

Local Government: Knowledge Hub Data and Apps Discussion Paper

Introduction

1. The Local Government Group pledged in their business plan for 2011/12 to support councils in improving local performance and value for money through knowledge and information management. The Knowledge Hub will be at the centre of this knowledge exchange as it will bring communication (conversations), data and tools together through a collaborative platform. It will provide an environment for uploading, accessing, reusing and further developing data and applications. It will support a mash-up centre for linking and combining datasets and an app store for peer review, distribution and re-use of apps.

Management of data and apps.

2. Guidelines, rules and protocols will be established for the Knowledge Hub that:
 - encourages an open environment for data upload, access and reuse
 - manages and oversees the quality assurance of core reference data and standards
 - fosters the use of standards and core reference data to make data linkable
 - defines the responsibility and ownership of data
 - defines terms and conditions for data access and use
3. LG Group will not be responsible for the content and quality of the data indexed or uploaded into Knowledge Hub. They will be responsible for the technical platform and registry of the data.
4. Once data is registered data will either be accessible from
 - an external website via download
 - an external website via data feed
 - from within Knowledge Hub after upload (but subject to clarification and agreement on points raised in section 3, below)

Issue for discussion

5. Knowledge Hub was designed to reference and index data at the source (or home) of the data (data in this context refers to open datasets and data feeds, not user-created content such as documents).
6. There are several issues (other than cost) to be considered; but we would value comments, opinion and guidance surrounding the optional approaches of data publishing on behalf of the LG sector and for ourselves – RDF Triple-store or native XML? Or both?
7. This area above are also being discussed through varying forthcoming meetings of Data and Apps Advisory Groups consisting of experts and practitioners drawn from public and private sectors that are supporting the Knowledge Hub programme.