen Wilson was keen that consultation with the 3rd sector, during the construction of the licensing terms, and in proving the tools to enable understanding by those using the licences to set fees appropriately. She was pleased to see that TNA were addressing the issues of plain English and accessibility in the new licenses. She also indicated that the 3rd sector might be able to help with the preparation of schedules to accompany the licensed and Jim said that it would be good to link up with them.

Jim assured the group that although the legalese had been removed all of the licences within the Open Government Licencing Framework (OGLF) had been reviewed and approved by Treasury solicitors.

View for Evaluation

Ray gave a presentation on proposals for free to view services and how the UKLII will handle view and evaluation for chargeable data, and sought the views of the user group on the various options that were being put forward.

The Group were clear that 'users' cover very board range and therefore have a wide range of views but simply put open data, where it is freely available to all, would be the preferred option – however being aware of the mechanics of making data freely available, and understanding the landscape today the group were aware that this would not be possible but would still remain the ideal.

The Group indicated that there will be some cases where access to sample data will be useful in the evaluation client if the other options providing less restrictive access are not seen as acceptable to data providers

The Group were keen that the Programme was not over prescriptive, but delivered the best solution for the UK, considering the needs of both data providers and users (private and third sector not to be forgotten).

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They felt that an initial push for options 0 – 3 (open access, watermarking, temporal shift and authentication) by the programme was most appropriate. The programme should then work with data providers to take stock of what data sets are not covered, and then look if sample data, provided for a series of specified locations, would be required for any specific data sets.

The Group did ask what level of attribution would be available in the evaluation service, and Ray said that this would need to be clarified, but acknowledged that it was a very valid question.

The group were keen to capture Use Cases for sample data, and Andy and Andrew offered to provide details of use cases they already hold on the community of enablers and download respectively.

Derived Data

David Henderson gave a presentation on derived data, from an OS perspective but also touching on other derived data as well. The User Group were keen to understand the first step of the exemption process for derived data at OS, and David advised that the pricing and licensing team had a weekly meet to discuss any new applications.

The User Group were happy to know that the products with OS OpenData could be expanded were there was end user value, even though it would take time.

The Group were keen to see the model that OS had developed rolled out to other trading funds.

Ellen was keen to identify when the complicated puzzle of the 3rd Sector would be tackled. The group noted that it was within the gift of government to help ease the burden, especially where 3rd sector bodies were working for a particular government department, although it was noted that there was no immediate plan to resolve this at present.

UK Location Strategy Review

The group had a brief discussion about the UK Location strategy and role of the Council going forward, before splitting into three smaller groups for a more detailed discussion. The comments made are captured below.

General comments during initial discussion

- Location Council does not to have the same visibility or appear to have the same gravitas as some of the other cross government bodies – for example the CIO Council who have adopted a prominent position on cloud computing.
- There is a need to have clear success criteria and monitor progress against these as well as INSPIRE.

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- Council seem to be overly driven by stick as opposed to carrot - there is too much focus on meeting INSPIRE requirements to that we are able to tick the box by pushing the ‘avoiding infraction’ argument as opposed to incentivising the message.
- Interoperability key – more APIs than you can shake a stick at in private sector

Feedback from UK Location Strategy breakout groups

Group 1 (Facilitator - David)

- Current focus is on supply – need to establish/encourage demand
- Make it relevant, about local issues/interests. INSPIRE means little to the ‘man in the street’.
- Government to Government, Expert to Expert – needs wider appeal. What is the point? What are the tangible benefits? Not in Whitehall words.
- Easier access to consistent accurate critical national infrastructure information through national agreement; potential required for legislation (through the Council)
- Appears to be public sector focused, with private sector as an observer
- Build spatial skill sets to suit the diverse user groups.

Group 2 (Facilitator - Jeremy)

- Case studies / proving benefits
- Clarity – Location Council
 - UKLP & components
 - data.gov.uk
 - Transparency Board
 - OPSI
 - Information commissioner
 - Etc.
 - INSPIRE implementation
- New phase/review – regular review of strategy (bi annually?)
- Visibility of UKLP information
- High level guidance to match the technical details
- Barrier of terminology
- Change of user/public appreciation/expectation
- Challenge of flexibility and agility as private sector moves on
- Engagement with private sector leaders
 - (Tech. (e.g. Google, MS, ESRI) data)
- Skills development support
 - From case studies to GI skills framework to course support
 - Geovation & similar
- Raising interests in Defra (Annex 3 push)
- Understanding and reviewing requirements beyond INSPIRE

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Group 3 (Facilitator - Gareth)

- Don't reopen the strategy – refocus the programme.
- Skills – not pursuing this has left a big hole. Should look at the NI model where mentoring of civil servants is in place. What has happened in Scotland – the group weren't sure?
- Focus on Business to Consumer (B2C) community – this is empowering the consumer. Look to the likes of Google, e-bay and Facebook.
- Looking at INSPIRE, make sure that it is suitable for the B2C revolution, and moving towards C2C. This is an area which is changing rapidly and where the Council needs to be aware.
- There is a need for private/commercial and 3rd sector representation on the Council. Or at least a clear awareness of these sectors on council.
- Keeping location on the political agenda is key with INSPIRE compliance requirements in 3 years time.
- Increased engagement with private sector (for example look at what has been happening in Canada).
- Unfinished business on derived data – this issue is only going to get bigger - it's not going away.
- GI Group – need to establish clear relationship between this and Council.

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Appendix 2:ATTENDEES

Attendees at the UK Location 4th User Group Meeting, 12 May 2011

Name	Sector	Organisation
Nick Illsley	Transport	DfT (Chair)
Ray Boguslawski	Programme	Defra
Stefan Carlyle	Environment	Environment Agency
Jeremy Morley	Education and Research	University of Nottingham
Peter Edmonds	Marine / Property	The Crown Estate
Jean Robinson	Health	NHS Nottingham City
Robin Waters	Land and Property	RICS
Ellen Wilson	Voluntary	RSPB
Andy Coote	Private	AGI
Mick Denness	Voluntary	BTCV
David Henderson		Ordnance Survey
Andrew Flemming	Defence	MoD
Duncan Hume	Marine	MMO
Jo Ellis		The National Archive
Jim Wretham		The National Archive
Garry Cairns	Emergency Services	Met Police
Gareth Jones	Programme	UKLP
David Buck	Programme	UKLP

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