

\ Introduction to the Datashare platform and BIS/ LGA Breakthrough Funding

October 2013

DataShare



The Datashare platform

Datashare is a new platform developed by London Borough of Redbridge to help public sector organisations make data available in a simple and effective way that meets the needs of both Government demands and the public audience. Redbridge have partnered with CIPFA in order to take the product to market.

We encourage authorities to view the Redbridge Datashare site at

<http://data.redbridge.gov.uk/>.

The numerous benefits of using Datashare include:

- publishing data increases openness, transparency and clarity which in turn helps to increase public trust
- data is made available to all: accessible to the general public via a simple, clean interactive web site, as well as the developer community who can use the freely available API (Applications Programming Interface) to access the data and reuse it in their applications, web sites or smartphone apps
- data is published in an accessible, open format, not locked away inside Excel or PDF files
- data can be linked with data published on other sites allowing computers to query multiple data sets across multiple sites
- saving time and money by streamlining/ replacing multiple internal data publishing systems. A simple administration system allows users to define and import any data set
- saving time and money by pre-empting Freedom of Information requests. Publishing the data up-front reduces the need for the general public to make FOI requests, and when they do they can often be directed to the site where the information they are looking for has already been published, simplifying the process
- members can be engaged by the ability to monitor/ scrutinise services via more accessible information

Breakthrough funding

Breakthrough Funding was applied for and released in 2013. The funding was open to all local authorities and its purpose was to enable open data release and ease of access to open data. The funding is from BIS but is coordinated and released by the LGA's commercial arm. LB Redbridge and CIPFA have been successful in ensuring funding 'to accelerate the publication of all local authority datasets in an open format,



through the adoption of Datashare’.

The new offer to English local authorities

- The funding facilitates the deployment of Datashare to up to 100 local authorities (across England)
- This will provide a vehicle to standardize the approach to the transparency agenda across a significant proportion of English authorities
- Authorities will receive:
 - Installation of the Datashare software according to a (monthly) time slot of their choosing, and licence to use the software
 - Technical helpdesk support/ provision of updates and fixes for one year following the installation slot offered by CIPFA
- Authorities will still be able to use Datashare after Year 1, but it will be unsupported. CIPFA plans to design a paid-for, on-going support package to be offered to the authorities at the expiry of the Year 1 support.
- CIPFA will use internal marketing resource to ensure the Datashare message is communicated across the sector (new website, email campaigns, promotion across network and sector events etc.)
- CIPFA will provide a resource to handle the installation of the software to interested authorities, providing booked installation slots, issuing software and instruction manuals, providing remote technical support to achieve installation
- CIPFA will front the on-going help-desk support, with assistance from a team of experts at London Borough of Redbridge. This support will be provided for a period of 12 months after being provided with installation instructions.

Contact details

In the first instance please direct all enquiries to:

John Wallace

Business Development Manager

Telephone: 020 7543 5822

Email: john.wallace@cipfa.org

