



ODP General Meeting

7th October 2024

Agenda

- A round up from Newcastle
- The ODP approach to collaborative groups
- Joint work with HMLR's Local Land Charges programme
- Local plans update

A round up from Newcastle

Newcastle Open Day



Newcastle Open Day - MHCLG update

- First part of a 'mini-Spending Review' complete ahead of Autumn Statement, but no news yet; Full Spending Review will be next March
- We're still meeting Directors and Ministers; budgets and next steps for funding are unconfirmed
- We aim to open up ODP to more LPAs very soon. New website is coming!
- We're looking at how to work more closely with other public sector bodies and private companies
- We plan to do more with Senior Stakeholders in LPAs and may be in touch with you about this soon

Newcastle Open Day - next steps

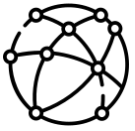
- Keep those conversations going!
- Keep sharing your challenges, your progress, it helps us all
- Think about hosting our next event!

The ODP approach to collaborative groups

Our Interventions

1. Co-design alternative software with local government
2. Establish a community for scaling change: Open Digital Planning
3. Support capability development and change management in local authorities
4. Work with the whole market
5. Take legal powers and create public digital infrastructure

Community Benefits



Create a shared context to connect planning individuals



Capture and share existing (implicit) knowledge



Help people organise around purposeful actions



Stimulate learning and generate new knowledge

Community builds trust - members recognise that people are in the same situation as they are.



Familiarity and trust leads to more open and honest conversations and willingness to share

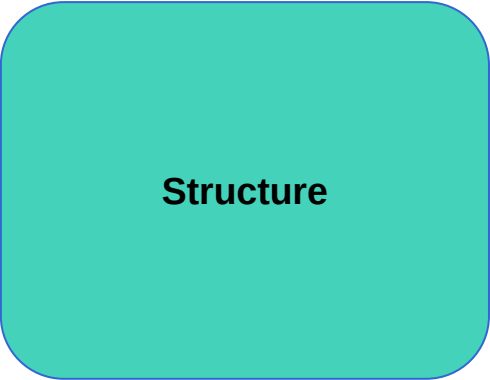
Takeaway

→ Build cross-sector partnerships
and spaces of belonging

Supporting the collaboration already happening

- ODP open days
- Daily conversations on Slack
- Existing formal/informal groups
- ...Despite all the asks on LPAs' time

Helping ODP organise



Structure

Collaborative Groups

ODP whole community

A wider group that contains everyone in the ODP community, whether they are in a more focused group or not. This group enables connections, updates and the potential for groups to form.

Guidance and recommendations

Membership

Membership includes everyone that is in the whole community and sometimes potential members.

Members are expected to take part in some of the events and align with the ODP values.

Purpose and duration

The purpose is to allow for opportunities for people to connect, knowledge and experience sharing, celebrating achievements and sharing updates from other groups and ODP.

Cadence and activities

Activities include quarterly face to face events of the whole community, online meetups every month, regularly newsletters and online chat tools.

Leadership and facilitation

The group is co-led by ODP in partnership with community members.

ODP (Special) interest group

People seeking to advance a specific area of knowledge or emerging area of interest with no set outcome. The group continues until it transforms into another type of group.

Guidance and recommendations

Membership

An interest group can be started by anyone and has anywhere from 3 to 50 members. Some will be more active than others, with an expectation of participation from everyone.

Members could include LPAs, ODP and other interested groups, based on the topic.

Purpose and duration

Interest groups exist to create the space for people to meet and chat about topics that interest them, with no pressure to create an output or outcome.

As the group develops it will likely transform into another type of group and outcomes and expectations should be revisited at that point.

Cadence and activities

The group should decide its own cadence, but a good guide is every one to three months, or more regularly if the group agrees.

Activities include online chat, occasional face to face meetings between the whole or a subset of the group, asking questions and sharing knowledge and experience.

Leadership and facilitation

The group is led and facilitated by the person or people who initiate it and expected to align with the ODP values.

ODP Working / Action group

A group of experts working together to achieve specified goals for a set period of time, which could include investigating a problem or creating a specific output or outcome.

Guidance and recommendations

Membership

An action group has **5-10 active and committed members**, with a wider occasional group of up to 20 people.

Members could include LPAs, ODP and delivery partners.

Purpose and duration

Action groups have clear and understood delivery outcomes that have been agreed on and regularly reviewed by the group.

The group will disband or transform when it has achieved them.

Cadence and activities

Members commit to meeting together **every two weeks**, with activities between meetings.

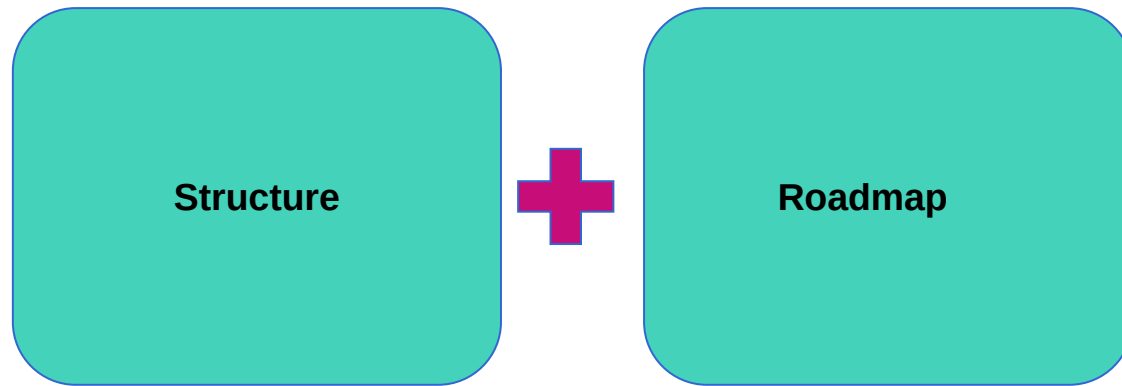
Activities include working sessions, discussions and anything needed to explore an area and make recommendations or create outputs.

They have more open sessions with occasional members every month and **communicate** to a peripheral and wider audience every month.

Leadership and facilitation

The group is co-led by ODP and active members. Responsibilities should be agreed between the members.

Helping ODP organise



Roadmap

Now

Listed
Buildings

TPOs

Metrics

Next?

Strategic

Practical

ODP Alumni

Non-funded
LPAs

Specific

Social

Helping ODP organise

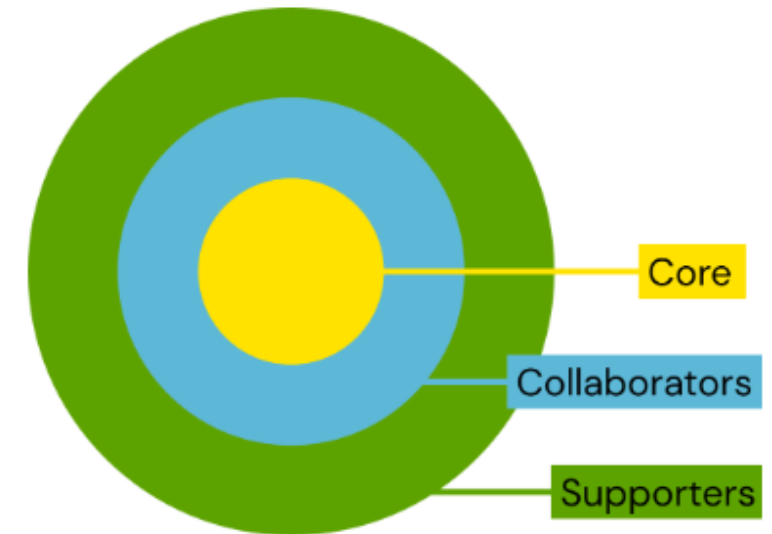


Creating our Team Onions

The Team Onion is a three-layer team model. The layers are core, collaborators and supporters.

Each of the onion rings represents a different type of team member; each has different attributes of purpose, time commitment, collaboration, communication and feedback frequency, covered in the table below.

Each ring also has a guide size against it, loosely based on [Dunbar's Number](#); this helps keep teams [as small as possible](#) and reduce cognitive load.





The Team Onion

An overview

Core

Purpose

A multi-disciplinary delivery team, working towards a common goal to deliver against a need.

Time commitment

Full time.

Collaboration, communication and feedback

Daily.

Collaborators

Purpose

Bring in specialist information, provide assurance, make decisions, reduce dependencies and blockers.

Time commitment

Varying by collaborator, this may change over time as the needs of the delivery change.

Collaboration, communication and feedback

Regularly to collaborate, build trust and enable the right conversations.

Supporters

Purpose

Provide alignment with organisational goals and other parts of the organisation.

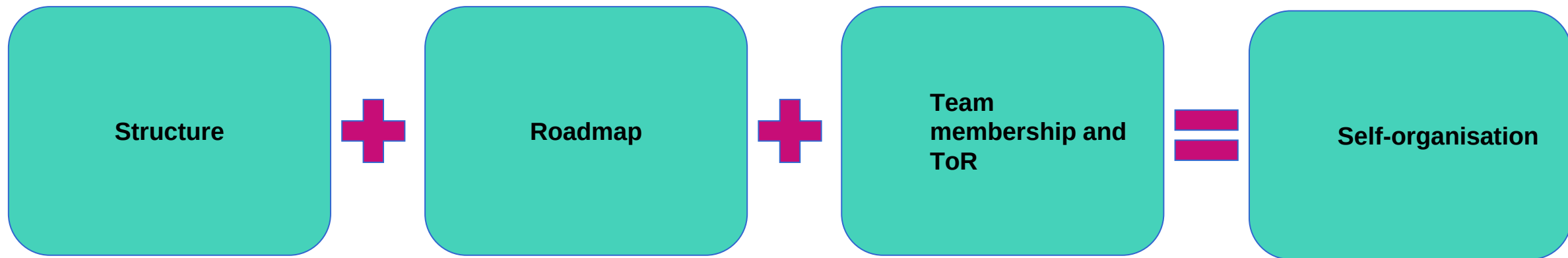
Time commitment

Attending alignment meetings, demos and show and tells.

Collaboration, communication and feedback

Every fortnight as needed, supported with asynchronous updates.

Helping ODP organise



Question

- **What topics or themes should we form collaborating groups around to deliver change for the better?**
- **What would turn you into an engaged user or a leader of a collaborative group?**

Speak to Ben Duckworth_MHCLG (Slack) or ben.duckworth@communities.gov.uk or let your community manager know

Joint work with HMLRs Local Land Charges programme

Joint work with HMLR's Local Land Charges programme

- The digital planning and Local Land Charges programme currently request lots of the same information from LPAs, but with different specifications.
- The two programmes have been working together to understand where we can align our specifications and *reduce duplicative working for LPAs*.
- We want to work with a small group of LPAs to test this approach and understand what needs to be done to roll out on a wider scale.

We would love for you to be involved! Initial events to explain this work in more detail are taking place in November and sign-up links can be found in the ODP newsletter

Local plans update

Big thank you so far!

We wanted to say a huge thanks to everyone so far who has taken part in research activities.



Site Assessment



Standards for
digital policy maps



Representations
Processing



Representations
for examinations

67

Individuals
engaged with

30

Local Planning
Authorities

10

Research
methods



**please note these pins are for visualisation purposes and may not be geographically accurate*

Participating in the MHCLG research sessions enabled me to **provide my team and I's views on how we can improve local plan processes**. The researchers were curious about specific details of our local plan processing, including how our representation spreadsheet was set up and why we may need unlimited colours while developing policies maps. Participating in multiple research sessions on different topics ensured that I was able to **communicate to MHCLG holistically how to support and improve local plan processes**. The researchers created an open environment for me to be able share my honest feedback and opinions. **I look forward to seeing how feedback is implemented to improve the processes and guidance for our next local plan.**

- Michelle Rowland, Planning Policy Officer, City of London Corporation

It's been a **real pleasure taking part in** these research sessions. I've felt a genuine desire from all those involved to understand how we as planning professionals **function day to day**; how various **policies, processes and technology impacts our work**; and how changes to each of these may **impact us**. However, the most satisfying thing for me is that I've been able to **highlight the problems to the people who have the power to fix them** and give them my opinion about what **should be done** and **how processes could be improved** both with and without technology. Ultimately, this is all about **planners having a voice in the future of planning** and helping to steer the ongoing planning reforms to ensure we deliver a strong, effective and inclusive planning system.

- Strategic Planning Manager, Southampton

An ask from Local Plans

The Local Plans team are going to be conducting user research during October and November - and would love for you to get involved!

Work has been prioritised to set up the foundations for the local planning system. **This will be an opportunity for you to be part of shaping the guidance in the new system.** We will be looking at the **early stages of the new plan making system** (including but not limited to **Notice to commence** and **Gateway 1**).

If you are **interested in taking part**, [please register your interest](#) or scan the **QR code** (the link will be shared in the chat and follow up comms after the session). *Any issues please contact your community manager, or Debbie Searle (debbie.searle@tpximpact.com).*



An ask from Local Plans

If you receive a lot of **representations via email**, we are currently testing some guidance for a **power app in the Microsoft Suite** which can **save you time** processing these!

We're looking for a **few volunteers to help us test the tool**, to be eligible you would need to:

- Have a **Microsoft 365 licence** within your organisation
- Be available between **8 & 17 October for a 60 minute session**
- Have **support from an IT colleague** during the session to approve the installation

If this sounds like something you'd be interested in participating in, **shout out in the chat or drop us an email at chris.sutherland@tpximpact.com & rae.bradley@tpximpact.com**

Thank you!
