Public Data Group

10am – 12 noon, 16th January 2015
Open Data Institute, 65 Clifton Street, London, EC2A 4JE

Published agenda and minutes

Attendees:
Claudia Arney CA (Chair, Public Data Group)
Tim Moss TM (CEO, Companies House)
Ed Lester EL (CEO, Land Registry
Rob Varley RV (CEO, Met Office)
Neil Ackroyd NA (Acting CEO, Ordnance Survey)
Ceri Smith CS (Director, Shareholder Executive)

Additional attendees:
Gavin Starks GS (CEO, ODI)
Graham Horne GH (Interim Chief Executive, The Insolvency Service)
Iain Rolfe IR (ShEx PDG)
Leo Geddes LG (ShEx PDG policy lead)

Apologies:

Agenda:

1.	**Welcome, introductions and minutes from last meeting** *(5 minutes)*	**Claudia Arney**
2.	**Chair update** *(5 minutes)* • *Update on Chair's activity.*	**Claudia Arney**
3.	**Welcome and Update on work of the Open Data Institute** *(30 minutes)*	**Gavin Starks**
4.	**Discussion with ODI start-ups** *(15 minutes)* • *Presentation and discussion with 3 ODI start-ups*	**Opensesnor Spend Network Resurgence**
5.	**Discussion of BIS Performance, Finance and Risk Committee Report on PDG and Data Policy (***10 minutes)*	**Iain Rolfe/Ceri Smith**
6.	**Update on data policy across members** *(30 minutes)* • *5 minute update from each member on their latest data initiatives* • *5 minute update on work of PDG Secretariat incl. PDG Data survey and next steps* • *5 minute discussion and questions*	**All**
7.	**Discussion of OS Innovation Hub and potential for wider PDG links (***20 minutes)*	**Neil Ackroyd**
8.	**Conclusion / any other business** *(5 minutes)*	**Claudia Arney**

Item 1: Welcome, introductions and minutes from last meeting

1. Minutes of the last meeting were agreed and most actions were ongoing or had been completed.

Item 2: Chair update

2. CA gave an update on her correspondence with Matthew Hancock following the previous Board.

3. CS also provided an update following his discussion with Andrea Young (Director, Digital Economy Unit).

4. IR and CS also provided an update on the recent work within BIS to increase co-ordination around data policy.

5. CA and CS fed back from their recent attendance of the Public Sector Transparency Board. Plans for Ordnance Survey open data releases were discuss as well as wider PDG activity.

Item 3: Welcome and update on the work of the Open Data Institute

6. CA welcomed GS and thanked him for hosting the Board at the ODI.
7. GS provided an update on the work of the ODI since it was created two years ago and noted that there was growing international interest in the benefits of open data across a wide range of areas. He explained that the ODI was operating across three main areas:

o Through their Innovation Unit – developing research and providing tools
o Through their work as an incubator for open data start-ups
o Through their global network - where they have franchises in 23 counties and are providing training and capacity building such as in Burkina Faso.

8. The Board also discussed with GS smart cities as a particular area to benefit from open data, the nature of the open data debate and the possibilities of re-building Government "from the data up".

9. The Board agreed that it was important that we worked more closely with the ODI going forward and explore the possibility for collaborations.

Item 4: Discussion with ODI start-ups

10. The Board then welcomed speakers from Spend Network, OpenSensors.io and Resurgence to discuss their businesses.

11. Ian Makgill Spend Network provides Government procurement data in a single database and is therefore reliant on open data. He set out that his

biggest challenges were that he needs access to more, and better quality, public spending data. He noted that it would be helpful if Companies House could provide corporate groupings.

12. OpenSensors.io provide a platform that acts as a postal system for the Internet of Things. Their business model is based on providing the service for free if users make the resulting data open but to pay if it is kept private. They are providing services to companies involved in the smart cities agenda.

13. Mark Harvey from Resurgence explained that they act as consultants to cities on open data and climate change resilience. Their main proposition is that open data provides a dynamic assessment of risk, opens up the black box of city data and engenders innovation. Mark drew attention to the lack of open source modelling software and the challenge of cities sub-contracting their data.

14. CA asked how PDG could help support the development of these businesses and the following suggestions were made:

    a. Providing guidance for cities on data structures
    b. Sharing PDG experiences in making data open
    c. Focusing on the provision of urban data
    d. Engaging with innovation activity and schemes already taking place

15. GS noted that the UK was leading the world around open data and this presented a real opportunity for UK plc.

Item 5: Discussion of BIS Performance, Finance and Risk Committee Report on PDG and Data Policy

16. It was agreed that this item had already been covered in an earlier discussion.

Land Registry

17. EL explained that Land Registry were working on launching their National Spatial Data Set in March/April. He explained that this would be their biggest data distribution so far with 28m data points on freehold and leaseholds. He also thanked NA for Ordnance Survey's support with its development.

18. EL also detailed that the Price Paid Data for Commercial ownership would be the next open data set released in line with the PDG Summer Statement.

19. EL further added that work was continuing around Local Land Charges as we well as work to create a single point for data downloads.

<u>Companies House</u>

20. TM informed the Board that Companies House was continuing to work with the Government Digital Service on their new IT system with the current expectation that all digital data would be available for free from June. They are considering the scope for a hack event when the data becomes available.

<u>Insolvency Service</u>

21. GH explained that the insolvency register holds 330,000 names and has 3.5m searches annually with 30 daily downloads from mainly credit reference agencies.
22. A discussion then followed around engagement with users of the data and CS and TM both offered to discuss the issue further with GH.

<u>Met Office</u>

23. RV explained that the work around the new High Performance Computer was taking up much of the data resources within MO. He noted that Met Office have recently published their own Open Data Strategy and that the Met Office were likely to be the first to reach Expert level on the ODI Open Data Certificates.

<u>Ordnance Survey</u>

24. NA informed to the Board <u>that</u> there would be an announcement Ordnance Survey would be moving to a GovCo next week and with it an increased focus on partnership and collaboration with the geospatial industry.

Item 7: Discussion of OS Innovation Hub and potential for wider PDG links

25. NA then provided further information on the Hub explaining that current plans were that it would provide a space for developers to work alongside OS and that it would have both an Open Data and a Commercial Innovation Pathway. The current location is expected to be in Euston.

26. The Board agreed that it sounded like an exciting venture and were keen to explore how other PDG members could be involved as well how it could be connected to the work of the ODI and Digital Catapult.

Any other business

27. CA drew attention to the Open Data User Groups views on the latest National Information Infrastructure and the ODI's Open Data Roadmap. The Board discussed and agreed that it would be helpful to produce a joint PDG response to both.

28. IR drew attention to the update on PDG work streams and noted that the results of the PDG survey of businesses users would be used to inform a roundtable discussion in February. The results of the survey and the actions following the roundtable would then published in an updated PDG Spring Statement.