West Midlands Open Data Forum

2019 action plan

Outline

The intention of this document is to provide some guidelines to WMODF activities throughout 2019 with the overall aim of increasing influence related to the release of open data and widening membership and locations of meetings
The guidelines are split into two - strategic objectives and operational practice

Strategic Objectives

We continue believe that WMODF should be viewed as the 'go to group' for open data advocates and practitioners. We appreciate the need to consolidate our role yet increase and widen our activities.
Participation within the group is premised on the promotion of open data rather than the marketing of individual skills or products
Forum members will progress actions outside the meetings delivering their own organisations objectives

Operational Practice

Publishing current membership in order to encourage other data practitioners across the West Midlands
Developing themed meetings and developing links with other analytical organisations and in the process identifying ways to leverage/share core message & relate to related activities
A long-term aim would include WMODF considering how to identify funds to develop and deliver projects.
We will continue to work in the development between WMODF and ODI Birmingham identifying how we promote expertise and relate such skills to Birmingham ODI development and activity.

Strategic Objectives

1.	**Encourage how data is released to help individuals i.e. functional data**	Continuing to campaign for, and encourage, data holders within the public realm, to release significant data sets on an open and accessible format.	Developing our discussion into a WMODF easy 'how to' guide
2.	**Sharing Good Practice**	Continue to provide opportunity for public bodies to share good practice in releasing and sharing data	Begin to identify and clarify the value of what we offer and to whom
		Continuing to develop the membership of the organisation, not just data holders but data scientists and analysts	Augmenting current membership by identifying additional tasks and roles, what could we do, with whom and what would the benefits be?
3.	**Identify one basic data set (where there is real value) to be released to a common standard across all Local Authorities**	Set one task for the year to model the organisations objectives and potential outcomes	Choosing a non-threatening data set and encourage all data holders share their data in an open format – suggested data was swimming pool opening times

Operational Practice

4.	**Make our membership list available**	Promote WMODF and encourage wider membership Publicise up to date active membership Identify and recruit members form other services e.g. Blue Light services rep	Do more: publicise Open Data events as we know of them (i.e. not just at meetings)
5.	**Continue to hold meetings in various places around the region**	Current rotation, Birmingham, Coventry, Wolverhampton and Sandwell	Seek other Authorities or venues
6.	**Build links with Office for Data Analytics, WM Public Health Information Group, Public Sector Digital Midlands**	Extend membership to other data analytical groups / processes across W. Midlands.	Developing Hacks – linking to current and potential hacks - *Explore facilitating hacks on use of use of Open Data with involvement of current and wider partners, potential link to ODI Birmingham Activity*
7.	**Divide meetings into WMODF business and topic (one hr each) – how WMODF can add value**	Themed meetings and invited speakers – wider sharing of thinking, targeting new audiences and participants	Identify guest speakers or presentations on existing or new projects or new knowledge Potential themes, focus on health, ethics, energy data