

COUNCIL		
Report Title	Motion in the name of Councillor Feakes to be seconded by Councillor Peake	
Key Decision		Item No.15
Ward		
Contributors	Chief Executive (Head of Business & Committee)	
Class	Part 1	Date: June 29 2011

“Open Data policy

Many public sector organisations are realising benefits from operating more openly to the people they serve, by publishing as much as possible of the information they collect and hold as Open Data. This firstly enables ordinary people to see clearly what an organisation such as Lewisham Council is doing on their behalf, and increases their trust in the people elected and employed to do it. It also recognises the wealth of information-handling skills and ideas in our population. If they cannot just read, but easily analyse council data and combine it with other data, those skills and ideas can build on what we can do ourselves, in ways that we can't afford or have not yet imagined.

Lewisham Council wishes to foster an environment where it's presumed that data will be published, and that 'owners' of the data within the Council and our partners should structure its gathering, storage and access in such a way that it makes publishing and eventual use by the public a straightforward matter.

We therefore ask the Mayor to embrace these ideals and to introduce an Open Data policy for the council that commits it to publishing all information it holds as Open Data, wherever this is practical and excepting only information that would be exempt from publication for existing reasons that would also make it exempt from disclosure in response to a Freedom of Information request; and to designing or updating its data systems whenever opportunities arise to facilitate such publication and use by the public.

We would also ask that when the implementation of or changes to systems, services or processes which involve the collection or holding of data are recommended to any Council committee, such reports should include consideration of Open Data issues and if necessary explain why any data involved should be exempted.

This Council urges our partners in public service in Lewisham to make a similar commitment themselves where they haven't already done so.”