

January Socitm Futures Meeting**1. Government Connect**

The GC Programme Manager updated the group on Government Connect progress. This was based on the update given by Phillip Littlehaven at the Local CIO Council meeting the week before. There are now 106 Councils with an exemption to the GC deadline of 31 March. All of these have an action plan in place. There are 35 local authorities (as Jan 09) who have yet to engage and submit a CoCo. The Government Connect team is being re-focused into a central support resource. Mention was made of an additional £ 250K funding from GC to be given to the LGA for CoCo support and Data Handling. This work is now underway and Socitm will receive £10k in April to help with the IA work of Socitm Futures and the Local CIO Council. Work is in progress with the LGA to progress this new work programme. Socitm will be involved and it is hoped a small contribution will be made to Socitm to cover some of the Policy and Programme Managers role, in supporting the work of the Local CIO Council. A Government Connect Code of Connection product and services catalogue website has been launched at www.g3ccatalogue.net. The LGA will be writing to all English Chief Executives, announcing the new support package, the Welsh LGA will also be writing to Welsh authorities. The work will be hosted on the IDEA website in a new community of practice, to be accessed via www.idea.gov.uk/datahandling

2. Data Handling

The Local Government Data Handling Review summary was published jointly by the LGA and Socitm. Work is now starting on publishing detailed guidance on the Data Handling Review, through the 70 mandatory minimum measures, which forms part of the newly published Security Policy Framework. Work is underway to look at the Security Policy Framework and to see how they can be applied to Local authorities. For further information see www.idea.gov.uk/datahandling

Policy Areas

The development of formal Socitm Policy through Socitm Futures is in its early stages. The group needs to bed itself in and make the transition in both mind-set and practice, from SIAG to Socitm Futures. We do however continue to push the key policy areas forward. There was further debate at the January meeting about this. The linkages of all of the various government policy groups was presented at the Local CIO Council. We are liaising with CLG to develop an over-arching table, showing all of the key Government Policy areas.

Government Connect

Socitm continues to support Government Connect. At a meeting held at the LGA on 30 January, Richard Steel requested that an over-arching policy vision be produced to inter-link the Information Assurance, security, GC and Data Handling agendas, linked through the need to share information. This will be produced for the March meeting of the Local Government Information Assurance Advisory Board (LGIAAB). Socitm is a member of that board. The Terms of Reference are being drawn up at the moment. The National Information Assurance Forum, held it's plenary meeting mid-January and re-confirmed Socitm as Co-Chair of the group. The Forum is now hosted by CESG. Both NIAF and the LGIAAB will help drive the National Information Assurance Strategy forward.

Re-use of Public Information

We have started a Policy thread on this subject. This will, subject to members interest, be written up into a policy statement which will then be consulted on. The GovX space has been set-up, it is now up to those authorities interested in the project to engage and take the work forward. This topic will also be a subject at the Socitm Spring Conference in April. We are still struggling to generate interest around this area, although the group which presented to the November Futures meeting have been quite active in trying to raise the profile of the subject.

Activity in the previous period

1 Identity Management: We have been engaged with the LGA, CLG and the Immigration and Passport Service, looking at early drafts of the National Identity Strategy, to be published in April. We hope to get a presentation by IPS at the March Socitm Futures meeting, ahead of the formal publication. The key activity areas for us are Standards and Integration. This leads on from work with DWP before Christmas, when CLG convened a meeting of Local CIO Council and other lead authorities, to discuss some of the key issues. We have also met with Adrian Jones at DWP who now has a new role, looking at single address notification as part of the wider Tell us Once programme. Adrian is looking for exemplars where local authorities have approached this problem already.

Work in Current Period

1 Government Connect on going support: we continue to work closely with Government Connect, there is close weekly contact with the GC team. We are also now planning how to engage as part of the LGA Support Programme after April. We are also involved with the LGA in developing an advice note on handling RESTRICTED information. We have written a large article for Government Technology magazine on GC and Data handling. We have been involved in an article for government Computing Magazine on Information Governance around Surveillance technologies.

We have been involved in an article for Infosec magazine around Data leakage and social engineering.

2 DWP Identity Management: we are working with IPS and Tell us Once, we are lobbying Tell Us Once for a small amount of funding to help them with their research.

3 Government Security framework: The framework has now been launched and we are looking through it to see how it applies to Local authorities.

4 Security Policy Framework: The Security Policy Framework is the replacement for the governments Manual of Protective Security (MPS). The MPS is now 30 years old and has been revised many times. A complete overhaul is required. Socitm has been working to lobby the requirements of Local government in the new framework, especially in support of GC and the CoCo. The SPF is due for publication before Christmas. We are lobbying to ensure Socitm members get access to it and are discussing with CESG, the possibility to get a secure intranet site built on GCSx to host it.

5 Transformational Government report

We have contributed to the Transformational Government report. This detailed the work of the Local CIO Council within the CLG entry.

Horizon Scanning

3-6 months

- The recession - how we contribute to public sector efficiency
- Public Service Network - Integration beyond GC
- Data Handling Implementation - work in Progress
- Information Security, Assurance and Governance
- Authentication AES
- Identity Management - National ID Strategy

6-12 months

- CAA - impact on monitoring and value for money
- Identity Management and authentication
- Re-use of Public Information
- Advising local authorities on the 'digital' aspects of regeneration

12 months plus

- Shared Service
- Cross Organisational information sharing
- Enterprise architecture