

**Meeting 7**  
**City Hall, London**

**12 November 2010**  
**10:30 – 15:45**

## **Summary of members services updates and progress**

### **ONS Website Development Programme (WDP)**

WDP "FR3" is progressing well. Most of the developments in this phase are for the new ONS website, and involve making the API ingest and display website content, and plugging it into the search engine.

Some progress with exploring datasets has been made, focusing primarily on aspects identified as "must" requirements following the NOMIS test of FR1. The main dataset exploration enhancements are scheduled for FR4.

At the same time we are moving server platform and implementing an external deployment of the API onto this platform. This version will be available for selected Census partners to use, initially to test the draft Census 2011 multidimensional datasets being built by Manchester University. Note that ONS will not be releasing an updated API spec, instead only a user guide is being produced to support FR3 testing.

The new website will be made available in Spring 2011, and will be followed shortly after with the release of Data Explorer functionality. A programme of work has been approved in principle to develop a strategy for continued developments after the initial website launch. Census and WDP will be working in close collaboration to analyze further Census requirements and plan an approach to deliver these.

### **NeSS**

The Neighbourhood Statistics Service (NeSS) has continued to make minor enhancements to the website. On 19th October, NeSS launched a new improved search engine following user feedback. Also, there have been improvements to the Middle Super Output Area (MSOA) Summaries. NeSS has interactive maps in the Summaries for the first time, and MSOA data. There is also a new Business tab on the Neighbourhood Summaries

<http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/Info.do?page=analysisandguidance/analysisarticles/business-topic-profile.htm>

In addition, NeSS has released new datasets on population estimates, adult mental health and child weight data.

Between now and the New Year, NeSS is undergoing some substantial IM infrastructure updates - upgrading to Oracle 11g, moving from AIX to LINUX. This in preparation to move to the new web outsource supplier in the New Year. NeSS is also moving to use the new GSS Naming and Coding hierarchy from January 2011. We are also working closely with our colleagues in the Web Development Programme (WDP) and Census 2011 to understand Census 2011 dissemination requirements and NeSS' place in this. Following a report by Shaw Trust, NeSS is planning to take forward recommendations to improve the accessibility of the website. Finally, following a penetration testing report, NeSS is also planning to take forward recommendations to improve the security of the website.

**EDINA**

EDINA recently launched Digimap OpenStream and OpenBoundaries. Digimap OpenStream is an API which provides access to an OGC Web Map Service (WMS) offering Ordnance Survey OpenData products. The OpenBoundaries service provides online access to digital boundary datasets released under an Open data license. OpenBoundaries provides a mapping interface which makes direct use of the Digimap OpenStream API. At present both the OpenStream API and OpenBoundaries service are restricted to .ac.uk but these restrictions are imposed principally for operational rather than policy reasons.

In other web services related activity EDINA have been carrying out testing of web services under the UK Location Programme Information Infrastructure.

**SASPAC**

Some SASPAC users have experienced problems accessing the NDE service using the Web Services Wizard released with v9.25. Further investigations have confirmed a conflict between the Java client and the user's proxy server - an issue not previously identified by either development team. This appears to be a restriction in the Java as it requires the user's proxy credentials in order to access a web service. As this is unlikely to be possible for a majority of users, and following advice from the NDE team, SASPAC is investigating using direct URI calls and hopes to get a fix out to users in the coming weeks.

SASPAC has completed its procurement for development services and now has a framework of suppliers available to deliver its 2011 Census (and other data) services. The first element of this work will focus on testing the ONS API.