

**Data Strategy Board Breakthrough Fund**  
**Application Form and Guidance to Applicants**

**Purpose of the Fund**

The purpose of the Breakthrough Fund is to enable open data release and ease of access to open data. This aligns with the objectives of the Data Strategy Board [www.gov.uk/data-strategy-board](http://www.gov.uk/data-strategy-board)

**How to Apply**

The application form is provided on pages 2-4.

The application form consists of 10 questions related to open data activity and its costs and benefits. All questions should be completed as fully as possible within the word limit for each question.

Applications from Government Departments and Agencies are being co-ordinated by BIS and the Data Strategy Board Secretariat. These applications should be sent electronically to:  
[datastrategyboard@bis.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:datastrategyboard@bis.gsi.gov.uk)

Applications from Local Authorities are being co-ordinated by the Local Government Authority (LGA). These applications should be sent electronically to: [transparency@local.gov.uk](mailto:transparency@local.gov.uk) copying in: [datastrategyboard@bis.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:datastrategyboard@bis.gsi.gov.uk)

**Help and Advice**

For help in completing the application form please see the FAQs provided on page 5.

Local Authorities can contact the LGA at: [transparency@local.gov.uk](mailto:transparency@local.gov.uk) for advice on developing their applications.

Government Departments and Agencies can contact Jennifer Wallace at: [jennifer.wallace@bis.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:jennifer.wallace@bis.gsi.gov.uk) or Paul Driver at: [paul.driver@bis.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:paul.driver@bis.gsi.gov.uk) for advice on developing their applications.

**Record Keeping and Freedom of Information**

To meet the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, BIS and LGA will record the reasons for decisions on applications and claims at all stages. These records will ensure there is a clear audit trail for all applications. Records will be maintained for all applications irrespective of whether they are successful.

## Data Strategy Board Breakthrough Fund Application Form

### Applicant Details

Contact Name: Phil Swan

Applicant Organisation: Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council on behalf of iNetwork Members and the Local eGovernment Standards Body.

Accountable Organisation: Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council

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Email: [phil.swan@tameside.gov.uk](mailto:phil.swan@tameside.gov.uk)

### Project Description

1. What is the activity title?

#### **Big data from small data: building the local data ecosystem**

This proposal is led by Tameside Council on behalf of iNetwork and the Local e-Government Standards Body (LeGSB) and supported by the Department of Communities and Local Government.

LeGSB champions information standards applied in local public services and with sponsorship from the Dept of Work and Pensions, Department of Communities and Local Government, and Cabinet Office. iNetwork, and LeGSB, are hosted by Tameside Council.

iNetwork is a cross sector partnership with 150+ council, NHS, police and fire & rescue members.

A consequence of the 'local data ecosystem' is to provide a framework of data that encourages links to insight and opinions from citizens and third party sources. This will bring in the voluntary and community sector, and application innovators such as DataGM, hosted by Trafford Council in Greater Manchester.

[150 words maximum]

2. Please provide a short description of the activity

This partnership project between DCLG and local government will enable

development of the underpinning standards ecology giving relevance and meaning to other open data projects so small data can become big data.

It will develop and prove a core set of simple, re-usable patterns and standards for publishing related local datasets, such that they can subsequently be combined and aggregated to a national level, thereby generating significant social and economic value.

It will do this by working with several local authorities, partner agencies, and their respective user communities to publish data that describes themes of local importance and priority, using a consistent and re-useable set of data structures.

Initially, we have selected the 'Troubled Families' theme; a Government priority that many councils are finding very challenging.

This work will extend to other themes, such as 'dementia', 'care for the elderly', 'youth offending', 'place based budgets', 'land use', and 'school catchments' to bring transparency, and engagement in local decision making.

[150 words maximum]

### 3. What is the total amount you are bidding for?

The project will proceed in discrete phases, with subsequent work dependant on establishing the costs and benefits of moving to the next stage.

This bid is for the first phase:

- To create open, re-usable, and sustainable local datasets, focussed on outputs that can be aggregated around a national theme, in this case, 'Troubled Families'.
- To create robust, reliable patterns and standards that can scale to enable publication and re-use of more local data, against a broader range of themes and topics.

The bid for phase 1 is £220k. Costs and bids for subsequent phases will be determined as/when phase 1 concludes.

[150 words maximum]

### 4. Set out the main activities and proposed timescale in which they will be carried out, including costings.

Activity	Start	End	Budgetary
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			estimate
Finalise use cases <sup>1</sup> , agree local and national datasets for release and establish project governance	0 wks	5 wks	£25k
Model datasets to generate: (a) re-usable publishing patterns, (b) 'Linked Data' standards and vocabularies that represent those patterns; and (c) open data outputs	5 wks	11 wks	£35k
Develop central vocabularies and reference data – building on the LGA's esd-toolkit and DCLG assets	8 wks	11 wks	£20k
Establish tools for extracting datasets to agreed patterns and standards; plus infrastructure to hold and maintain open data outputs	11 wks	17 wks	£35k
Working with DCLG, LGA and suppliers establish models and standards for aggregating multiple local sources	16 wks	23 wks	£35k
Support councils to produce live data Engaging with DataGM network of developers and Innovators to build some real apps on the data	20 wks	36 wks	£50k
Develop and maintain 'case studies' and knowledge base which articulate social and economic benefit, and stimulate wider take-up.	30 wks	46 wks	£20k
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>46 wks</b>	<b>£220k</b>

[150 words maximum]

5. What specific or generic issue associated with open data is the proposal going to address?

Simple patterns that enable local authorities to describe objectives, services, communities, assumptions, decisions, etc, can provide an ecosystem to better engage with residents about the effectiveness and value for money of local priorities and services.

We will prove the comparability of these patterns with the 'Troubled Families' theme; data for caseload, risk factors, effectiveness of interventions, and assumptions on savings.

Ultimately these same patterns will enable new products and services at a national scale, generating economic value: e.g. a national set on empty buildings for property developers to identify properties that they could purchase and develop; or school catchment areas and selection policies, enabling new tools for parents.

Social value will arise through local public agencies engaging more directly and openly with local residents, communities and businesses. The project will

<sup>1</sup> Use case will be around opening-up local sources from multiple agencies about troubled families, and wider consequences of economic downturn. Project partners will include DCLG, Greater Manchester's Commission for the New Economy, the Local e-Government Standards Body, and software developers and innovators in the DataGM network.

use data to facilitate greater participation in local democracy and decision-making, across a broad spectrum of local issues and priorities.

[150 words maximum]

6. Briefly describe the issue that your proposal will address.

Typically over 70% of upper tier council budgets are spent on social care with the majority of this cost benefiting under 5% of the population due to the nature of intensive support and interventions such as “looked after children” and residential care.

It is widely acknowledged that this is unaffordable and unsustainable. Local strategies are therefore focussing on intelligence led early interventions that keep people out of expensive, acute, reactive and late services.

This can only work if information is used effectively in a multi-agency context. Open data is at the heart of this, however only if it can be joined up and used to derive intelligence.

Colleagues in the Voluntary and Community Sector in particular report that they find this difficult. This is critically important since councils are looking to VCOs to absorb an increasing amount of support for vulnerable people.

[150 words maximum]

7. Demonstrate that you have not been able to identify appropriate funding through existing budgets.

This is a standards based piece of work and therefore difficult to develop locally from the ground up and in any case funding has not been available to attempt this: At the local level, work by individual councils has, broadly speaking, focussed on releasing individual datasets to meet a specific need.

There are very few examples of councils publishing data using robust, scaleable patterns and standards.

The Local e-Government Standards Body has developed a model for defining scaleable and re-usable publish patterns. However, it has no funding or resource to test, prove and establish it on the scale envisaged in this bid.

[150 words maximum]

8. Indicate how you will commit to making the data available for free under the Open Government License, to high quality, with updates on an ongoing basis and that future costs will be met.

Initially, Tameside council and other partners will commit to publishing the data extracted in this process as open linked data under the Open Government Licence.

For the 'Troubled Families' theme, this will include data that describes

- the programme caseload, e.g. numbers of households and risk factors
- cost attributable to 'troubled families', over types of services
- effectiveness of types of interventions
- assumptions on future outcomes and savings

Ultimately, the DCLG's 'Code of Recommended Practice', is the right mechanism to promote this approach across Local Government. LeGSB is also writing technical guidance to support the 'Code' which will promote the standards and patterns developed during this process.

[150 words maximum]

9. Indicate what the demand is for your open data proposal, and what the longer term benefits of the proposal will be in particular how this proposal could stimulate economic growth and encourage innovation.

Recent LeGSB workshops across Greater Manchester, and sessions with individual councils, consistently highlight 'Troubled Families' as a priority.

Councils are keen to develop new, robust open data sources to improve sharing of insights with their local partners. These sources will also strengthen accountability, and engagement with local residents, in particular to give confidence that investment in early intervention leads to cost savings and improved services.

The patterns and standards developed for Troubled Families will be re-usable across the broader range of local data. For example, we are speaking separately with Hampshire County Council; who wish to employ open data to engage residents in responding to significant pressures for new housing.

In addition, the Open Data Institute has identified various significant opportunities<sup>2</sup> for "big data from small data" in pursuit of economic growth. These include empty properties and school catchment areas, plus data on planning, and performance of council contracts.

[150 words maximum]

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<sup>2</sup> See ODI's response to DCLG's consultation on improving local government transparency, published at <http://theodi.org/consultation-response/improving-local-government-transparency>

## Equality

10. Do you envisage that the project or its outcomes will have a disproportionate impact, whether positive or negative, on any of the following groups?

- a. Minority or majority ethnic communities
- b. Women or men, including transsexual people
- c. Disabled people
- d. Lesbians, gay men, bisexual or heterosexual people
- e. People with particular religious or non-religious beliefs
- f. People in particular age groups

This is an enabling piece of work that will support some of the most disadvantaged in society by enabling public services and voluntary and community organisations to work together more effectively. It will not however disproportionately impact any of the groups listed here specifically.

[150 words maximum]

**When completed, this application form should be returned by e-mail to:**

Applications from Government Departments and Agencies to:  
[datastrategyboard@bis.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:datastrategyboard@bis.gsi.gov.uk)

Applications from Local Authorities to: [transparency@local.gov.uk](mailto:transparency@local.gov.uk) and copy to: [datastrategyboard@bis.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:datastrategyboard@bis.gsi.gov.uk)

## **Data Strategy Board Breakthrough Fund - FAQs**

### **Q - What is the Data Strategy Board Breakthrough Fund?**

**A -** The Fund has been established to help government departments, government agencies and local authorities accelerate open data proposals where there are short term financial barriers to the data release.

### **Q - Who is eligible to apply to the Fund?**

**A -** Government departments, government agencies and local authorities are eligible to apply. In the case of local authorities, collaborative bids are encouraged (especially from district councils) based on geographic, economic, community of interest, shared services or other local or regional partnership groupings.

### **Q - Can Local Enterprise partnerships (LEPs) bid to the Fund?**

**A -** No. However, we do encourage consortia of local authorities to bid. The bid should be submitted to the LGA by a lead local authority.

### **Q - What can the funding be used for?**

**A -** Organisations can apply to the Fund to help them cover costs to release data which can not be met from elsewhere. The Fund will cover a number of sub-themes of activity which could include funding for:

- IT/tool development;
- standardising data;
- making data linkable.

Proposals outside of this criteria will be considered if a credible case can be made on how it will more broadly support the release of open data and if the activity is not being taken forward elsewhere.

Proposals that support a number of organisations to release data and work focused on specific datasets will be considered. Any data which is made available will be made free on an ongoing basis, for businesses to re-use in new products and services.

The Fund will pay for one off costs which will ensure the ongoing provision of open data from eligible organisations.

The Fund will not cover the costs of ongoing data collection or cover lost income from charging for data.

The bid has to clearly demonstrate that the funding will be used to develop concepts, tools, services, standards or systems which directly lead to the opening up of data. The general principle is that the Fund will not cover operational costs. All bids will be considered on an individual basis and on whether the bid demonstrates clear outcomes that support the evaluation criteria. We expect funding bids to be proportional to the size of the project, the size and/or number of organisations involved, and the potential outcome of the project to public organisations, communities and business.

**Q - Are there any specific requirements that applicants need to consider?**

**A -** To qualify for funding, applicants must:

- demonstrate that they have not been able to identify appropriate funding through existing budgets
- commit to making the data available for free under the Open Government License, to high quality, with commitment to consistent on going data production.
- show that there is a demand for the data to be released / standardised / linked and that there is a longer term economic, social or environmental benefit to making it more accessible;
- make the data available through Data.gov.uk and demonstrate broader alignment with the Public Data Principles.

The Fund will not be used to pay for data purchase.

Further details of the application criteria are provided on page 8.

**Q - Are organisations limited to one application?**

**A -** Yes, organisations can only make one application.

**Q - Is there a lower limit and upper limit for applications?**

**A -** There is no upper or lower limit for applications and each bid will be considered on an individual basis against the application criteria. We anticipate that most bids will range from between £20,000 - £80,000, but we will review the spending range for exceptional projects which benefit the sector and the wider open data landscape.

**Q - Who will administer the Fund?**

**A -** The Fund will be managed by the Department for Business Innovation and Skills (BIS) in conjunction with the Cabinet Office and in partnership with the Local Government Association.

**Q - What is the deadline for applications?**

**A** -There is no specific deadline as the Fund is a rolling programme with assessment panels meeting monthly to consider proposals.

Submission dates for assessment panels are:

<b>Applications from Government Departments &amp; Agencies</b>	<b>Applications from Local Authorities</b>
22 March 2013	<i>10 April 2013</i>
15 April 2013	8 May 2013
21 May 2013	5 June 2013

Future submission dates will be published on the Data Strategy Board website at: [www.gov.uk/data-strategy-board](http://www.gov.uk/data-strategy-board)

It would be helpful if you could let either BIS or the LGA know of your intention to submit a bid in advance of your application so we can engage with you and ensure that the process runs as smoothly as possible.

**Q - What's the role of the BIS Local Growth teams?**

**A** - The teams will help raise awareness of the Fund through circulating the application form to local authorities in their area.

**Q - Who can I contact if I still have further questions on the Fund?**

**A** - If you require any additional information on the Fund you can e-mail:

Jennifer Wallace (BIS) at: [jennifer.wallace@bis.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:jennifer.wallace@bis.gsi.gov.uk)  
Paul Driver (BIS) at: [paul.driver@bis.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:paul.driver@bis.gsi.gov.uk)  
Gesche Schmid (LGA) at: [gesche.schmid@local.gov.uk](mailto:gesche.schmid@local.gov.uk)

## **Data Strategy Board Breakthrough Fund - Application Criteria**

All applications to the Fund will be expected to meet the following criteria:

- Project is able to demonstrate value for money.
- Project is unable to identify appropriate funding through existing budgets.
- Project is committed to making the data available for free under the Open Government License, to high quality, with appropriate ongoing frequent updates.
- Project shows there is a demand for the data to be released / standardised / linked and that there is a longer term economic, social or environmental benefit to making it more accessible
- Project has identified, and will involve at an early stage, at least one consumer of the dataset(s).
- Project is committed to tracking the use of the data and the benefit that has been realised from its release.
- Project confirms that the data will be made available through Data.gov.uk
- Other organisations in similar situations will be able to reuse the patterns, standards, platforms & tools easily.

20 March 2013