



# ODP General Meeting

3rd November 2025

# What's the purpose of this meeting?

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- **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

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- Community update
  - Digital Planning Improvement funding update
  - ODP events
- LPA Showcase slot: South Gloucestershire
- Opportunities
  - HMLR and UKPA regional events
  - Learning and development

# Community update

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# Digital planning improvement funding update

4.1 LPA have now completed their onboarding, what next

4.2 Application window now closed

Assessment beginning

Notification date for applicants

Onboarding February 2026

# ODP Camp – round up

- THANK YOU to Medway council – our amazing hosts
- Feedback: we captured this on the day via our closing activity, but if you have any further reflections or suggestions, please get in touch with a community manager, Sarah or Tom
- Sharing notes! We would love to combine your notes with ours. Please share on Slack
- Some numbers: 163 attendees, from 57 LPAs, 3 delivery partners (OSL, Unboxed and TPX impact), HMLR, UKPA, PAS, Digital Task Force for Planning and Ebbsfleet Development Corporation
- Average (mean) distance travelled to attend: 140km
- Plymouth (SW), Worcester (W) Newcastle (NE) Norwich (E) Rother (SE) give us some compass points! 🗺️



# ODP Camp – values activity

- Values are the things we prioritise as a community. They define how we work together, what we put effort into, and what we avoid doing
- They help us come together with a shared understanding, regardless of what we are working on. Adding behaviours helps us see how those come to life
- We did a review exercise in Medway – with lots of red, yellow and green cards to help facilitate discussion
- We've taken the feedback and notes from the session and updated, these will now go on slack for one more review

# ODP Camp – values activity

## VALUES

Be brave, open and honest

Be ambitious but realistic

Learn, grow and participate together

Be unapologetically curious

Collaborative by default

## BEHAVIOURS

- Speak truthfully
- Challenge respectfully
- Act with courage

- Dream big
- Plan wisely
- Deliver with integrity
- Understand our constraints, but aim high

- Be proactive
- Seek initiative
- Share knowledge
- Build together as a community

- Ask questions
- Explore ideas
- Reflect often
- Don't hold back

- Invite others in
- Welcome diverse voices
- Build trust through collaboration

# ODP Camp – breakout session highlights

## Welcome to ODP:

Reinforcing that ODP values passion and engagement over seniority, encouraging all members—regardless of role—to influence and shape the community.

**“If only I had £10,000”:** 80% of participants identified GIS training as a top priority, highlighting a widespread skills gap in spatial data tools across LPAs.

## Standardising the Decision Stage of Planning Permission:

Despite local variation, there was consensus on three core data points that underpin all planning decisions: outcome, reason, and next steps.

**Planning Data Standards & Reporting Workshop:** A major gap identified was the lack of feedback loops from building control completions back into planning data—limiting outcome tracking.

**Pre-Apps: Unlocking ODP Products:** Although pre-apps improve application quality, most councils lack data to prove their value, making it hard to justify investment or reform.

## After MHCLG funding - how to sustain continuous improvement and SLT buy-in:

Digital transformation is often seen as a “project” rather than a continuous service improvement, limiting long-term impact.

## Co-creating a modern digital planning software definition:

LPAs want more prescriptive procurement guidance, including templates and support, due to limited experience and confidence in software procurement.

## Barriers to PropTech

**Adoption:** A lack of trust and visibility in the PropTech market means many LPAs feel adopting new tools is a “leap of faith” rather than a strategic decision.

## Digital Local Plans – What On Earth Does That Even MEAN?:

64% of participants said the biggest pain point isn’t the PDF format, but deeper issues in the plan-making process and lack of clarity on what a “Digital Local Plan” actually is.

# ODP Winter event – now open for registration!

Hosts: London Borough of Lambeth

Date: Thursday 11 December, 10:00 to 16:00 hrs

Venue: Coin Street Neighbourhood Centre, 108 Stamford Street, London SE1 9NH

Why Attend? This is a brilliant opportunity to:

- Share progress and learnings
- Spark new ideas
- Strengthen collaboration across the community

[Register now!](#)



# Save the date!

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- ❄️ 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

📅 Further 2026 events – the MHCLG team will soon be looking to finalise the calendar for 2026. Please do get in touch if you would like to host an ODP event in summer or autumn next year!

# LPA Showcase: South Gloucestershire

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Karen Lucas – Business Development & Relationship Manager

# Introducing South Gloucestershire Council

- South Gloucestershire Council (SGC) is a Unitary Authority with around 4,500 employees, working across 3 main divisions: People, Place and Resources and Business Change.
- Population of approximately 300,000 residents, with a mix of urban and rural landscapes. 40% designated as Green Belt, to the North and East of Bristol.
- South Gloucestershire is home to the two Severn road crossings to Wales, the RAC motorway tower at Almondsbury, and 'The Wave' an inland surfing destination, as well as the University of the West of England, MOD Defence Procurement, the Bristol and Bath Science Park, and Aerospace companies such as Airbus and Rolls Royce.





# Our ODP Journey – a year on

## 2024 - 2025

- DPIF bid successful, joined ODP
- Completed DPMA , to identify specific areas of improvement.
- Recruited 2 new digital and data improvements officers.
- Digital and Data improvements action plan agreed.
- Review of existing Uniform software and alternatives including ODP
- All 9 Data sets published
- LPA engagement and benchmarking through ODP community
- Accepted onto the ODP software pilot (Plan X, BoPS, Digt Reg)

# Successes & Challenges

- **Successes:**
  - Stakeholder engagement both internally and externally
  - New networks and benchmarking shared through ODP Community
  - Data sets published, ODP Pilot, Planning Wiki, Power BI, Innovation
- **Challenges:**
  - Formatting and final checks for data sets from key leads
  - Specialist resource for platforms like Power BI, ODP Software, AI etc
  - Data privacy impact assessment for Plan X and BoPS
  - Delays with key enablers in IT, Legal and Procurement



# ODP Network Support

- ODP network evolved well and informed growth of existing LPA network group
- Best practice shared in many areas to support digital and data enhancement and access to information.
- Some of these areas include:
  - New Power-BI dashboards and Power-BI working group
  - New Planning 'WiKi' SharePoint site
  - AI Invalidator tool demo explored
  - Publishing of required data sets
  - Agile and GIS training through ODP
  - Multiverse digital & data upskilling
  - Mapping and Time Recording software
  - New Councillor SharePoint site
  - Plan X, BoPS and Digital Register software
  - Geovation Proptech Innovation judges and ceremony

# SGC Planning WIKI

SGC SharePoint

Search this site

+ New ▾ Promote Page details Preview Analytics



# SGC Power BI Dashboard

HOME

## Planning Summary

### Financial Calendar

2025-2026 (FinancialYear) + Q2 (FinancialQuarter) ▾

**Apps Received**  
**405**

-4.48% from last quarter

**Apps Decisions Issued**  
**405**

-13.09% from last quarter

### Apps Decided In Time



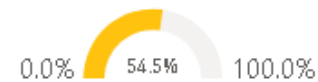
**PreApps Received**  
**42**

10.53% from last quarter

**PreApps Decisions Issued**  
**33**

50.00% from last quarter

### PreApps Decided In Time



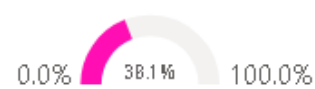
**DOC Received**  
**97**

-0.06 from last quarter

**DOC Decisions Issued**  
**84**

-0.09 from last quarter

### DOC Decided In Time



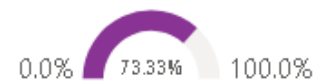
**NMA Received**  
**27**

0.04 from last quarter

**NMA Decisions Issued**  
**30**

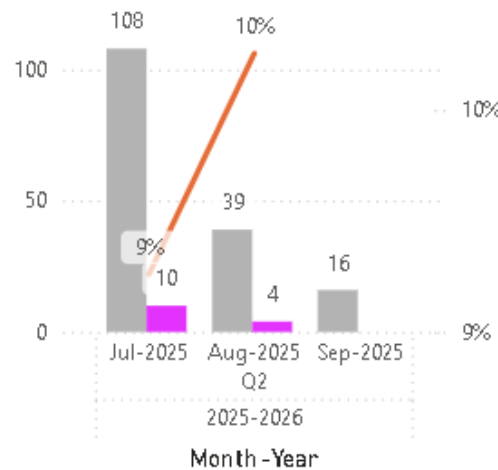
0.36 from last quarter

### NMA Decided In Time



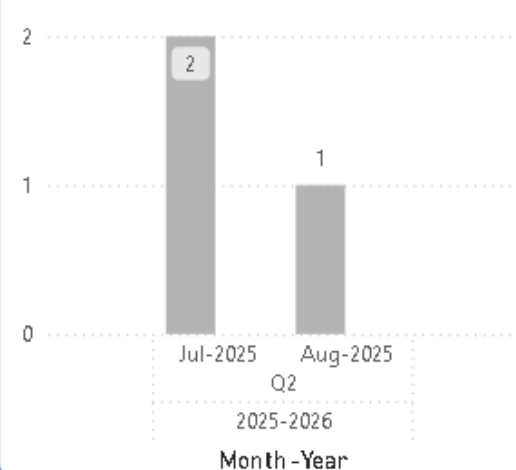
### Minors (Statutory Target 70%)

● Total Decisions ● In Time D... ● Statutory ...



### Majors (Statutory Target 60%)

● Total Decisions ● In Time De... ● Statutory ...



**Prior Notice Received**  
**23**

-23.33% from last quarter

**Prior Notice Decision...**  
**29**

3.57% from last quarter

**Prior Notice Decided In Time**



**Certificate of Lawfulness Received**  
**41**

-29.31% from last quarter

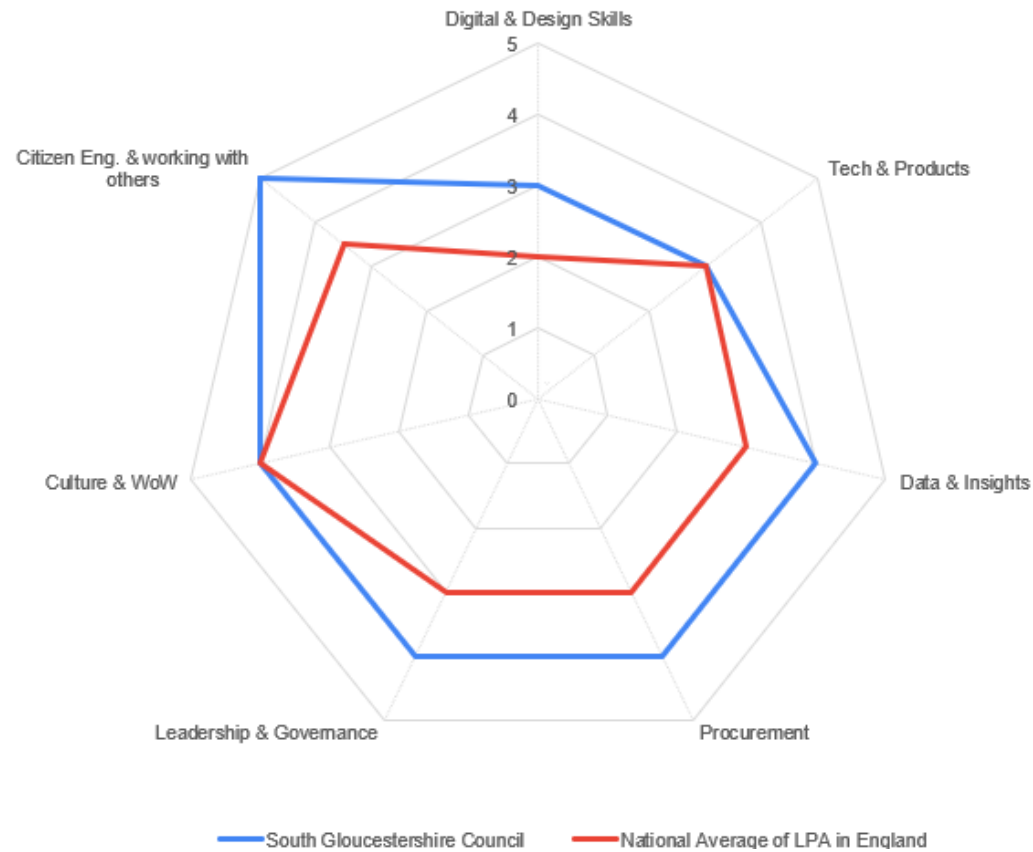
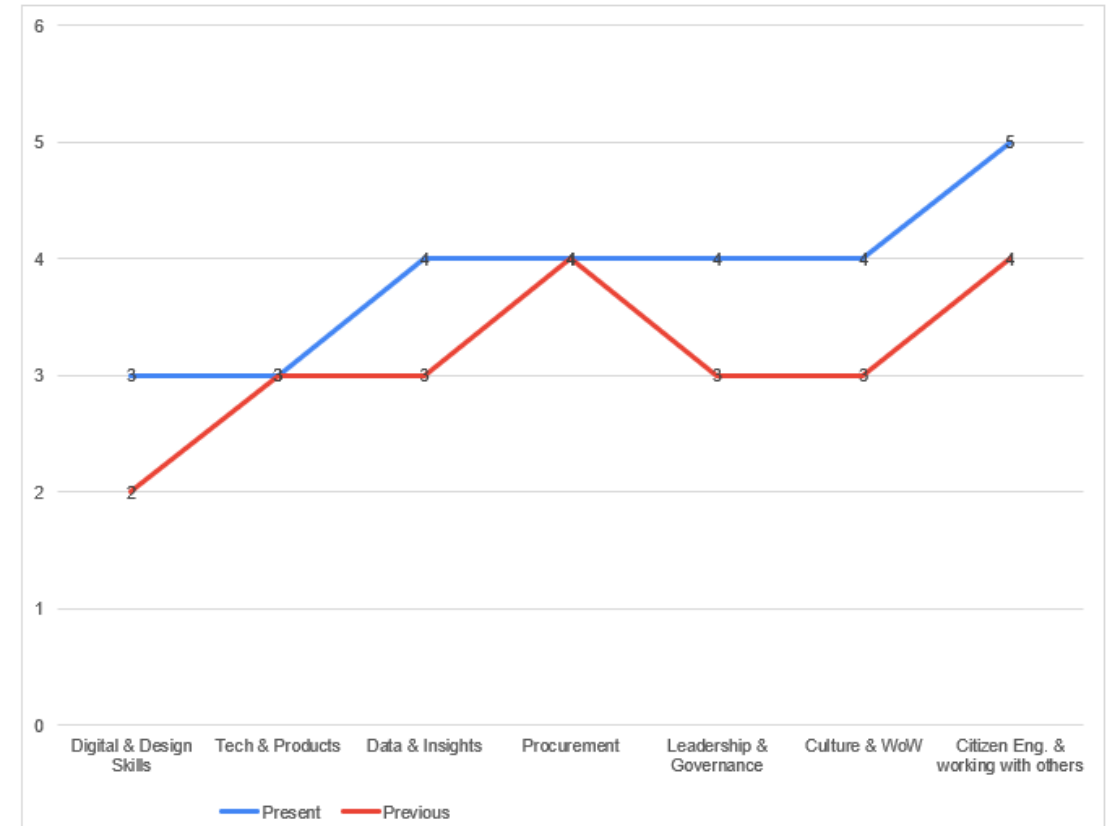
**Certificate of Lawfulness Decisions Issued**  
**53**

-11.67% from last quarter

**Certificate of Lawfulness Decided In Time**



A snapshot comparing your present and previous digital maturity levels.



# DPMA – Revisited

# Opportunities

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# HMLR and UKPA Regional events

HMLR are co-ordinating a series of workshops in November

The sessions aim to: Deepen your understanding of your role during migration and live service, connect you with peers in your region and give you latest updates on the LLC Programme, MHCLG Property Data Pilot, and more!

- [Thursday 6th November \(Manchester\)](#)
- [Tuesday 11th November \(Birmingham\)](#)
- [Thursday 20th November \(London\)](#)

**UK PropTech Association (UKPA)** The Regional Innovation Roadshows are part of PropTech's Growth Programme with MHCLG. These events will provide an opportunity to foster deeper understanding between Central government, Local government, Developers and Investors, share insights on challenges and opportunities, and explore how to realise the benefits of technology and data to address these.

- [Thursday 20th November \(Manchester\)](#)
- Further dates TBC for January and February 2026 in Birmingham, London and Newcastle

# Learning and Development update

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# Short Learning Sessions

- **Agile 101** 12/11/25
- **User Research 101** 19/11/25
- **User Centred Design 101** 26/11/25
- **Content Design 101** 3/12/25
- **Procurement 101** 10/12/25
- **Measuring Impact 101** 17/12/25
- **Artificial Intelligence 101** 7/1/26
- **Change Management 101** 14/1/26
- **Citizen Engagement 101** 21/1/26
- **Leadership and Governance 101** 28/1/26

Every Wednesday  
11.30am to 12.30pm

***Book on Eventbrite***

# Digital for Directors

- 2 sessions aimed at Directors in planning, placemaking, regeneration, economic development
- Demystifying AI
- The importance of good data
- Procuring the right tech for your needs
- Empowering leaders to unlock digital innovation

December:  
1st and 8th  
and  
4th and 5th

***Book on Eventbrite***

# GIS Training Sessions

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## 4 Sessions:

- GIS for Beginners
- GIS for Intermediate Users
- Cleaning and publishing data
- BNG project

Commencing  
November/December

Thank you!