

Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee

10.00am, Tuesday 6 September 2016

Open Data Programme: Update

Item number	7.3
Report number	
Executive/routine	
Wards	ALL

Executive summary

This report provides a progress update on the Open Data programme, and the actions agreed at the Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee, 23rd February 2016.

It outlines Open Data activities carried out to date, the progress made in achieving the actions from the February committee and seeks authority for the proposed next steps.

Links

[Coalition pledges](#)
[Council outcomes](#)
[Single Outcome Agreement](#)

Open Data Programme: Update

Recommendations

- 1.1. It is recommended that the Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee:
 - Note the activities that have taken place to support the Open Data programme;
 - Note the progress made on the actions from the Committee meeting on 23rd February 2016; and,
 - Approve the next steps outlined in this report.

Background

- 2.1 At its meeting on 23rd February 2016, the Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee approved the Future Cities and Open Data Strategy update, noting the progress on releasing data sets, with over 100 then available.
- 2.2 At that meeting it was agreed:
 - 2.2.1 To approve identification and delivery of a further 100 new data sets at level three of the agreed Open Data format hierarchy by September 2016 with timescales for each Directorate to deliver and publish a minimum of 20 data sets;
 - 2.2.2 To endorse the identification of open data champions from within the Council to progress data recommendations and publishing, and develop an open data publication plan to align with Scottish Government recommendations;
 - 2.2.3 To endorse the development of an API (Application Programming Interface) and integration with the Council's open data portal for Council online services where practical, to allow the flow of real-time data;
 - 2.2.4 To approve the Council entering into an Edinburgh Living Lab Framework agreement with the University of Edinburgh, enabling partnership working and providing more opportunities for joint funding bids and projects;
 - 2.2.5 To endorse the development of other Living Lab Framework agreements with Edinburgh's other Universities, enabling partnership working and providing more opportunities for joint funding bids and projects;
 - 2.2.6 To note the Council's membership of the Cities Standards Institute and the opportunities this afforded for the Council;

2.2.7 To note the expectation that 260 data sets would be available by September 2016.

Main report

Open Data

- 3.1 A plan to publish 260 new data sets was put in place in March 2016. This was impacted by resource availability. Delivery of 260 1 star data sets has been completed (see listing, Appendix 1). 100 3 star data sets are being packaged up for publication by the end of September.
- 3.2 To enable open data development and data set publication the Council agreed that existing Information Council members would become open data champions. Following re-structuring the terms of reference for the Information Council has been under review and new Governance is being put in place. Members of the new governance group will become by default open data champions.
- 3.3 The Scottish Government Open Data resource pack includes the publishing of an Open Data Publication Plan as an aim for local authorities. Work on this has begun but requires further stakeholder engagement to ensure we publish an achievable plan. The data publication plan will be published by December 2016.

Open Data and FOI Requests

- 3.4 Councillors requested a briefing on the impact of open data on FOI requests - thorough research was carried out and has been detailed in the final briefing (see the full briefing at Appendix 2).
- 3.5 The findings proved inconclusive, as no quantitative evidence could be found. Therefore ICT Solutions is now running a joint project with Strategy and Insight, using common FOI request data sets, to provide some evidence as to the impact of open data for the Council specifically. This project began in May 2016 and will run until the end of October 2016.
- 3.6 Work is continuing to expand engagement with relevant communities and stakeholders in the city to build strong interest and identify future collaboration and partner opportunities. The Edinburgh Partnership has expressed an interest in learning more about how open data could assist with community planning and a meeting is planned for autumn 2016 to progress.

EdinburghApps 2016

- 3.7 The Council has continued to support economic growth and encourage innovative solutions to city challenges through the delivery of EdinburghApps 2016¹. The Council partnered with NHS Lothian, NHS National Support Services and Sustrans Scotland, providing five health and wellbeing challenges. 50

¹ Further information about each stage of the Civic Challenge competition is available at <http://edinburghapps.tumblr.com>

participants attended two design and development weekends, and four teams presented at the final pitching event. These teams are now continuing their concept developments, with continuing support from the Council.

University open data engagement

- 3.8 A number of engagement activities using Council open data have been pursued with the University of Edinburgh and the Edinburgh Living Lab to determine the appetite of the University and its students to engage with the authority on joint partner projects. These have also provided insight into Council data and enabled service planning (see Appendix 3 for detail).

Wider Engagement

- 3.9 The Council is a member of the Eurocities Knowledge Society Forum and its open data working group. In April the Council showcased its open data strategy and development in a Eurocities Webinar presentation, with the aim of sharing its knowledge and experience to support other cities in the development of their open data work as well as seeking good practice validation on the development undertaken by the Council.
- 3.10 The Scottish Libraries and Information Council (SLIC) has recently agreed a National Strategy for Public Libraries 2015 – 20, which has highlighted six strategic aims. To progress the strategic aim of promoting digital inclusion a national hackathon is taking place in the autumn providing re-use and insight for libraries data. ICT has provided advice and support to SLIC, and is supporting Edinburgh Libraries to identify and prepare appropriate data and challenges, to deliver insight that will benefit future planning of service.
- 3.11 Work has been continuing on the development of the Scottish Cities Alliance 8th City programme data cluster project. This project will progress the cities data maturity by developing data platforms, agreeing common data standards, approaches to publishing and providing analytic case studies. The City of Edinburgh Council is an active partner, contributing to data standards and analytics work packages and leading on work package four, Community and Capacity Building.

Next Steps

- 3.12 As a vanguard authority that has pursued an open data strategy we are now looking at ways to make the most of partner opportunities. We are approaching this at two levels:
- The Council is a member of the Scottish Cities Alliance and is an active partner in the Data Cluster project which is within the 8th City Programme.
 - At City level, following the Framework Agreement with the University of Edinburgh and discussions with other Universities further project opportunities are being investigated.

- 3.13 The national objectives outlined in the Scottish Government’s open data resource pack, and the creation of open data as a category in the FOI Publication scheme, mean that open data has an increasing visibility and relevance for Council business.
- 3.14 The Council’s Open Data Strategy and programme has provided the impetus to build and populate a portal, and identify opportunities to demonstrate the value of sharing and opening up data.
- 3.15 The Council’s Open Data Portal has now been live for over a year. During this time, a number of new and developing projects² have been identified which could impact on the Council’s current publishing and presentation approach. Research will be carried out to identify the impact of these projects, producing recommendations on next steps to ensure the continued delivery of open data sets and their availability for public use.
- 3.16 Initial scoping discussions about the building of APIs have highlighted the importance of identifying where most benefit will be derived from use and to align any API development with this outcome. The Council is keen to identify where data can provide real value and benefit can be derived from open data to inform services and identify improvements. Two data projects will be carried out over the next six months to provide case studies evidencing value. API development will be considered as part of the scope, if this is found to be necessary for project delivery.
- 3.17 Training will be carried out for the Council’s data stewards to provide them with the knowledge to manage existing data sets and identify new ones for publication. Following training, a review of current data sets will be carried out to improve the data sets available, adding further meta data and data formats, and as part of this work identifying further data sets that can add a 3 star format³.
- 3.18 The Council has been invited to sit on the steering group for a new Data Festival to take place in Spring 2017. This is being led by The Data Lab⁴. The Council will provide advice on delivering the festival in the city, and identify data use opportunities that will deliver evidence of value in sharing and re-use of Council data.

² The Council’s BICC and ECM projects will change how Council data is created and managed; the Scottish Cities Alliance data cluster project may impact on how open data is accessed; the City Deal includes data as an element and may impact on how the Council shares and opens up its data; the Improvement Service has created a Scottish Spatial Hub to host all Scottish Council’s spatial open data and the Scottish Government is considering the appetite to build a Scotland-wide open data portal;

³ Tim Berners Lee devised the [open data 5 star deployment scheme](#) which is used to determine data accessibility and ability for re-use.

⁴ The Data Lab is an Innovation Centre funded by the Scottish Funding Council, Highlands and Islands Enterprise and Scottish Enterprise. Its main focus is to strengthen Scotland’s local industry and transfer world-leading research in informatics and computer science into the global marketplace.

Measures of success

- 4.1 The success of the Open Data programme will be measured in the publishing of new data sets, case studies and projects

Financial impact

- 5.1 Currently delivery has been managed through existing budgets identified in service areas.
- 5.2 This budget is coming to an end and a business case will be taken to the budget review for discussion.

Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

- 6.1 This strategy seeks to address future risk relating to legislative and statutory requirements for data management and sharing.
- 6.2 The Open Data Strategy is part of the ICT & D Strategy Programme. Risks are monitored and managed at the project and ICT&D Board.

Equalities impact

- 7.1 The Open Data Strategy will promote equitable access to Council, and Partner services in line with Council equality standards.

Sustainability impact

- 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.
- 8.2 A key requirement for the continuing publication and presentation of open data is to agree the best technical solution to provide this. As outlined in this report, work is being taken forward to ensure a sustainable option is identified.
- 8.3 A key element of the development of the Open Data strategy is wider engagement with staff, managers, elected members, relevant audiences and sectors to encourage a city-wide approach to the sharing and re-use of data. As outlined in this report, work is continuing on a number of fronts to ensure that this work continues.

Background reading / external references

[Scottish Information Commissioner: Model Publication Scheme March 2016](#)

[Scottish Government Open Data Resource Pack](#)

Andrew Kerr

Chief Executive

Contact: Claudette Jones, Interim Head of ICT, ICT Solutions, Chief Executive's Office

E-mail: claudette.jones@edinburgh.gov.uk | Tel: 0131 529 7847

Links

Coalition pledges	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
Council outcomes	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
Single Outcome Agreement	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
Appendices	Appendix 1 – List of published 1 star data sets Appendix 2 – Briefing on the impact of open data on FOI requests Appendix 3 – University activities

Appendix 1 – 1 star published open data sets (260)

2011 Census Transport and Travel Topic summary	Data Quality Policy	Hailes Quarry Park Management Plan	Maps of Edinburgh Constituencies May 2016 - Pentland	Records Management Policy	Union Canal strategy
Access to Supermarkets and Food Shops in Edinburgh	Delivering Capital Growth 2010, action plan update 2012, post adoption statement, environmental report	Harrison Park Management Plan	Maps of Edinburgh Constituencies May 2016 - Southern	Reports – Air Quality	Waste Action Grant Guidelines
Active Travel action plan 2016	Development Activity Bulletin (Planning)	Health and Social Care Innovation Fund information sheet	Maps of Edinburgh Constituencies May 2016 - Western	Resilient Edinburgh Climate Change Adaptation framework	Waste and Recycling Strategy
Active Travel action plan review	Early Years Strategy and action plan	Health and Social Care Innovation funding awards	Model Constitution for Community Council	River Almond Walkway Management Plan	Waste Factsheets 1 - 20
Active Travel Plan 2013 - 2020	Easter Craiglockhart Hill local Nature Reserve Management Plan	Hermitage of Braid Local Nature Reserve Management Plan	Morningside Park Management Plan	Road Safety Plan for Edinburgh to 2020	Waste Prevention Strategy
Allotment Strategy	Economic Development Service operational plan 2012 - 2015 (operational update)	Home Education Policy	Moving Image Strategy	Road works and events	West cycle and walking route
Annual auditor charitable trusts ISA260 report 2014 - 2015	Economy Watch	Hopetoun Crescent Garden Management Plan	Muir Wood Park Management Plan	Route 61 cycle and walking route	Whole city catchment maps

Annual auditor report 2014 - 2015	Edible Edinburgh A Sustainable Food City Plan	How to recycle guides - how to use your blue box	Music Strategy	Royal Mile Action plan	Woodland Habitat Action Plan
Antisocial Behaviour Policy	Edinburgh Biodiversity Action Plan 2016 - 2018	How to recycle guides - how to use your garden waste bin	Natural Conservation Report 2013, 2014	Scheme for Community Councils	World Heritage action plan
Antisocial Behaviour Strategy 2013 - 2016	Edinburgh Built Heritage Strategy plan	How to recycle guides - how to use your kerbside food waste bin	North cycle and walking route	School Term dates 2016 - 17	World Heritage management plan 2011-2016
Air Quality reports	Edinburgh by Numbers 2015	How to recycle guides - how to use your red box	North east cycle and walking route	School Term dates 2017 - 18	
Area development frameworks (Waterfront and South part of the city)	Edinburgh catering menu for secondary schools	How to recycle guides - how to use your shared mixed glass point	North west cycle and walking route	Scottish Parliamentary Election results 2007	
Audited Annual accounts 2009 - 2010	Edinburgh catering menu for secondary schools (Amey)	How to recycle guides - How to use your shared packaging point	Notable rare species in Edinburgh	Scottish Parliamentary Election results 2011	
Audited Annual accounts 2010 - 2011	Edinburgh catering menu for secondary schools (Mitie)	How to set up a 'bag for life' project and case study	One Door Approach to Development Consents Charter	Scottish Parliamentary Election results 2016	
Audited Annual accounts 2011 - 2012	Edinburgh City Archives collections guides	How to set up a 'bring and buy' event and case study	Open Space audit	Skyline study - Central Edinburgh	
Audited Annual accounts 2012 - 2013	Edinburgh City Archives names guides	How to set up a 'Community Composting Project' and	Open Space strategy	Skyline study - East Edinburgh	

		case study			
Audited Annual accounts 2013 - 2014	Edinburgh City Archives subject guides	How to set up a 'scrap art event' and case study	Open Space Strategy - Almond action plan	Skyline study - North Edinburgh	
Audited Annual Accounts 2014 - 2015	Edinburgh Compact Strategy 2015 - 2020	How to set up a 'toy library' and case study	Open Space Strategy - City Centre action plan	Skyline study - South Edinburgh	
Biodiversity action plan	Edinburgh Core Paths	ICT and Digital Strategy	Open Space Strategy - Craightinny and Duddingston action plan	Skyline study - West Edinburgh	
Burdiehouse Burn Valley Local Nature Reserve Management Plan	Edinburgh Fair Trade Schools	Integrated action plan to tackle health inequalities	Open Space Strategy - Forth action plan	South east cycle and walking route	
Buttercup Park Farm development plan	Edinburgh Gardens and Designed Landscapes summary report and map	Integrated framework to tackle health inequalities	Open Space Strategy - Inverleith action plan	South west cycle and walking route	
Calton Hill Conservation Plan	Edinburgh Joint Carers Strategy	Integrated plan for children and young people 2015 - 2018	Open Space Strategy - Leith action plan	Strategy for Open Data	
Cammo Estate Management Plan	Edinburgh Landscape Character Assessments	Invasive non-native plant species	Open Space Strategy - Liberton and Gilmerton action plan	Street Naming Charter	
Capital Facts	Edinburgh Living Landscape Education Resource Pack	Inverleith Conservation Area Management Plan	Open Space Strategy - Pentlands action plan	Street Naming Guidelines	

Carbon Management Plan 2015/16 - 2020/21	Edinburgh Living Landscape executive summary	Inverleith Park Management Plan	Open Space Strategy - Portobello and Craigmillar action plan	Sustainable Edinburgh 2020 action plan 2012 - 2014	
Care Providers performance stats April - June 2015	Edinburgh Living Landscape FAQs	Key facts and figures booklet 2010 - 11	Open Space Strategy - South Central action plan	Sustainable Edinburgh 2020 annual report 2014 - 2015	
Census 2011 - the results for Edinburgh	Edinburgh Living Landscape Floral Meadows fact sheet	Key facts and figures booklet 2011 - 12	Open Space Strategy - South West action plan	Sustainable Edinburgh 2020 text version	
Children and Families Service Plan 2014 - 2017	Edinburgh Living Landscape herbaceous perennials fact sheet	Key facts and figures booklet 2012 - 13	Open Space Strategy - Western action plan	Sustainable Edinburgh Achievements 2014 - 15	
Children and Families Service Plan 2015 - 2018	Edinburgh Living Landscape naturalised grass fact sheet	Key facts and figures booklet 2013 - 14	Parental engagement report	Sustainable Energy action plan	
City Cultural Venues study	Edinburgh Living Landscape noticeboard fact sheet	Key facts and figures booklet 2014 - 15	Parental engagement strategy and action plan 2013	Sustainable Energy action plan (Easy Read version)	
Climate Change declaration 6th annual report	Edinburgh Local Biodiversity Action Plan	Key facts and figures booklet 2015 - 16	Parks Quality reports 2013 - 15	Sustainable lighting strategy for Edinburgh	
Code of Conduct for Professional Dog Walkers	Edinburgh Public Parks and Green Spaces Strategy	Learning Publications catalogue	Planning applications	Sustainable Procurement Policy	
Committees, sub committees, joint boards	Edinburgh Standards for Streets	Leith Conservation Area Management	Planning and Building Standards Customer	Sustainable Timber Policy	

membership and dates update Aug 2015		Plan	Services Charter		
Communal Recycling Guide	Edinburgh Vacant and Derelict Land Survey (5) 2015	Leith Programme updates	Planning Decisions	Tenant Participation Strategy	
Community Councils and the Planning System	Edinburgh Vintage trail 2016	Leith to Portobello cycle route	Planning Enforcement Charter	The City of Edinburgh Council's Economic Strategy 2012 - 2017	
Community Councils established and non established Sept 2015	Edinburgh Visitor Strategy 2012	Licensed taxi ranks in Edinburgh April 2015	Planning performance framework 2011 - 12	The Edinburgh Partnership Community Plan	
Conservation thematic studies - pre 1750s buildings in Edinburgh Old Town Conservation Area	Edinburgh World Heritage lighting project	List of Motorcycle bays 2014	Planning performance framework 2012 - 13	The Estuary Local Flood Risk Management Plan	
Conservation thematic studies – Edinburgh's post war listed buildings	Edinburgh's Heritage strategy	List of Nurseries June 2016	Planning performance framework 2013 - 14	The Lord Provost's Fair Trade Award winners 2013 - 2014	
Cooperative Capital case studies	Edinburgh's Retail Survey 2015	Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas 2016	Planning performance framework 2014 - 15	Theatre Strategy	
Cooperative Capital Framework	Energy Advice Guide for Tenants	Loanhead to Gilmerton cycling route	Play space survey results	Thundering Hooves	

Corstorphine Hill Local Nature Reserve Management Plan	Energy Policy for Council buildings	Local Flood Risk Management Plan	Portobello Community Garden Management Plan	Thundering Hooves 2.0	
Council Business Plan 2016 - 2020	European Election results 2014	Local Transport Strategy 2014 - 19	Poverty and Inequality in Edinburgh Sept 2015	Town Centre strategy	
Council Election Results 2012	Exemplar green businesses in Edinburgh	Locality Profiles	Prestonfield Park Management Plan	Trade Waste Pilots - update report March 2014	
Council Strategic Plan 2012 - 2017	Ferniehill Management Plan	Lochend Park Management Plan	Primary and Secondary school catchment maps	Transport 2030 Vision	
Cruise Tourism action plan	Festival Strategy	Management rules for parks and green spaces	Princes Street Gardens Management Plan	Tree Protection Charter 2015	
Cultural Policy	Figgate Park Management Plan	Map of Landscape character types	Public and Accessible Transport action plan	Tree works list	
Cycle Tourism action plan	Future demographic change in Edinburgh 2012	Maps of Air Quality management areas	Public Roads in Edinburgh (A-C)	Trees in the City Action Plan	
Dance Strategy	Gaelic Arts Strategy	Maps of Edinburgh Constituencies May 2016 - Central Edinburgh	Public Roads in Edinburgh (D-K)	UK Parliamentary election results 2005	
Darker Skies - sustainable lighting strategy for Edinburgh	Gardens and designed landscapes site reports	Maps of Edinburgh Constituencies May 2016 - Eastern Edinburgh	Public Roads in Edinburgh (L-Q)	UK Parliamentary election results 2010	

Data Protection Policy	Guidelines for managing Edinburgh's built heritage	Maps of Edinburgh Constituencies May 2016 - Northern and Leith	Public Roads in Edinburgh (R-Z)	UK Parliamentary election results 2015	
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Appendix 2 – Briefing on the impact of Open Data on FOI request

Introduction

1.1. A request was raised at the Corporate Policy & Strategy Committee on 23rd February 2016 to investigate the current impact of open data on FOI enquiries.

1.2. It was noted that this required wider investigation for a response and a briefing note would be produced for Councillors.

Research process

2.1. Online research and engagement was carried out using a number of sources, including:

- The Open Data Institute
- The Knowledge Hub (open data, FOI and other groups)
- The Open Knowledge Forum

2.2. Further research was carried out through local and national open data contacts, Scottish Cities Alliance colleagues and other local authority contacts.

2.3. A meeting took place with the Scottish Information Commissioner to discuss the topic, and identify any relevant evidence.

Research detail

3.1. It has been challenging to find any specific project or research to inform this response. This suggests that this question is not being investigated in any detail at this time.

3.2. The drive for transparency in England and Wales originally considered that FOI enquiries would reduce as a result of releasing data but this has not proved to be the case.

3.3. The Local Government Transparency Survey (2012) identified that reduction in FOI enquiries was recognised as a benefit by 58% of those who responded as was a resultant reduction in time to process. However, this is cancelled out in a later survey question by respondents commenting that they had not seen FOI requests reduce and in fact 3 Councils commented on a rise due to the data they had published.

3.4. There was very little response to the query circulated to SCA members and on the wider KHub and LinkedIn networks. Glasgow City Council provided feedback that

they had looked into this as part of their Future City open data development project. Their findings were that they could not provide evidence to support their hypotheses that Open Data was reducing FOI enquiries.

3.5. Leeds Data Mill has been cited in an LGA case study as finding that releasing data did reduce FOI enquiries. Their evaluation report goes further in saying that any data released for FOI requests is published on their portal. Further insight was given by the Senior Information Governance Officer at Leeds City Council, (see Appendix A), suggesting that publishing the data is certainly stabilising and possibly reducing FOI enquiries.

3.6. Cambridgeshire Insight, managed by Cambridgeshire County Council, states that releasing Open Data will contribute to the provision of a sustainable process as part of their FOI responsibilities, allowing them to understand the types of information people are interested in, and formed a starting point for releasing open data.

3.7. The City of York Council has identified a number of drivers for their data publication including an opportunity to reduce their Contact Centre calls, publishing open data sets as the method.

3.8. The Scottish Information Commissioner, Rosemary Agnew, noted that open data is shortly to be added to the Publication Scheme as a category, and is recommending that Councils consider open data within the Publication Scheme. The example given from her own office in terms of reducing FOI enquiries was publishing their costs of appeals, which had been generating repeat requests. There have been no further requests.

3.9. The Commissioner believes Open Data can help FOI in two ways:

- In monitoring information requests, identifying low hanging fruit (data sets) which might be related to the query. (E.g. Data in a more general subject area which could be published that covers the subject). An example would be an enquiry about pot holes in a specific street, publish the broader data set for road works;
- Encourage data to be collated in a different way (format) so it is easier to publish as Open Data;

She further stated that though it may not reduce enquiries initially, it may change the nature of enquiries it would:

- Make some easier to deal with as the data will be available, and may answer a request;
- If the data published is broader, allows Section 15 (providing advice and assistance) to be used in a different way; and
- May solve requests or narrow down the request, and if the Council publishes the broader data thought will already have been given about possible or actual requests and be more ready to assist.

Findings

5.1. The findings do not suggest that there is enough direct evidence to conclusively report that releasing data reduces FOI requests. Instead other drivers or specific approaches align open data and FOI requests.

5.2. The research does suggest that a pilot study could be carried out to ascertain if any of the above findings would provide benefit for the City of Edinburgh Council:

- Reduce the number of FOI requests
- Reduce time required to process requests (data is quickly and easily available)
- Change the nature of the requests
- Generate requests for data to be published

Next Steps

6.1. In order to identify any real impact Information Governance and ICT Solutions recommend running a pilot project for six months (May – October 2016). The outcomes of the pilot outcomes would be to evidence whether releasing data sets do provide any of the benefits noted at 4.2.

6.2 Four (4) FOI common requests have been identified with data sets that can be shared, and the chosen enquiry themes and related data sets will provide the basis for this pilot. These are:

- Council funded funerals (number and cost)
- Fixed Penalty Notices (number and monetary value)
- Self Directed Support (options and choices collated)
- Waste Service requests (data and topics to be confirmed)

6.3. This will be reviewed at the end of September, and findings will be reported to CP&S Committee in October 2016

References

[Open Data Institute](#)

[Local Government Transparency Survey 2012](#)

[Local Government Transparency Code 2015](#)

[Leeds Data Mill case study](#)

Appendix A

Stephen Blackburn Senior Information Governance officer Leeds City Council
(29/02/16 LinkedIn discussion):

'FOI (requests) have stabilised and we have seen a reduction in the past year or so. Other local authorities in the region are continuing to see increases. One of the areas where we have definitely seen an impact is on the publication of business rates data. This generated quite a few requests which have now all but dried up. In fact the business rates team have not only added to the original dataset but published a second dataset as they have seen the benefits of publication. We received a compliment from a customer last week stating that our business rates dataset is the best he has seen from any LA which is good to hear.

We have done some analysis here where we worked out that each FOI request takes on average 3 hours to complete. We use this figure when promoting open data to colleagues who are then able to work out the savings in terms of officer time and costs with being proactive rather than reactive.'

Appendix 3 – University activities

1. SICSA⁵ Mobility workshop in May – Council data was shared to enable discussions on future mobility and inform transport thinking;
2. Cityscope⁶ workshop – Council open data was re-used to map out examples of the range of data available in the city.
3. Edinburgh Libraries shared baseline borrowing data to gain further insight into usage patterns and produce catchment visualisations;
4. The Council Cycle Team provided cycle counter data for an analysis project which identified trends across the counter data, clusters of usage and some research into combining data sets to discover more about journeys;
5. Edinburgh Living Lab held a workshop in June with a number of service areas to present approaches they can deliver such as data analysis and research or in the field research, and knowledge exchange, all to offer further insight into business challenges or enable decision making. Further meetings have been arranged to progress proposals raised in the workshop.

⁵ SICSA is the Scottish Informatics and Computer Science Alliance and is a Scottish Funding Council Research Pool, comprising 14 of Scotland's Universities

⁶ Cityscope is a University of Edinburgh project at the Centre for Science Education with the aim of making Edinburgh the first City of Learning