

# Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee

10.00am, Tuesday 10 June 2014

## Strategy for Open Data

Item number	7.6
Report number	
Executive/routine	
Wards	

### Executive summary

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- The UK Government is a signatory to the G8 Open Data Charter. This encourages open data in order to increase accountability, efficiency, responsibility and encourage economic growth in government. This report sets out the approach Edinburgh will adopt in meeting the principles of this Charter.
- Open Data is public data which is: accessible, in a digital format and free of commercial restrictions on use or redistribution in its licensing conditions.
- The Council wants to empower the city by releasing open data to provide easier access to council services and amenities through alternative channels, support innovative new ventures, enhance citizen participation in the decision making process and make better use of public assets for citizens, communities, businesses and the council.
- The Council has already tested the value of sharing data with its first civic challenge event [EdinburghApps](#). The competition encouraged innovative solutions to city issues and generated a number of products now being delivered for the Council.

### Links

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Coalition pledges	P15, P28
Council outcomes	CO23, CO24, CO25 and CO26
Single Outcome Agreement	SO1, SO2, SO3 and SO4.

## Open Data Strategy

### Recommendations

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- 1.1 It is recommended that the Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee:
  - 1.1.1 approve the Open Data Strategy.

### Background

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#### **Background to main report**

- 2.1 It is important that Council data is used to improve service delivery and enable the City of Edinburgh Council to meet the needs of its stakeholders.
- 2.2 The UK has signed up to the G8 Open Data Charter, and is delivering key and high value data sets through data.gov.uk. This approach is indicating the direction of travel at a national level.
- 2.3 The Scottish Government Data Management Board has produced a Data Vision for Scotland; its action plan will include the production of an Open Data Strategy in 2014. This strategy will outline a roadmap for Scotland, advocating re-use of public data.
- 2.4 The Council ICT and Digital Strategy, adopted in November 2013, highlighted that the Council would agree its position on the development and use of Open Data.
- 2.5 The Open Data strategy has been developed to define how data reuse will support the Capital Coalition Commitments, the Council's strategic needs and enable transformational change.
- 2.6 The strategy also addresses the requirements laid down in the Re-Use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2005 and the INSPIRE (Infrastructure for Spatial Information in Europe) Directive (2007).
- 2.7 The Council has already tested the concept of opening up and sharing its data through the successful EdinburghApps event which used Council and partner data to find new solutions to city issues.

### Main report

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- 3.1 The Open Data Strategy (Appendix 1) has been developed as a guide for how the City of Edinburgh Council will design its open data services to deliver

positive outcomes for its stakeholders. It defines the Council's vision, key principles and overall direction of travel for open data.

3.2 The Councils provision of open data will be based on the following principles:

Delivery Principles	Data Principles
Keep it simple and small	Release good quantities of high quality data
Open by default	Describe the data
Engage early and engage often	Make data freely available (with defined exceptions)
Foster innovation	Provide accessible data
Start with the customer's need	Allow reuse and redistribution
Share expertise and experience	Aim to publish linked data
Be transparent	Ensure data is as up to date as possible
Address common internal fears and misunderstandings	
Encourage universal participation	

3.3 A Road Map for the delivery of the strategy has been developed. This sets out the chains of action required to deliver Open Data, not just within the Council, but also how the Council can foster an Open Data community within the city; linking to the wider Scottish, UK and International Open Data communities.

3.4 Subject to approval by Committee, it is intended that there will be a launch for the strategy. The intended audience will be stakeholders of the strategy and representatives from the open data community in Scotland. In addition, it is intended to develop an online manifesto that outlines in summary the key points of the strategy, and create a web forum to continue engagement with key stakeholders

3.5 In addition, and also subject to approval by Committee, the Council will seek to become a member of the Eurocities Knowledge Society Open Data working group to foster European partnerships and funding opportunities.

## Measures of success

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4.1 As set out in the Coalition Agreement, the measures of success for Open data relate to the quality, accountability and openness of the Council's operations. Specific measures of success will be:

- delivery of a first stage data store that facilitates data sharing (by Oct 2014);
- implementation of data standards to improve quality assurance of data (by Oct 2014);
- identification and release of 100 initial data sets (by April 2015);
- delivery of new service solutions using Council data through the medium of EdinburghApps events and related projects. (from Sept 2014)

## **Financial impact**

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- 5.1 There are no direct financial impacts arising from this report.
- 5.2 There will be costs associated with the delivery of the Open Data platform. These have been fully budgeted for within the ICT and Digital Transformation Programme. These will be reported through normal reporting to Finance and Resources Committee.

## **Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact**

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- 6.1 This strategy seeks to address future risk relating to legislative and statutory requirements for data management and sharing.

## **Equalities impact**

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- 7.1 The implementation of the strategy will assist the Council to deliver key equalities and rights outcomes and meet the public sector equality duties to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations through the provision of more inclusive services.

## **Sustainability impact**

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- 8.1 The strategy will encourage the reuse of data when possible and promote the use of data to find innovative solutions in ways that reduce the carbon footprint of the Council supporting its Sustainability strategy.

## **Consultation and engagement**

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- 9.1 A key element of the development of the Open Data strategy is engagement and this will continue with internal and external stakeholders on a number of areas, for example: appropriate use of personal data, licensing and copyright, to ensure that the Open Data strategy meets their needs.

## Background reading / external references

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[Data.Gov.UK](#) – UK government portal offering open data for re-use

[Open data Consultancy study](#) undertaken by Swirrl IT Ltd for the Scottish Government from Sept to Nov 2013

[Open Data Scotland.](#) Pilot built by Swirrl to showcase the potential of linked, open data to power smarter, more transparent and efficient data use.

[Scottish Government Data Management Board](#)

[Open Data Foundation handbook](#) Non-profit organization providing news, knowledge, events and publications

Re-Use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2005 <http://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/en/european-legislation-reuse-public-sector-information>

INSPIRE (Infrastructure for Spatial Information in Europe) Directive (2007) [http://ico.org.uk/for\\_organisations/inspire\\_regulations](http://ico.org.uk/for_organisations/inspire_regulations)

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### Links

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<b>Coalition pledges</b>	P15 - Work with public organisations, the private sector and social enterprise to promote Edinburgh to investors P28 - Further strengthen our links with the business community by developing and implementing strategies to promote and protect the economic well being of the city
<b>Council outcomes</b>	CO23 - Well engaged and well informed – Communities and individuals are empowered and supported to improve local outcomes and foster a sense of community CO24 - The Council communicate effectively internally and externally and has an excellent reputation for customer care CO25 - The Council has efficient and effective services that deliver on objectives CO26 - The Council engages with stakeholders and works in partnership to improve services and deliver on agreed objectives
<b>Single Outcome Agreement</b>	SO1 - Edinburgh's Economy Delivers increased investment, jobs and opportunities for all SO2 - Edinburgh's citizens experience improved health and wellbeing, with reduced inequalities in health SO3 - Edinburgh's children and young people enjoy their childhood and fulfil their potential SO4 - Edinburgh's communities are safer and have improved physical and social fabric
<b>Appendices</b>	Appendix 1 – Open Data Strategy Appendix 2 – Open Data Case studies

## Appendix 1 – Open Data Strategy

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This is an extract of the full strategy and provides details on purpose, vision and context. Full strategy available [on the Council website](#)

### Purpose of this Strategy

This strategy sets out the Council's position on open data. It then outlines how the Council will deliver open data, including the sourcing of data, presentation of data, governance, and engagement with consumers.

### Vision for Open Data

The City of Edinburgh Council has a goal to become the leading contributor of open data for Edinburgh and its wider region, supporting innovation and encouraging economic growth.

To achieve this, the City of Edinburgh Council has adopted the principles of the G8 Open Data Charter (May 2013). This encourages open data in order to increase accountability, efficiency, responsibility and encourage economic growth in government. The principles for Edinburgh are:



*data will be open by default, of a high quality,  
timely, comprehensive and usable by all*

### Context

Open Data has emerged as a concept over the last decade. As a concept it is being adopted globally: to make public service and commercial data openly available for everyone to use and republish as they wish, without restrictions from copyright, patents or other mechanisms of control.

In a UK context the Cabinet Office<sup>1</sup> have defined open data as public data which is:

- accessible (ideally via the internet) at no more than the cost of reproduction, without limitations based on identity or intent;

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<sup>1</sup> Cabinet Office White Paper on open data "Unleashing the Potential" available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/open-data-white-paper-unleashing-the-potential>

- in a digital, machine readable format for interoperation with other data; and
- free of restrictions on use or redistribution in its licensing conditions.

The Council's stated direction of travel for its use of ICT and digital is that it should empower. The adoption of open data as an enabler to this is clear, providing data in this format where there are no commercial or legal barriers supports a more open approach to local government, where administered correctly.

The Council gathers many types of data to help deliver and inform its work. Making this data 'open' has the potential to bring benefits to citizens, communities, businesses and partners.

Open data is being seen as a catalyst that will encourage innovation in the city, help the Council develop new approaches to delivering services, and lead to new systems to support the quality of life in Edinburgh.

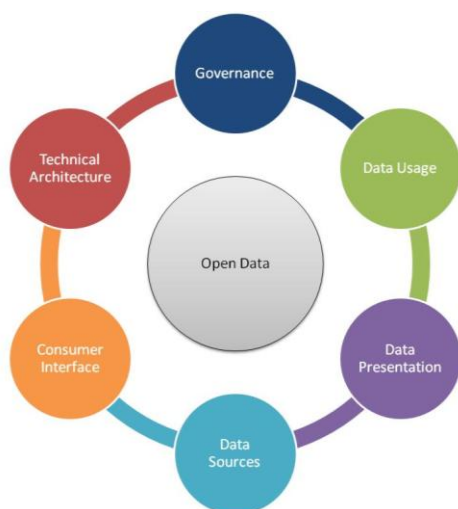
In this context whilst there are aspects of Open Data that will touch all our customers, there are four Empowering Edinburgh outcome areas that Open Data will directly support:

- Empowered Citizens: ICT enables me to interact with the Council through my choice of technology and keeps me informed on the things that matter.
- Empowered Learners: Our schools use technology well, really improving teaching.
- Empowered Businesses: ICT makes Edinburgh an even more attractive place for doing business.
- Empowered Partners: Technology makes a real difference to the way we provide joined up services to the people of Scotland.

## Delivering Open Data

To deliver Open Data as a new way of working with the data we produce and consume, there are six key components the Council has identified to support its practical delivery.

The strategy sets out in more detail these six components and how they will be delivered.



## Appendix 2 – Open Data Case Studies

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- 1.1 There are many UK and international projects using open data proving use to communities, businesses and councils. A recent example, [the Flood Hack](#), took place after the floods in England, creating tools to help local communities. There was a great deal of positive media and huge public impact, as well helping agencies, and providing quick solutions.
- 1.2 Open Data delivers benefits to the Council and the city in encouraging, innovation, bringing opportunities to young and new businesses and increasing transparency and inclusion by sharing data with local people.
- [EdinburghApps](#), Edinburgh's own civic challenge event had a great first year with winners providing immediately useful products – these included Gavin Neate's '[neatebox](#)' provides a solution to help people with disabilities at crossings was short listed for a number of national awards the iBeacon technology could be used across the city to provide tourist and local app solutions. An analysis and solution to reduce backlog of equipment deliveries by improving journey times for Health and Social Care's (HSC) Joint Equipment Store. The event also enhanced the Council's reputation, encouraging innovation and IT business development in the city.
  - As part of the Nesta **Make It Local Scotland programme**:
    - the City of Edinburgh Council led the development of the successful [Edinburgh Outdoors](#) website using Council open data. This proof of concept project demonstrated the wealth of data the Council held and created a new digital service that local people could enjoy and collaborate on. It has had international success and recognition, through the EU Code4Europe programme and short listing for Eurocities award 2013. Currently the town of Lyon is looking to build a 'Lyon Outdoors' app based on the Edinburgh project.
    - Aberdeen City Council and Aberdeenshire Council created [SmartJourney](#), a mobile-friendly website that allows the people of Aberdeenshire to share and discover up-to-date local weather and travel information. It includes information on gritting routes, road and footpath conditions, weather forecasts and more, and also allows citizens to provide their own live updates, ensuring timely and detailed information.
  - In the wider UK there are many examples of open data creating innovative and beneficial solutions for cities:



- Birmingham City Council – Created a ['Birmingham Civic Dashboard'](#), pilot which mapped where requests for council services have been made. Residents and the council can use the web tool to see the themes developing from these service requests and the broader issues they illustrate such as graffiti 'hotspots'.
- Beyond the UK, European cities are rapidly opening up data, providing a springboard for wider community participation, SME development, innovative solutions and more.
  - [Amsterdam's open data platform](#) offers regular themed challenges to address issues and uses its smart city agenda to support projects.
  - In Finland the annual apps competition has generated great results - [BlindSquare](#) – an app to help blind and visually impaired people navigate space – has been adopted in over 60 countries.
  - [Code4Europe](#) Programme has created re-usable applications in open formats using open data such as Amsterdam's Take a Hike to encourage tourist use outside city centre.