

## Herts' Public Servants Hands On With Open Data



## A 'Really Useful' Day...

Over 50 public servants from across Hertfordshire gathered in St Albans Council Chamber on Friday, 26 March 2015 to learn about and use Open Data at the local level.



The one-day workshop was run by DCLG and 21c as part of its successful '**Really Useful Day**' format for local government and included expert speakers from Open Data pioneers like Camden and Bassetlaw Councils as well as major data owners like the Ordnance Survey.

## With 'Really Useful' Results...

Designed to be hands-on and interactive, in addition to introductory presentations, the day featured a series of break out sessions in which participants divided into groups to work on a series of key concepts including: 1) What Open Data means to them? 2) Which data sets are the most useful to start opening? 3) What information to include in an ideal data set and, 4) What are the barriers to opening data in their daily work?

To stimulate thinking around Open Data and its potential applications in a local government setting, participants were asked to play with 'data cards' and brainstorm a winning new Open Data-based service for their city. Using 21c's co-design methodology, participants – many of whom had never worked with Open Data before – created a new service concept, including branding and logos, before using Citadel-on-the-Move's quick and easy-to-use app creation tools to upload data sets and create a new mobile app.

Designed to help create a culture of Open Data and its use across Local Government, at the end of the day participants were asked to identify 3 key things that they planned to do with Open Data in their organization when they got back to their desks.

The event was sponsored by Microsoft, Aecom and Silicon Abbey, a community-based association of local digital businesses.