



ODP General Meeting

8th September 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
 - Refresher – who's here and what is happening in ODP
 - ODP events and ODP Camp 2025
 - Collaboration prototype
- Introducing the strategic projects
- Opportunities
 - Geovation challenge and Proptech Partnerships
 - Research intro

Community update

Refresher – who's here and what's happening in ODP

Digital Planning Fund Cohort 4.1

- Blackpool Council
Braintree District Council
Brighton & Hove City Council
Chelmsford Council
County of Herefordshire District Council
Dartford Borough Council
Derby City Council
Fenland District Council
Gedling Borough Council
Harlow Borough Council
Kings Lynn & West Norfolk Borough
Kingston Upon Thames Council
London Borough of Bexley
- London Borough of Brent
London Borough of Hackney
Malvern Hills District Council
North Devon District Council
Nottingham City Council
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
Swale Brough Council
Westmorland & Furness Council
Wiltshire Council
Worcester City Council
Wychavon District Council

The ODP Community – over 150 LPAs!



Some ODP achievements

- Viable products built in local gov – PlanX, BOPS, DPR
- 71 of 119 LPAs (60%) sharing at least one dataset
- 114 Proptech Pilots – now growing and scaling
- Regular events for networking and collaboration, learning and development and working groups
- Meaningful collaboration: to co-design the products, improve data guidance and services, to generate systems change
- Successes beyond all this in planning teams across the country – awards to both individuals and teams related to their work in ODP

ODP Events update

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
 - Unconference time: choose your own session
 - Welcoming new LPAs to 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

Collaboration prototype

Guidance we have created on how to Collaborate with other LPAs

- We have created guidance to help you make the most of opportunities in ODP to connect and collaborate with other LPAs.
- The guidance offers simple models and practical tips for collaborating, based on how LPAs are already successfully working together.
- We have created this as a prototype, tested it with some LPAs and would now love for you to take a look, try it out and let us know what you think!
- [Collaborating with other LPAs | Open Digital Planning](#)

Introducing the strategic projects

City of London

Nikki Webber

ODP Strategic Project Digital Local Plan

Nikki Webber
Digital Planning Team Lead
City of London Corporation



A Digital Local Plan...



Why we need one?



What is it?



How do we
make one?

Questions to Explore

- How do we work with the data standards being developed by MHCLG?
- How do we fit into existing processes and changing processes?

Planning and housing data in England

[About](#) [Organisations](#) [Datasets](#) [Search](#) [Map](#) [API](#) [Design data](#) [Provide data](#)

BETA This is a new service – to help us improve it, [sign up to take part in research](#)

[< Back](#)

Provide planning and housing data for England

[Guidance for data providers](#)

[Prepare your data](#)

[Publish data on your website](#)

[The Open Digital Planning community](#)

[Get help](#)

Local plan data

Last updated: 3 April 2025

There are 4 datasets you must provide for local plan data:

- Local plan dataset
- Local plan boundary dataset
- Local plan document dataset
- Local plan timetable dataset

Format

You can provide data in one of these formats:

- CSV
- GeoJSON
- GML
- Geopackage

Questions to Explore

Is it about the document itself, how it's published and how to interact with it?

OR

Is it about the process, and how you capture information at different stages?

OR

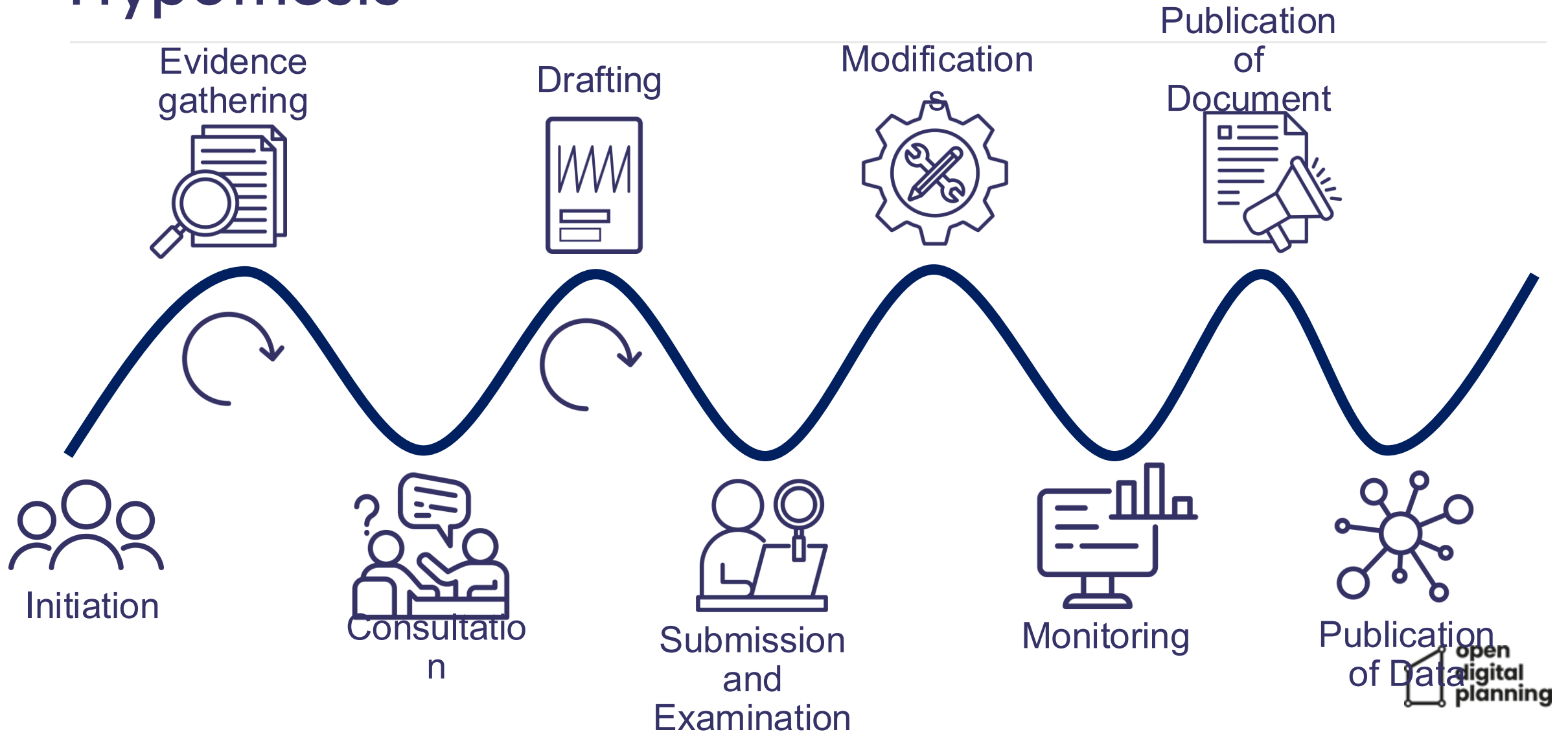
Is it both?

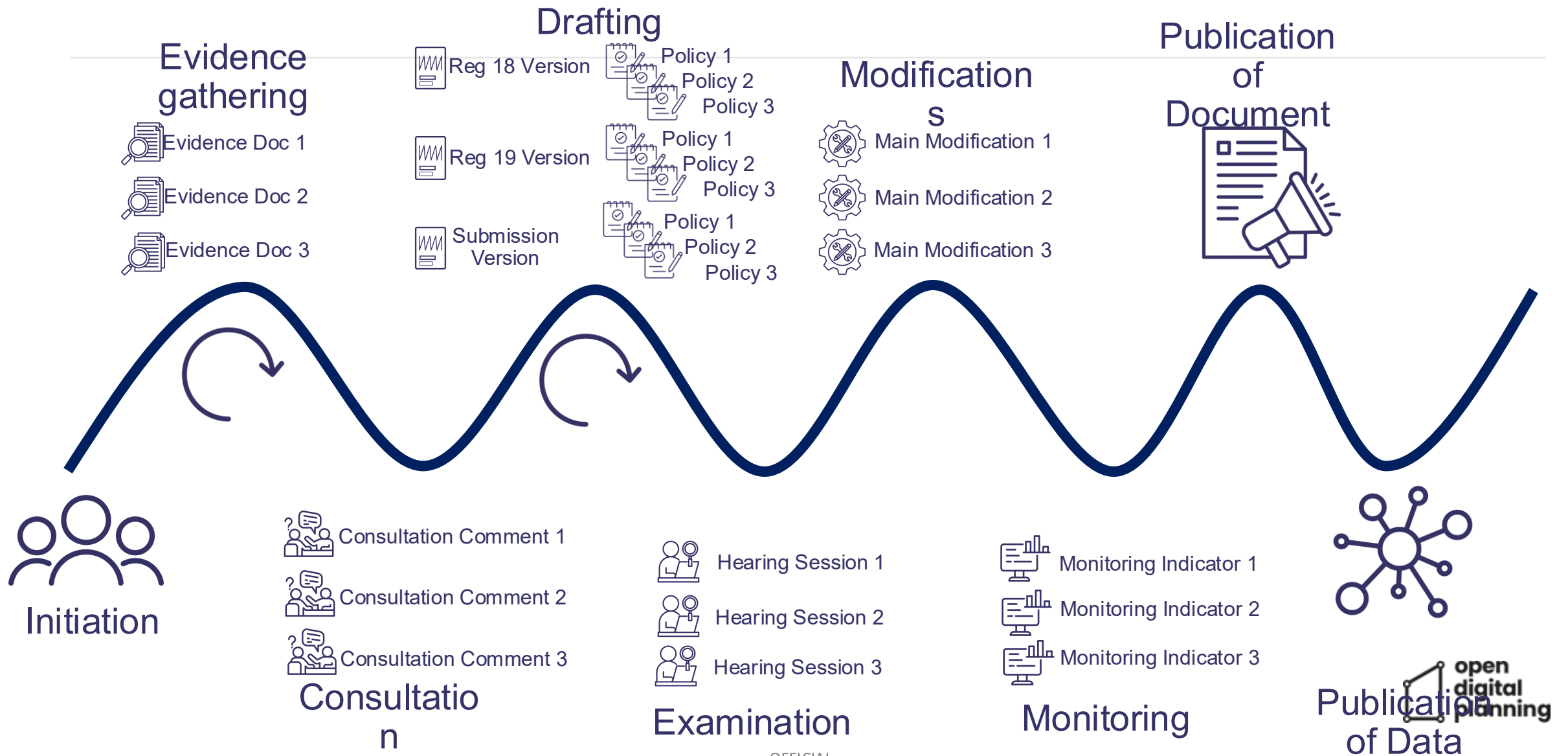


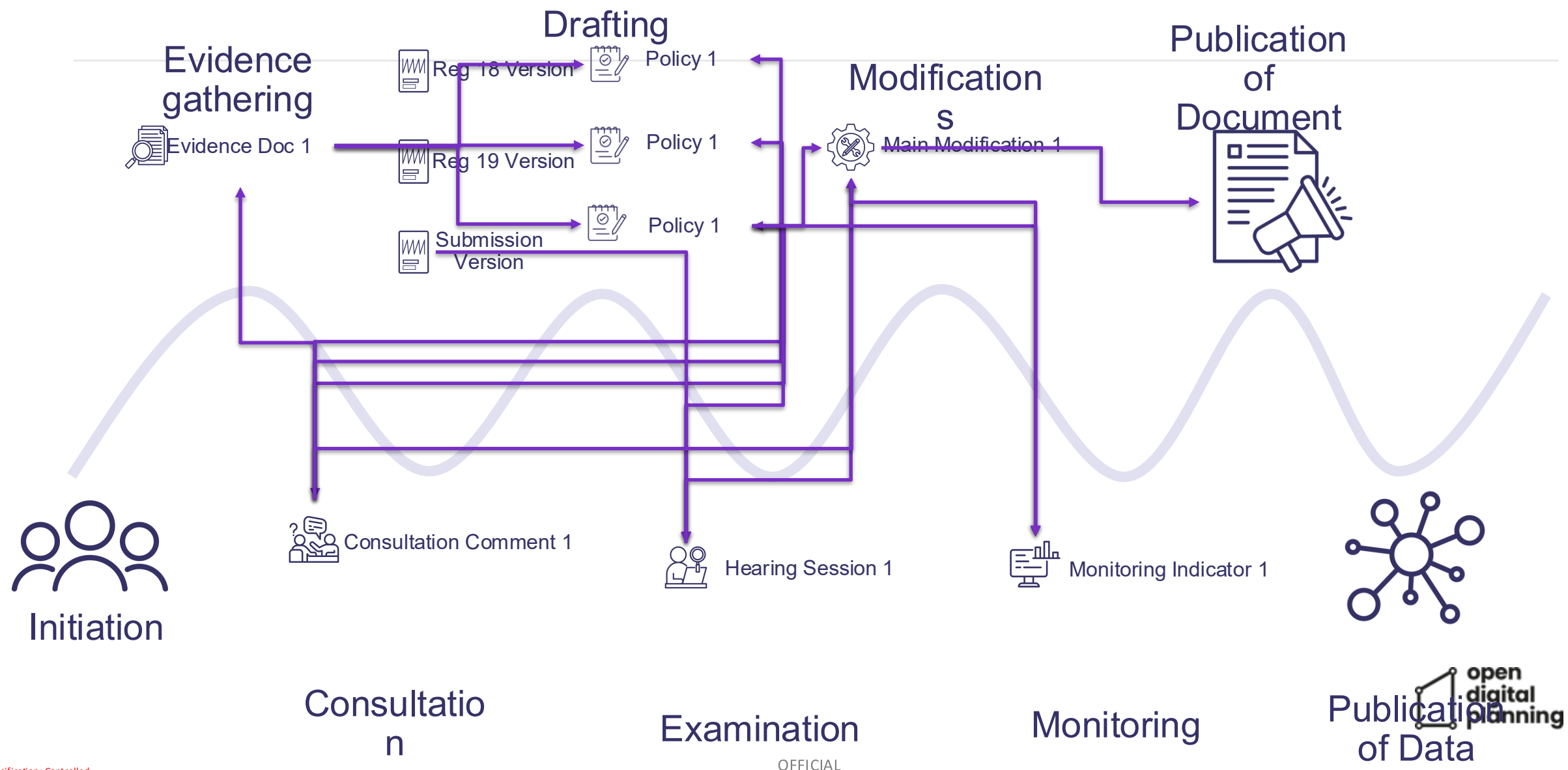
Hypothesis

Information you capture during the process might change how to can display/interact with the end “product”...

Hypothesis







THIS Policy in **THIS** Document (covering **THIS** location?) was informed by **THIS** Evidence, **THESE** Consultation Comments, **THESE** Discussions in the Hearing Sessions, and **THESE** Modifications.

THIS Policy also relates to **THESE** Monitoring Indicators, informed by **THIS** Evidence.

Who we'll be working with



An External Delivery
Partner

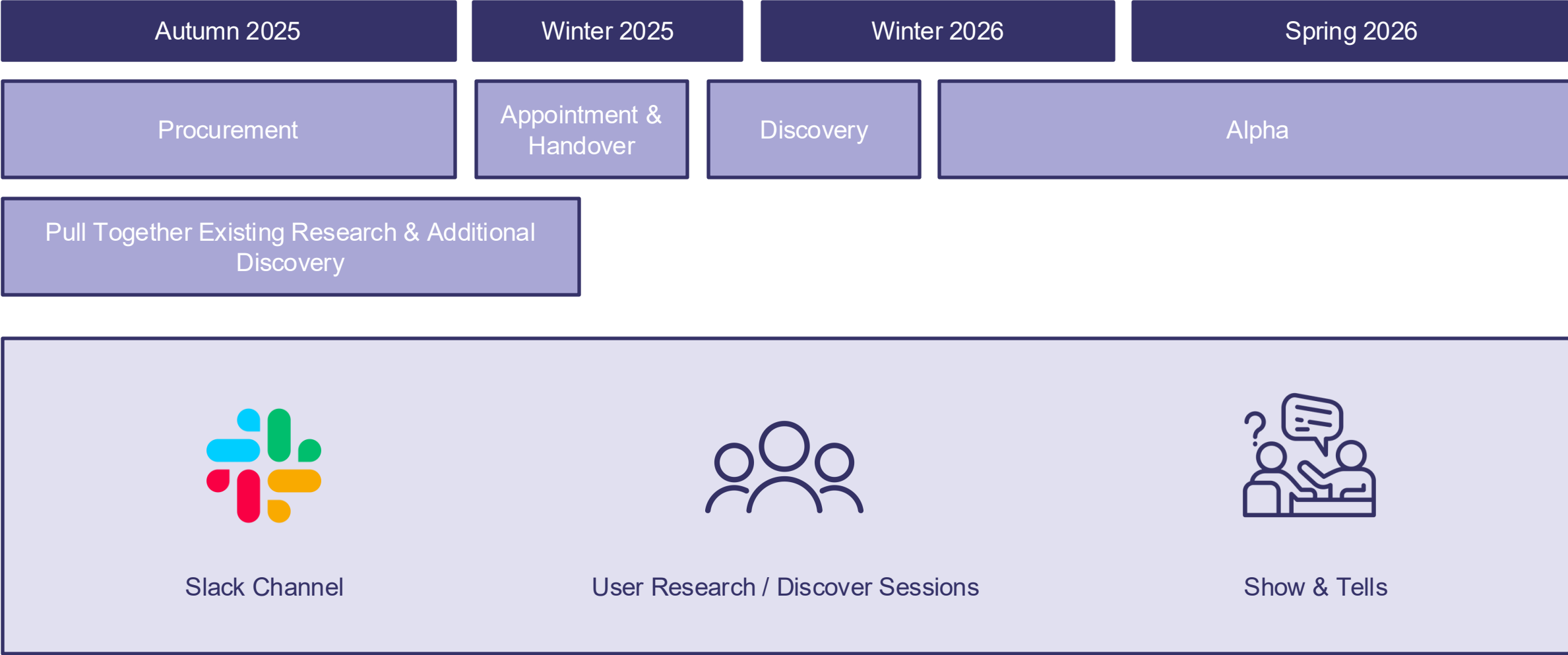


Other LPAs



External
Stakeholders

Timeline



Any questions, or if you'd like to be involved or keep up to date with the project, please reach out.

Slack

Email:

nicola.webber@cityoflondon.gov.uk



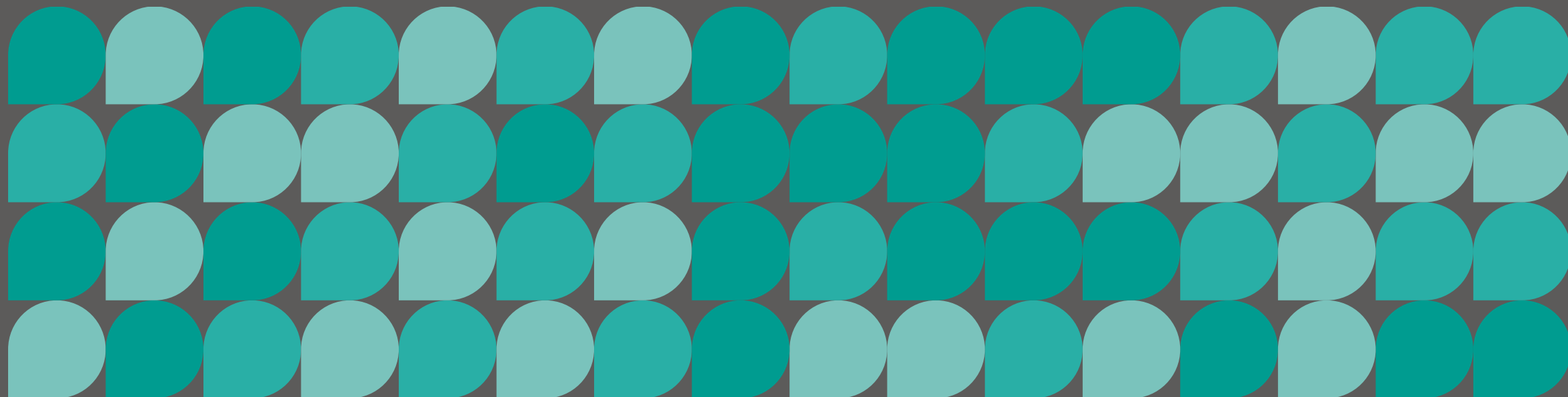
Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) & Greater London Authority (GLA)

Emma Poolan (GMCA)

GMCA/ GLA Digital Planning Project Update

Emma Poolan – Research Programme Manager – Digital Planning

September 2025





Emma Poolan

Research Programme Manager, Digital
Planning

Lucy Woodbine

Senior Principal, Research – Planning and Housing

Aislinn O'Toole

Analyst, Planning and Housing

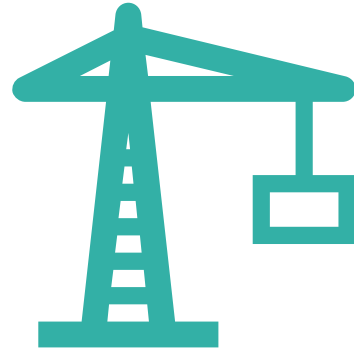


Simon Long

Interim Head of Data and Digital for
Planning and Place

Peter Kemp
Paternity Leave

Project Overview



1. A collaboration between the GMCA and the GLA to deliver a discovery on how to monitor, visualise and report planning data in the built environment.
2. Building on experience from the Planning London Data Hub to explore whether similar principles can work outside of London
3. Delivering a project through establishing a collaborative working relationship with multiple tiers of local authorities in both cities, planning back office system providers and the built environment technology sector.

Building on experience from Planning London Data Hub, testing applicability beyond London

Delivering a MHCLG
funded discovery
project through
collaborative
working

GMCA

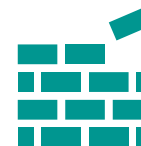
GLA



Local Authorities



Planning Portal and Back
Office Providers



Build a connector for a
database



Strategic GM Project – Early
adopters



Risk without co-ordination

Early Adopters

- Salford
- Dorset
- Redbridge
- Leeds
- Hounslow

Rochdale

Oldham

Tameside

Stockport

Manchester

Trafford

Salford

Bury

Bolton

Wigan

Benefits

**Ability to
understand
planning status in
real time**

**Understanding of
pipeline of
permissions**

**Supports QA for
land supply
returns and
potential FOIs**

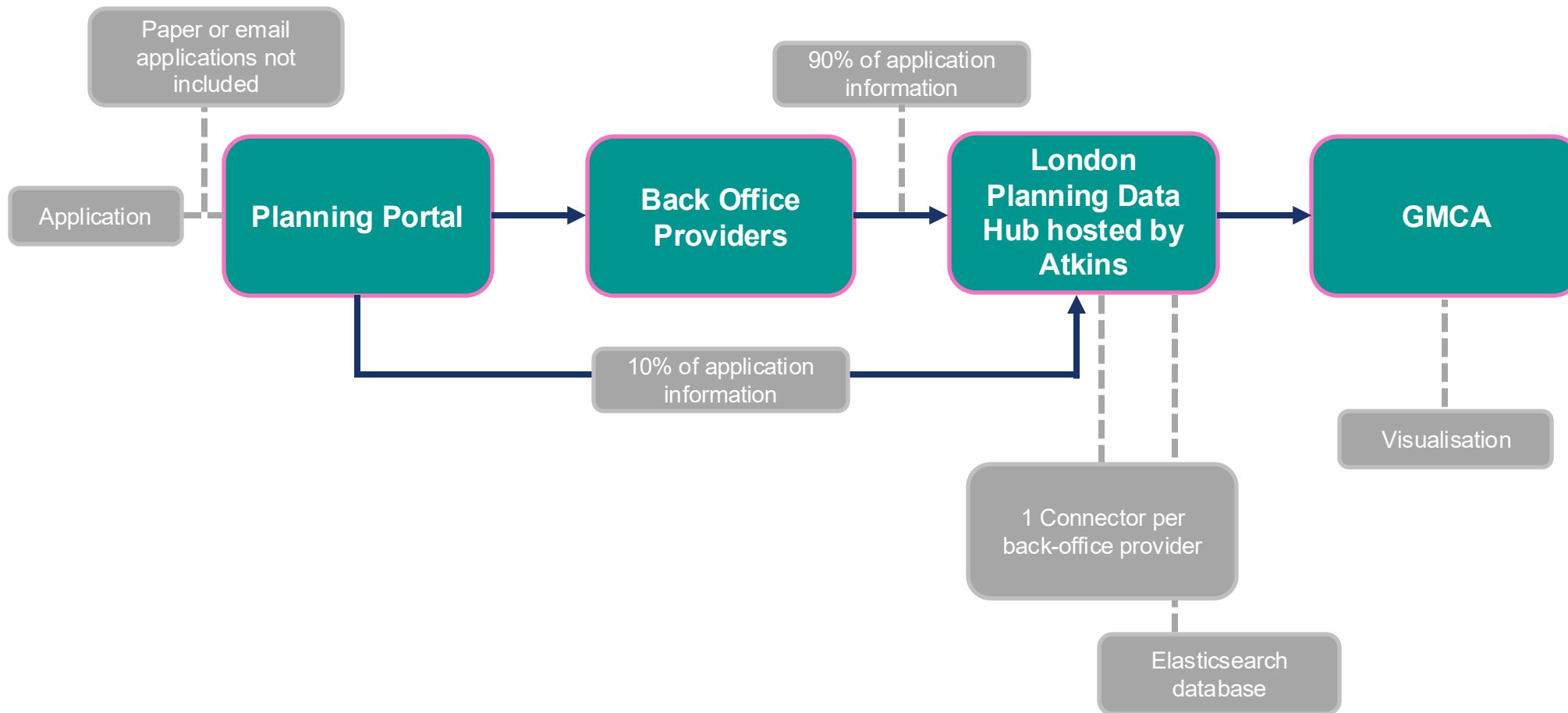
**Theoretical
understanding of
completions**

**Reduces GMCA
ask of LAs on site
status**

**Enables useful
cross boarder
analysis
(applicants across
multiple areas)**

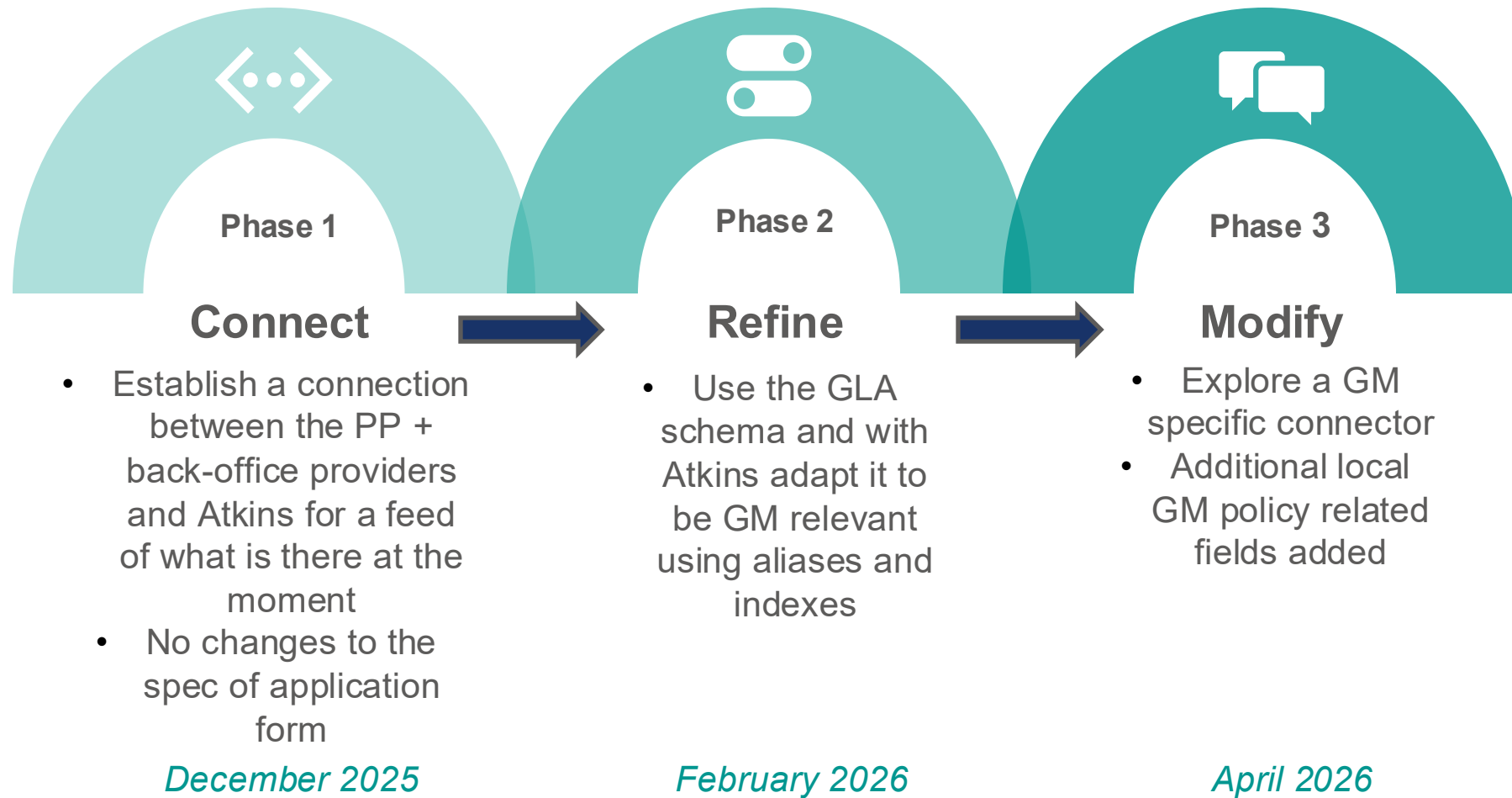
**Improving
community
engagement**

Data flow



Our approach

Stage One – a feed of planning data to a central database to understand the scale of applications and the details within them at different stages



Early findings



GM Engagement

We've engaged with **4 out of 10 GM local authorities** so far.

By **end of September**, we expect to have spoken to **all 10**.

In GM, there are **2 Back Office Planning systems** currently in place – IDOX and Arcus. We're also engaging with both BOP providers and the **Planning Portal**



Emerging Insights

Shift in Submissions

Despite the digital nature of this project several LAs report a rise in applications submitted via email rather than the Planning Portal. This is largely attributed to increased portal fees.

Variation in BOP usage

Some authorities use BOPs as a full service with dashboards, while others opt out of additional packages due to:

- Resource constraints
- Cost and maintenance concern



Downtime of BOPS has emerged as a concern across multiple authorities

London Borough of Lambeth

Clare Taylor & Daleel Hagy

Building Control - Improving the System

Alpha Presentation
08 September 2025



Lambeth



Luton



Bath & North East
Somerset Council
Improving People's Lives



Lichfield
district council

Tamworth
Borough Council





Lambeth



Ealing
www.ealing.gov.uk



Tamworth
Borough Council



**CITY
OF
LONDON**



South
Staffordshire
Council



Bath & North East
Somerset Council
Improving People's Lives



Nuneaton
& Bedworth
United to Achieve



Bracknell
Forest
Council



North Warwickshire
Borough Council



South
Derbyshire
District Council



Luton



Lichfield
district council



Nitesh Pankhania
AD of BC
LB Lambeth



Catherine Neal
Head of Infrastructure,
Operations & Innovation
LB Lambeth



Tim Gillooly
Assistant District
Surveyor
City of London



Gordon Roy
City of London



Kieran O'Neill
Technical Support Mgr
Bath and North East
Somerset



Alan Chambers
Bracknell Forest



Stephen Barnes
Principal Digital Planner
LB Lambeth



Daleel Hagy
Systems & Data Lead
LB Lambeth



Clare Taylor
Planning & Development
Delivery Manager
LB Lambeth



Steve Rizzo
LB Ealing



Meera Dheeksheets
Systems &
Integrations Analyst
LB Lambeth



Karen Amos
Service Manager - BC
Luton



David Darlington
BC & Land Charges
Partnership Manager
Central Building
Control



Arun
Butler-Kowlessar
Project Delivery
LB Lambeth

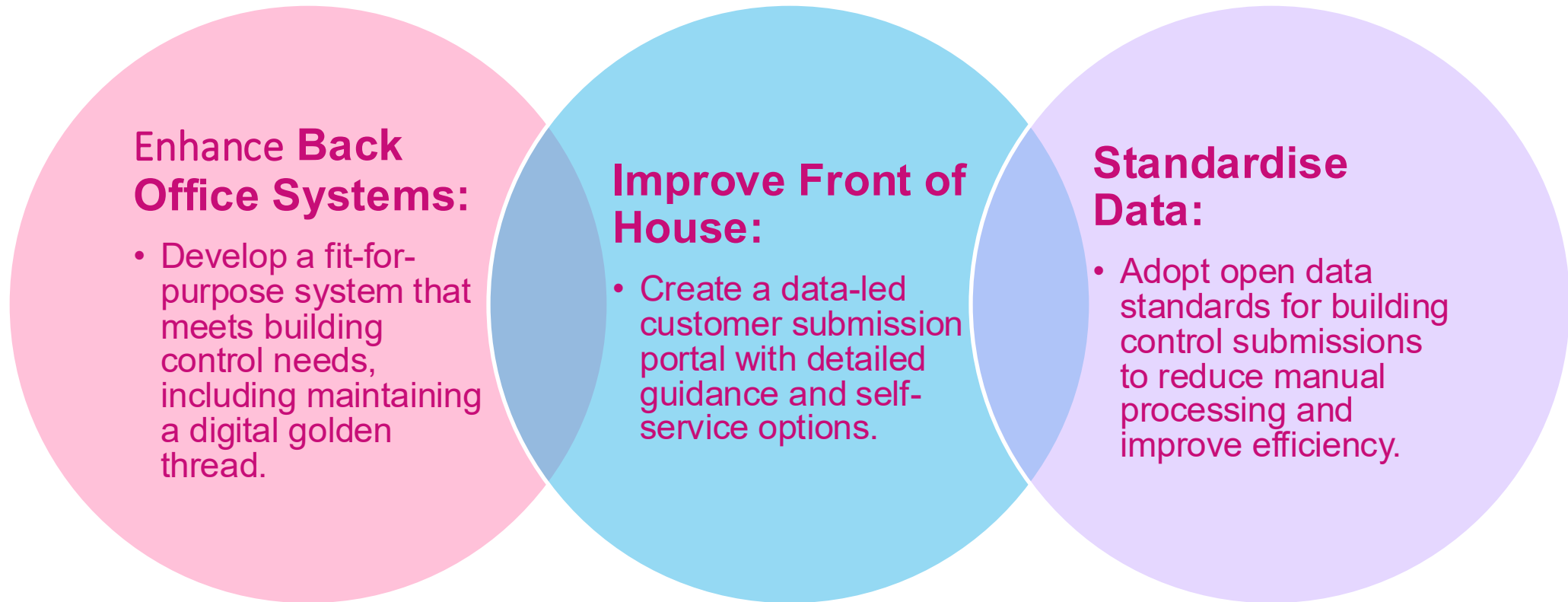


The Team

Why we're doing this

- Building Control (BC) services play a vital role in public safety but face challenges due to their unique position - delivering statutory functions alongside competing with the private sector.
- However, BC is often overshadowed by other Place services and lacks consistency across councils. Our [Discovery](#) highlighted fragmented processes, inconsistent form requirements, and inefficiencies in managing applications.
- To address this, we propose a focused, three-pronged approach:
 - Develop national data standards





Discovery Recommendations

Next steps

Test and Learn

- Proceed with twin-track development of customer-facing and key back-office patterns and prototypes.

Stakeholder Engagement

- Secure buy-in from senior stakeholders at local and national levels.

User research

- Develop a strategy and approach to UR across the project.

Data standards

- Continue to develop these for areas like less complex areas such as Initial Notices and Competent Persons Records - which are often manual processes

Metrics Collection

- Gather detailed data on time spent on manual tasks and satisfaction levels to build a robust business case.

What we've done

- Mapped initial notice forms and establishing data standards.
- Survey sent to partners to understand systems in use and how automated their processes are
- Reviewed pain points to prioritise and define the alpha outcomes
- Lambeth comms and new Lambeth project page - [Better, fairer Lambeth](#)
- Picking up our blog - [Digital Building Control – Medium](#)
- Held a kick-off workshop with our partners on 8th July

4. What forms do you use for applications?

5. How do you process Competent Persons notifications?
(i.e. how are these applications loaded into your Back Office System)

6. How do you process Approved Inspector Initial Notices?
(i.e. how are these applications loaded into your Back Office System)

7. How do you process Reversion Notice applications?
(i.e. how are these applications loaded into your Back Office System)



Reviewing pain points

What This Us:

01	Transparency & Communication are r pain points for customers.
02	Manual Processes & System Integration issues for officers.
*	High Alpha Potential Areas:
*	Online progress tracking
*	Inspection note management
*	Application status visibility
*	Reducing manual data entry



Planning & Engaging

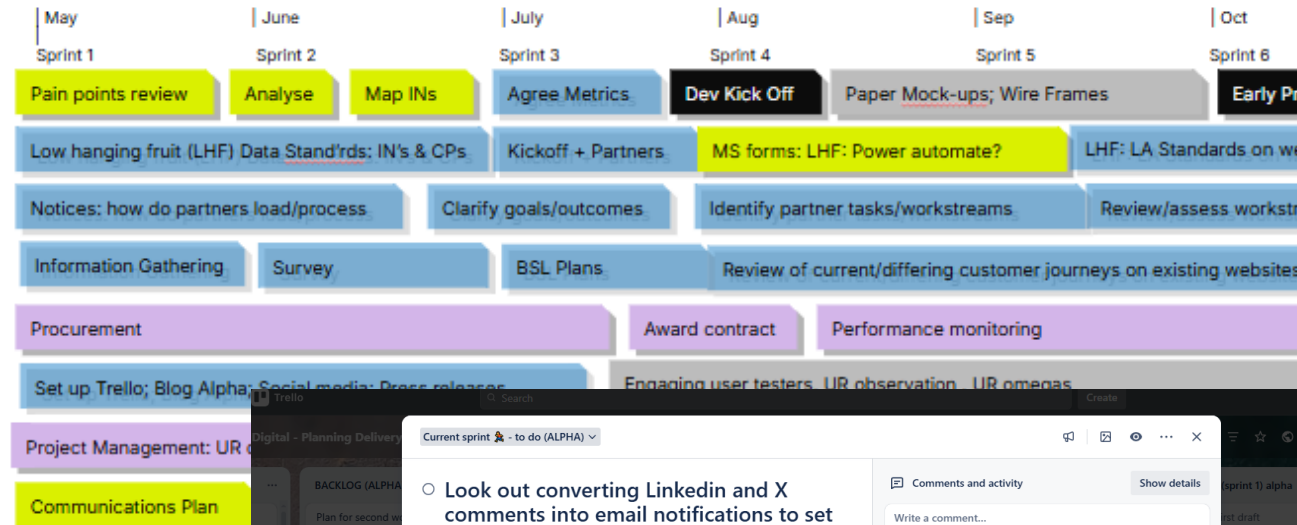
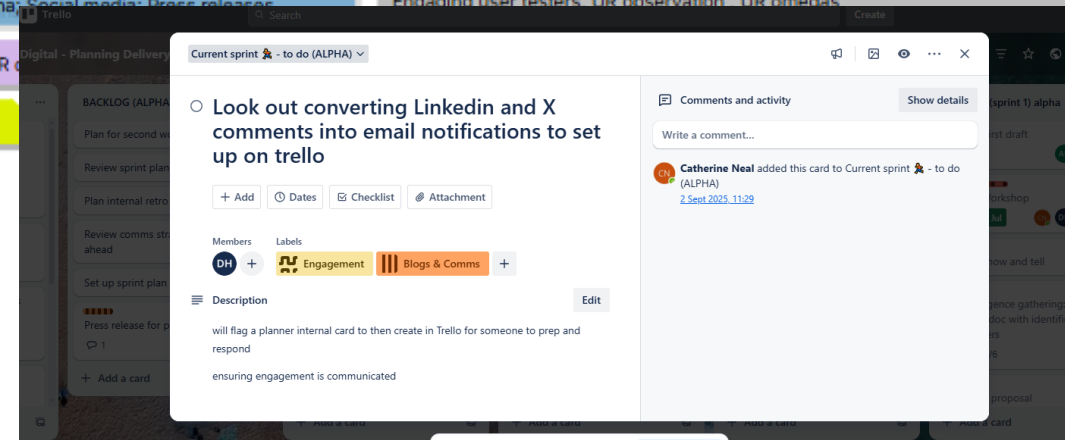
We've also developed an indicative roadmap for Alpha and are keeping track of our progress and actions with the delivery [Trello board](#) for the project

We've already had some interesting and thought-provoking engagement from Building Control professionals on our LinkedIn site and are looking at ways to automate those discussions so that we can collate and capture them for our research, as well as share out amongst our Expert BC team to provide responses and discussions points

Alpha Roadmap

An outline plan for key activities for Alpha. This is likely to change in response to findings and feedback from users and stakeholders.
Kick off delayed to July – so activities likely to extend to January 2026 for final report / prototypes

- Lambeth team
- All Partner workstreams
- R&D team
- R&D + All Partners
- Product Owner/Project Management



Improving Local Authority Building Control Alpha



 Funded by
UK Government

In collaboration with



Stay in touch...

Twitter: [@hellodigitalBC](https://twitter.com/hellodigitalBC)

LinkedIn: [Digital Building Control](https://www.linkedin.com/company/digital-building-control/)

Medium: [@digitalbuildingcontrol](https://medium.com/@digitalbuildingcontrol)

Email: digitalbuildingcontrol@lambeth.gov.uk

Trello: [BC Digital - Planning Delivery Board | Trello](https://trello.com/join/BC-Digital-Planning-Delivery-Board)

Project page: [Improving Local Authority Building Control Services | Local Digital](https://www.lambeth.gov.uk/improving-local-authority-building-control-services)

Find out more

- The strategic projects will be hosting more detailed Show & Tells in the coming weeks
- Look out on slack for the times and teams links to join

Opportunities

Geovation Challenge and other Proptech Strategic Partnerships

Geovation Challenge – Get involved!

- We have now selected 12 brilliant PropTech companies to respond to the problem statements
- They have LPA partners but want more to work with
- Your chance to test and influence products
- Drop me message here or after the meeting if you are interested!

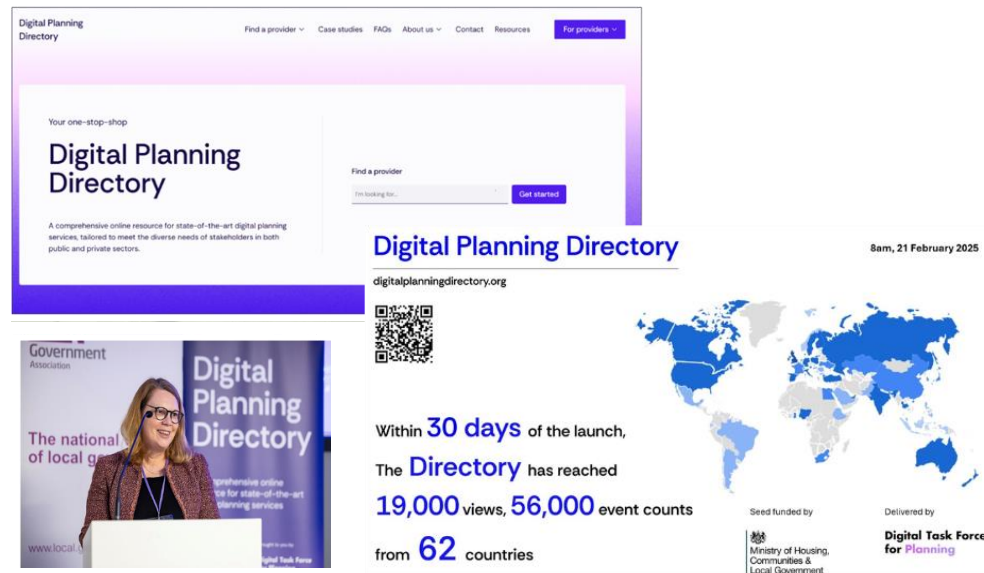
Problem Statements		
<div>1</div> <p>How might we transform currently siloed and proprietary land ownership data into an open and interoperable resource that accelerates the conversion of potential development sites into tangible housing projects?</p> <p>► Context</p> <p>► Metrics</p>	<div>2</div> <p>How might we increase the attractiveness of small sites for SME developers and other new market entrants through streamlining the processes involved in small site development?</p> <p>► Context</p> <p>► Metrics</p>	<div>3</div> <p>How might we de-risk housing projects and unlock a surge in developer activity by giving developers and local planning authorities absolute certainty and radical transparency regarding existing and future infrastructure capacity?</p> <p>► Context</p> <p>► Metrics</p>

Geovation Challenge – Embargoed winners

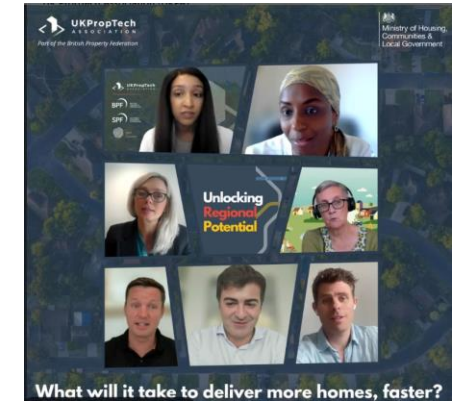
Company	Business
1st Planner Ltd	Looking to unlock surplus land within the UK's school estates
Advanced Infrastructure Technology Limited	Advanced planning tool integrating energy data for local net-zero strategies
Alchera Technologies	Transforms how transport assessments for housing developments are conducted
City Science – Delivering decarbonisation	Transparency & certainty about existing / planned infrastructure capacity
Coplug	Accelerating housing delivery & achieving sustainable growth demands
LANDCLAN	Generate policy compliant site layouts & exportable 3D models
Neuron	Assess whether existing utility infrastructure can support proposed housing
PlanningHub	Fast, clear, & accurate planning feasibility reports for small housing sites
RCKa Limited	AI and digital mapping techniques to identify small sites
Renkap & Blocktype	Digital solution for site risk identification and early-stage design feasibility
Tabled Technologies Limited	AI Legal Assistant to planning data, law and regulation
Xylo AI LTD	AI platform platform that takes 47-day pre-application waits into 5-day certainty

Other PropTech Strategic Partnership

❖ Digital Taskforce for Planning



❖ UK PropTech Association (UKPA)



User Research – Value of ODP Community

Research Objectives

- Identify tangible and intangible benefits LPAs derive from being part of the ODP community.
- Identify blockers to realising this value.
- Understand the drawbacks and barriers experienced by LPAs in engaging with the community and ODP products.
- Highlight opportunities to improve the ODP community experience.

Thank you!