

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 3rd UK Location User Group met on 13th January 2011;
 - A UK Location Evaluation Sub Group has been established;
 - A joint AGI / Demographic User Group workshop has been defined and planned for May.

3rd UK Location User Group

2. The 3rd UK Location User Group met on Thursday 13th January 2011 at Laydon House, 76-86 Turnmill Street, London. It aimed to inform user group members of the emerging information infrastructure; ensure the Location Council considers end users' views of the developing UK Location Information Infrastructure (UKLII); begin to identify benefits from this infrastructure; and identify how best to evaluate the emerging services. A full list of attendees maybe found at Appendix 1.
3. The meeting itself was split into three parts:
 - i. Report on progress in the Programme to date.
 - ii. Update from the Central Information Office (CIO) and the UK Location Programme team on the emerging Metadata, Discovery and View services.
 - iii. Breakout discussions focusing on key questions.
4. User Group members provided responses to pre-meeting questions and held breakout discussions during the meeting. These are summarised under the following headings:
 - User Evaluation
 - Missing or more urgently required data sets
 - Cross-sectoral Opportunities
 - Location data and “Big Society” agenda
 - Location Council agenda
 - Outreach

The User Group also proposed a number of themes for the INSPIRE conference organisers, including marine, environment, health, linked data, utilities and licensing. The UKLP team agreed to take these forward on behalf of the User Group.

User Evaluation

5. The User Group discussed and agreed that user testing of the emerging infrastructure is important. It was agreed that testing should focus on users

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who can add value, and should be limited initially to user group members. A structured, managed and combined user response was recognized as of greater value. Users also acknowledged that there might be a need for further evaluation within certain sectors, but that this should be coordinated through the user group member for that sector.

6. A User Evaluation Sub Group was established to lead and coordinate the evaluation of services being developed by the UK Location Programme to inform the future development of the UKLII Services, assist in identifying benefits, and to inform other users of their availability and benefits. The first meeting of the User Evaluation Sub Group was held at Defra (Nobel House) on 1st February, with a further meeting planned on 10th March. Draft TOR is attached at Appendix 2. An update will be provided in due course.

Missing or more urgently required data sets

7. The User Group recognised that with limited resources, the INSPIRE mandated data will be a challenge to deliver against already challenging timescales. However, MEDIN had already made an approach through The National Archives (TNA) for 25 data sets that are missing, exploiting the TNA 'unlock' request function.
8. The group suggested that some Annex III data are required sooner than the 2017 legislative deadline, including:
 - Local Development Frameworks (LDFs).
 - Some important Annex III themes (more than Annex I) such as ONS. Statistical Units and Utilities – sewerage, water, electricity gas
 - Some emergency planning information - such as information needed for the Olympics.

However, it was recognized that there are some issues associated with making some additional data openly available, such as the provision of utilities data that describe critical national infrastructure. This was an ongoing area of work for the National Underground Asset working group and Local Resilience Forums.

9. Users expressed a need for data that is associated with INSPIRE mandated datasets, for example:
 - Land ownership data: determining who owns land is an important activity for some users, particularly in the third sector.
 - Data for land, sea and air traffic; for example, whereas transport networks data is included, data concerning traffic on these networks is exempt.
 - For the third sector, grant funding and purpose/prescription per land ownership/management unit (such as agri-environmental spend and prescription). Making such data available will enable users to see if the spend is fulfilling its purpose, and identify and target spend in areas not yet dealt with potentially saving the taxpayer money by avoiding inappropriate or ineffective spend.

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10. The availability of private sector data, and associated issues was discussed. The group questioned whether data.gov.uk is the appropriate place to provide access to private sector data sets and how government licensing might apply to the private sector, if at all.
11. There was also some discussion about public interest data held by the private sector on behalf of the a public sector, and these data sets are of public interest. For example offshore oil/gas and marine vessel tracking data necessary for environmental monitoring. This is an area that may need to be explored further with the marine and oil and gas sectors.
12. Associated issues discussed included:
- Chargeable data. Many private sector data holders are not necessarily looking to make money from their data. They use the data to help them achieve their goals e.g. in the retail and service sectors data owners let 3rd parties use their data in apps which are used by their target audience to help identify where they are located (be it stores, services etc.) For example LPG stations on TomTom, Starbucks app on i-phone.
 - Data needed by voluntary organisations, with remaining barriers to use around licensing, charging and derived data rules.
 - Important elements missing from OS Open Data, such as field boundaries, were making it difficult for the voluntary sector to operate in rural areas.

Cross-sectoral Opportunities

13. There is the potential for better cross-sectoral working, sharing and usage of data. Four possible areas were identified:
- Voluntary / Third sector
 - Local Government
 - Flood risk
 - Sharing experience

Voluntary / Third sector

14. The 3rd sector is diverse offers potential opportunities for assisting Big Society ambitions, using common location information as a shared reference point. Each sector could, and perhaps should, include and support the 3rd sector to help realize these. For example, charities fighting crime working with the police, or charities promoting opportunities for young people working with schools and Government to provide the best education and resources. However, there are some obstacles preventing benefits being realised. The sector believes it does not have the correct licensing model for OS and suggested a pan-charity agreement to help realise benefits.

Local government

15. Cross-sectoral working between local authorities, emergency services and local health service providers offer potential cost-benefits. For example, the

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Nottingham Insight programme¹ has developed a data sharing website across Nottinghamshire health and local authorities, police, fire and probation. Specific projects use GIS to monitor service uptake across demographic groups, using social segmentation (Experian Public Sector Mosaic) to provide insight into teenage conception and other public health issues. The NHS White paper and restructuring of public health will provide many opportunities to share health, social care and education data to improve population health (obesity and access to exercise; teenage conception and educational attainment).

Flood risk

16. Another potential area mentioned was requirements under the Flood Regulations for sharing of flood risk/hazard and asset data between local Authorities, Environment Agency, land drainage boards and others. Currently a lot of local authorities are looking for guidance and advice on best practice in this field.

Sharing Experience

17. The MOD has in recent years commissioned a number of research activities looking at how the military user can be better supported and these have been demonstrated through Homeland Defence demonstrations to which the Cabinet Office, DEFRA, Home Office and others have been invited. Specifically these demonstrations have developed a number of reports and products which can be shared with other Government departments to aid the development of user systems including (but not limited to):

- Profiles for web services (WMS, WFS, WCS)
- A support tool for ensuring geospatial functions are addressed at the requirements stage of any system/application development linking User and System Requirements with Data Requirements and links those through to service type and the applicability of OGC web services.
- The creation of geospatial wizards which reduce complex process carried out by specialists to simple tools aimed at the non specialist (for example cross country mobility has been reduced to a four stage process).
- An Information Management roadmap for developing geospatial capability.

Location data and “Big Society”

18. Location data plays a key role in supporting Government’s “Big Society” agenda. It may be used in identifying where a 3rd sector or other organisation can recruit or retain support, engaging people with locally relevant activities, identifying suitable areas for particular actions, understanding where there are gaps in delivery or shortfalls with desired outcomes. Location data are needed for monitoring where things have, or should have, happened and for putting information into context. To find out who has a stake in a local area or whom

¹ <http://www.nottinghaminsight.org.uk/insight/partnerships/nottingham-insight-network/introduction.aspx>

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you need to contact to operate in an area needs access to land ownership information. “Big Society” depends on knowing in detail what is local to you, and that means doing things in the right places for the right reasons. Opening up location data for people to use will enable them to support Big Society.

19. Location and Inspire offered an easily accessible source of data to support funding bids, and will enable groups to identify areas of need to match resources. Although there remain some obstacles to realizing these benefits including licenses and accessibility, as noted previously, further discussion and promotion was suggested through the Big Society Network². The potential is such that the UK Location Council should engage further with the 3rd sector to assist it is realising potential benefits.

Location Council Agenda

20. A number of suggestions were put forward to the UKLP for consideration as future items for the future Location Council agenda items. These are listed at Appendix 3.1.

Outreach

21. The UK Location Programme is underwriting the AGI/Demographic User Group private sector location data workshop to be held in May. Suggestions for sector specific outreach events in 2011 are included at Appendix 3.2.
22. The group questioned whether all relevant sectors were represented and challenged whether the UK Location Programme was preaching to the converted. Whilst the group acknowledged that the UK Location Programme was still in the educational and awareness phase, it was important to identify non-GI groups and to move towards focussing on enabling new user applications, as this is where the real benefits lie.
23. The User Group requested the UK Location Programme to:
- Seek information from users of details of events
 - Maintain and publish a diary of events.
 - Clarify what it is that the Programme wanted to promote
 - Provides a standard pack of material for use at events

The User Group suggested that the Programme use a number of different tools to aid outreach, including wider promotion of websites (UKLP & data.gov), user surveys, Twitter, trade associations, forums, blogs and online events.

² <http://thebigsociety.co.uk/>

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Next Steps

24. Future UK Location User Group meetings will be held on the following dates

- 12th May 2011
- 8th September 2011

M J Cory
Chair
UK Location User Group
20th February 2011

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Appendix 1: ATTENDEES

Attendees at the UK Location 3rd User Group Meeting, 13 January 2011

Name	Sector	Organisation
Robin Bigger	Emergency Services	NI Fire & Rescue
Ray Boguslawski	Programme	Defra
David Buck	Programme	UKLP
Stefan Carlyle	Environment	Environment Agency
Mick Cory	Chair	Chair
Andrew Coote	AGI	Consulting Where/AGI
Matt Cullen	Insurance	ABI
Rob Deakin	System Suppliers	Halcrow/AGI
James Gardner		CKAN
David Henderson		Ordnance Survey
Nick Illsley	Transport	Transport Direct
Paul Jenkins		COI
Gareth Jones	Programme	UKLP
David Kane	Voluntary	NCVO
Rod Kedge	Programme	UKLP
Evan King		COI
Jeremy Morley	Education and Research	University of Nottingham
Mike Osborne	Marine	OceanWise Ltd.
Neil Pittam	Marine / Property	The Crown Estate
Jean Robinson	Health	NHS Nottingham City
Gesche Schmid	Local Government	LGA
Jeremy Tandy	Meteorology	Met Office
Ann Wall	Programme	UKLP
Robin Waters	Land and Property	RICS
Michael Whitelegge	Demographic / Private sector	M&S (Demographic User Group)
Ellen Wilson	Voluntary	RSPB

Apologies

Alex Ramage	Devolved – Scotland	Transport Scotland
Andrew Hart		Scott Wilson
Bruce Gittings	Professional Bodies - RSGS	GeoEd
Catherine Souch	Learning & research	RGS
Gary Gale	New Media	Nokia
Andy Wells	Private Sector –Locus	Infoterra, Locus Association
Gary Gale	Web / Net	Nokia
John Pepper	Professional Bodies – British Hydrographic Society	British Hydrographic Society

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Lars Calvert	Public Sector – Central Government	[IGGI]
Mick Deness		BCTV
Mick Dunn	Local Government	Nottingham City Council
Patricia Alameda-Villela	Public Sector – Marine	MMO
Paul Gerrard	Utilities	National Grid
Paul Hardaker	Meteorology	Royal Meteorological Society
Rob Hensley	Marine	UKHO
Sinclair Sutherland	Professional Bodies – Statistics	

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Appendix 2

UK Location User Group User Evaluation sub-group Draft Terms of Reference

Introduction

The UK Location Information Infrastructure (UKLII) will develop discovery, view and download services over the coming months and years to ensure UK compliance with the EU INSPIRE Directive.

The UK Location Council, which has been established to oversee the development of the INSPIRE Directive mandated services, also has the role of progressing the UK Location Strategy, which aims to maximise the usage and benefits from a coordinated approach to geographic, or location information.

The UK Location Council has convened a User Group to ensure that user needs and requirements are considered in developing the UKLII, and in implementing the UK Location Strategy. Critical to this role is ensuring that the various services developed as part of the UKLII are usable and that the data provided delivers benefits to the UK as a whole. Both the UK Location Council and the UK Location User Group has agreed that it will be of greater advantage if a structured approach to testing the Infrastructure is adopted.

Purpose

A **USER EVALUATION SUB-GROUP** will lead and coordinate an evaluation of the services being developed to help inform the future development of the UK Location Information Infrastructure Services, assist in identifying the benefits from the UK Location Programme, and to inform other users of their availability and the benefits from these services.

The Evaluation Sub Group will assess and evaluate the emerging UK Location Information services, developed to comply with EU Inspire Directive requirements, through the UK government's data.gov.uk information portal, in terms of their usability and usefulness to Location information users. This evaluation will consider the usability of the web site, the applicability of the data to user needs, and assist in identifying new data requirements, and any improvements or enhancements required to assist the user community maximising benefits and value from the emerging services.

Role of the Sub-Group

The UK Location User Evaluation sub-Group will consider :

- The data available through the web site, both existing and missing under INSPIRE Directive, but from a user perspective
- The Website (data.gov.uk), ease of use, functionality, and
- Applicability of data on website (data.gov.uk)

It will be particularly important for the Evaluation sub-Group to

- Evaluate the concrete things that the UK Location Programme is delivering for UK Location Users
-

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- Look at whether and how well the UK Location website is providing users with the information that they need to develop and maximise the benefits
- Provide on-going feedback to the UK Location Programme via the UKLP User Group

Key Questions to be addressed

This is a high level evaluation to start with, focusing on the broader range of uses and to help identify key issues. Further drilling down by sectors may be appropriate in order to encourage use of the interface, but also help develop their needs for the future.

Therefore the Terms of Reference for this evaluation are not prescriptive. Rather it is intended to assist the User Group identify the key areas of concern, some of which may require further consideration, evaluation or analyses, either by the user Group or by the UK Location Programme, depending upon their nature.

As a guide it is proposed that two key areas are examined: the usability of the interface to identify data required, and the data available - is it useful and usable? Does the data help deliver benefits? Where are the cross sectoral opportunities emerging? Are there other data sets that would enhance the usefulness of the system?

Functionality

In terms of functionality of the web site it is proposed that the sub-group evaluates

- Ease of use
- Functionality of search
- Any other functionality of use from a user perspective
- Advise whether there is anything missing.

Data

In terms of the data available it will be particularly important to consider:

- Is it clear through the web site what location data is available, and also what other data can be linked to location?
- Is this data easy to identify (as being there, and of value)
- Are data missing? Of particular interest is whether all relevant INSPIRE data is accessible through the website, but also whether there are additional datasets required, such as Inspire data not yet available, but required sooner, or non-Inspire data that could significantly enhance user benefits and opportunities if accessed through the web site.

Output from the Sub Group

The User Evaluation sub-Group will be asked to provide on-going feedback to the UK Location Programme. A short summary of findings should be provided after each meeting. An Evaluation sub-Group report (written and or a presentation) should be provided to the User Group at the 12th May User Group Meeting, which will form part of the User Group report to Location Council's June meeting.

Membership

Membership of the sub-group is voluntary, and will initially come from User Group members. The initial membership is given at Annex A to these Terms of Reference. Following this initial phase, further members or replacement members may be drawn from the User Group, or wider afield if though appropriate.

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The Evaluation sub-Group will agree a Chair at its first meeting.

Further Evaluation groups

Following initial considerations it may be appropriate for each sector represented at the User Group to consider establishing additional sector-specific Evaluation sub Groups. This will be a matter for the sector concerned, and such groups are to be encouraged. Appropriate tools are being made available by the data.gov.uk team to enable such feedback direct to the web site developers and managers. However, the UK Location User Group will welcome feedback from such evaluations on significant issues emerging through User Group representatives, and if agreed by the User Group as a whole, will ensure such matters are drawn to the attention of the Location Council.

Meeting frequency

Meetings will be coordinated so that they occur in relation to portal development milestones. However, meetings will nominally be monthly to begin with.

Volunteers for Evaluation Sub Group

Name	Organisation
Robin Bigger	NI Fire & Rescue
Stefan Carlyle	Environment Agency
Andrew Coote	Consulting Where/AGI
David Kane	NCVO
Jeremy Morley	University of Nottingham
Mike Osborne	OceanWise Ltd (MEDIN)
Neil Pittam	The Crown Estate
Jean Robinson	NHS Nottingham City
Michael Whitelegge	M&S (Demographic User Group)
Ellen Wilson	RSPB

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Appendix 3

3.1 Suggested future Location Council Agenda items

- Review of core reference geographies.
- Review of the UK Location Strategy: what has been achieved and where the focus should be in the future.
- Membership of UKLC membership: commercial, academic and voluntary sectors?
- Review of UK timelines for Annex III data set delivery, working at the speed of the slowest would be inappropriate for more advanced themes.
- Review of other portals, such as oil and gas.
- Review if the PSMA should be opened to included the Voluntary sector?
- Thematic domains – in relation to core data. How do they interrelate in terms of different services? Where do they go and how do they support interoperability?
- Free data and chargeable data. Explore whether it might be applicable to provide core data for free and charge for value-add data. In what circumstances might this apply? Also ask how do we address the issue of historic versus current data?
- Review of company data strategies, do they use Location principles?
- Is there a danger that the flow of data from public to private and 3rd sector will undermine the UK Location Strategy and benefits of the INSPIRE Directive?

3.2 Suggested future Outreach events

- AGI Conference in September
 - AGI Specialist Interest Groups such as Transport and Retail
 - Annual Flood and Coastal Managers Conference (end June)
 - Chief Fire Officers Association
 - GIS Research UK
 - PSMA Seminars
 - Town Planning Institute
 - Royal Meteorological Society events
 - RGS/IBG
 - BCS Geospatial
 - Trade Show / Outdoor Show
 - UK Resilience - CLG
 - LGA Conferences / Knowledge Hub
 - SOLACE
 - UK Open Source GIS Conference (June)
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