

Local Government Open Data Breakthrough Projects Evaluation Report 2013/14

Project title

Lancashire County Council open data

Lead organisation

Lancashire County Council

Contributing organisations include BT Lancashire Services, Lancashire Constabulary, Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service, North West Ambulance Service.

Submission date:

31 July 2014

Type of project:

The project is centred around the release of open data to a set standard using a bespoke tool to be published on a specific platform.

Total grant:

The total grant was £34,000.

Summary of the project

Lancashire County Council's release of data project covered three main objectives initially, which were:

- release of previously unpublished data through our own system and that of data.gov.uk;
- front-end data delivery and visualisation; and
- development of back-office systems.

The main focus of the project was to release open data and to develop the back office and front-end delivery to make the publishing of data more efficient and make the data more understandable through visualisations.

Challenge/opportunity

The county council and main partners hold many datasets in a variety of formats. Some of these are published in various formats and in various locations, but there is no single place to access these data in a consistent format.

The opportunity was to create a framework for releasing open data in an accessible format through the Data.gov.uk website. It puts data in the public domain that will be of benefit to other public sector bodies, businesses and individuals thus improving the prosperity, health and wellbeing of the citizens of Lancashire.

Easy access to definitive data sources and supporting metadata (information about the source and meaning of the data) is needed to work effectively with other organisations, deliver joined-up services and reduce requests for data, eg requests under the Freedom of Information Act. Current, reliable and relevant data has a vital role to play in any decision making process. The purpose of open data publishing by

Lancashire County Council will be to support these transformational and strategic objectives.

Data published and uses

A number of partners were consulted in the development of our open data offer, including our 12 district councils, Lancashire Constabulary, Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service, North West Ambulance Service, and internal partners, such as the council's highways team. We understand from working with our local universities that the release of shapefiles will be of particular interest.

The datasets released within the project period are listed in the appendix, and these also appear on <http://data.gov.uk/publisher/lancashire-county-council>

Due to delays, evaluating new software and redesigning the project schedule accordingly, then the data did not go live until the end of June 2014. Our open data page has Google Analytics tracking, so we will be collecting information on visitor numbers and downloads over the next 12 months to assess page traffic, which data sets are the most downloaded and the location of users.

Approach to publishing data

We have approached the publishing of our open data by building in structure and scalability. The structure has come from the use of the open data standards led by Peterborough Borough Council and the structure within the downloadable files available. These standards will be used for all datasets provided in the future, enabling the council to have structure to its data too.

The process has been designed to be scalable. The data upload procedure is automated meaning that it will be straightforward to add additional datasets or update existing datasets without the need for much additional work to publish.

The Lancashire open data page is linked from the county council's entry intelligence page here: www.lancashire.gov.uk/profile and from the local community safety partnership's website www.saferlancashire.co.uk.

Metadata is provided and supporting documentation is also available as part of the download to improve usage and understanding of the datasets and fields they contain.

Promotion has been done through the county council's intelligence newsletter, which goes to around 1,000 internal and external recipients, including county and district councillors, council officers, academics, and a range of public, private and third sector contacts. RSS feeds have also been sent to subscribers.

As the system did not go live until the end of June, monitoring will take place over the next 12 months. Alongside the monitoring data from the webpage, we will also undertake a small number of potential case studies to assess user experience and application of the open data. These will be driven by the data that we make available over time and its applicability to users.

The open data project will be incorporated into the wider piece of work (covering the first and second objectives) as we now turn our resources towards achieving the next stages.

Benefits and impact

It is too early to tell what the impact has been of our open data project. But, it has provided us with a platform to build upon, and a structured and robust process to do this. The county council is currently restructuring its intelligence function, which will bring together all data and resource into a single team. Once this has been completed we expand the datasets available based on the functions of the new team going forward. This will mean there is consistency and a continuity of the over time.

Further information

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Website: <http://data.gov.uk/publisher/lancashire-county-council>

Appendix

Group name	Title	Description
Crime	Total Recorded Crime - Rate per 1000 population by LSOA (1 Year - rolling) (CSV Format)	A count of all recorded crimes, as defined by the Home Office Counting Rules www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/countrules.html Source Data Provider: Lancashire Constabulary
Crime	Total Recorded Crime - Rate per 1000 population by LSOA (1 Year - rolling) (GIS Format - Shapefile(zipped))	A count of all recorded crimes, as defined by the Home Office Counting Rules www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/countrules.html Source Data Provider: Lancashire Constabulary
Emergency Service Calls	Calls to Police - Rate per 1000 population by LSOA (1 Year - rolling) (CSV Format)	A count of all calls to service made to the emergency services Source Data Provider: Lancashire Constabulary
Emergency Service Calls	Calls to Police - Rate per 1000 population by LSOA (1 Year - rolling) (GIS Format - Shapefile(zipped))	A count of all calls to service made to the emergency services Source Data Provider: Lancashire Constabulary
Emergency Service Calls	Calls to the Ambulance Services - Rate per 1000 population by LSOA (1 Year - rolling) (CSV Format)	A count of all calls to service made to the emergency services Source Data Provider: North West Ambulance Service
Emergency Service Calls	Calls to the Ambulance Services - Rate per 1000 population by LSOA (1 Year - rolling) (GIS Format - Shapefile(zipped))	A count of all calls to service made to the emergency services Source Data Provider: North West Ambulance Service
Emergency Service Calls	Calls to the Fire & Rescue Service - Rate per 1000 population by LSOA (1 Year - rolling) (CSV Format)	A count of all calls to service made to the emergency services Source Data Provider: Lancashire Fire & Rescue Service
Emergency Service Calls	Calls to the Fire & Rescue Service - Rate per 1000 population by LSOA (1 Year - rolling) (GIS Format -	A count of all calls to service made to the emergency services Source Data Provider: Lancashire Fire & Rescue Service

	Shapefile(zippped))	
Living In Lancashire	Living in Lancashire - Citizen Survey Data (measured in percentages) (CSV Format)	<p>Living in Lancashire (citizen survey data) aggregated to District. Includes information such as how citizens perceive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integration • Community Representation • Perception/Positivity about local area • Volunteering(formal and informal) • Verbal/Physical Abuse due to age, gender, sexuality • Anti-social behaviour • Discrimination <p>Source Data Provider: Lancashire County Council</p> <p>The accompanying PDF file should be used to determine the columns and dates of the data.</p>
Living In Lancashire	Living in Lancashire - Citizen Survey Data (measured in percentages) (GIS Format - Shapefile(zippped))	<p>Data is measured in percentages and aggregated to District. Includes information such as how citizens perceive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integration • Community Representation • Perception/Positivity about local area • Volunteering(formal and informal) • Verbal/Physical Abuse due to age, gender, sexuality • Anti-social behaviour • Discrimination <p>Source Data Provider: Lancashire County Council</p> <p>The accompanying PDF file should be used to determine the columns and dates of the data.</p>
Personal Safety	All Drug Offences - Rate per 1000 population by LSOA (1 Year - rolling) (CSV Format)	<p>All crimes of drugs possession, drugs supply and drugs trafficking. Typically drugs possession accounts for a large proportion of this category</p> <p>Source Data Provider: Lancashire Constabulary</p>
Personal Safety	All Drug Offences - Rate per 1000 population by LSOA (1	<p>All crimes of drugs possession, drugs supply and drugs trafficking. Typically drugs possession</p>

	Year - rolling) (GIS Format - Shapefile(zipped))	accounts for a large proportion of this category Source Data Provider: Lancashire Constabulary
Personal Safety	Calls to the Ambulance Service where violence involved - Rate per 1000 population by LSOA (1 Year - rolling) (CSV Format)	Ambulance incidents where the presenting complaint is assault, rape, gunshot wound or stabbing. Source Data Provider: North West Ambulance Service
Personal Safety	Calls to the Ambulance Service where violence involved - Rate per 1000 population by LSOA (1 Year - rolling) (GIS Format - Shapefile(zipped))	Ambulance incidents where the presenting complaint is assault, rape, gunshot wound or stabbing. Source Data Provider: North West Ambulance Service
Personal Safety	Calls To The Police About Domestic Violence - Rate per 1000 population by LSOA (1 Year - rolling) (CSV Format)	A count of all calls to Lancashire Constabulary which relate to a violent incident in a dwelling. These are not crimes, but incidents dealt with by the Police where domestic violence occurs. For further details on the definition used by Lancashire Constabulary, please refer to this web page Source Data Provider: Lancashire Constabulary
Personal Safety	Calls To The Police About Domestic Violence - Rate per 1000 population by LSOA (1 Year - rolling) (GIS Format - Shapefile(zipped))	A count of all calls to Lancashire Constabulary which relate to a violent incident in a dwelling. These are not crimes, but incidents dealt with by the Police where domestic violence occurs. For further details on the definition used by Lancashire Constabulary, please refer to this web page Source Data Provider: Lancashire Constabulary
Personal Safety	Numbers Killed or Seriously Injured on the Roads by LSOA (1 Year - rolling) (CSV Format)	The number of people who are kill or serious injured on the roads. Source Data Provider: Lancashire Constabulary
Personal Safety	Numbers Killed or Seriously Injured on the Roads by LSOA (1 Year - rolling) (GIS Format - Shapefile(zipped))	The number of people who are kill or serious injured on the roads. Source Data Provider: Lancashire Constabulary
Personal Safety	Violence Against The Person - Rate per 1000 population by LSOA (1 Year - rolling) (CSV Format) (CSV Format)	Violence Against The Person Source Data Provider: Lancashire Constabulary
Personal Safety	Violence Against The Person - Rate per 1000 population by LSOA (1 Year - rolling) (Shapefile format) (GIS Format - Shapefile(zipped))	Violence Against The Person Source Data Provider: Lancashire Constabulary
Property	All Burglary - Rate per 1000	All Burglary

and Place	population by LSOA (1 Year - rolling) (CSV Format)	Source Data Provider: Lancashire Constabulary
Property and Place	All Burglary - Rate per 1000 population by LSOA (1 Year - rolling) (GIS Format - Shapefile(zipped))	All Burglary Source Data Provider: Lancashire Constabulary
Property and Place	All Criminal Damage (including Arson) - Rate per 1000 population by LSOA (1 Year - rolling) (CSV Format)	A count of all crimes of criminal damage, whether to a building, vehicle or other property, including arson. Source Data Provider: Lancashire Constabulary
Property and Place	All Criminal Damage (including Arson) - Rate per 1000 population by LSOA (1 Year - rolling) (GIS Format - Shapefile(zipped))	A count of all crimes of criminal damage, whether to a building, vehicle or other property, including arson. Source Data Provider: Lancashire Constabulary
Property and Place	All Vehicle Crime - Rate per 1000 population by LSOA (1 Year - rolling) (CSV Format)	All Vehicle Crime Source Data Provider: Lancashire Constabulary
Property and Place	All Vehicle Crime - Rate per 1000 population by LSOA (1 Year - rolling) (GIS Format - Shapefile(zipped))	All Vehicle Crime Source Data Provider: Lancashire Constabulary
Property and Place	Calls to the Police about Anti-Social Behaviour - Rate per 1000 population by LSOA (1 Year - rolling) (CSV Format)	Incidents recorded as anti-social behaviour as defined by Home Office Incident recording rules . Hoax calls were removed from this category and the category was substantially refined into personal, environment and nuisance ASB in April 2011. Any comparisons with previous periods needs to take this into account. Source Data Provider: Lancashire Constabulary
Property and Place	Calls to the Police about Anti-Social Behaviour - Rate per 1000 population by LSOA (1 Year - rolling) (GIS Format - Shapefile(zipped))	Incidents recorded as anti-social behaviour as defined by Home Office Incident recording rules . Hoax calls were removed from this category and the category was substantially refined into personal, environment and nuisance ASB in April 2011. Any comparisons with previous periods needs to take this into account. Source Data Provider: Lancashire Constabulary
Property and Place	Deliberate Fires - Rate per 1000 population by LSOA (1 Year - rolling) (GIS Format - Shapefile(zipped))	All fires where the cause is considered to be Deliberate or Malicious. Please note this category will be higher than crimes of arson, which has a very specific criminal definition. Source Data Provider: Lancashire Fire & Rescue Service
Property	Deliberate Fires - Rate per	All fires where the cause is considered to be

and Place	1000 population by LSOA (1 Year- rolling) (CSV Format)	Deliberate or Malicious. Please note this category will be higher than crimes of arson, which has a very specific criminal definition. Source Data Provider: Lancashire Fire & Rescue Service
Property and Place	Deliberate Vehicle Fires - Rate per 1000 population by LSOA (1 Year - rolling) (CSV Format)	This is a count of all vehicle fire incidents where the cause is considered to be deliberate or malicious. Source Data Provider: Lancashire Fire & Rescue Service
Property and Place	Deliberate Vehicle Fires - Rate per 1000 population by LSOA (1 Year - rolling) (GIS Format - Shapefile(zipped))	This is a count of all vehicle fire incidents where the cause is considered to be deliberate or malicious. Source Data Provider: Lancashire Fire & Rescue Service
Property and Place	Domestic Burglary - Rate per 1000 population by LSOA (1 Year - rolling) (CSV Format)	Includes all crimes categorised under Burglary in a Dwelling or Aggravated Burglary in a Dwelling. Source Data Provider: Lancashire Constabulary
Property and Place	Domestic Burglary - Rate per 1000 population by LSOA (1 Year - rolling) (GIS Format - Shapefile(zipped))	Includes all crimes categorised under Burglary in a Dwelling or Aggravated Burglary in a Dwelling. Source Data Provider: Lancashire Constabulary
Property and Place	Robbery - Rate per 1000 population by LSOA (1 Year - rolling) (CSV Format)	This category includes robbery of a person and robbery of a business. Source Data Provider: Lancashire Constabulary
Property and Place	Robbery - Rate per 1000 population by LSOA (1 Year - rolling) (GIS Format - Shapefile(zipped))	This category includes robbery of a person and robbery of a business. Source Data Provider: Lancashire Constabulary
Property and Place	Serious Acquisitive Crime - Rate per 1000 population by LSOA (1 Year - rolling) (CSV Format)	A count of all vehicle crimes, robberies and burglaries in a dwelling. Source Data Provider: Lancashire Constabulary
Property and Place	Serious Acquisitive Crime - Rate per 1000 population by LSOA (1 Year - rolling) (GIS Format - Shapefile(zipped))	A count of all vehicle crimes, robberies and burglaries in a dwelling. Source Data Provider: Lancashire Constabulary
Property and Place	Theft From A Vehicle - Rate per 1000 population by LSOA (1 Year - rolling) (CSV Format)	Crimes where property is stolen from a vehicle. Source Data Provider: Lancashire Constabulary
Property and Place	Theft From A Vehicle - Rate per 1000 population by LSOA (1 Year - rolling) (GIS Format - Shapefile(zipped))	Crimes where property is stolen from a vehicle. Source Data Provider: Lancashire Constabulary
Property	Theft Of A Vehicle - Rate per	Crimes where a vehicle is stolen.

and Place	1000 population by LSOA (1 Year - rolling) (CSV Format)	Source Data Provider: Lancashire Constabulary
Property and Place	Theft Of A Vehicle - Rate per 1000 population by LSOA (1 Year - rolling) (GIS Format - Shapefile(zipped))	Crimes where a vehicle is stolen. Source Data Provider: Lancashire Constabulary
Road Safety	Collisions by LSOA (5 Years - rolling) (CSV Format)	Collision points on the road network reported to the police for the last 5 years plus any data from the current year. Source Data Provider: Lancashire Constabulary
Road Safety	Collisions by LSOA (5 Years - rolling) (GIS Format - Shapefile(zipped))	Collision points on the road network reported to the police for the last 5 years plus any data from the current year. Source Data Provider: Lancashire Constabulary