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**Minutes of the 27th ODUG meeting**

**29 September 2014, 10:00 – 13:00**

**Venue: 70 Whitehall, London, SW1A 2AS**

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| **ODUG Attendees** | **Officials** |
| Heather Savory (HS) ODUG Chair | Ollie Buckley (OB) Cabinet Office, Transparency Team  |
| Charlie Boundy (CB) BAE Systems Applied Intelligence | Kam Marshall (KM) ODUG Secretariat / Cabinet Office, Transparency Team  |
| Simon Briscoe (SB) PASC/FullFact | Suki Boora (SB) Cabinet Office, Transparency Team |
| Stuart Chalmers (SC) Building Research Establishment  | Antonio Acuna (AA)Cabinet Office, Transparency Team |
| Hendrik Grothuis (HG)Cambridge County Council |  |
| Paul Hodgson (PH)Greater London Authority | **Apologies** |
| Nick Halliday (NH)National Audit Office | Jeni Tennison (JTe) – Open Data Institute (ODI) |
| David Kane (DK)National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) | Bob Barr (BB) – Manchester Geomatics, University of Liverpool |
| Giuseppe Sollazzo (GS)St George’s University of London | Paul Malyon (PM) - Experian |
| Jacqui Taylor (JT)Flying Binary | Ian Makgill (IM) - Spendnetwork.com |
| Johanna Walker (JW)Web Science Institute, Southampton |  |

**Welcome**

The Chair formally welcomed the members to the 27th Open Data User Group meeting. This was the first meeting since the membership refresh so the meeting started with a short introduction of the members and a brief account of their respective interest in the open data field.

**Review of the second iteration of the National Information Infrastructure (NII)**

The Chair provided a brief background of the NII which was published by Cabinet Office in October 2013, and informed that ODUG continues to assist in the progression of the NII. Charlie Boundy (CB) introduced and provided an overview of the ODUG *Implementation of the Information Infrastructure* paper.

Antonio Acuna (AA) explained the strategy of taking the implementation of the NII forward and the importance of giving it some structure. AA recently held three workshops consisting of key stakeholders from industry experts and businesses background to explore their views which will feed into a proposed a framework for the NII. AA revealed that the NII was more than a list – he described it as an ecosystem of interconnected subjects. Next steps will include working with Government Departments and other stakeholders to collect feedback on the proposed framework, setting an agreed standard for metadata, establishing what core reference data looks like and setting out the benefits of publishing core reference data, a report is to be drafted by December 2014.

The Chair was very supportive of the work done so far on the NII and emphasised that the NII was to continue to be of high priority for the ODUG.

A question was raised about how Local Authority data fits in with the NII. This will be discussed further at a future meeting.

**ODUG Strategy**

Members of the ODUG agreed the following strategic themes and priorities for the third year:

* Continue to encourage open data delivery across government and the wider public sector, driven by the Demand Led Data Request mechanism on data.gov.
* Continue to provide advice on the further development of the National Information Infrastructure, working closely with the Transparency Team.
* Follow-up and report on the progress of projects funded through the Release of Data Fund (RoDF); also make recommendations for any remaining/new funding which is available.
* Build on ODUG’s previous work around Local Government Open Data.
* Deliver on a more focussed strategic communications and community outreach plan.
* Look in more detail at case studies and research on thematic and topical issues surrounding Open Data.

**Cabinet Office Transparency Team Update**

Transparency Team Focus: Oliver Buckley

Oliver Buckley (OB) gave an overview of the structure of the Transparency Team that sits within the Government Innovation Group.

OB explained the following three high level objectives of the Transparency Team:

1. Getting high level quality data out of government and into the public’s hands
2. Bringing the power of open data to a wider audience
3. Maintaining Britain’s global position as a leader on open data and transparency

This was followed by an overview of the team members and on their respective priorities.

OB provided a general background about the Ordinance Survey and work within government to consider making more OS data open. The Chair added that this was a great example of a success story for the work of ODUG with Cabinet Office officials, adding that ODUG members had spent two years making the argument and providing quality evidence for the release of more OS data as open data.

Data Request update: Suki Boora

Suki Boora (SB) provided the Relationship Manager update. SB briefed the group about the new data request process on the Data.gov.uk website. He reported that there were approximately 800 data requests and due to a team refresh and a change in the data request process, a backlog has occurred.

A high level data request analysis carried out by the Relationship Managers showed that from the 800 (approx.) requests, 40 percent were closed, 60 percent were open. SB reported that a significant amount of data requests related to the Transparency Team priorities.

The Chair urged that more clarity and analysis was needed around the *closed* data request figure.

**Benefits Cases Review**

Jacqui Taylor (JT) reported that there have been some issues with the new data request mechanism and that none of the changes previously proposed by JT and the Chair had been implemented. JT said that she was meeting with the deputy in charge of the Data.gov.UK website and that the discrepancies were being treated as high priority and are in the process of being resolved.

**Review of Release of Data Fund (RoDF) funded projects**

The Chair referred to the supporting paper and said that a more detailed report outlining outcomes and benefits will be published.

The following comments were noted:

* The Chair referred to the data in tranche 1 and 2 and commented that there were some very good example of projects that had been funded and the group should promote the outcomes to their network.
* EA NAFRA data is due to be published in autumn.
* Jeni Tennison will be providing an update on the Open Addressing project at the next meeting.
* Hendrik Grothuis (HG) commented that the RoDF was raising awareness in a positive way from a local perspective.

**AOB**

Reminder that members Declaration of Interest forms should be sent to Kam Marshall so they can be published on the Data.Gov.UK

NH and SB volunteered to be in charge of the ODUG Media and Comms plan.

The Chair asked the group for suggestions for future guest speakers and hosting meetings.