

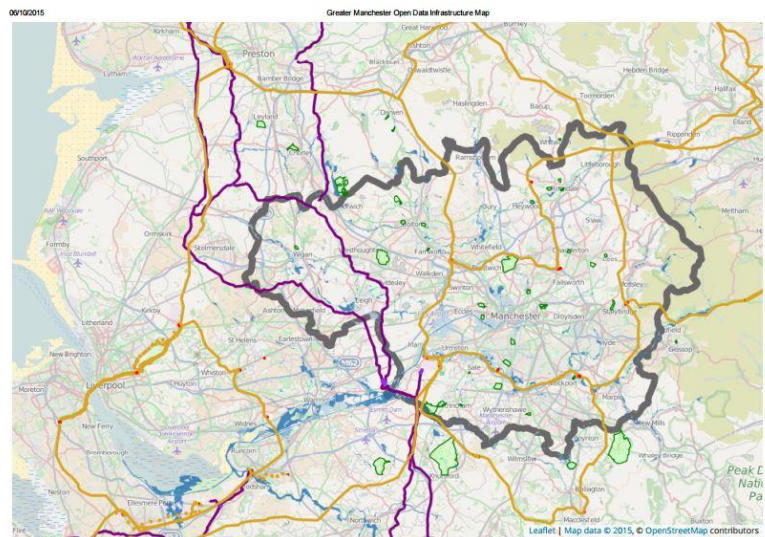
“What Works”: iNetwork Innovation Awards 2015

Title	Greater Manchester Open Data Infrastructure Map
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Service area¹	1577. Open data publication, 856. Local Development Framework
Tags	iStandUK, Open Data, Planning, Development, Housing

Description of project

The overall objectives of the programme are in: supporting better strategic decision-making around planning and housing; supporting pre-planning process decisions by developers; and sharing public sector information on assets more clearly. This was done through providing a single, consistent map of infrastructure - both physical and social - across Greater Manchester.

Local public sector information on public land and assets, alongside national public sector information on green infrastructure was combined with private sector data on electricity and gas networks to provide a better overview and understanding of the Greater Manchester landscape. This map was released openly to the public so that developers and planners can have a better overall view of planning and housing related infrastructure across the ten local authorities of Greater Manchester.



A secure, login-only secondary map has also been created for local authority officers to view as well as share strategic, commercial or security sensitive information. It further supports the development of the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework through providing a portal for developers to submit sites as part of a wider call for sites.

What makes this initiative remarkable?

The development of the map involved several stages:

¹ Based on the Local Government Service List.

<http://standards.esd.org.uk/?uri=list%2FenglishAndWelshServices&tab=downloads>

- Engaging with ten local authorities across Greater Manchester, identifying both planning and data leads
- Sourcing the data from these organisations, and sourcing additional national infrastructure and geographic data
- Identifying an appropriate, low-cost and sustainable mapping solution to show this information geographically
- Collating and cleansing each local authorities dataset, generating individual, pan-GM datasets that were then mapped and shared with the local authorities
- Passing newly developed data schemas back to the local authorities to improve data collection processes
- Generating the map and adding in the appropriate datasets
- Performing numerous tasks throughout the process that improved the visualisation and performance of the map, which were not part of the original specification
- Providing a further five years' support for the map, adding additional layers and functionality to increase map usage

Salford were appointed on a commercial basis to build the map, but it was their experience and understanding of the brief - to create an open, accessible and sustainable map - that aided the project to be completed ahead of time and on budget.

What has the project achieved?

The key achievements are the creation of the map (available at <http://mappinggm.org.uk>), and putting in place processes to ensure the longevity and sustainability of the map. These include writing relevant scripts to ensure that data is downloaded regularly from national sites and put on the map automatically, as well as providing background maintenance and support for the map.

Wider objectives have included:

- Creating a base for further data layers to be added and for further uses for the map
- Supporting the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework, a joint plan for Greater Manchester, through the use of the map as a base layer where additional development sites can be added
- Local authorities securely sharing strategic data in a consistent format

Video case study:	http://devolution.i-network.org.uk/istanduk-award-finalist-videos/
Links:	http://mappinggm.org.uk/#section-GMODIN
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For more iNetwork “What Works” studies see:

<http://i-network.org.uk/case-studies/>