



OPEN GOVERNMENT STEERING GROUP

Interim Summer meeting
Meeting 4: Thurs 20 June 2019
13:30 – 14:30

1st Floor Meeting Room 1W.08A, St Andrews House, Edinburgh

Attendees

Alex Stobart, MyDex CIC
Kaela Scott, Involve
Barbara Allison, Director Ministerial Support and Facilities
Simon Cameron, COSLA
Daren Fitzhenry, Scottish Information Commissioner
Doreen Grove, Head of Open Government, Scottish Government
Niamh Webster, Open Government, Scottish Government

NOTE OF MEETING

1. Introductions and welcome

Doreen Grove welcomed everyone to the meeting and set out purpose – as a way to keep in touch, keep conversation going, plan the upcoming September full steering Group meeting, and share some learning from the Open Government global summit in Canada that the Open Government Team and others in Scottish delegation attended.

2. Update from international Open Government Global Summit, Ottawa, Canada **- global trends and challenges** **- opportunities for Scotland**

Key points from the summit discussed:

- Copies of the blog were shared with the key learning points and happy to put people/projects mentioned in touch if interested.
- OGP Steering Group internationally were reviewing the Locals Programme, of which Scotland is a member, and have approved continuation. No changes for Scotland and remaining a member. Papers available online.
- Visa problems meant many people couldn't make it (mainly from African countries) which highlight a real issue for open government progress in challenging political situations.
- Political leadership was strongly present - Obama, Trudeau,

- Some discussion about hearing from the former Canadian Information Commissioner and a provocation on the debate of openness v security. Something for open government world to consider.
- OGP Global report launched – longitudinal study assessing progress in open government since OGP began in 2011, available here: <https://www.opengovpartnership.org/campaigns/global-report/> - discussion of the challenges to OGP from the Open Government team recognising that this doesn't show Scotland's progress in a good light as long-term study and Scotland has only been member since 2016 with one Action Plan, plus Scotland's commitments are often wide-ranging, cultural reforms to move to a more normalised and institutionalised openness that may take longer to have impact and can be difficult to measure than smaller-scale initiatives.

3. Update on commitments progress - tool for overview of progress ([Gantt](#)) proposed by Elric

Future reporting requirements: Reporting in Aug, Jan 2020 and final reports in Aug 2020. The required template has been sent to all leads.

Draft circulated of a brief summary of the progress so far. Members in attendance at the meeting gave additional verbal updates at the meeting, noted in brief below:

Commitment 1 - Additional to update which was circulated in advance, Lucy met with Jennie – will be a joint group with intensive work over summer to report on September, members not decided yet.

Commitment 2 – testing, working out the questions that people have about engagement. Some discussion about the recently announced Citizen Assembly which will be a test of deliberative processes.

Commitment 3 – Open data meeting recently and minutes published. Discussions ongoing. Steering Group member for this commitment, Eddy, is moving abroad to discussion linked to below governance discussion and potential new elections for civil society before September meeting.

Commitment 4 – scoping the commitment to date, and planning qus for citiz engagement processes (planning to do 5 events) and measuring baseline and improvement. Doing this as a key part of finding out 'what good looks like' not sure yet what will come out of it because dependant on what people say at public events. Imagine will look like a system of some kind for people to use to determine what authority to go to, who can help them etc. Will be available electronically and perhaps through Citizens Advice and libraries etc.

Commitment 5 – ongoing, focus more on transparency and sharing of information in landscape of continuing uncertainty on EU Exit negotiations.

4. Update on [UK Action Plan](#) now published and work on Scottish Commitment to begin

This work connects work on open government across UK to share learning and collectively think about the challenges for open gov at all spheres of government including issues such as resourcing of network in future.

5. Priorities for agenda for September (25th) meeting:

- **governance review and proposals for changes to governance or membership of steering group e.g. Changes to membership given people moving abroad and new elections for civil society? Bringing COSLA in with more formal arrangement?**
- **other?**

- Civil society colleagues will try to organise new elections for the membership before the September meeting.
- COSLA to put a proposal forward for discussion at September meeting on formalising role in steering group
- Government colleagues to try to find deputies to attend meetings where they cannot attend.
- There are a number of changes upcoming so need to be regularising what we're doing and keeping in touch with meetings and emails in between.
- Alex volunteer to update Elric, new Civil Society representative Chair of Steering Group.

6. Other updates:

- **To note the response from Scottish Information Commissioner as discussed at February's steering group meeting (attached)**
- **Independent Reporting Mechanism, Andy McDevitt preparing report on co-creation process based on interviews conducted in May.**

Thanks again to those who met with Andy to help him prepare his report on the co-creation process. Report will be shared with us by August for review and will be published shortly thereafter.

7. AOB?

To note, Niamh Webster, Open Government Team and Secretariat to the Group is moving to a new role (Digital Engagement Manager, Scottish Government). Doreen Grove is the point of contact for ongoing communications and Secretariat until post filled.

**Open Government Team
June 2019**