

Tackling Transparency data:

A case study from Wirral Borough Council



Vikki Chapman, GIS Officer at Wirral Borough Council proves publishing Transparency data doesn't have to be time consuming or tough with CompliancyView.

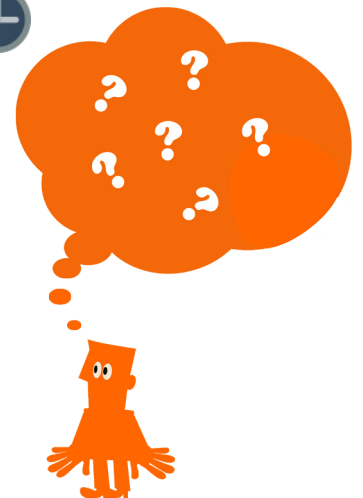
The Challenge

The initiative to make our data more open had been in the pipeline for a while but when the Code was published in October '14 it made time scales tight and very difficult to move within. As the deadlines were set we knew that we didn't really have any means of publishing this data in house so we looked for an outside solution.

A lot of providers had options we could take, but so many involved upgrades to our operating systems and or having our own server to host the data. All these changes to our IT infrastructure would have been a strain on our budget especially given the resources at hand, leaving us unable to fulfill the initial deadlines.

An additional complication was that unlike INSPIRE it was not clear initially who should be in charge of the project especially as data would be needed from many of the Council's different departments.

We needed something that was flexible enough for both a manager and data owners to use going forward especially as there will be a wide range of users who will be managing the data.



Why CompliancyView?

A big draw for us is the browser based service. We didn't have to make any changes to our existing IT set up which in turn meant we could fulfill our requirements in time with the deadline as it was quick to set up and miso host everything for us.

One of the most helpful features is the automatic email reminder that the system generates for both me and the other data owners so we know what data needs updating when - it really helps us to keep on track of the annual and quarterly transparency schedule.

Publishing the Data

I think the most important aspect of ComplianceView is its simplicity. It does what it says on the tin and the dashboard is really easy to use - you don't really need to be told how to do it.

Data from the council becomes available periodically so it's really helpful that I can just pick up ComplianceView as and when the datasets are ready. The ability to drag and drop your data to upload it is great, you can just watch it disappear. With the automatic email updates I know I can be safe in the knowledge that it's been published and I can move onto something else.

We felt it was important to pro-actively make our data as open as possible for the public. The way ComplianceView publishes to data.gov as well as providing a link to it for our website means we can be sure the data is accessible.



Section	Update Frequency	Last Updated	For Period	Next Due	Owner
Expenditure Exceeding £500	Quarterly	01/06/2014	01/03/2014 - 31/05/2014	01/09/2014	Jimmy Casper
Government Procurement Card Transactions	Quarterly	01/09/2014	01/06/2014 -		Jimmy Casper
Procurement Information	Quarterly	15/10/2014	01/08/2014 -		Wim Vansevenant
Local Authority Land	Annually	23/01/2014	01/01/2012 - 31/12/2013	01/01/2015	Wim Vansevenant

The ComplianceView Dashboard

The Verdict



I would definitely recommend ComplianceView. Given the short time scale and the cost vs bringing it in house it was the best option for us out there.

We're even looking into it as a way of proactively providing commonly asked for datasets, for example those that come up as part of Freedom of Information Requests. This then allows the public to find what they need more easily online and self-serve without having to contact us.

Vikki Chapman, GIS Officer at Wirral Borough Council

Want to find out more about Transparency and how ComplianceView can help you? Get in touch with us on [0121 232 8000](tel:01212328000) or info@misportal.com