

Local Government Open Data Breakthrough Projects Evaluation Report

Project title: SoftwareCity Data Brokerage (SOFT DB)

Lead organisation: Sunderland City Council

Submission date: 29.8.2014

Type of project: (platform/tool development/datarelease)

Total grant: £45,750 (Breakthrough Fund)

Breakthrough Funded activity complemented the [Integrated Weather Information Project](#), jointly funded, to the order of £150,000 by TSB Transport Systems and Connected Digital Economy Catapult and Sunderland Software City and also benefited from £200,000 TSB Funding via the Cloud Security project which provided for the development of the Arjuna/Redhat Cloud platform.

Summary of the project

Sunderland City Council used the project to publish street-level information jointly with the utility sector as a complement to the data sets released by Met Office and Transport partners for the Innovation City Challenge. The programme sought to enhance and integrate data sets which would otherwise have been restricted (not for publication) so that they can be easier exploited by SMEs to create more innovative services.

The project also sought to publish new open spatial datasets, as web-feature-services, including a video record of the entire street scene in Sunderland and digitised mapping of drainage systems, demonstrating alignment with the INSPIRE standard. Working with Sunderland Software City, CDEC, TSC, TWITA and the Met Office who are already collaborating to provide an opportunity for regional SMEs to use open transport and weather data through the ITWIP challenge launched in February 2014.

All project deliverables were contracted to SMEs participating in the ITWIP challenge

Key deliverables

Key Deliverables	Status
Platform hire Arjuna/Newcastle University TSB 'Agility' Cloud Security Platform	Contracted to March 2015
Integrate Agility Data Repository to Innovation platform portal	Completed by Arjuna Ltd
3rd Party Engagement Demonstrator Events	Held 16 th Jan and Feb 28 th 2014
Meta data development (enrichment of Street Scene video with additional Data links)	Completed by No More Grapes
Web Feature Services for SCC	Completed by Cloud Identity Services Ltd
3rd Party API Development for Utilities	Completed API provided and documented by Arjuna Ltd

Challenge/opportunity:

The project sought to achieve the integration of restricted and open-data sets for republication as open data). The aim was to unlock hitherto 'restricted' third party data and support the creation of API's for their publication to the Innovation Challenge portal. Using the project's 'Agility' platform to 'federate' service level agreements for data contributors and by supporting the costs of developing API's required the aim is to generate new open data of greater value to participating SMEs.

Data published and uses:

- Number of bodies consulted if applicable: workshop consultations have been held with regional utility companies – innovation managers and data managers from Northernpowergrid, Northumbria Water, Northern Gas Ltd ; also regional transport organisations – UTMC, Nexus, Arriva ; 12 software companies participating in ITWIP challenge and IT industry services companies, YOTTA, EscherGroup and ITPS. Discussions were also held with the North East LEP Innovation Manager and regional universities including Newcastle, Sunderland, Teeside and Durham. Presentation made to LGA Roadshow in York and further discussions with peer groups in Leeds, Cambridge and Peterborough have been commenced around the development of DKAN

New data sets published to Data.gov (in Green) following the project now include.

New Data set published	Datasets nearing publication	Databases not yet published as open data but available under restriction to partners.
Tree preservation orders	Contaminated Land	Habitat & Species Inventories
Town or Village Greens	Development Control Orders · Article 4 land	Biodiversity Action Plan habitat
Allotments	Section 106/ community infrastructure levy	Nesting/protected bird sites
Open/Green Spaces · Green Infrastructure · Recreational Areas	Street scene survey - Gullies - Lighting - Road condition	Species survey/protected species
Parking Zones		Gas Utilities street assets
Transport Schemes		Water Utility street assets
Premises database/land and property assets		Electricity Utility street assets

The project has successfully completed testing of interoperability of the platform components – Arjuna Data Broker, DKAN, Geoserver using test datasets – street scene survey, gullies and street lighting geodata - supplied by Sunderland City Council, however several further datasets still to be published have not been uploaded pending the scripting of a front-end development of the DKAN (Drupal based open data platform/ portal), which was out of the original project scope and is not yet suitable for public display due to some scheduling issues with Drupal community colleagues.

- Volume of data downloads within period – test downloads only (as above)
- Datasets downloaded most often – as above
- Number of users within period – project members only
 - Arjuna, Cloud Identity, No More Grapes and SCC users.
- Is the contextual information such as metadata provided with the data of use?
 - Yes, compliant with Inspire Directive however evaluation is on-going and will be subject to review in the autumn – by October 31st – partially due to issues of opening the DKAN portal to wider community use
- Whether data systems are sufficiently robust and sustainable. Are there any plans for further monitoring, developing and improving the system?

Plans in development subject to voluntary effort and outcome of current funding bids include collaboration with the North East Local Enterprise Partnership and Connected Digital Economy Catapult (CDEC).

Benefits and impact

The project has assisted new datasets to be made available and there is evidence that their number and range will continue to increase in the short to medium term, however despite indication of continued interest and some development of secondary services from a number of participating SME's as yet there are no new secondary service offerings apparent.

Utility partner's participation was interrupted by the spring floods and early momentum has not yet been fully exploited. Some restricted data has been made available to the platform for testing purposes but the development of the Emergency Planning scenario developed within the workshop engagements has not yet been realised.

It may be argued that there was important design defect within the scope of the project as the development of the collaboration platform (DKAN) was not resourced within the project. All project partners are however committed to taking this development forward and will continue to seek to identify suitable resources within the scope of related initiatives.

Discussion and consultation with regional participants has secured interest in further development of the platform and a joint bid led by Sunderland Software City, Arjuna and four regional universities – Newcastle, Sunderland, Teeside, submitted this month on behalf of NELEP to the Connected Digital Economy Catapult seeking a further grant to enable the development of the platform and associated services

Further information: Contact details, website

Test sites: <http://softdb-arjunatech.rhcloud.com/>

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