

Knowledge Hub Data and Apps Advisory Group

Terms of Reference

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Introduction

The local government owned Knowledge Hub plays a central role in realizing the vision for data transparency, self-regulation and efficiency improvements across the local government sector. It will foster the open, free and licensed publication of data, apps and tools as part of a trusted environment to develop new ideas, encourage innovation and which will ultimately lead to better use of data and more efficient services. Considerable value can be gained from these applications to support the delivery of council services.

The Knowledge Hub capabilities and facilities will enable:

- uploading and indexing of data
- aggregating, combining and comparing data;
- developing, hosting and publishing apps, mashups and visualisations;
- supporting communities of interest or practice for shared learning, development of skills and promotion of good/best practice for the development of value-added apps and services.

However, to make best use of the data and apps requires some basic standards and guidelines under which Knowledge Hub will operate its data and application store. There are reputational and operational risks for the LG Group if poor quality data and apps are exposed on the Knowledge Hub platform or elsewhere. Data transparency, self-regulation and efficiency improvements all require access to accurate, up-to-date public data to assess performance and customer needs. This requires a common set of policies, guidelines and standards on data access, quality, core reference datasets, responsibilities and ownership

In order to fully realize the potential benefits and capabilities of the Knowledge Hub platform, we need to ensure that the foundations are laid for development of the business processes, guidelines, standards and policies that will enable the sector to confidently and competently use and interpret data for delivering value-added services and identifying new opportunities for improvement.

The Data and Apps Advisory Group will have the necessary skills, knowledge and experience to ensure the foundations for good practice and use of relevant standards for managing and manipulating data are established.

Responsibilities

Provenance, quality and integrity of data and apps must be assured before they are exposed to users. This advisory group will decide which data and app standards to use (or be developed), which data sources to use and which licensing models are appropriate. Scope will include (but is not limited to):

- Advice on end-user needs for use of data and apps
- Providing expert advice for the development and deployment of data and quality standards used by the Knowledge Hub.
- Ensuring use of core reference data and use of relevant ontologies, classifications and vocabularies.
- Ensuring we adhere to and provide user terms and conditions and the right licensing models for using apps and data (both for data sources used by KHub and for data sets provided by Knowledge Hub to others)
- Identifying 'must have' data sources and prioritizing additional data sources to serve the early adopters of the Knowledge Hub
- Advice and recommendations for the acceptance criteria required to support apps and data
- Providing technical advice on the best tools for data intelligence, analysis, comparison and mashups.
- Identifying skill requirements and training opportunities for the effective management of data and apps.
- Advice and expert opinion on cost-effective technical solutions and hosting of apps (e.g. commissioning of Gov/Local Gov triple stores).
- Ensuring alignment with the Local Government Data Panel, data.gov.uk and the Data Transparency agenda.
- Engagement with relevant Knowledge Hub communities of interest/practice that focus on delivering open and linked data solutions.
- Advice on the development of new business models and commercialisation opportunities for data and apps.
- Help in evaluating, testing and reviewing data and apps capabilities being developed for Knowledge Hub Phase 2 (April 2011 to September 2011) and beyond.

Governance

The Data and Apps User Group will refer all key decisions and policy recommendations to the Data Transparency Steering Group.

Information about knowledge hub is available on www.local.gov.uk/knowledgehub.