ODP General Meeting

2 September 2024

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Agenda

- New Community Lead(s)
- ODP Product roadmap updates
- Monitoring & Evaluation in ODP
- Local Plans

Classification: Controlled

Our new Community Lead(s)

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Goodbyes and hellos!

- Big welcome to Sarah Norman and Tom Lowndes, who will be sharing the role of Community Lead!
- Sarah and Tom are very familiar with ODP. From this week, they will be taking over all cross-ODP communication, events, and escalation (as well as other responsibilities).
- My last day is Friday 6 September and I'll miss you all 🤗

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Hello from Sarah & Tom 👋

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Product roadmap updates

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What teams have been up to

- Developed a Digital Planning Register
- New components and services for PlanX
- API and journey improvements for BOPS
- Co-designing data standards (ODP schemas)
- Building out all* application types
- We've refreshed our roadmap!

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Our roadmaps

- Open Digital Planning product roadmap
  - Defines our shared product strategy
  - Sets strategic objectives and deliverables for NOW / NEXT / LATER (to December 2025)
  - Shows the application type and service coverage (and status) across the products

The ODP roadmap sits alongside the individual product roadmaps for PlanX, BOPS, and Digital Site Notice / Digital Planning Register.

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What's next for product?

- Tackling: product scope, access to historical data, integrations, and more!
- New services: householder pre-app
- ODP product pilot launch!
- Looking at how more LPAs can join the product space - more info soon

Monitoring & evaluation

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What is monitoring & evaluation and why should I care about it?

- It is how we know digital products and services are making the planning system better
- LPAs collect metrics that provide info on performance and operational progress
- This data gives us evidence that we can all use to justify ODP products
  - LPA Heads of IT, Chief Execs, Ministers, Spending Reviews
- If I'm in a lift with a VIP, I can say "my project is producing time savings for processing planning applications of X% compared to current systems"

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Product monitoring & evaluation

- We support our Product Group of 19 LPAs in a Metrics working group
- We have specific processes for the LPAs to follow on how to gather time recording, applications and invalidations, and other data.
- Our LPAs flag challenges/blockers to collecting data and either we work with them on solutions, or they support each other
- Focus is now on measuring the upcoming end-to-end pilots that will launch this autumn

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BOPS Testing results so far show:

- Our testing has shown a **45% saving** in planning officer resource time taken to **assess a householder application**
- Saving **32.6 minutes per householder application** compared to current market leading software (73 mins down to 41 mins)

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DPIF monitoring & evaluation

- Baseline data is key if you want to explore additional funded opportunities within ODP
- Get your stopwatches out! And/or the time recording functions in your software… the M&E working group have practical tips to share
- If you're thinking about getting involved in PlanX, BoPS, or Site notice – start thinking about your baseline data now!

PropTech monitoring & evaluation

34 / 38 pilots have provided baseline data

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Land Assessment Pilots: Overview

Main processes targeted by the pilots

- Automating site identification in the Call for Sites process
- Automating site plotting GIS tools
- Automating identification and flagging of constraints related to sites (e.g., flood risks)
- Automating assessments related to site allocation process for alignment with Local Plan strategies
- Enable digital renders of sites to help prioritisation of in-person site visits
- Increase in landowners and third parties engaged through the Call for Sites process
- Automation of data extraction from maps submitted during the Call for Sites process
- Streamlining calculation of development potential against site constraints
- Automating suitability, availability, viability, and windfall assessments
- Modelling, scenario testing, and tracking of pipeline sites
- Testing housing and mixed-use site capacities to inform UCAs
- Land assessment decision making for clusters of small sites
- Assessing BNG delivery outcomes and metrics for sites
- Monitoring of BNG objectives over the plan period

Pilot partners

Cadcorp
esri
ARUP
Urban Intelligence
bluesky
cyclomedia
Objective
VU.CITY
go vocal
Formerly CitizenLab
JDi solutions
maptionnaire
31 TEN
Vestega
LANDCLAN
verna
CARDIFF UNIVERSITY
PRIFYSGOL CAERDYDD
CITY SCIENCE
delivering decarbonisation
tensing
WISERD
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Land Assessment Pilots: Numerical Insights

Quantitative time, cost, and sites data from pilots

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Average staff hours → 234

Average hours related to Local Plans tasks → 329

Average cost of tasks → £ 55,648

Average number of sites assessed each year → 126

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Land Assessment Pilots: Other Insights

Qualitative or other outcomes pilots are measuring

- Types of applicants proposing sites
- Number of sites suggested
- Number of sites on brownfield land registers
- Digital skills of LPA staff
- Planning team capacity
- Awareness of innovative digital tools related to planning
- Consistency and transparency of processes related to site assessment
- Accuracy of capacity assessments
- Optimisation of pipeline strategy
- Response rate of Neighbourhood Priority Statements
- Public confidence in site identification strategy, including for brownfield sites
- Officer experience of using GIS tools
- Standardised usage of data sources for sites assessment across authorities
- Standard analysis of data for site assessments across authorities
- Integration of site assessment framework objectives and Land Availability Assessment data

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DCE Pilots: Overview

Main processes targeted by the pilots

- Processing consultation responses
- Analysing consultation responses and producing key issues summaries
- Preparing evidence reports on consultation materials
- Creating content for online consultations
- Conducting in-person consultations with 3D tooling
- Reach of community engagement activities
- Presentation / reporting of consultation responses to elected member, officers, and the public
- Identification and notification of consultees
- Designing engagement and publicity material for consultations
- Dealing with community queries regarding consultations

Pilot partners

VU.CITY

Urban Intelligence

DIGITALURBAN.PLACE

Northumbria University NEWCASTLE

konveio

UNIVERSITY of BRADFORD

UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL

Lancaster University

the future fox

ArcGIS Online

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DCE Pilots: Insights

Average staff hours → 466

Average hours related to Local Plans tasks → 116

Average cost of tasks → £ 73,328

Average number of consultation attendees → 539

Over 60's → Overrepresented by a factor of 2 in consultations

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Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government

Local Plans Survey Draft Summary

September 2024

Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government

Introduction

Overview and Methodology

As part of our mission to make the local plan process quicker, easier and more accessible, over the last couple of months we created and launched a survey aimed at planners, planning officers and chief planners.

Overall, the survey will help establish a baseline against which the impact of any improvement measures can be assessed in the future.

Specifically, this survey will help us:

- Understand approximately how much time and money is spent across different stages of the local plan making process.
- Understand the key reasons for delays in completing different stages of the process.
- Identify additional opportunities for time and cost efficiencies across the local plan making process.
- Complement information that we have gathered to date on local plans, and provide the most up-to-date and complete metrics specific to local plans.

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How our work supports all three cohorts — PropTech, DPI and Product?

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Overview and Methodology

Breaking Local Plan Development into Stages

Local Plan Development – Stages

Stage 1: Initial Plan Preparation and Plan Overview	Project Planning and Procurement, Recruitment, Early Engagement with Residents and Statutory Consultees, Local Development Scheme (LDS), Initial Policy Development, Sustainability Appraisal
Stage 2: Evidence Gathering	Including Housing, Economy and Business, Natural Environment and Biodiversity, Climate Change, Flooding/Coastal Change, Historic Environment, Health and Wellbeing , Viability, Transport, Infrastructure etc.
Stage 3: Drafting the Plan	Writing the plan, Collating and updating evidence base, Responding to internal feedback, Reg 18 Consultation (collate, review, analyse, consider representations), Issues and Options, Preferred Options, Policies / Proposals Map, Informal Engagement, Reg 19 Consultation
Stage 4: Submission to PINS	Reg 22/24 – Submission Documents
Stage 5: Examination in Public	Initial Examination, Allocating Participants to Hearing, Additional Written Material, Hearing Sessions
Stage 6: Plan Adoption	Reg 25: Additional Modifications / Main Modifications and Consultation, Reg 26: Plan Adoption, Possible S113 Challenges
Stage 7: Post-plan Adoption	Plan Monitoring

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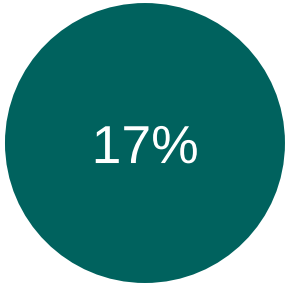
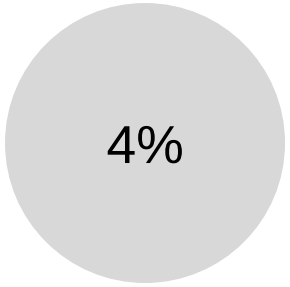
Survey Respondents: Profiles

What is your job title or role within your organisation?

Chief Planner/ Planning Officer / Planner



- Strategic Planning Manager
- Digital Planning Team Lead
- Engagement specialist
- Principle Research and Monitoring Officer



GIS Planner/ Specialist

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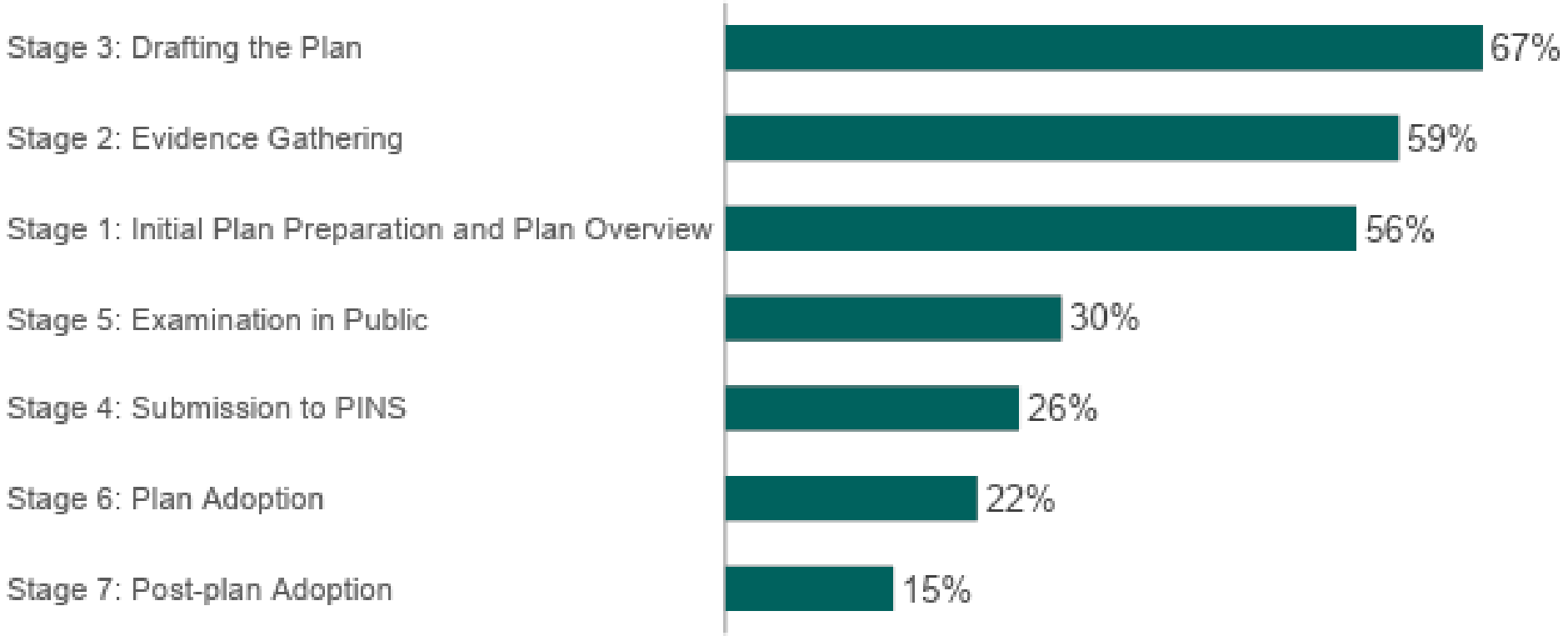
Survey Respondents: Profiles

Which stage(s) of the local plan-making process are you currently involved in or have been involved in over the last three years? Please choose all that apply.



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Executive Summary – Time and Cost Estimates

	Time (% of total respondents*)	Confidence Level	Costs (% of total respondents)	Confidence Level
Stage 1: Initial Plan Preparation and Plan Overview	**7-9 months (33%)**	Medium	< £100k (43%) £100-250k (36%)	Medium-High
Stage 2: Evidence Gathering	**12-18 months (31%)** > 18 months (25%) 10-12 months (38%)	Medium	£250-400k (33%) £100-250k (33%)	Medium
Stage 3: Drafting the Plan	**> 18 months (50%)** 12-18 months (22%)	Medium-High	< £100k (33%)	Low-Medium
Stage 4: Submission to PINS	**4-6 months (57%)** 1-3 months (29%)	Medium-High	< £100k (57%) £100-250k (14%)	Medium
Stage 5: Examination in Public	**10-15 months (50%)** 7-9 months (25%) > 24 months (25%)	Medium	£100-250k (57%)	Medium-High
Stage 6: Plan Adoption	**10-12 months (50%)**	Medium-High	< £100k (67%)	Medium-High

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Executive Summary – Opportunities for Time Savings

Stages based on the potential they offer for saving time? (Rank 1 = Stage with the most potential and 7 with the least).

1. Stage 2: Evidence Gathering
2. Stage 3: Drafting the Plan
3. Stage 1: Initial Plan Preparation
4. Stage 5: Examination in Public
5. Stage 4: Submission to PINS
6. Stage 6: Plan Adoption
7. Stage 7: Post-plan Adoption/Monitoring

Key Thematic areas for Time Saving Opportunities in Local Plan Development

Templates, data standards and digital consultation and mapping platforms	A reduced amount of evidence and clear templates
Clearer National Policy; Joint Regional or National Evidence Base	Greater clarity on how to formulate evidence
National guidance on evidence base, standards and fixed list of evidence base	Timely responses by statutory consultees, understanding of proportionate evidence
Digital consultation and use of technology e.g. AI for processing and collating representations	Standardising site assessment/selection process with digital
Consistent playing field for all authorities	Negating the need for site surveys through more detailed standard datasets
Increased in-house expertise	Central Government's list of consultants

Newcastle Open Day!

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Newcastle Open Day

- Sign up to attend now!
- Agenda includes: plenty of networking, hearing about some cool ODP successes from all our different funds, lots of opportunities to volunteer and suggest topics for working sessions
- Look out on slack for the form to volunteer

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Thank you!

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