

GDS Advisory Board

Meeting date: Thursday 13 October 2016 from 3.00pm to 5.00pm

Location: GDS Boardroom, Aviation House, 125 Kingsway, London, WC2B 6NH

MINUTES

GDS ADVISORY BOARD

Kevin CUNNINGTON (CHAIR)
Dr Sue BLACK OBE
Herman NARULA
Brent HOBERMAN CBE
Brian McBRIDE
Monique SHIVANANDAN
Vanessa VALLEY

Richard ALLAN
Hermann HAUSER
Joanne HANNAFORD
Saul KLEIN
Nigel SHADBOLT
Wendy TAN WHITE
Laura WADE-GERY

GOVERNMENT DIGITAL SERVICE

Andrew DENNEHY-NEIL
James STEWART
Gemma PEROLLS

Peter GRZESZCZAK
Olivia NEALE
Martin SMITH

1.	<h4>WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS</h4>
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Kevin Cunningham, GDS, welcomed members to the third GDS Advisory Board meeting. Kevin emphasised he understood the importance of being able to clearly articulate what GDS is here to do and outlined his proposed vision for discussion.

	<p>It was agreed that a lot has been achieved over the last five years with capability being built to deliver great digital services across government and our mission of 'transforming the relationship between citizen and state' remains the same. However, due there being lots of transformation work underway across government GDS must now pivot towards being supportive and collaborative to achieve real and lasting change. However, this does not mean GDS stops being disruptive completely - we still want to lead the charge and drive change across government.</p> <p>Kevin noted DWP's Digital Academies are transferring to GDS. This will ensure GDS can improve digital capability across the civil service and through our academy locations increase our national presence. This is not about expanding the organisation but re-organising to best fit user needs.</p> <p>Members stated that whilst making government more open is a key GDS aim this is not well understood in technology startups. Therefore spending more time with startups, digital organisations and universities across the country would be highly beneficial.</p> <p>Work is underway to produce a cross-government digital strategy to explain what transforming government means and how GDS will 'support, enable and assure' departments to make it happen. The strategy is expected to be published in December 2016.</p>
2.	DATA <p>Kevin noted future transformation is dependent on improved data sharing between departments. This requires a robust data strategy, more effective infrastructure, a clear data policy and strong governance. The challenge for GDS is integrating the data between departments and getting cross-government buy-in.</p> <p>When discussing how government intends to improve data infrastructure, members noted providing making open registers available to both government and external organisations would be highly beneficial. Members also noted the potential financial benefits of opening up access to the data.</p>
3.	VERIFY <p>Board members voiced their strong support for the Verify programme and offered their help in opening up Verify to the commercial market. Members agreed GDS should make this the priority and be more ambitious with take up. This may include de-scoping other activity to ensure this is a success.</p>

	<p>Being able to articulate the narrative for citizens is about claiming their identity to make their user-experience of government services better, for departments the messaging is around making their work easier and for wider government the focus should be on the tangible benefits and the opportunities for the digital economy.</p> <p>The board discussed a number of potential ways of improving take up and how verifying could be made easier for citizens. Members also suggested demonstrating the economic benefits of creating a stronger digital economy by offering organisations the opportunity to use this data. It was concluded that providing a tangible case study for how this could work to benefit the citizen would be highly beneficial.</p> <p>It was agreed that GDS would circulate a brief summary of Verify to the board members and subsequent follow-up meetings organised to discuss in more detail how board members could support and provide specialised advice for this work.</p>
4.	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>Monday 23 January, GDS Boardroom, Aviation House, 125 Kingsway, London, WC2B 6NH.</p>