

# [News story: Improving local services with data: apply for contracts](#)



Projects in this competition must look at intelligent data capture and advanced data analysis.

[Durham County Council](#) and [Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council](#) are seeking projects that investigate innovative ways of capturing data to improve their services.

The councils are looking for projects that investigate 2 techniques:

- 'boots on the ground', where residents collect and report data about issues such as potholes and street lighting
- 'eyes on the street', where council vehicles collect and report data as they travel around the streets

Funding for the competition is provided by the [GovTech Catalyst](#), a £20 million fund to help the public sector to make use of innovative technologies and improve public services.

It is being run under the SBRI (Small Business Research Initiative) programme.

## **Projects must use advanced data techniques**

Projects must look at intelligent data capture and advanced data analysis. They must:

- record and report local information accurately and regularly
- significantly reduce service inefficiencies
- integrate with other datasets in the councils
- provide a robust evidence base for policy, service or budget development
- work with the general public
- enable councils to share data appropriately with the public
- be practical and economically viable

The competition has £250,000 to fund a series of short feasibility studies in a first phase. The best ideas could then share £1 million in a second phase to prototype their system.

## Competition information

- the competition opens on 24 September 2018, and the deadline for registration is at midday on 31 October 2018
- any organisation that can demonstrate a route to market for its idea can apply
- we expect phase 1 contracts to be worth up to £50,000 and to last up to 3 months, and phase 2 contracts to be worth up to £500,000 and last up to 12 months
- successful projects will attract 100% funded development contracts
- you can register for briefing events on [8 October 2018 in Durham](#) and on [15 October 2018 in Blaenau Gwent](#) to find out more about the competition and how to make a quality application

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