Data Audit Guideline

The purpose of the data audit was to get a rapid overview of what data already exists about parks in Scotland. The intention was to use the results to identify potential data gaps and ensure our project was collecting new data that could provide the most benefit.

To begin, the project team looked to get a broad understanding of what data already exists and is used by Park Managers. To do this, we attended a regular Park Managers Forum meeting; this Forum provides a professional network for park managers, park development officers and other local authority colleagues working in parks and greenspace to share experience and practice.

Utilising this collective knowledge and experience, we asked attendees

* What problems do you experience in your parks?
* What information do you use in your decision making?
* How do you use information?
* When and how would you access the dashboard?
  + Several times a day, once a week?
  + From your mobile phone, using a PC, from work, from home?
* Any existing data systems / sources of information we can integrate?
  + Your park work schedule
  + Planned events for the parks
  + Any existing sensors such as traffic or bike counters
  + Do you have gate turnstiles or paid for entry areas?
  + Do you have a park café?
  + Do you have an existing website for your parks?

The output of this meeting was a list of key data sources identified by the Park Managers. Each of these existing data sources was then searched for online and reviewed using a set criterion: the source, scale, format, frequency and, lastly, what the data shows. The project team held a follow-up meeting with our Council to discuss any internal data that is unavailable online, such as bookings for sport activities.