STIRLING COUNCIL

FINANCE & ECONOMY COMMITTEE	**CORPORATE OPERATIONS**

12 NOVEMBER 2015	**NOT EXEMPT**

STIRLING COUNCIL OPEN DATA POLICY

1 SUMMARY

1.1 Stirling Council aspires to be as open as possible with its citizens. This fundamental objective goes beyond our legal responsibilities. It takes us towards a culture where we share data held by the Council in a way that allows our citizens to discover, compare and interact with it.

1.2 Open Data is a way of achieving this. By working from the principles in this policy we will establish a new openness with our citizens, encourage improvement in our services and the building blocks for innovation to make life better for all.

1.3 The Open Data Policy commits Stirling Council to 5 core principles in relation to how we manage and share our data for the benefit of all. These principles are detailed in the Stirling Council Open Data Policy attached as Appendix 3.

2 OFFICER RECOMMENDATION(S)

The Committee agrees:-

2.1 to adopt the Stirling Council Open Data Policy as attached; and

2.2 that Stirling Council adopts the 5 star deployment scheme detailed in the policy which commits the Council to reach 3 star level within one year of publication of the policy and 4 star within 2.

3 CONSIDERATIONS

3.1 Open Data promotes accountability and good governance, enhances public debate and helps to combat corruption by;

3.1.1 showing how and where public money is spent, providing strong incentives for that money to be used most effectively; and

3.1.2 enabling people to make better informed choices about the services they receive and the standards they should expect.

3.2 Freely-available government data can be used in innovative ways as a catalyst for innovation in the private sector, supporting the creation of new markets, businesses, and jobs. These benefits can multiply as more businesses adopt open data practices modelled by government and share their own data with the public.

3.3 A report by the European Commission estimates that overall economic gains from opening up this resource could amount to €40 billion a year in the EU. Opening up public data will also foster the participation of citizens in political and social life and contribute to policy areas such as the environment.

3.4 The 2009 Digital Britain Report described data as 'an innovation currency' and 'the lifeblood of the knowledge economy'[1]. An Open Data policy provides the information support delivery of several of Stirling Council's Strategic Priorities most notably our commitment to:-

3.4.1 Pursue a diverse high wage economy that delivers local jobs for people across Stirling;

3.4.2 Regenerate our most in need communities to deliver a full range of positive social, environmental and economic outcomes; and

3.4.3 Examine and deliver on more opportunities for improved models of service delivery.

3.5 The Scottish Government Data Management Board establishes 10 guiding principles that will deliver their vision for Scotland. Two of these are particularly relevant in the context of open data:

- **Availability:** Make public service data (historic and current) available and readily discoverable, in formats which are easily re-used (e.g. machine readable). This will allow and encourage others to make re-use of the data to develop new products and services. In turn, this will create wealth and jobs, as well as better services for people in Scotland

- **Innovation**: Support effective and timely research that brings different data sets together easily and with minimal bureaucracy. This will enable more responsive service development, contribute to Scotland's reputation for research and development, attract business and make Scotland the "come to place" for innovation in data science and analysis.

3.6 Building upon the ambitions expressed at national and international levels we therefore propose to follow a set of **principles** that will be the foundation for access to, and the release and re-use of, data made available by Stirling Council.

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[1] http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm76/7650/7650.pdf

3.7 These principles are:

1. Open Data by Default
2. Quality and Quantity
3. Useable by All
4. Releasing Data for Improved Governance
5. Releasing Data for Innovation

4 POLICY/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS AND CONSULTATIONS

Policy Implications	
Equality Impact Assessment	No
Strategic Environmental Assessment	No
Serving Stirling	No
Single Outcome Agreement	No
Diversity (age, disability, gender, race, religion, sexual orientation)	No
Sustainability (community, economic, environmental)	No
Effect on Council's green house gas emissions	Decrease
Strategic/Service Plan	No
Existing Policy or Strategy	No
Risk	No
Resource Implications	
Financial	No
People	No
Land and Property or IT Systems	Yes
Consultations	
Internal or External Consultations	No

Equality Impact Assessment

4.1 The contents of this report were assessed using the EqIA Relevance Assessment Form. It was determined that an Equality Impact Assessment was not required as evidence suggests this policy will make information publicly available that can assist businesses and citizens in accessing services and in making investment and growth decisions. This policy will not diminish any current services nor access to them and will enhance transparency.

Strategic Environmental Assessment

4.2 This report relates to a Plan/Policy/Programme/Strategy and it was determined that a full Strategic Environmental Assessment was not required.

<u>Serving Stirling</u>

4.3   The proposals set out in this report are consistent with the following key priorities:-

        Q - Pursue a diverse high wage economy that delivers local jobs for people across Stirling and a procurement policy that supports this

        K - Examining and delivering on more opportunities for improved models of service delivery

<u>Single Outcome Agreement</u>

4.4   The proposals set out in this report support the following outcomes in the Single Outcome Agreement:

        • A diverse economy that delivers good quality local jobs

        • Improved opportunities for learning, training and work

        • By enabling open and transparent access to data that can be used to support business and innovation.

<u>Other Policy Implications</u>

4.5   None.

<u>Resource Implications</u>

4.6   None.

<u>Consultations</u>

4.7   None.

	Tick (✔) to confirm and add relevant initials
The appropriate Convener(s), Vice Convener(s), Portfolio Holder and Depute Portfolio Holder have been consulted on this report	NB ✔
The Chief Executive or Director has been consulted on this report as appropriate	GOS ✔

5   BACKGROUND PAPERS

5.1   None.

6   APPENDICES

6.1   Appendix 1 – EqIA Relevance Assessment Form

6.2   Appendix 2 – Stirling Council Open Data Policy

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Approved by

Name	Designation	Signature
Gerard O'Sullivan	Director of Corporate Operations	

Date   4 November 2015   Service
                                  Reference