

The categories Social Growth and Economic Growth are both very broad, and overlap at times, but are quite useful none the less.

## **Social Growth**

Does part of this mean the growth of structures in which people take mutual responsibility for co-production of their individual and collective wellbeing?

Which are the organisations that do this on the ground? Do we mean, for example, front line council staff, a tenants and residents association, a time bank, a free school?

If so, how does open data fit into this? Who are the key people in those organisations, what open data might they need or benefit from, and do they have the skills, or the right tools, to make effective use of that data even if it is nominally open? (“effective use” is from Gurstein <http://gurstein.wordpress.com/2010/09/02/open-data-empowering-the-empowered-or-effective-data-use-for-everyone/> )

How do these participants (paid staff, volunteers) come into contact with those with open data skills in their city region?

The NESTA competition model is good engine for generating those contacts, but it should now be devolved down to city region scale. Running their own competitions (with advice) challenges city regions to think more deeply about how to unlock the value of open data for social growth.

How will the outcomes of those competitions be evaluated. Are measures of social return on investment relevant to some kinds of open data use? What other measures? An increase in capacity, and/or local tools for effective use?

## **Economic Growth**

At local level, do we mean, in part, the growth of small businesses, indigenous to their city regions, who are able to work with public service providers and data holders in order to translate the potential of open data into social growth, and therefore economic growth?

At the moment many of the different kinds of organisations who might work together to generate value from open data never cross paths, and that has to be stimulated.

Again the NESTA model is helpful, because it covers the costs of the time and effort needed for a getting-to-know-you process. Far better though that getting-to-know-you is done for real - small pots of money available and administered at city region level to generate and test prototype solutions. Evaluation and comparison nationally, but local innovations.

\* I'm happy to contribute to the nuts and bolts of how those competitions should be structured, but that seems unnecessary detail at this stage.