



ODP General Meeting

3rd March 2025

Agenda

- Community update
- Product pilot
- Modern planning software exercise
- BOPS route to market research
- Local plans
- Agile training
- Digital planning directory

Community update

The community: now, next, and later

LPAs
co-designing
and
adopting
ODP
products

LPAs
modernising
their planning
service
(including
their data!)

LPAs
working on
expanding
their
Proptech
projects

LPAs who
have finished
funded work
but are still in
the
community

LPAs starting
new
'strategic'
projects

LPAs starting
new projects
with their
existing
suppliers

More LPAs
joining the
community to
modernise
their planning
service

The community: now, next, and later

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More LPAs
joining the
community to
modernise
their planning
service

✓ More great folks to
connect with

✓ More interesting work
to learn from

✓ More learning
together

✓ More shared
problem-solving

LPAs
working on
expanding
their
Proptech
projects

LPAs who
have finished
funded work
but are still in
the
community

LPAs starting
new projects
with their
existing
suppliers

What are we working on now?

- A plan for ODP events this year
- More learning & development opportunities
- Preparing to welcome around 50 new LPAs to the community
- [Plus some more!]

Have you got ideas? Is there something you'd like to learn more about? Would you like to host an event? Something else?

Chat to your community manager 💡

Product pilot

Why are we pilot testing?

- We believe we have delivered a full MVP of end-to-end services for planning applications
- To test this assumption, we want to check that we can process live applications using only ODP Products (also called 'the ODP stack')
- We are also looking to check how ODP products perform in comparison to other products on the market, this is essential for asking for unlocking future funding from MHCLG

Aims of the pilot

- Check that the ODP product stack works and is fit for purpose
- Test the submission and processing of real applications using the ODP product stack (PlanX, BOPS, DPR)
- Measure the performance of the ODP product stack vs existing systems
- Identify and shape priorities for the next phase of product development
- Get feedback on the products and services

ODP Product Pilot – what is being tested?

- LPAs make a PlanX submission service available on their website for applicants to use
- These applications are sent to BOPS where they are validated, processed, consulted on, and a decision issued
- These applications are made available on the Digital Planning Register, where the public can find and comment on pilot applications

ODP Product Pilot – what is being tested?

The spring 2025 pilots are looking to test:

- Householder planning permission
- Lawful development certificates (existing and proposed)
- Householder pre-application advice*

Our goal is to test at least **100 applications** (per council and type), in 3-5 new local authorities.

Who is eligible to take part?

An ideal candidate to take part in the pilots will:

- Have the ['must have' data](#) on the Planning Data Platform
- Be able to rapidly start M&E baseline reporting
- Be able to rapidly onboard to and deploy the products

Bonus points for:

- All data on the Planning Data Platform
- Easy access to procurement, finance, and DM colleagues
- Having resources in place

Help us define
'Modern planning software'

87 **Power to require use of approved planning data software in England**

- (1) Planning data regulations made by the Secretary of State may make provision restricting or preventing a relevant planning authority in England from using or creating, or having any right in relation to, planning data software which—
 - (a) is specified or described in the regulations for the purposes of this subsection, but
 - (b) is not approved in writing by the Secretary of State.
- (2) “Planning data software” means software which is capable of being used for the purposes of enabling or facilitating the provision of planning data to, or the processing of planning data by, relevant planning authorities.

Raf, Ida and I are...

- Examining everything we've written about this
- Exploring other relevant docs such as Tech Code of Practice, Digital Planning Maturity Index, Service Standard
- Talking to you, vendors, policy makers
- Sharing a first draft soon, then exploring how best to use it

<https://www.menti.com/alxt7b7t8i6x>

BOPS route to market research

What are we doing

What

Over the next 6 weeks, we'll be:

- interviewing stakeholders across LPAs
- developing a business model for BOPS
- reviewing technical priorities
- helping to a commercial strategy for ODP products

Why

We want to get ODP products adopted at scale by councils that can benefit from better systems.

Recruitment

Interviews so far

Newcastle
Wealden
West Berkshire

Interviews booked

Boston
Braintree
Buckinghamshire
Camden
City of London
Elmbridge
Gloucester
Kingston and Sutton
Liverpool
Medway
Southwark
Wirral

Councils contacted

Barnet, Birmingham
Brighton & Hove, Bolton
Dacorum, Doncaster
Ealing
Exeter
Gateshead, Great Yarmouth,
Mole Valley
North Lincolnshire
Northumberland
Rother
Salford, South Oxfordshire
Waltham Forest, Wiltshire
Worthing

How you can help

We want to speak to:

- directors of planning and heads of service
- ICT and digital leads
- legal, finance, procurement people

Contact Laura Smith

laura.smith@unboxed.co or in ODP Slack

#bops-route-to-market

Local Plans

Who we spoke to for Policies Maps

Demographics of individuals engaged with through this phase of research. Recruits were contacted via the ODP community, we tried to get a spread of roles, digital maturity, GIS tools and experience with this, and segmentation.

CORE USERS | LPAs - Planners and GIS specialist



7x Sessions (+1 unmoderated)
Total 18x Participants

- 10x Planners
- 7x GIS specialists
- 1x Digital engagement lead

Maldon
Barnet
Cotswolds
West Oxfordshire
Plymouth
East Suffolk
City of London
Southampton
Tower Hamlets
Leeds*

**DIGITAL
PLANNING**



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Who we spoke to for M365

Demographics of individuals engaged with through this phase of research. Recruits were contacted via the ODP community, we tried to get a spread of roles, digital maturity, GIS tools and experience with this, and segmentation.

CORE USERS | LPAs - Planners and IT Teams



11 x Sessions

Over 25 Participants

- 11x Planners
- 8 Representatives from IT

Barnet
Plymouth
City of London
Charnwood
Chesterfield
Cornwall
North Yorkshire
Somerset
Milton Keynes
Central Lincolnshire
Sandwell
Peterborough



What the chief planners newsletter will say

This is a new dedicated home for plan-making resources on [GOV.UK](#). Local planning authorities have told us that they need clearer guidance and more practical tools to speed up plan-making. We have, therefore, launched a new dedicated home for plan-making resources which brings together all the essential tools and guidance councils need to develop a local plan, underpinned by quality data. We will be adding more practical resources to this site over the coming months to help planners at all stages of the plan-making process.

[Create or update a local plan](#)




Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government



LP Opportunity

- ★ The team have been working on reviewing currently publicly available data in its many different variations and validating if this data aligns to the recently published specification
- ★ We're looking for volunteers (with a background in planning) to join an upcoming session to help review the next branch of data which will land on the planning data platform
- ★ **90 minute** online session **in the next two weeks**

Agile Training

In person Agile Training

- ★ Another opportunity to attend our Agile training
- ★ Date: 20th March
- ★ Full day of theory and practical exercises to help understand the concepts of Agile and how it can be beneficial to your LPA and ways of working
- ★ Hosted by our friends at City of London
- ★ Get signed up!



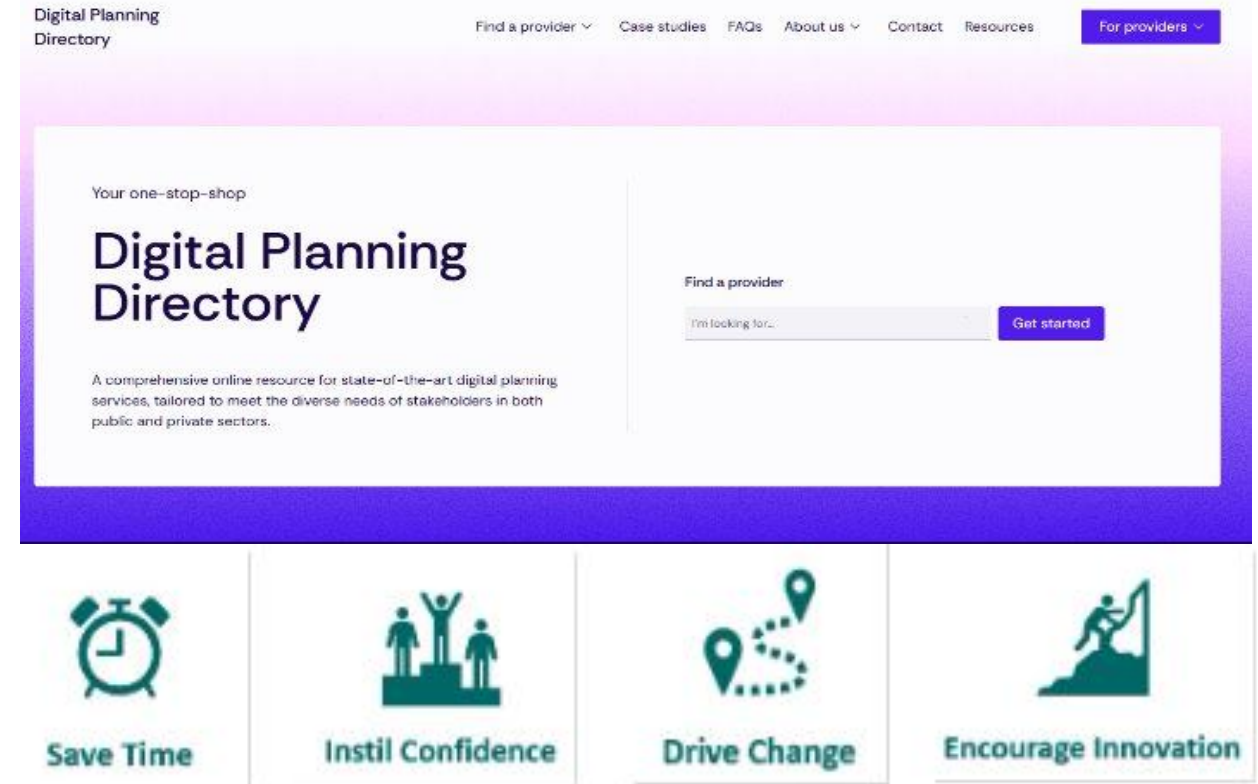
Digital Planning Directory

Digital Planning Directory Launch



What can the directory offer?

- 113 providers listed and counting
- Over 100 case studies including clear ROI
- Free for LPAs to sign up and use
- Evolving to meet user need



A quick summary of the opportunities and where to go

Get involved with...

- **Community events, training and any other ideas:** Speak to your community manager!
- **Product pilot** - Contact Ben Duckworth
- **BOPS Route to Market research** - Contact Laura Smith
- **Local Plans - Planning Portal** - Contact Matt Scarth
- **Agile Training** - Contact Matt Scarth / Andy Moncur

Slack and Notion

The screenshot shows a Slack interface for the 'Open Digital Planning' workspace. The left sidebar contains navigation options: Home, DMs (2), Activity, Later, and More. The main channel is '# digital-planning-improvement-general'. The channel header includes a search bar and tabs for Messages, Canvas, Files, and Bookmarks. The message content includes a welcome message, a meeting reminder for Monday at 1pm, and a link to a guide on data preparation. The right sidebar shows a list of other channels, including #help-data-support, #odp-commercial-spinoff, #digital-planning-improvement-drop-in..., #digital-planning-improvement-month..., #help-issues-odp-products, #odp-product-general, #odp-product-month-notes, #odp-social, and #odp-social.

The screenshot shows a Notion page titled 'Open Digital Planning Hub'. The page content includes a welcome message, a link to a 'Step-by-step guide to get started', and sections for 'ODP resources', 'Ways of working', 'Guidance and training', 'LPA progress dashboards', and 'Connect with us on social media'. The 'ODP resources' section includes links to 'Get to know the community', 'Ways of working', and 'Guidance and training'. The 'Ways of working' section includes links to 'Learn how ODP is structured', 'Learn about the tools we use on ODP', 'See a list of our Slack channels', 'See all meetings and drop ins', 'Access our shared calendar', 'Understand the language used in Open Digital Planning', and 'ODP comms and branding'. The 'Guidance and training' section includes links to 'Get your planning data ready', 'Reporting on your progress and risks: understand the...', 'Monitoring and evaluation: understand the ODP approach', 'Monitoring and evaluation for PlanX and BOPS', and 'Access digital and data training'. The 'LPA progress dashboards' section includes links to 'ODP LPA progress dashboard', 'BOPS LPA progress dashboard', and 'PlanX LPA progress dashboard'. The 'Connect with us on social media' section includes links to 'Subscribe to our YouTube channel' and 'Follow us on X (Twitter)'.

Thank you!