

# Data for action

*Notes for a Networked City discussion on March 27 2018, led by David Kane and Mike Duggan. [Event page here](#)*

David Kane is a Civil Society Data Officer at the Greater London Authority. My role involves encouraging civil society organisations to make the most out of the data they hold and build relationships between them and the GLA. We believe that by facilitating two way data sharing between civil society and public authorities like the GLA we can improve outcomes for Londoners. We will do this by helping civil society make better use of GLA data and helping civil society organisations responsibly share their data. We believe civil society data can help fill gaps in official statistics, shining a light on marginalised communities, and provide more up-to-date information on the issues affecting Londoners. David talked about:

- How data can help organisations:
  - Getting funding
  - Assessing beneficiary need
  - Designing services
  - Achieving wider impact – influencing policy, use for campaigning
- Some risks of this agenda:
  - Privacy/data protection/GDPR
- GLA's plans for our work on civil society – brief outline of our civil society action plan
  - Emphasise data-related elements
- Other opportunities to feed into the GLA's work:
  - London Plan
  - Smart Cities
  - Social Integration Strategy
  -

Mike Duggan said he would talk about how:

1. Maps and spatial data can be very useful for representing the needs of the public in future planning. The technologies available today allow a 'deep mapping' of social life which can tell us about the rich and complex social dynamics of city life.

2. The power of maps and data for making policy decisions. I could talk about how maps and data are believed to be objective and 'scientific' and therefore offer truths about the world, which is often something exploited by policy making. It is therefore important for a broad public to be involved in producing maps and data for policy making purposes to negate the effects of a powerful few making decisions about city planning. We all have a right to the future of our city etc.

3. Smart cities are great, again for providing useful services for city populations, governing bodies and business, but there is a need to recognise who the smart city initiative is for. Who's data matters? And who reaps the benefits of the smart city? I could say something about the need for a more social and technical plan for the smart city, which could steer us away from the technocratic - technology will solve all our problems - approach that we currently have.