



ODP General Meeting

4th August 2025

What's the purpose of this meeting?

- **When is it?** Monthly, first Monday of the month
- **Who is it?** Everyone involved in Open Digital Planning (over **150** LPAs, delivery partners and the MHCLG team)
- **What is it for?** It's our opportunity to give updates, share opportunities, showcase some of the work happening in the community, and (sometimes) bring in speakers from elsewhere that are relevant to the work we do
- **Is it recorded?** No, but we do add the slides to the ODP hub

Agenda

- Community update
 - ODP events and ODP Camp 2025
 - Monthly reporting on Delta
- Opportunities
 - Learning & Development
 - DPIF, closed and open again!
 - User research opportunities
 - GIS survey

Community update

ODP Events update

ODP Summer event – 16th July

- Thank you to our wonderful hosts – Gloucester City Council
- Thank you to our fantastic line up of speakers and facilitators: Joann, Jenna, Phil, Karen, Jon, Silvia, Jo, Matt, Emily & Josh
- Some of the highlights included:
 - Gloucester's pre-application fee research 🧐 💰
 - Doncaster's 960% increase in engagement in FOIIYNPP service
 - South Staffordshire's story of winning over very reluctant colleagues and IT team!
 - Afternoon workshops on: ODP product adoption, citizen engagement, current challenges faced in LPAs, and how might we be working in 2035?



ODP Camp

- The biggest event of the year!
- 16th October 2025
- The Corn Exchange - Northgate, The Precinct, Rochester, Kent, ME1 1LS.
- 09.30 arrival, 10am start, 4pm finish
- Information guide coming soon from Stacy 🚀

ODP Camp Medway

Thursday 16th October 2025



ODP Camp – 16th October

- Registration is OPEN
- We are looking for volunteers to speak, showcase your work, host kiosks, and suggestions for agenda items
- Agenda will include:
 - Updates from MHCLG
 - Showcases: short slots to hear about interesting work from across the community
 - Networking opportunities – lots of time to meet each other, discuss shared challenges and learning
 - 'Kiosks' like a careers fair! Drop in and chat/find out more
- We know lots of you have asked for more detail to help encourage others to attend, we will share more as we have it!



Save the date!

- 🍁 16th October: ODP Camp 2025 (Medway)
- ❄️ ODP Winter event... We are looking for a venue/host! Somewhere with good winter accessibility – late November, December or January. Get in touch with Sarah if you think you have a space
- 🌸 26th March: ODP Spring Event (Keswick)

💡 As ever, let us know what you will find valuable from our events! Volunteer to host, get involved, sign up – the more you will get from being part of the community

Monthly reporting on Delta

Monthly reporting on Delta

- We are now Live with our new reporting system via Delta
- The first report in Delta was Due 31st July (Last working day of the month)
- For anyone who's yet to sign up to Delta please follow the instructions shared by your community manager as soon as possible
- Reports automatically move to the next month at the end of the month, if you still need to submit for **July** please let your community manager know
- The MS form used previously is now closed and can no longer be used for submissions.

Opportunities

Learning and Development

Learning and development

Coming up soon

- Agile Training – We're working on a rearranged date
- Get your services found and used: 19th August 1-4.30 [online]
- GIS – out for procurement with PAS
- To sign up: see slack

Digital Planning Improvement fund

Digital Planning Improvement fund

In June we launched Round 4 of DPIF

- Round 4 will be split into two cohorts – aiming for 60 LPAs in total for 2025/2026
- We have received our first batch of applications for Round 4.1 which closed on 29 July
- 29 applications received – seeing a good spread of councils from across England

Digital Planning Improvement fund

Next steps

- Assessing applications during August
- Aiming to inform successful LPAs and onboard them in September
- DPIF Cohort 4.2 window is now open, the application closing date is **30 October 2025 at 12:00 pm**
- Please see our page for further information [Digital Planning Improvement Fund 2025/2026 | Local Digital](#)

BOPS survey

BOPS pre-application and PPAs

We'd really value input from colleagues across different councils. Your insights will help shape the future of BOPS!

<https://forms.gle/boy3nh1iJs3MCedk9>

BETA This is a new service – your feedback will help us to improve it.

[Home](#) › [Application](#) › [Review pre-application](#) › [Preview before submitting](#)

Pre-application report

This report gives clear guidance on your proposal, helping you understand what to expect when submitting your formal planning application.

2 Desandans Road, Green Village, BU2 3RH

Pre-application number: **23-00527-PRE**

Case officer: **John Smith**

Date of report: **[DD/MM/YYYY]**

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Pre-application outcome

This section summarises the planning officer's assessment of your proposal. This is not a formal decision.

Outcome

Likely to be supported with changes

Your proposal is generally acceptable, provided you address the recommended changes in this report.

Officer contact details

Case officer: Stephen Barnes

Planning Email: planning@lambeth.gov.uk

Your pre-application details

This section summarises your proposal and key dates in the pre-application process.

Event	Date
Date made valid	3 January 2025
Site visit	5 January 2025
Meeting	6 January 2025

Description of your proposal

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Note: The case officer has updated the description to accurately reflect the proposed development.

GIS survey – Mick Dunn

Do You Have the GIS Resources You Need?



Take the 5-question poll

GIS in Local Planning Authorities: Summary of Straw Poll Results

Respondent Count: 13

Q1: How important is GIS in planning?

Option	Description	Count	Percentage
A	Critical – Essential to planning	13	100%
B	Useful – Valuable but not essential	0	0%
C	Not relevant	0	0%

 **Insight:** Unanimous agreement that GIS is **critical** to planning.

Q2: Who manages GIS in your authority?

Option	Description	Count	Percentage
A	Planning Department	3	23%
B	IT Department	5	38%
C	Corporate Policy	0	0%
D	Another Team	1	8%
E	No one is currently managing it	4	31%

 **Insight:** GIS management is highly fragmented. IT leads in most, but **31%** say there is **no clear ownership**.

Q3: How would you rate overall GIS support at your LPA?

Option	Description	Count	Percentage
A	Sufficient – Meets planning needs	5	38%
B	Inadequate – Falls short	7	54%
C	Non-existent	1	8%

 **Insight:** **Over half** of respondents say GIS support is **inadequate**, even when teams exist.

Q4: What's the nature of GIS support for planning?

Option	Description	Count	Percentage
A	Permanent – Dedicated support	7	54%
B	Temporary/ad hoc support	5	38%
C	Non-existent	1	8%

 **Insight:** While **54%** have permanent support, much of it is **non-specialised** or **stretched**, with 38% relying on **ad hoc** help.

Q5: Would you find it valuable to address GIS challenges through the ODP?

Option	Description	Count	Percentage
A	Critical – Must be a priority	13	100%
B	Nice to have	0	0%
C	Not required	0	0%

 **Insight:** Unanimous agreement that ODP should treat GIS challenges as a **priority issue**.

Just 5 minutes  Your Community Needs You! 



Unlocking the Power of Place: GIS and Geospatial as a System, Not Just a Tool

When we hear "GIS," it's easy to think of it as just software for producing data, paper or digital maps, or producing a few colourful layers.

But this is a narrow view. In truth, **GIS is not merely an application. It is part of a much broader geospatial system:** a powerful network of people, processes, data, standards, and technologies working together to understand, manage, and shape the places where we live and work.

It is a **foundational capability**, integrating data across departments, connecting service, supporting strategic decision-making, and helping local authorities see their communities not just as spreadsheets or databases, but as living, evolving environments. It's about location intelligence. **Turning the “where” into the “why,” the “what next,” and the “what if.”**

Don't think GIS Software! Think **Geographical Information System**

Extract survey

Next General Meeting is 8th
September – one week later
than usual

Thank you!