UK Government Linked Data Working Group

Terms of Reference (Draft)

September 2012

HM Government

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Purpose

1.1. The UK Government Linked Data Working Group (UKGovLD) will advise Government on the use of Linked Data technologies and associated business practices, highlighting areas of best practice and identifying projects that should be prioritised or amended enabling collaboration and the delivery of core components for the benefit of the UK.

1.2. It will act as the intelligent friend on behalf of the public sector in adopting Linked Data technologies and methodologies providing a forum for cross-cutting decision making and will act as vibrant advocate for the opportunity that the Linked Data approach provides for the UK.

1.3. UKGovLD will act as a single stakeholder group for the interests of those that use and re-use Linked Data, recognising the wide variety of organisations and individuals which this includes. In addition to the formal membership of the group, UKGovLD will be empowered to use the most appropriate channels of engagement with broader users and re-users of Linked Data, in order to reach out to all those organisations and individuals with an interest in increasing the use of Linked Data.

Responsibilities

2.1. The specific responsibilities of the UKGovLD Delivery Team are:

- To provide a forum for cross-cutting decision making and a focal point to share and collate common requirements for core components.
- To evolve the core common federated infrastructure to business as usual and agree common core reference data and who should maintain.
- To sponsor the development of core reference data and vocabularies that support cross-cutting and UK implementation.
- To sponsor the development and maintenance of guidance and standards.
- To resolve technical and political issues proving a barrier to the implementation of cross-government Linked Data and develop clear routes to ownership or commitments to support sustainable business as usual approaches.
- Act in an advisory capacity to Cabinet Office and other Government Departments or Organisations on the broader development of data and ICT policies and is able to act as an advisory body to Sector Transparency Boards or Groups as appropriate.

2.2. The specific responsibilities of the wider UKGovLD working group are:

- To promote knowledge sharing of expertise and experience and provide a vehicle for collaboration, cost sharing, reduced duplication, lowering the barriers to entry and to develop a shared vision.
- To provide a forum for cross-cutting project collaboration and a focal point to share and collate common requirements for core or shared components.

Membership

3.1. The Delivery Team will be responsible for ensuring that Cabinet Office is supported to provide the initial suite of core components for the successful support of Linked Data. The UKGovLD Delivery Team

will be led by the Chair of UKGovLD. Members of the UKGovLD Delivery Team will be appointed by members, via a vote at the Annual Meeting. The Chair of UKGovLD can appoint up to 4 new members in advance of the wider vote.

3.2 The chair of UKGovLD will be appointed by members, via a vote at the Annual Meeting.

3.4. The formal UKGovLD will be an open group, made up of members from all sectors with an interest in Linked Data. The UKGovLD will engage with wider users and re-users of Data in a range of ways, including online and in person. The UKGovLD will seek to tailor this engagement to reflect the ways which the group of stakeholders prefer to interact so as to maximise the views and contributions to fulfil its purpose from the widest possible range of organisations and individuals.

3.5. In addition to the formal group, the UKGovLD Delivery Team will constitute and endorse task-and-finish groups to deliver or guide specific pieces of work. The wider working group will fill these task-and-finish groups with expertise and can highlight the need for others to the Delivery Team.

Relationships and lines of communication

4.1. UKGovLD will meet annually, and convene as deemed necessary by the chair in order to fulfil its responsibilities.

4.2. UKGovLD acts as a mechanism for providing advice to other public sector groups and projects including: the Data Strategy Board, Open Data User Group, Government Digital Service, CTO Council, Open Data Standards Board , Transparency Board, Location Council, Local Government and Scottish, Welsh and Northern Ireland administrations own technical forums. These will that will take this into account in advice to Ministers and in the formulation of any policy. In its advice the UKGovLD will take into account current policy and best practice.

4.3. UKGovLD acts as a coordination point for public sector linked data activities and may use the other groups and projects to undertake wider engagement activities.

4.4. The UKGovLD will liaise with into other initiatives such as the Open Data Institute

Secretariat

5.1. The UKGovLD will be supported by a collective secretariat provided by members and supported when necessary by the Cabinet Office.

Duration

6.1. The UKGovLD is established on an on-going basis until no longer required, when it will be dissolved on instruction from the Minister for Cabinet Office.

Reference

See web site pages at: http://data.gov.uk/linked-data
and the group twitter account: https://twitter.com/UKGovLD