Open Data and Co-operatives

Building a briefing on co-ops and open data, building on http://thenews.coop/open

On 20th July 2012 we held this event to explore Cooperative business models for open data'. You can find more on the cooperatives and open data conversation started so far on Co-operative News.

Over the course of August and early September the plan is that this document could become a short paper on possible areas for co-operatives to engage with open data.

All are welcome to contribute.

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Sources:

Suggest useful content to draw on in putting this together:

- TheNews.coop Open Pages
- Where co-operatives and open data meet (Blog post)
- Open Data and Charities paper (example of long report looking at open data in a particular sector)
- Data Commons - http://datacommons.find.coop/vision - US Based project to bring

together co-operative directories
- *Add other useful sources here...*

Sections:

What should this document include? Add heading (level 3) and content below...

- An introduction to open data

No notes here yet - please add.

- An introduction to the co-operative model

- Co-ops and open data

Advantages for co-operatives in using an open data approach:

1. Ability to connect with customers and test and develop business models and products and services; potentially improves business, reduces costs, increases returns
2. Open data approach delivers wider social impact - part of a co-operative's mission
3. Allows a channel for increased engagement with members (in feedback loops), ultimately increases member oversight of the business

Challenges for co-operatives in using an open data approach:

1. Might an open data approach leave a business plan open to being stolen by other companies? (But unique member engagement, co-operative approach cannot be stolen.)
2. Finding funding to pay for the development and ongoing costs of an open data approach
3. Understanding how willing members are to share data publicly

- The case for a co-operative data portal

Could a portal be created for business data from co-operatives?

- A local data co-operative?