

Open data: Challenges and opportunities

15th July 2010, 9:30am - 4:00pm



West Midlands
Regional
Observatory
www.wmro.org

[The Balcony Rooms, RegenWM, 4th Floor, Millennium Point, Curzon Street, Birmingham, B4 7XG](#)

Agenda

Time	Item	Presenter
9:30 -10:00	Arrival -Tea & Coffee	
10:00	Welcome to the seminar	Richard Wilson - Event Chair West Midlands Quality Institute
10:10	Open data: Challenges and opportunities Since holding posts at Cabinet Office within Strategy & Policy and the Information Taskforce, as well as working as a Policy Adviser at 10 Downing Street, Will Perrin has founded Talk About Local, a project to give people in their communities a powerful online voice. In this session, Will will give an overview on open data national policy, looking at recent developments along with the challenges and opportunities.	Will Perrin Creator of Talk about local
10:40	Questions	
10:50	Opening up Ordnance Survey data Gillian will detail how Ordnance Survey have responded to the call for open public data. Following changes on the use of OS derived data, she will give us a run through recent licensing changes to explain the legal guidelines of what OS data can and can't be used for.	Gillian Horner Ordnance Survey
11:20	Questions	
11:30	Break	
11:45	A local perspective on opening up data Chris Taggart runs Openly local, a website geared at making local government more transparent. Chris will pick up where Will left off, looking at how national policy translates to local government, as well as giving an overview of the Openly local website.	Chris Taggart Openly local
12:15	Questions	
12:20	Impact of open data on democratic engagement Tim Davies is a social entrepreneur with extensive experience of youth participation and social media. He will tell us about his current study into the impact of open data on democratic engagement through his MSc at the Oxford Internet Institute. Read an interview with Tim and further biography.	Tim Davies Practical participation
12:50	Questions	
13.00	Lunch	

The afternoon session will focus on good examples of what can happen when public agencies make data more accessible. There will be a series of presentations to offer delegates practical hints. At the same time, a break out room will be available for delegates to seek one to one advice from the 'experts'.

13:30	<p>Introduction: Issues, examples and themes</p> <p>Andrew Mackenzie co-produced this event with the Observatory. He is a researcher and consultant interested in the intersection of policy, technology and innovation. He recently organised Mapitude, an event which explored open data and mapping.</p> <p>Read the Take21 blog.</p>	<p>Andrew Mackenzie</p> <p>Consultant, Take 21</p>
13:40	<p>Group Discussions: preparing for open data.</p> <p>1. Policy: What principles should organisations apply in making public sector data available?</p> <p>2. Implementation: What formats should public bodies use to publish to the web?</p>	
14:20	<p>Opening Warwickshire's data</p> <p>Examples from Warwickshire showing how they are opening up Warwickshire County Council held data and why. Aside from the social benefits, Kate will also identify the potential cost savings and opportunities for service improvement resulting from opening up council data.</p>	<p>Kate Sahota</p> <p>Warwickshire County Council</p>
14:40	<p>Opening Walsall's data</p> <p>Dan will bring open data examples from Walsall, including the challenge of the £500 spending transparency requirement (where local government have to publish details of all spend over £500), as well as the 2010 election from Walsall's perspective and whether or not to use Open source website platforms.</p>	<p>Dan Slee</p> <p>Walsall Council</p>
15:00	<p>Opening Birmingham's data</p> <p>Recent and future open data examples from Digital Birmingham, the city's strategic partnership helping to ensure that the benefits of digital technologies are available to all in the city.</p>	<p>Simon Whitehouse</p> <p>Digital Birmingham</p>
15:20	<p>Opening Lichfield's data</p> <p>Stuart Harrison is webmaster at Lichfield District Council. His pioneering work has established Lichfield as one of the leading exemplars of local open data. Lichfield council make it easy to access council services, report problems, view planning applications, find out what's going on locally, have a say on local issues, and much more.</p> <p>Read Guardian article on Lichfield and Stuart</p>	<p>Stuart Harrison</p> <p>Lichfield District Council</p>
15:40	<p>Summary</p>	<p>Andrew Mackenzie</p>
16:00	<p>Close</p>	