

September Socitm Futures Meeting**1 Public Services Network**

One facet of the Public Services Network is Government Connect. There are many others and it is essential that Socitm stays engaged with the overall programme for the future development of the Public Service Network. Keeping a watch brief on the programme will ensure the Cabinet Office and OGC are aware of the needs and issues affecting Local Government. It is an absolute certainty future Government Services will be delivered through the Public service Network, initially using GCSx and in time it likely Local authorities will upgrade through to the replacement of what is now GSI. This will enable Local authorities to handling information electronically up to Impact Level (IL)3 RESTRICTED. GCSx is capable of doing so with extra measures, although current business needs for DWP are generally at IL2 PROTECT.

2 Government Connect

Socitm is now a recognised key partner and trusted advisor to the government connect work programme. The LG CIO Council has wholly supported government Connect and the programme is now moving forward at pace. Socitm has already been commissioned to undertake key research work on behalf of Government Connect, that directly shaped the current support package announced at the Socitm Conference. We have been working hard behind the scenes and through the various steering groups we sit on to influence the shape and direction of the programme. This demonstrates how Socitm can help shape the future of Local Public service delivery from an ICT viewpoint.

3 Data Handling

Socitm has led the work nationally on the Data Handling approach for Local Government, supporting the LGA which has fronted the work with much behind the scenes activity in, for example, drafting the guidelines. This programme of work has also led to much closer working with both the LGA and Solace, which again is real progress. Our relationships with DWP, Cabinet Office, CESG, CPNI, DCSF, DoH and CLG are also now much closer and practical. The LGA are in communication with DWP at the moment about a large package of work to support Government Connect and the Data Handling issues on an ongoing basis.

4 National IA Strategy

The National IA Strategy (NIAS) was launched in June 2007, the Delivery approaches for the NIAS were announced in June 2008, the approach details the vision for IA in Local Government between 2008-2012. Government Connect is key to this approach. Socitm was instrumental in shaping this approach and continues to influence it's development and implementation.

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.

Socitm's policy towards Government Connect (GC), is that we support it and see the value of the investment authorities are making now for the long term. We will continue to work with GC and promote GC widely, something which the GC team acknowledges and is grateful for.

Activity in the previous period

1 GCHQ IA Strategy for Local Government: Over the Summer, GCHQ developed as part of its IA strategy, a view of Local government. Socitm was involved in this process from start to finish. This has served to raise Socitm's profile across GCHQ and CESG. The result of the report was the placement of a liaison officer, who is now able to work closely with us through Socitm Futures to promote Local Government needs and requirements for support and advice from the centre.

2. GC Survey Report June 2008: in June, Socitm undertook a survey of 40 Local authorities through in-depth telephone interviews relating to their issues and problems in completing the Code of Connection document. This report which was well received, made a number of key recommendations, all of which were accepted. The recommendations have been translated into a support package for Local Authorities, totalling £2.5m. The announcements for this package were made at the Socitm conference.

3 CIPCOG event in September: as part of Socitm's on-going work around Information Assurance, we co-Chair the National IA Forum, (NIAF) which is a Pan-government independent think tank on Information Assurance. One of the key deliverables from NIAF are the CIPCOG security conferences, which we have through SIAG supported and promoted over the past four years. Socitm was asked to Chair the September event, which was attended by nearly 300 people, the topic being Standards and Policy, we also Chaired the expert panel, raising Socitm's profile as the organisation for the wider public sector.

4 LGA Information Handling Conference: the Socitm President spoke at the September LGA event, which showcased the draft version of the Data Handling guidelines document. This will attract wide publicity, once the document is finally published.

5 Article for Solace Newsletter: in August, we produced an article for the SOLACE newsletter on Data Handling - further useful publicity for Socitm's work in this space.

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 as it is a key policy and Strategy area for the Society. We have been commissioned to facilitate 5 themed conference calls for GC, targeting English and Welsh Local authorities. To facilitate this, we are trialing Webex, the Cisco Teleconferencing and interactive collaboration system. If successful, this is a tool that can be used by Socitm to run similar teleconference events, through interactive facilitated teleconferences. This should engage a wide range of members in collaborative activity, which will build on the GovX approach. The facilities will also be useful for internal and core meetings where appropriate.

2 DWP Identity Management: we are working with CLG/DWP on aspects of Identity Management, this work linked to Tell Us Once (TUO), will inform the future shape of TUO services and indirectly towards work in the National Identity Strategy, being worked on

now, for publication in the Spring of 2009. Socitm has recently distributed a Survey on Identity Management to Local Authorities, we have had 9 surveys returned to date. These will be used by CLG, to identify early adopters and LAs that CLG/DWP can work with as trailblazers. There may be some funding and support around these projects later.

3 Government Security framework: the Government Security Framework is a document which details some of the aspects of Identity Management and authentication. The first version was published in 2005. This original Office of the e-Envoy document is now being fully revised and updated by CESG. Socitm is part of the Pan-Government working group helping to shape and write the new version, which will align to GC and NIAS.

4 Security Policy Framework: the Security Policy Framework is the replacement for the government's 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 will comprise 4 levels, in Support of the National Security Strategy (Published October 2007) and the National IA Strategy. The SPF also merges a number of documents which deal with security around Anti-terrorist activities. Level 1-3 of the framework will be publicly available and some elements of Level 4 will also be published. Other sensitive elements of Level 4 documents will be available through controlled means, we are working with CESG, to determine how best to do this. We are also working with the Security section of the Cabinet Office, more details will follow as we have concrete things to say. The SPF will also contain 70 mandatory measures from Government around Information handling, these will affect Local government in-directly through GC and other programmes and projects. Government Policy in the SPF will be Mandatory (Green boxes), Government Guidance will be recommended as Best Practice. Some of this was mentioned at the Socitm conference, as was the recognition of the work Socitm has done in this area.

Horizon Scanning

3-6 months

- Public Service Network
- Data Handling Implementation
- Information Security, Assurance and governance
- Web 2.0
- NI 14

6-12 months

- CAA – impact on monitoring and value for money
- Identity Management and authentication

12 months plus

- Shared Service
- Cross Organisational information sharing
- Enterprise architecture