



ODP General Meeting

13 April 2026

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 **222** 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

- Keswick round up: Josh Codjoe
- Extract AI User Research: Rebecca Dodd
- ODP journey with South Gloucester: Karen Lucas
- A new/familiar face at Planning Advisory Service. Welcome Shelly Rouse
- June 4th its ODP Liverpool: Pete Flynn
- PropTech funding opportunity R6: Alphie Murphy-O'Reilly
- APD Expression of Interest: Emily Hadley

Keswick Reflection: Josh Codjoe

Keswick ODP event – survey results

- Overall success
- Strong content mix
- Practical value for LPAs
- Community and collaboration
- Engaging format
- Venue and logistics
- Areas for future improvement
- Clear appetite for more

Extract AI, help us test the tool: Josh Codjoe & Rebecca Dodd

AI Extract

Extract - The AI-powered tool designed to unlock historic planning data

We would like to talk to LPAs wanting support with digitalising your data in 4 key areas:

- Article 4 direction area
- Conservation area
- Tree
- Tree preservation zone.

Please contact your community managers, Phil and Josh by emailing DigitalPlanningTeam@communities.gov.uk and put Extract in the title.

Discovery User Research for ODP

- Call for Participants!
- I am looking to learn from relevant professionals in Local Planning Authorities about their processes for preparing data for Open Digital Planning or the Digital Planning Improvement Fund
- Research will help us to develop our Extract AI tool
- Sessions are an hour or less and will take place until 30th April.
- If you can help, please contact rebecca.dodd@communities.gov.uk

ODP journey, from DPIIF to Product with South Gloucester:

Karen Lucas

ODP Journey – Year 1 24/25

-
- ✓ MHCLG Digital Planning Improvements funding bid successful and joined ODP
 - ✓ Completed Digital Planning Maturity Assessment (DPMA), to identify specific areas of focus
 - ✓ Recruited 1.5fte digital and data improvements officers
 - ✓ Digital and Data improvements action plan agreed
 - ✓ Review of existing Uniform back-office software and alternatives
 - ✓ All 12 data set's published on our website
 - ✓ Local Planning Authorities engagement and benchmarking through ODP community
 - ✓ Applied for ODP software pilot (Plan X, BoPS, Digital Register)

South Glos Council - ODP Update

13 April 2026 – ODP General Meeting

Karen Lucas, Business Development & Relationship Manager – Planning

Rebecca Balfour, Business Support and Innovation Lead - Planning

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ODP Journey – Year 2 25/26

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- ✓ Business Case to One Council Portfolio Board for additional funding for Plan X £20k contract
- ✓ New Power BI Dashboards created
- ✓ **New Planning WiKi SharePoint Site**
- ✓ Revisited DPMA – Clear improvements
- ✓ Piloting new back-office software
- ✓ ODP network evolved and best practice shared to support digital and data enhancements
- ✓ New Power BI and AI network established
- ✓ AI Validation and red line boundary tools reviewed
- ✓ Additional, MHCLG digital improvements and products funding secured

ODP Pilot

- ✓ Joined OPD Product Pilot Group starting with Householder Applications
- ✓ Long Journey with regards to initial set up (ICT, Procurement, Gov.Pay)
- ✓ Amazing help and assistance from product teams and pilot LPA's
- ✓ Went live with System Feb 2026
- ✓ Successfully received 8 apps through Plan X so far
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End slide note

Next Steps



Recruit digital improvements resource



Pilot and implement AI validation and red line boundary tools



Expand the use of BOPS and Plan X wider: i.e., Pre-Apps, Majors, Do I need Planning Permission)



Replace all Access data reports with new Power BI reports

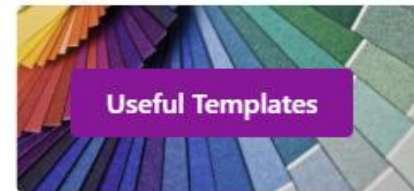
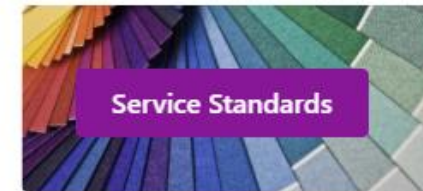


Improve webpage and self-serve: i.e., AI Chatbox, Exacom Public Facing Module, Councillor Wiki site



Expand the use of our new Planning Wiki Site across the service

Planning – WIKI Site



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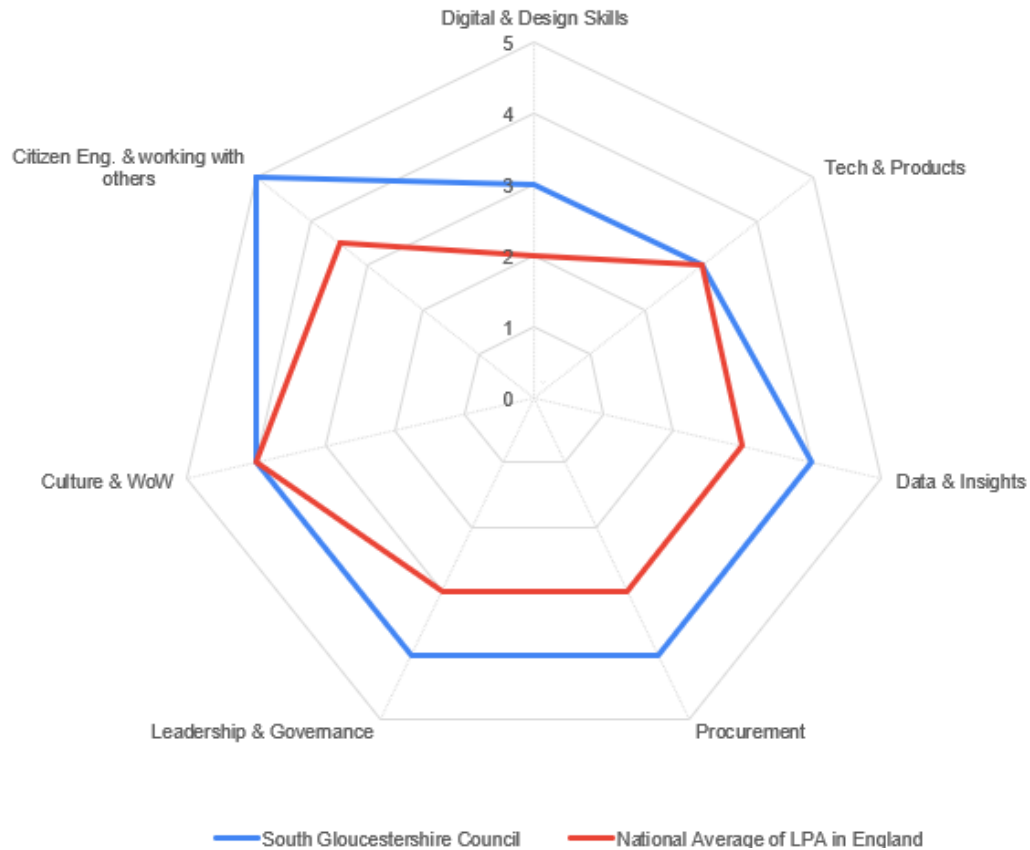
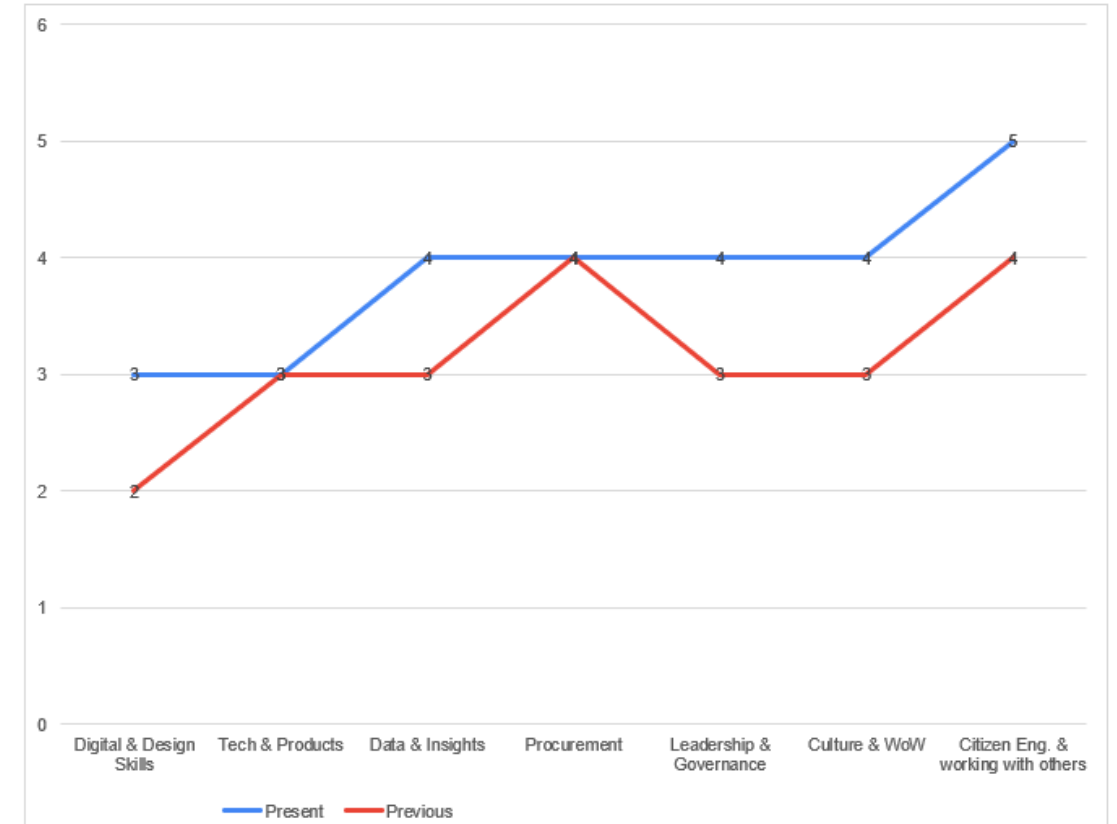
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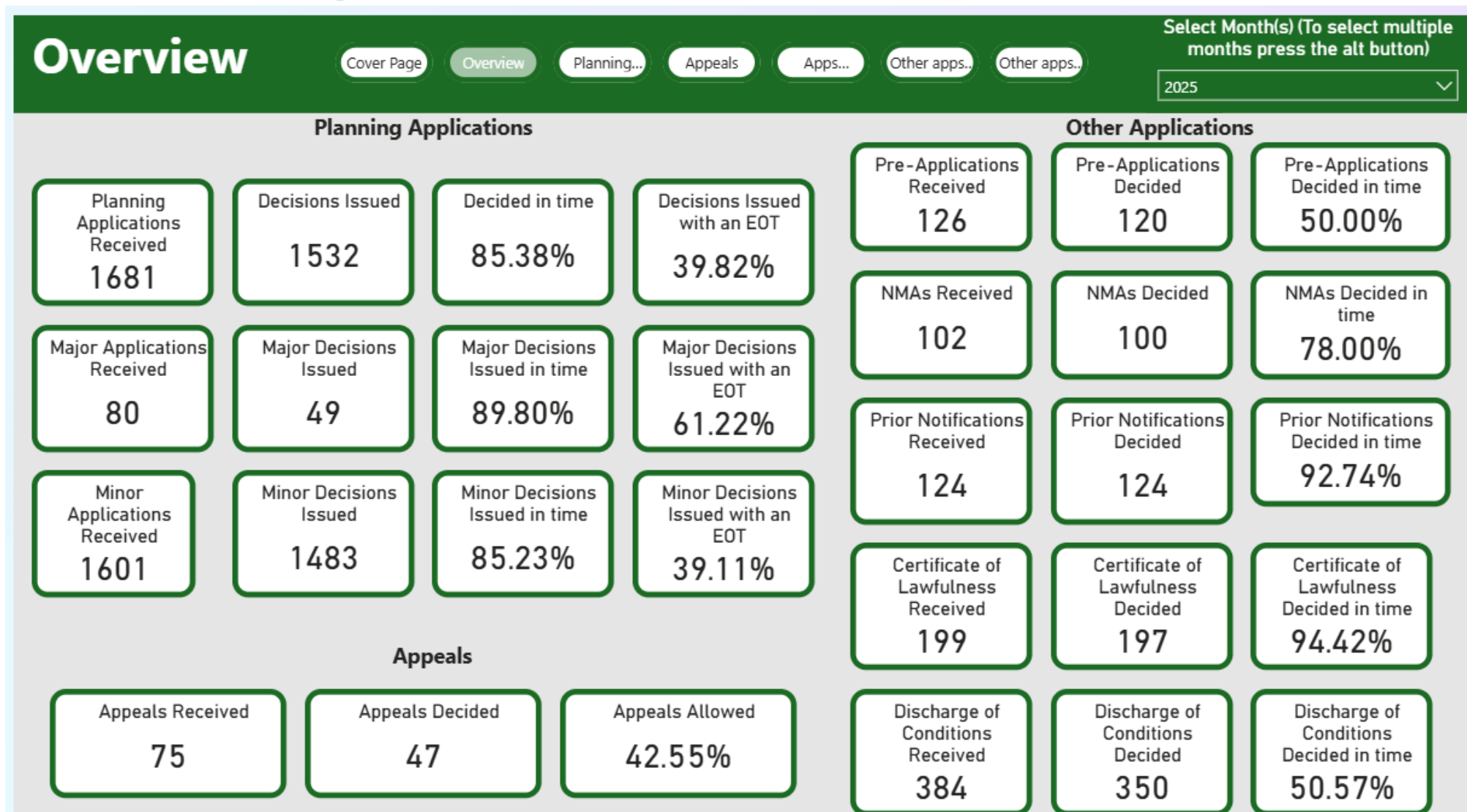
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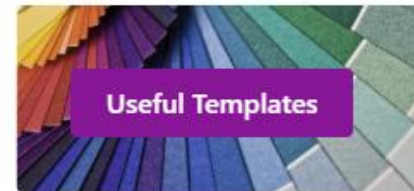
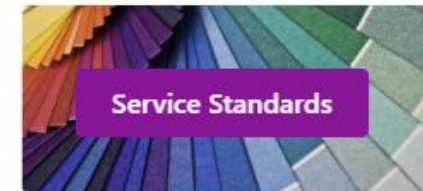
DPMA – Revisited (Nov 25)



Planning – Power BI Report



Planning – WIKI Site



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Planning Advisory Service: Shelly Rouse

Discovery User Research for ODP and DPIF

Agile: 22nd April

User Research: 29th April

User Centred Design: 6th May

Content Design: 13th May

Procurement: 20th May

Measuring Impact: 27th May

AI: 3rd June

Change Management: 10th June

Citizen engagement: 17th June

Leadership and Governance: 24th June

3GIS dates for April: GIS Basics 16th April, Intermediate GIS 23rd April

Get ready for Liverpool: Pete Flynn

ODP Summer event – Liverpool

- We're excited to bring the Open Digital Planning community together for our next ODP event on **4th June 2026**, hosted by the brilliant Liverpool City Council. The day will take place at the **Museum of Liverpool**, right on the city's iconic waterfront. The setting gives the event a strong sense of place, with views and stories that reflect the city's energy and ambition.
- Scan the QR to register now!

Open Digital Planning - Summer
Event - Liverpool City Council



PropTech – Round 6 reminder: Alphie Murphy-O'Reilly

PropTech Innovation Fund – Round 6

Challenge 1:

How can scalable digital approaches help align evidence and policies across different plan-making boundaries and tiers?

Challenge 2:

How can digital interventions reduce delays caused by S106 negotiations (eg viability) to accelerate local authority decision-making on applications?

PropTech Innovation Fund – Round 6

- £2.4 million available across up to 12 successful applications
- Consortiums to apply - Local Authorities, developers and PropTech suppliers,
- We want 2 LPAs on each application – Primary & Secondary
- Dedicated funding for LPAs
- Applications are open and we can help with matching!

Maximum funding available for each consortium	
Core Consortium and Other Partners <i>This includes the PropTech provider, 'Primary' local authority, asset builder / owner / manager, and any other partners including VCSEs and planning professionals. It excludes funding for 'Secondary' local authorities.</i> <i>Please note that we recommend a minimum of £30,000 allocated to the 'Primary' local authority. Decisions about funding distribution between applicants must be made by the applicants themselves.</i>	£180,000
'Secondary' Local Authorities <i>Please note that you can include multiple secondary local authorities and split the £25,000 accordingly.</i>	£25,000



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
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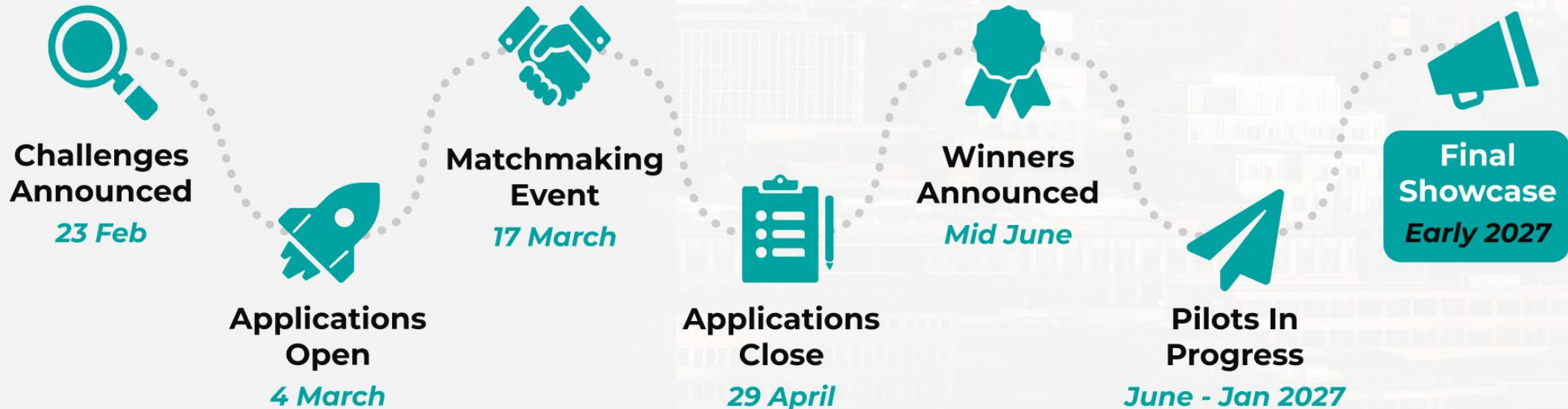
PropTech Innovation Fund


Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

PUBLIC

A SOLITA COMPANY

Round 6 Timeline



**DIGITAL
PLANNING**


Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

proptechfundr6@public.io

Augmented Planning Decisions: Emily Hadley

The tool works by:

- **Speeding up decisions:** The new AI tool aims to dramatically reduce planning application processing times, freeing up planning officers time to focus on more complex cases
- **Human-in-the-loop:** The tool will support planning officers while keeping decision-making firmly in their hands
- **Making use of Planning Data:** The tool builds on the geospatial data local planning authorities have already made available on the Planning Data Platform

Policy paper

AI Opportunities Action Plan: Overview

Published 29 January 2026

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- [2. Change lives by embracing AI](#)
- [3. Secure our future with homegrown AI](#)

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Foreword by the Prime Minister



We need you!

We're particularly keen to hear from LPAs who:

- Have made good progress with Digital Planning service improvements
- Have planning officers and systems administrators available to support the work (including user testing)
- Have access to historic planning applications in a digital format
- Have capacity and resources to take part (around 1-2 FTE per week)
- Are ready to start immediately

How to take part

Complete the [Expression of Interest form](#) by
COP Wednesday (15th) April

Reach out to Emily or Felix Reilly (ODP slack)
or email

DigitalPlanningTeam@communities.gov.uk

(with Augmented Planning Decisions) in
the subject line, for any questions or chats



Tell your story!

- We'd like to continue LPA showcase slots at future General Meetings
- Showcases are the same short story-telling moments we have at our in-person events, opportunities to hear from the range of LPAs in ODP and all the interesting work happening!
- Contact any of the Community Managers to book in

Thank you!

Monday 11th May for next General Meeting

[#all-lpa-general](#) for weekly updates