

ABERDEEN FUTURES

DATA SHARING FACILITY SPECIFICATION

Background

As a key component of Aberdeen Futures, the Community Plan Partnership has agreed that it is essential to be supported with a data sharing facility, which will enable the intelligent transfer of relevant information between Partners. The new 'Area-Based' approach currently being implemented by the City Council to provide a more local focus for delivering services also requires a platform to share information between services and the Area/Neighbourhood Teams, as well as assisting the enhancement of the democratic process. To achieve this, it will be necessary -

1. to introduce knowledge management tools to assist in overcoming the organisational problems associated with information sharing,
2. to be able to integrate data sources, and
3. to provide the means to transform raw data into meaningful information to aid decision making.

The use of geographically-referenced data to help organise, transfer and present information as knowledge within the Partnership's decision-making environments is also accepted as an important element in the data sharing facility.

Objectives

These are identified as a set of objectives to assist the delivery of the common aim to provide a data sharing facility –

- willingness to share information;
- collaborate on analysis/interpretation across organisational boundaries;
- utilise a web-based platform;
- interface with GIS software;
- provide geographically referenced data using post code identifiers;
- maintain the requirements of the Data Protection Act i.e. no data accessible at a personal level; and
- develop a set of protocols which will provide the analytical capacity of data availability on to the desk top of a wide range of users with appropriate accessibility.

Data Sets

A broad range of information is required to be compiled in addition to the suggested list attached, which has initially been drawn up, on the basis of the Council's Corporate Plan Challenges and Entitlements, to share data and information within the Council, as part of the organisational review element of Aberdeen Futures to create Area Service Delivery Teams. Partners also require to identify the ranges of information datasets that they will "donate" to the data sharing facility, based upon the Community Plan targets to address the Challenges referred to above.

It is also proposed to include the strategic monitoring outputs from the Corporate Policy Indicators initiative as a key component of the "shared" data.

Application

The capability to analyse data and the ability to profile any selected area and make comparisons, is essential. For example, using a range of appropriate criteria linked to a map base can quickly identify particular “hot spots” which require specific policy responses and investment/resourcing decisions.

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