



ODP General Meeting

6th October 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
- ODP Comms
- Digital Planning Directory
- Opportunities
 - Learning and development update
 - User research

Community update

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 and food/pub details are on slack from Stacy

ODP Camp Medway

Thursday 16th October 2025



ODP Camp – 16th October

- Registration is now closed!
- If you are speaking, hosting a stall, or running a breakout session, you should have been contacted.
- 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
 - 'Stalls' like a careers fair! Drop in and chat/find out more



Save the date!

- 🍁 16th October: ODP Camp 2025 (Medway)
- ❄️ **TBC** - 11th December ODP Winter event – (London Borough of Lambeth)
- 🌸 26th March: ODP Spring Event (Keswick - LDNPA)

💡 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

ODP Comms

Where your stories live

ODP website and ODP hub



Open Digital Planning
<https://opendigitalplanning.org>

Open Digital Planning: Home

Open Digital Planning. **A community of forward-thinking Local I**
to shape a more efficient, data-driven planning system.

ODP YouTube



Open Digital Planning

@opendigitalplanning97 · 122 subscribers · 74 videos

Open Digital Planning is a community of forward-thinking Local Planning Authorities work ...more

[linkedin.com/company/open-digital-planning](https://www.linkedin.com/company/open-digital-planning) and 2 more links

Customize channel

Manage videos



LinkedIn posts, blogs and newsletters



Community newsletter



Community Newsletter

August 2025



Every story matters – big or small!

 Be a case study champion – share your success and lessons learned.

 Spotlight your progress – highlight in your month notes or reporting any items you think would be worth communicating more widely

 Amplify our collective effort – follow us on LinkedIn, engage with our posts and why not create your own content – and don't forget to tag us!



Case study

Digital Planning Improvement

Achievements, insights, and lessons learned



Case study

Castle Point Borough Council

[Read it here](#)



Open Digital Planning

2,127 followers

23h • 

 Another excellent update from Adur and Worthing on their digital transformation journey.

Love seeing their September wins and progress in making data available on the [#PlanningDataPlatform](#).

Their commitment to working in the open - sharing both successes and challenges while learning from other local planning authorities - is exactly what we love in Open Digital Planning.

Can't wait to meet them at our upcoming collaboration day!



Simon Millier  • 2nd

Interim Head of Technology & Design • Transformation • AI • Loc...

3d • 

[Connect](#)

 September was super exciting - [Incubator for Artificial Intelligence](#) reached out to talk about testing [#ExtractAI](#)  also getting back into the detail of the [Open Digital Planning](#)  dataset work.

Share your voice at ODP camp

🎬 At ODP Camp on 16 October

We'd love to catch your perspectives on camera:

- Tell us what this community means to you
- Share your key takeaways from the day
- How has ODP helped your authority

We'll share the clips with you before we use them.



Digital Planning Directory and procurement hub

Dr Wei Yang

Digital Task Force for Planning

digitalplanningdirectory.org

Digital Planning Directory

Dr Wei Yang OBE

CEO , Digital Task Force for Planning

Seed funded by

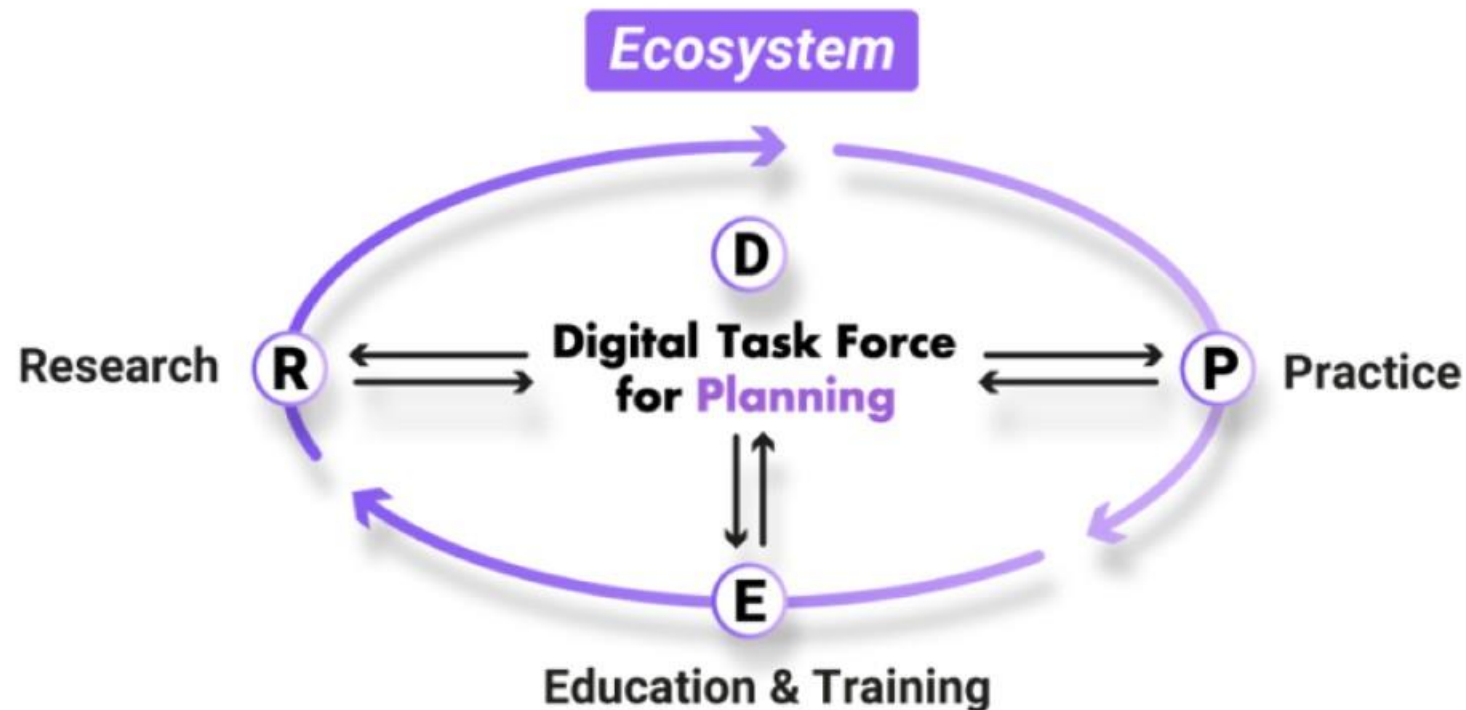


Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

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**Digital Task Force
for Planning**

Our Mission: Unlocking the full potential of spatial planning in the digital era



MoU between MHCLG & the Task Force

"This partnership paves the way for a new age of planning, speeding up decision making while giving communities more of a say on the housing and infrastructure in their area."

- Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

"This partnership represents a significant step forward in our efforts to reinvigorate spatial planning as a positive force in addressing the multifaceted challenges we face through a holistic approach."

- Digital Task Force for Planning



Digital Planning Directory

digitalplanningdirectory.org

Seed funded by



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Digital Task Force
for **Planning**

Your one-stop-shop

Digital Planning Directory

A comprehensive online resource for state-of-the-art digital planning services, tailored to meet the diverse needs of stakeholders in both public and private sectors.

Find a provider

Case studies

Find a provider

Search by provider name, keywords...

Get started

Browse by service area

I'm looking for...

Get started



Directory Launch, LGA, January 2025

MAYOR OF LONDON

Digital Task Force
for Planning

Baroness Taylor of Stevenage

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

digitalplanningdirectory.org

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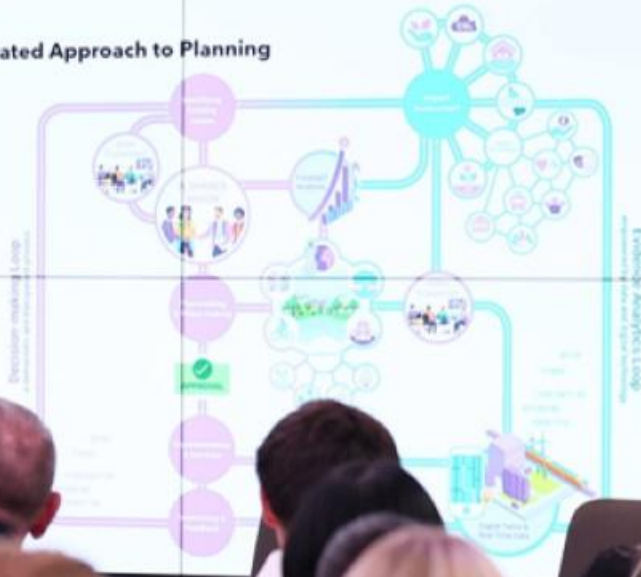
**Digital Task Force
for Planning**

AI in Planning Event, London City Hall, April 2025



A New Methodology
- A Digitally Enabled Integrated Approach to Planning

*A people focused,
scientifically based, and
digitally enabled
decision-making process*



Planning Innovation Summit, London, September 2025

Digital Planning Directory

digitalplanningdirectory.org

Seed funded by



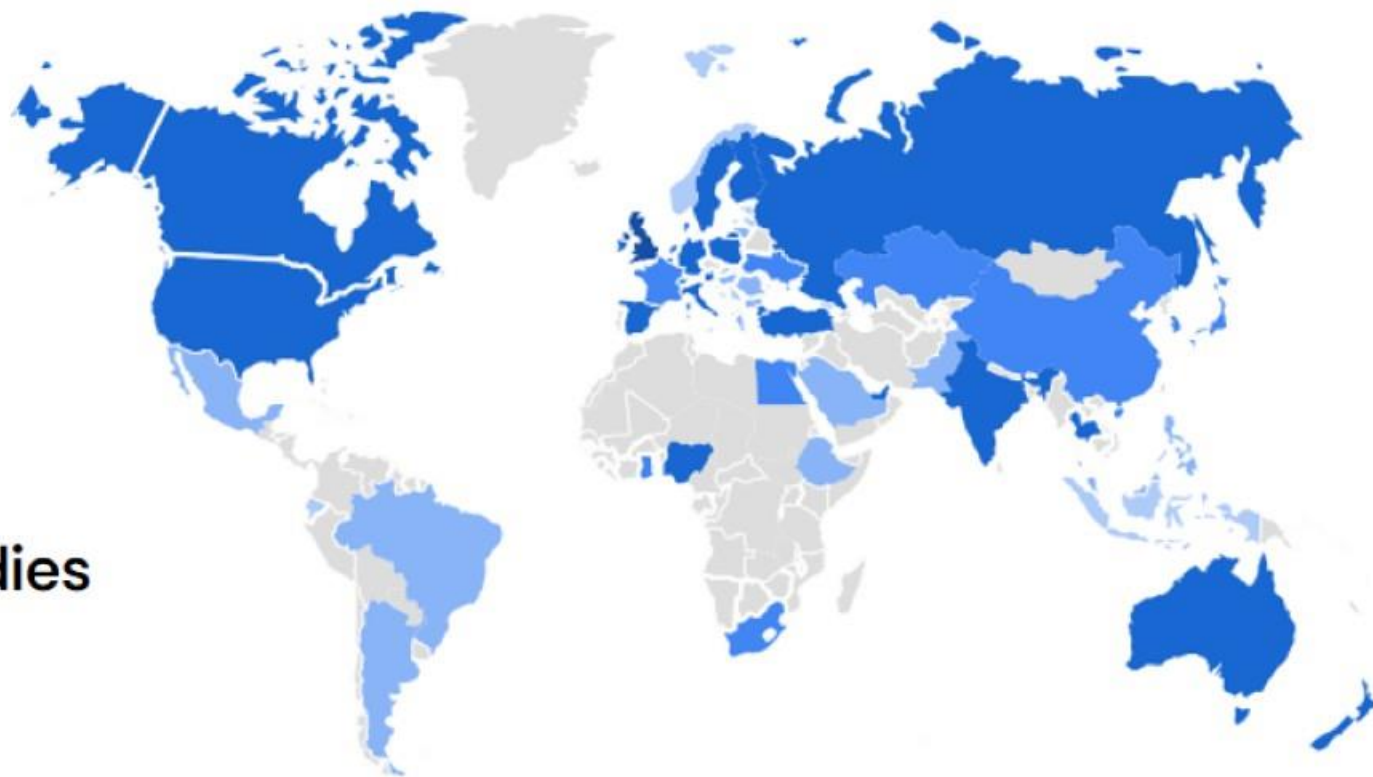
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Delivered by

**Digital Task Force
for Planning**



Since January 2025,
the **Directory** has listed
120 companies, **126** case studies
reached **29,000** users,
from **85** countries



October 2025

Digital Planning Directory

digitalplanningdirectory.org

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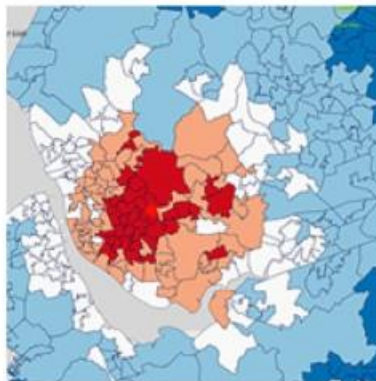
Digital Task Force
for **Planning**



Community Engagement



Visualisation, 3D Modelling
and Animation



GIS and Mapping



Environmental and
Sustainability Services



Planning and Urban
Design Services



Land Search and
Assessment



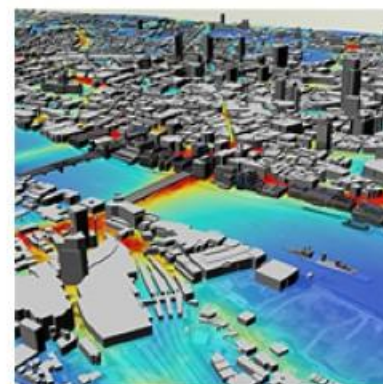
AI and Software Solutions



Plan-making, Planning
Application & Data
Management Systems



Organisational Digital
Transformation



Digital Twins

Planning and Spatial Thinking in National Strategies and Priorities

- New Towns programme
- Planning and Infrastructure Bill – Strategic Planning
- Strategic Authorities: Local Growth Plans and Spatial Development Strategies
- 10-Year National Infrastructure Strategy
- DEFRA Land Use Framework
- Industrial Strategy White Paper
- National Integrated Transport Strategy
- Strategic Spatial Energy Plan
- Food Strategy
- *Etc.*

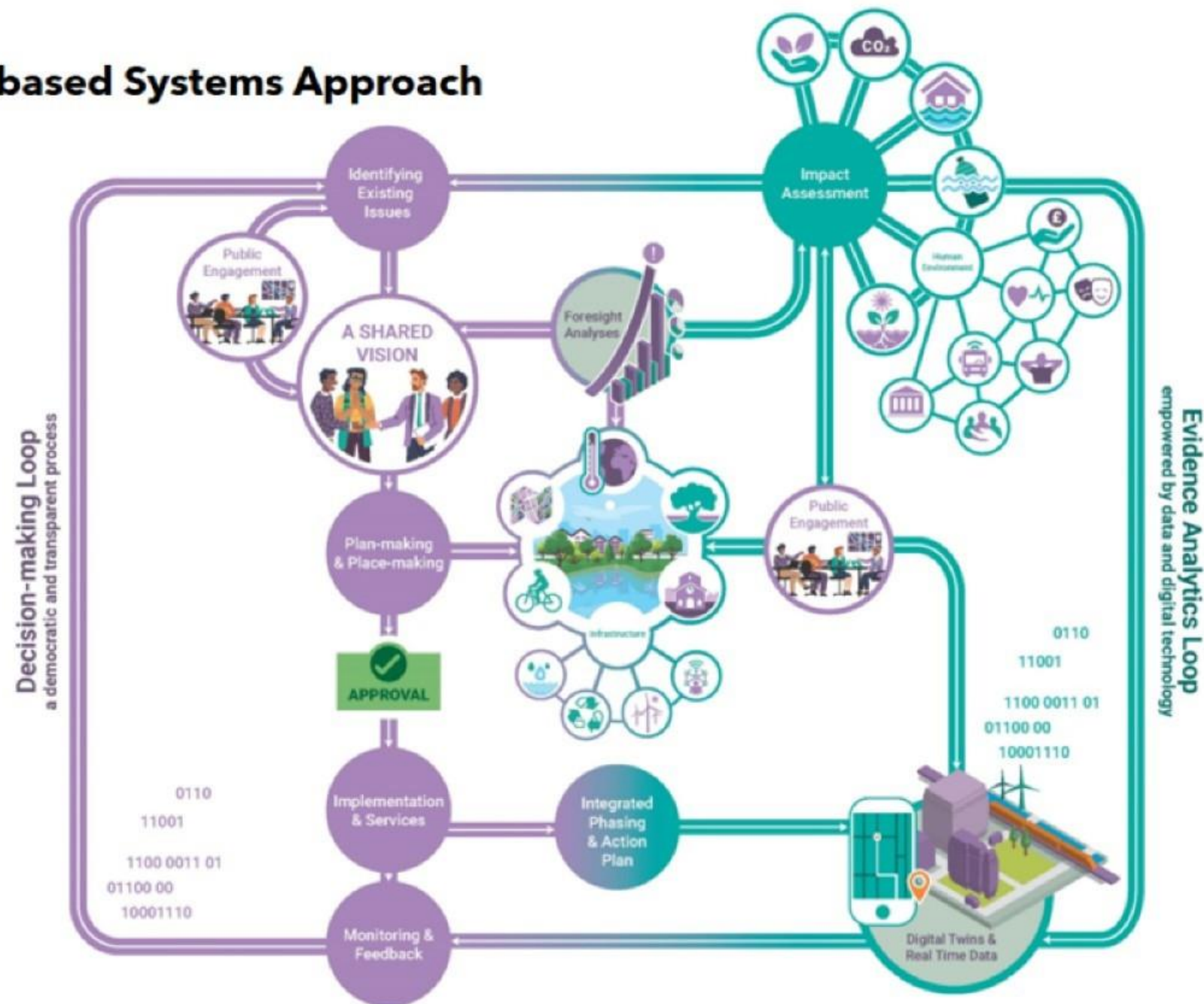


Image Source: Gov.uk

A New Methodology

- A Digitally Enabled Place-based Systems Approach

*A people focused,
scientifically based, and
digitally enabled
decision-making process*



Data source: Wei Yang & Partners
(2021)

Planning Beyond Land Use: Building Long-Term Systemic Resilience



Housing



Transport



Energy



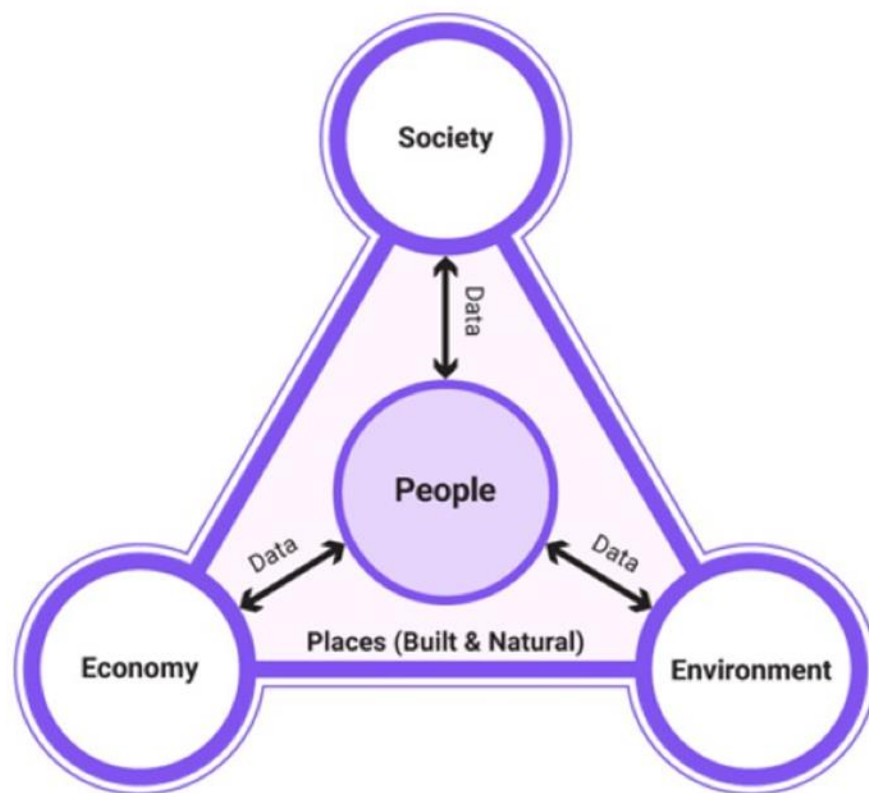
Water



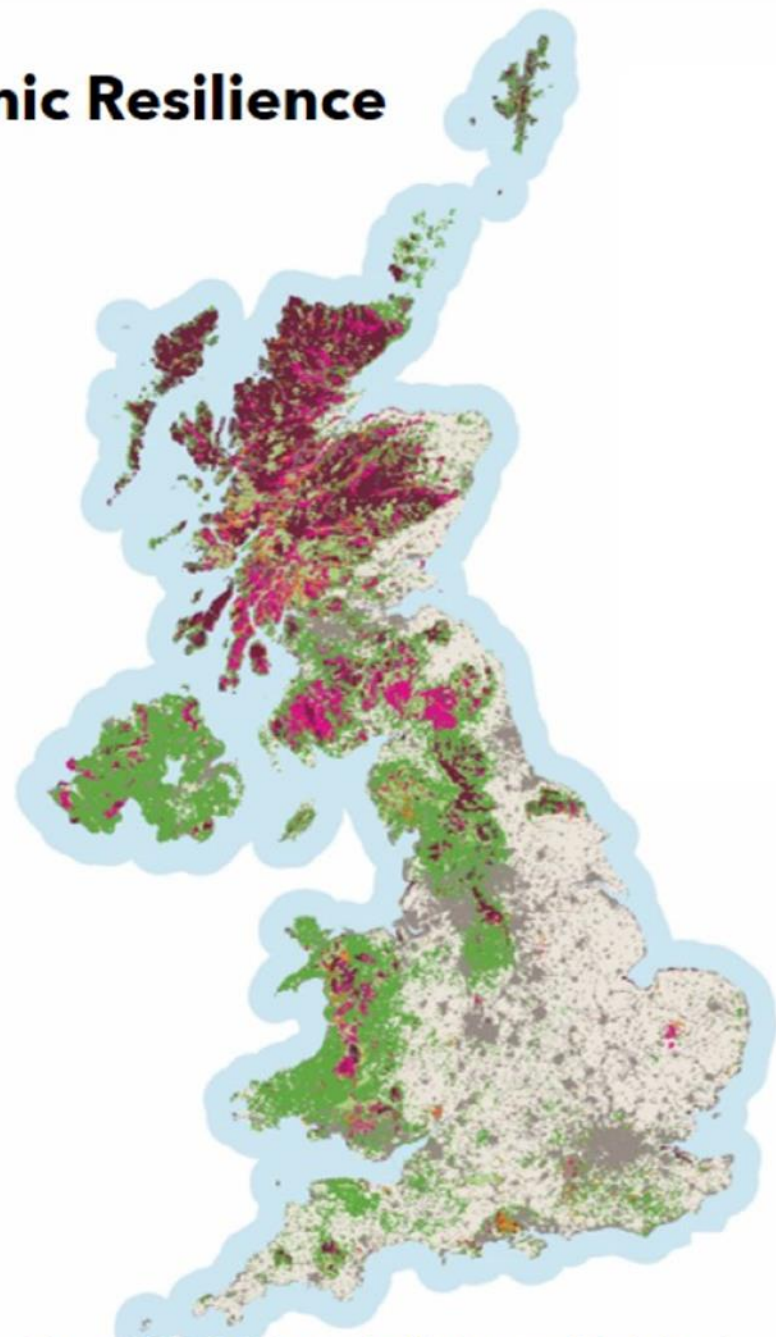
Biodiversity



Food



**A Digitally Enabled Integrated Approach
to Planning**





What did LPA say?

"As an LPA with an ambitious commitment to digital innovation, discovering and reviewing the latest available solutions and possibilities is challenging.

The **Digital Planning Directory** has proven to be a valuable resource in this regard. It not only helps us **identify emerging technologies** but also **provides insightful case studies**.

These case studies enable us to connect with other LPAs, allowing us to fully understand the practical benefits and value of these solutions."



What did LPA say?

"The Digital Planning Directory was very easy to search – I initially used the 'Browse by service area' option to search for 'Plan-making, planning application and data management option'.

The summaries of what's on offer and supplier descriptions allowed me to read through and find the suppliers whom best fit our early requirements.

The supplier pages were very useful for me to collect short descriptions to place into my list along with contact information and website URLs.

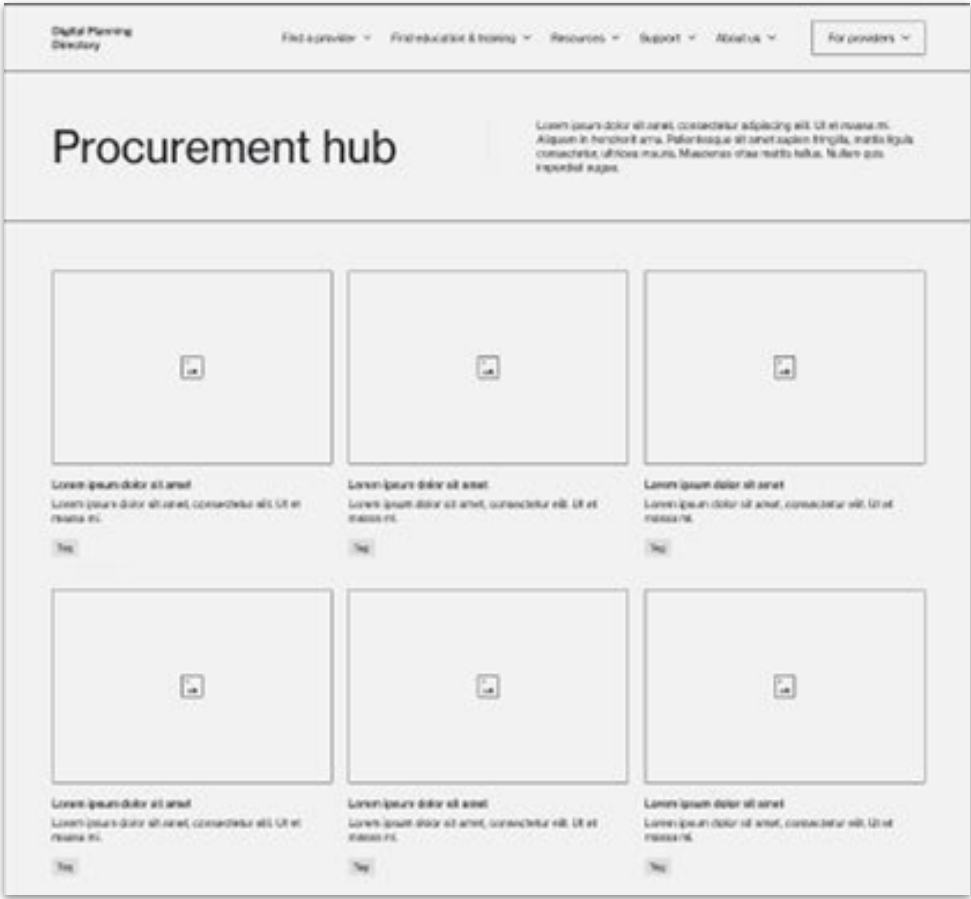
This would have taken a lot longer previously when just having **google searches** and I may have missed some suppliers."

Upcoming Features

- **Procurement Support Resource Hub**
- **Education and Training Listing**

Sneak peak: Procurement Support Resource Hub.

This will address procurement knowledge gaps LPAs have.



Early Hub wireframe

Resource Name	Owner
Guidance: Planned Procurement Notice	Cabinet Office
Guidance: Preliminary Market Engagement	Cabinet Office
Guidance: Direct Award	Cabinet Office
Guidance: Competitive Tendering Procedures	Cabinet Office
What is a framework?	CCS
How open frameworks benefit public sector buyers	CCS
What is a dynamic market?	CCS
Effective Contract Management?	CCS
Choosing the right route to market	CCS
What is the competitive flexible procedure and how will it work for public sector buyers?	CCS
The Procurement Act 2023	Cabinet Office

Sneak peak: Business case templates and a benefits calculator

to support LPAs in navigating the pre-tendering stage

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Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Template Business Case

[Title]

	Originated	Reviewed	Authorised	Date
V1	PUBLIC			

OFFICIAL

One template per funding source:

- Base (Departmental/Service Area funding)
- Invest to save
- Reserve
- Transformation

MHCLG PropTech — Benefits Calculator

14 August 2025 v1.1

Introduction

PropTech (property tech) refers to digital tools that can help make processes within planning and housing delivery faster, freeing up LPA officer time for strategic planning.

MHCLG has been funding LPAs to pilot PropTech tools in time-consuming processes like identifying and assessing sites, and analysing responses from planning-centric consultations like Reg 18. and Reg 19.

Based on the data from these pilots, MHCLG has now developed this calculator to help create some estimates that indicate some of the savings PropTech tools could yield your organisation through efficiencies in identifying and assessing land, and analysing consultation responses.

Instructions

Please enter your answers to the questions below to estimate the potential savings you could realise through PropTech tools.

Questions

How many sites do you identify in a year?
How many planning-related consultations do you conduct in a year?

Your Answer

100
10

Your potential savings

1,822	Hours saved by using PropTech for land identification and assessment-related tasks
94,312	GBP saved on contractor spend by using PropTech for site identification and assessment-related tasks
3,734	Hours saved by using PropTech tools for consultation analysis-related tasks
5,021	GBP saved on contractor spend by using PropTech for consultation analysis-related tasks
99,333	Total hours saved
5,557	Total GBP saved on contractor costs

Benefits calculator to help LPAs generate potential savings for the business case – based on R4 outcomes data.

Procurement Hub Workshop: Driving Innovation Through Smarter Procurement

Date & Time: 14:00 – 17:15, 21 October 2025 (arrival from 13:30)

Event Venue: Bevin Hall, Local Government Association, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

- Presentations on MHCLG's thinking on supporting the sector to optimise procurement outcomes, CCS frameworks and dynamic purchasing systems.
- Roundtable discussions addressing sector-wide procurement barriers and exploring how the new Digital Planning Directory Procurement Resource Hub can deliver real value, along with consultation on the Business Case Templates.

Upcoming Digital Planning Directory Show & Tell Events

The Digital Planning Journey of Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service

✓ Tuesday 7 October 2025, 1–2pm

The Digital Planning Journey of Milton Keynes City Council

✓ Thursday 13 November 2025, 1–2pm

Monthly Newsletter: Digital Planning Digest

Welcome to the Digital Planning Digest

Introducing the First Edition, 1 October 2025

Dear Colleagues,

I am delighted to present the inaugural edition of the *Digital Planning Digest*, a monthly update from the Digital Task Force for Planning, designed to keep you informed, inspired, and connected.

Since the launch of the Digital Planning Directory in January, we are proud to have welcomed over **29,000** users, a strong signal of the sector's growing appetite for innovation and collaboration.

September has been an especially busy and exciting month, with the publication of the New Towns Taskforce report, the Planning Innovation Summit 2025 co-hosted with the Connected Places Catapult, and our very first Show & Tell event, which was a big success with over 200 registrations.

Each issue of this Digest will bring you the latest news and upcoming events from the Digital Task Force for Planning, along with sector updates, newly launched projects, published

Events

1. Digital Planning Directory Online Show & Tell Webinar Series

The Digital Planning Directory Online Show & Tell Webinar Series is designed to inspire new thinking and provide practical takeaways on leveraging digital solutions and open data to achieve smarter, more inclusive planning.

Digital Planning Directory Online Show & Tell 1: Utilising Data for Better Planning Outcomes - 18 September 2025

In September, we held our first session, which was focused on highlighting how data-driven insights are transforming planning. The session opened with updates from the Digital Planning Directory and an introduction by the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government's (MHCLG) Planning Data Team, setting the stage for an insightful and interactive event.

The rest of the Webinar brought together four companies from the Digital Planning Directory, demonstrating how public datasets are being applied in real-world projects. The webinar was recorded and is available below.

[Watch Event Recording](#)

Upcoming Show & Tell Events:

- **The Digital Planning Journey of Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service** - Tuesday 7 October 2025, 1–2pm. [Register here.](#)
- **The Digital Planning Journey of Milton Keynes City Council** - Thursday 13 November 2025, 1–2pm.

digitalplanningdirectory.org

Digital Planning Directory

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Opportunities

Learning and Development update

Simon Maher – Planning Advisory
Service

Learning and Development update

Simon Maher, Learning and Development Lead (Consultant at PAS)

Background:

- Planning Policy for Local Authority
- Landscape consultancy
- GIS for both public and private sector

Learning and Development update

My role at ODP?

- Supporting ODP members to develop digital skills
- Coordinate a series of “101” introductory courses
 - e.g, AI, Agile, Content Design, Citizen Engagement
- Coordinate some in-depth courses
 - GIS, Agile, PowerBI

Learning and Development update

What's next?...

- Training dates and sign-up process
- Contact me....
 - Any training needs identified?
 - How did you find previous courses?
 - How have you applied new skills?

Message me on Slack or come and see PAS at ODP Camp

User research

Stanley Idiagbonya
User Researcher

Digital Planning Recruitment Strategy

Purpose:

- How we engage LPAs in research and ensure fair, transparent participation.

Why we're doing this:

- Avoid repeatedly contacting the same LPAs for research.
- Everyone in the UCD community can see which LPAs are currently engaged.
- Ensure a wider range of voices and experiences are represented in our research.

Digital Planning Recruitment Strategy

How LPAs can get involved..

- Sign up to participate in research.
- Make your voice part of the solution.

Key Point:

- No fixed commitment. Choose which research activities to join.

7. How did you come across this form? (We want to know which dissemination methods work best)

Enter your answer

Kindly fill in "ODP Community".

Feedback on procurement business case templates

Thank you!