

The immediate goal of the project would be to work with a few 'trusted' service providers or existing directory owners, such as the Leeds Directory or Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS trust to develop or locate a suitable standard for publishing the service offerings of an organisation in a reliable, unambiguous and machine-readable manner.

Once this standard has been developed to a suitable point a simple aggregator will be built, collating the service offerings of multiple publishers into a single output. Initially, a pilot scheme would involve the groups who were involved in the development of the publishing standard as it is likely that the process will use iterative design to gradually improve on the quality of the standard.

The ultimate outcome of this project will be a single point of entry to discovering services across the entire city, regardless of which body actually makes those services available. The project would then allow gaps in service provision (such as a lack of a type of service in a geographical area) to be identified.

New service providers wishing to publish their service offerings across the city would only need to either make their standards-compliant 'service descriptions' available and inform the central aggregator (as is likely in the case of larger organisations with multiple or complex offerings), or register and maintain their listing with a directory which already follows the standard (such as the Leeds Directory).

Should the service be adopted and developed further it would be both logical and feasible for it to underpin service discovery across various Council and Government properties, including the Council website, allowing additional service discovery through Leeds Directory, adding discovery of additional relevant services to common entry points such as GPs and social workers, and providing data in a clean, easily reusable format to apps. There is also significant scope to making the data available to 3rd parties, either freely or on a commercial basis.