

# Making better use of big data

A new partnership between LSBU and Lambeth Council is helping the Council make better use of big data to target and prioritise investment. The project, led by Dr Daqing Chen, Pathway Leader for LSBU's BSc and HND programmes in Business Intelligence, combines cutting-edge technologies in data mining with business intelligence to draw together data and present it in a flexible, user-friendly format.

Data sources include the Census, employment figures, deprivation indices, healthcare statistics, transport data and figures on crime supplied by the Metropolitan Police. The Council's aim was to create an evidence-based area plan and to give local people an opportunity to have a say in setting spending priorities.

Dr Chen admits it was a challenging brief. 'The datasets were huge and had to be retrieved from many different sources. That meant developing application programming interfaces to retrieve the data we needed.' At its peak, the project involved five staff and students from LSBU and three colleagues from Lambeth Council.



**For Lambeth, this project means access to new datasets in a future-proofed fashion, while LSBU students have had the opportunity to develop their skills for a real-life use."**

**Councillor Jack Hopkins, Cabinet Member for Jobs and Growth.**