

Geocortex Essentials makes spatial data usable for everyone in Lambeth London Borough Council

Case Study: Lambeth London Borough Council





Lambeth


“We’re really proud to have released more open spatial data than any other council in the country, and in terms of capabilities, VertiGIS Studio is better than any other public-facing web mapping tools for local authorities committed to opening up, and providing easy access, to their spatial data. 1Spatial has enabled us to deliver an amazing tool to the public, so we are now again ahead of every other council in terms of our mapping tool, as well as for open data.”

- Tom Brown, Spatial Information Manager, Lambeth London Borough Council

 **Industry** Government

 **Customer** Lambeth London Borough Council

 **Challenge** Creating an online spatial data solution that extends the capabilities of its Esri ArcGIS platform to non-technical council users.

 **Solution** Using Geocortex Essentials as a framework for designing, developing, and operating spatial data applications. The VertiGIS Studio technology provides FAIR and Quality data.

Key Benefits:

- Increased the number of people that have access to better spatial data.
- Increased the reuse of spatial data for multiple uses within and outside of the Council.
- Improved the Council’s technical efficiency, by carrying out spatial data management activities faster, to a higher standard and with fewer resources.
- Improved the effective use of spatial data, by enabling a self-serve, automated approach to accessing spatial data.
- Achieved the Council’s open data and other statutory information targets.
- Improved Council efficiencies, saving money without cutting data services.

Verti**GIS** Studio™

Lambeth Council is improving access to better spatial data by using Geocortex Essentials to make data Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable (FAIR) and of the right Quality. The council's 'spatial toolbox' enables employees and the public alike to get access to its datasets for analysis and decision-making purposes, including information published under an open data licence. The council are making better spatial data available to more people using the 'spatial toolbox'.

Challenge

Covering one of the largest geographic areas of any inner London borough, Lambeth is one of the most densely populated places in the country. This generates a wealth of data that needs to be shared internally and externally to ensure efficient and effective delivery of public services.

While location (spatial) is used as the common link for finding, accessing, exchanging, and reusing around 400 datasets, providing the skills and knowledge necessary to use spatial data can be costly and time-consuming. The Council therefore required an online spatial data solution that extended the capabilities of its Esri ArcGIS platform to non-technical council users, as well as people using the council online services and open data.

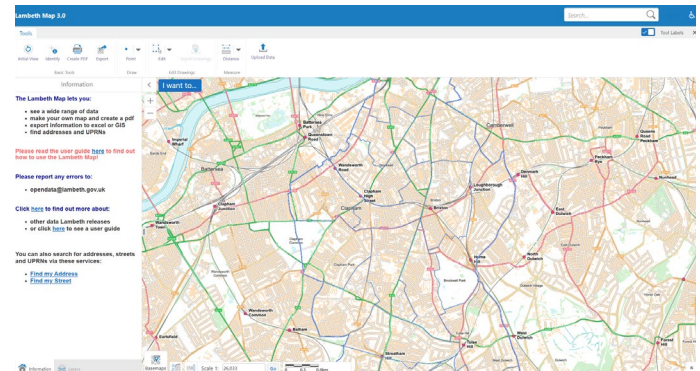
Solution

Used as Lambeth's primary online spatial data solution since 2012, Geocortex Essentials was implemented, and is now sustained, in partnership with 1Spatial. As a framework for designing, developing, and operating spatial data applications, the VertiGIS Studio technology provides FAIR and Quality data – achieving Council efficiencies and effectively extending the value of the Council's Esri ArcGIS platform.

To ensure the quality of the data, processes and workflows are automated and metadata records are maintained by a network of owners to ensure it meets recognised open standards. Specific configurations are carried to the solution out by 1Spatial which provides resilience for the Council by preventing any loss of specialist knowledge due to staff turnover.

The 'spatial toolbox' comprises more than 250 spatial datasets which enable users to find, access, link and download data using a familiar map base which can be shared via a URL. It includes options for viewing historical data, aerial photography and digital surface models with users simply selecting the dataset of interest. Minimal self-training is required as a fully accessible user guide is provided to help navigate through the easy-to-use application.

In addition to the Council-wide tools to which all staff have access, 1Spatial developed automated data workflows to deliver specific sites for individual teams, such as those in Social Care, Children's Services and Emergency Response. The Local Land and Property Gazetteer (LLPG) for searching on specific addresses and linking data using the Unique Property Reference Number (UPRN) is one of the most frequently used functions – indeed, due to its speed, the planning department prefers to use this over its own bespoke database front-end.



Lambeth's public interactive map, making spatial data findable, accessible, interoperable and re-usable using Geocortex Essentials

Public-facing portal for open data

Tom and his team used Geocortex Essentials to deliver a public-facing mapping tool, which has further increased the reuse of spatial data. This process simply required copying the XML file from the internal tool with no migration of software or data required.

The Application Programming Interface (API), which links to data.gov.uk and the London Datastore, shows the Lambeth map and gives users the option to find and access one dataset at a time. Again, a user-friendly guide is provided to help people reuse the data.

To date, more than 150 datasets have been released under an open government licence, including the open data equivalent of the Council's internal planning information. Although it does not go into the same level of mapping detail, it has the same functionality, and provides value for money as it has been built in-house rather than by an external supplier.

Benefits

- Increased the number of people that have access to better spatial data.
- Increased the reuse of spatial data for multiple uses within and outside of the Council.
- Improved the Council's technical efficiency, by carrying out spatial data management activities faster, to a higher standard and with fewer resources.
- Improved the effective use of spatial data, by enabling a self-serve, automated approach to accessing spatial data.
- Achieved the Council's open data and other statutory information targets.
- Improved the reliability and evolution of the Council's Spatial Data Infrastructure, by enabling the Council's spatial data team to focus on project delivery rather than fulfilling specific requests for spatial data.
- Improved spatial data quality and users trust in spatial data provided through automated data management workflows and processes.information.tools rather than continually updating paper maps.

Contact Us

✉ vertigisstudio@1spatial.com

For more information,
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directly

