

Customer First

A new national land and property database for Scotland

A collaborative piece of work by the Improvement Service, Scottish Government and Scottish local government has produced a new - definitive - source of property information for the Scottish public sector.

The National Gazetteer

Councils create and maintain a wealth of data about addresses, land and property. This data is central to their core business of delivering modern, efficient and effective public services. However, much of this information has been held in different places for different purposes and to different standards and quality. It is also costly to sustain this.

The new gazetteer for Scotland now puts all of this valuable data into one accessible place - not just for councils, but for all parts of the public sector.

Customers will benefit from improved services, where the address information forms an important part in determining a customer's entitlement to a service.

For council staff, new business processes will allow reduction in time spent in duplicating efforts to keep address data sets up to date.

'Real-time' updating will help to avoid problems encountered when people move into new properties.

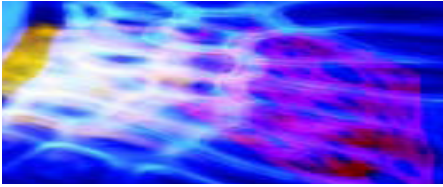
All address data will be 'current' and be made available throughout the public sector thereby reducing their data management costs and making it easier to develop local business applications that need access to good quality data - and be able to feedback any queries about address data back to a 'local custodian'.

The use of National Addressing Standards (BS7666) will enable all property data and information to be exchanged with other organisations without having to develop complex data conversion and exchange processes.

The gazetteer is already being used to support new national applications in ePlanning and for issuing the Energy Certificate for the Homebuyers pack with over 40,000 certificates issued since 1st Dec 2008.....and for the first time the Scottish public sector will be in a real position to be able to offer customers a new service - a system to be able to quickly and simply notify a change of address in Scotland.

In addition, a large number of partner organisations have expressed an interest in using the gazetteer in future including:

- *Scottish Police Services Agency*
- *NHS Scotland*
- *Landlord Registration within LAs*



The new OneScotland National Mapping Services Agreement

Under previous agreements with the Ordnance Survey (OS) each separate Scottish public sector organisation received an invoice for OS products directly every six months. Under the One Scotland Mapping Agreement these will ultimately be replaced by a single annual payment made by Scottish Government and Scottish local government partners to the Ordnance Survey.

Under the new arrangements, a Scottish Mapping Agreement (led by the Scottish Government, with the Improvement Service representing the COSLA local government interests) has established a partnership agreement between the OS and Scottish public sector organisations covering generic OS information. In the future, other location products and services can now be tendered for collectively on behalf of groups of organisations.

The objective has been to negotiate an agreement that more closely meets Scottish requirements, makes it easier to share data and reduces the overall cost of using geographical data to support the delivery of modern public services; and allows the increased use of geographic data at no extra cost. This will play a major role in the implementation of a Geographical Information Strategy for Scotland.

The negotiations on the One Scotland Mapping Agreement have now progressed to the stage where the fine details of the agreement are being finalised and it is anticipated that the agreement will be signed before the end of the financial year.

Benefits

As well as the more comprehensive use of OS products, one of the anticipated cost benefits of the One Scotland Mapping Agreement is a reduction in the overall costs (including management fees paid under the previous arrangement) and the cost of collecting and paying separate fees.

A new single payment made by the Scottish Government will be offset against the various grant payments that are currently distributed to public bodies in order for them to pay separately for OS products and services. Reducing bureaucracy and reducing costs.

Further Information

Any initial questions relating to the new agreement should be addressed to:

Iain McKay
Improvement Service
National Gazetteer Business Development Manager
iain.mckay@improvementservice.org.uk