

## **Release of Data fund**

### **Context**

The Release of Data fund totals £7m, and was announced in the Autumn Statement 2011: *The Data Strategy Board will have responsibility for the commissioning and purchasing of data for free release to the public and ensuring that this represents good value for taxpayers. The DSB will receive funding of no less than £7m in this Spending Review period for the purchase of additional data for free release.*

Ultimate responsibility for the allocation of this funding sat with the Data Strategy Board until the group was dissolved last year. The Open Data User Group were responsible for building and submitting business cases to access this fund, in collaboration with the wider Open Data User community.

Since the Data Strategy Board no longer exists, the Open Data User Group is now required to submit their proposals to access the fund to the Public Sector Transparency Board. As such, administration of the fund has now moved from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, to Cabinet Office.

The eligible categories for proposals in this financial year are as follows:

- IT infrastructure
  - Investing in systems that currently do not allow for high quality open data to be released.
- Building capacity
  - Investing in resources to allow increase in scale and scope.
- Paying for data release, where resource is a barrier.
  - Investing in manual resource and workforce to effectively administrate and curate open data.
- Research projects
  - Investing in bespoke projects that will benefit the longer term case for open data.

### **The process**

The bidding and approvals process for funding allocated to the current financial year adhered to the following guidelines:

- 1) ODUG collected bids starting in January
- 2) ODUG met in January to consider received bids
- 3) The ODUG Chair presented recommendations to the Public Sector Transparency Board, ahead of their meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> February
- 4) Bids were presented to the PSTB by the ODUG Chair, and were discussed and approved where appropriate by un-conflicted members of the Board
- 5) Cabinet Office agreed to work with the ODUG Chair to probe bids further, ensuring that:
  - a. No funding was received for the project elsewhere
  - b. The project was deliverable, setting out milestones
  - c. Who the payment would be made to
  - d. The evaluation process that the projects would be subject to