The Liverpool City Region Community Charter on Data and AI

These 11 principles outline the voices of 59 Liverpool City Region residents on how data and AI can work for their community.

The principles do not supersede legal responsibilities. However, they are a request for human integrity and dignity to be the core value for the use of data and AI in the region. They describe how to put trustworthiness into practice. Residents want the Liverpool City Region to lead the way in community-focused data and AI.

Some principles may already be standard operating procedures for organisations. In these cases, the Charter outlines where residents would like to know more about what is already happening.

Data and AI projects fail when they are unclear, untrustworthy, and short-sighted. Follow these principles to help prevent that from happening. Following the Charter will support innovation both in data and AI and in radical transparency on how these technologies are used.

We expect all partners who sign up to the Charter to adhere to these principles.

Principle #1 Beneficial

Beneficial: Use data and AI for the good and benefit of the community and the Liverpool City Region (LCR). Where possible, benefits should reach wider society as well.

What that means...

People and organisations should prioritise public benefit in all data and AI projects. Public good can mean a lot of things, from operational efficiencies to saving lives. Residents especially want to see data and AI used in improving existing services. While projects should focus on the City Region first, residents would like to see other areas benefit from the research and projects developed here.

Principle #2 Security

Security: Ensure that the Five Safes (Safe Data, Projects, People, Settings, and Outputs) and the UK General Data Protection Regulation are being adhered to.

What that means...

It is expected that personal data about residents is kept safe. Projects and organisations should keep personal data secure when stored, transmitted, and processed. The Five Safes should be core principles for personal and identifiable data safety and security. All organisations must already follow the **UK General Data Protection Regulations** for information security.

Principle #3 Accountability

Accountability: Ensure accountability at all levels including a declaration of responsibility for each data and AI project.

What that means...

Design in accountability from the start. It should be clear who should take responsibility when something goes wrong in data and AI development and decision-making. That means defining who is responsible for:

- addressing bias in datasets and algorithms
- correcting and updating algorithms,
- monitoring algorithms that are in use
- training front-line staff on algorithm use, benefits, and limits

Make it clear to service users who should be contacted if someone wants to challenge a decision made by an algorithm.

Principle #4 Transparency

Transparency: Inspire trust between organisations and residents by being honest in how data is collected, used, and implemented in projects.

What that means...

Residents want to be able to know what is happening with their data at scale. Transparency is a key building block to trustworthy practice. It is expected that data and AI projects and how they use data is reported in a publicly accessible register. Descriptions of projects must be written in plain English and understandable to residents.

Principle #5 Inclusivity

Inclusivity: Promote fairness, universal access, and equity in the development of data and AI innovation. Ensure diverse and affected communities are involved and heard throughout the life of the project.

What that means...

Residents want everyone to benefit from data and AI projects. State clearly who data and AI projects are intended to benefit. When relevant, consult and engage that community throughout projects. Ensure data and AI projects do not reinforce existing inequities.

Principle #6 Privacy

Privacy: Protect the dignity, identities and privacy of LCR residents.

What that means...

Privacy, in this case, is about residents' ability to live a life free of the negative impacts of data and AI. There should always be an option to opt out of data sharing and AI use. This also includes keeping sensitive information private. Make sure that data reidentification does not harm communities. Data and AI usage in the LCR should not make community hardships and inequities worse.

Principle #7 Accountability

Legality: Keep up to date on legislation and policy changes on data and AI. Always abide by and adhere to the rule of law.

What that means...

Data and AI law are constantly developing in the UK. Under existing law, data breaches and misuse must be reported within organisations. They must then be escalated to the Information Commissioner's Office where appropriate. All organisations are expected to meet the existing legal requirements for secure and safe data sharing. Examples include UK GPDR, the Common Law Duty of Confidentiality for health, as well as broader legislation like the Equality Act 2010.

Principle #8 Trustworthy

Trustworthy: Communicate on outcomes through a public register of data and AI projects. Flag projects which use AI to raise awareness.

What that means...

It is expected that organisations and projects report back on the outcomes of their data and AI use in a publicly accessible register. This is a key way to demonstrate trustworthy practice as it communicates alignment to the other principles. For residents to trust organisational use of data and AI it must be understandable. That means flagging deployed projects which use AI.

Principle #9 Governance

Governance: Ensure that actions have consequences. Projects and people must recognise that innovation with data and AI has risks. Harms and risks must be appropriately managed throughout the lifecycle of a project.

What that means...

Project descriptions should include sharing information on risks and mitigations. Projects could potentially lose the stamp of the Charter if they do not report on the risks and mitigations of their data use. The three original signing bodies are responsible for publicly reporting on these data and AI projects including risks in the aforementioned public register. They should create processes for overseeing this requirement.

Principle #10 Balanced Innovation

Balanced Innovation: Use Data and AI to drive innovation in the LCR. But counteract negative impacts on the environment and wellbeing of future generations. Where data and AI negatively impact employment make sure this is offset by upskilling and benefits to community. Bureaucracy should not stifle community benefit.

What that means...

Residents want the LCR to lead the way in community-led data innovation. Data silos and bureaucratic process should not prevent this progress. However, innovation should not cause harm. While AI may mean job losses, every effort should be made to retrain and upskill the local workforce. Residents want to see their community and environment protected. Environmental sustainability should be addressed in digital and physical data infrastructure.

Principle #11 Oversight

Oversight: An independent review takes place at minimum every two years on partners' use of the Charter. Changes to the Charter are informed by this review.

What that means...

Data and AI technologies are constantly evolving. It is expected that the Charter evolves with them as a living document. A review of the Charter and signing organisations' use of data and AI is expected at least every two years. Organisations and projects will be kitemarked to the 11 principles. This review must be independent of signing organisations and inclusive of residents to ensure external oversight.