



The ODP Summer Event – Liverpool

4th June 2026

Hello and welcome!



Agenda – the morning

- Welcome and agenda for the day
- Showcase from our hosts/ Icebreaker - Liverpool City Council
- “find your people”
- Break: 11:10 – 11:25
- Plan Making Service Map, Building Control, Modern Digital Software
- Extract
- Digital Twins
- Local Fees
- Upcoming after lunch



Agenda – the afternoon

- Lunch: 12:55 – 14:15
- ODP update
- Planning Pipeline Discovery
- Working sessions - Plan Making Service Map, Building Control, Modern Digital Software
- Wrap up, feedback and launch of ODP camp



Housekeeping

- Wifi: The wifi is named Museum Wifi and will ask you to sign up before using.
- Toilets: In this room and others are outside Education area 2 (next to the registration desk)
- Breaks: 11:10 & 12:55
- Car park space for ideas and questions we don't get to
- Photography – we will be taking photos! Please let us know if you don't want to be captured
- Fire evacuation – no planned drill for today
- Quiet space – if you need a break, please do slip out whenever you need (prayer room)

What we're hoping to do today

Get to know one another

First and foremost, today is about meeting each other in person and making new connections!

Talk about what ODP is and what you want out of it

ODP is what we make of it, so we are keen to hear what you would most value out of the community

Form connections

We've got a wide variety of LPAs, MHCLG teams and people who are passionate about planning in the room

Dive into some detail

We've got a range of practical sessions planned – let's get into it! Call for sites, planning data hub, designing services and more!

The ODP Community – 222 LPAs!

LPAs co-designing and adopting ODP products

LPAs modernising their planning service (including work on data)

LPAs working to scale their Proptech projects

LPAs working on new innovative Digital Planning projects

LPAs working with existing suppliers in the market to adopt new data standards

LPAs who have finished funded work but are still in the community

Support from MHCLG Digital Planning Programme

Who will you meet today?



Rafael Garcia

Vendor Relations and Market
Strategy Lead



Matt Wood-Hill

Head of Planning Software



Tom Lowndes

ODP Community Lead



Joshua Codjoe

Community Manager/ ODP
events lead



Caryl James

Senior Service Designer



Charley Chappell

Senior Community Manager



Phil James

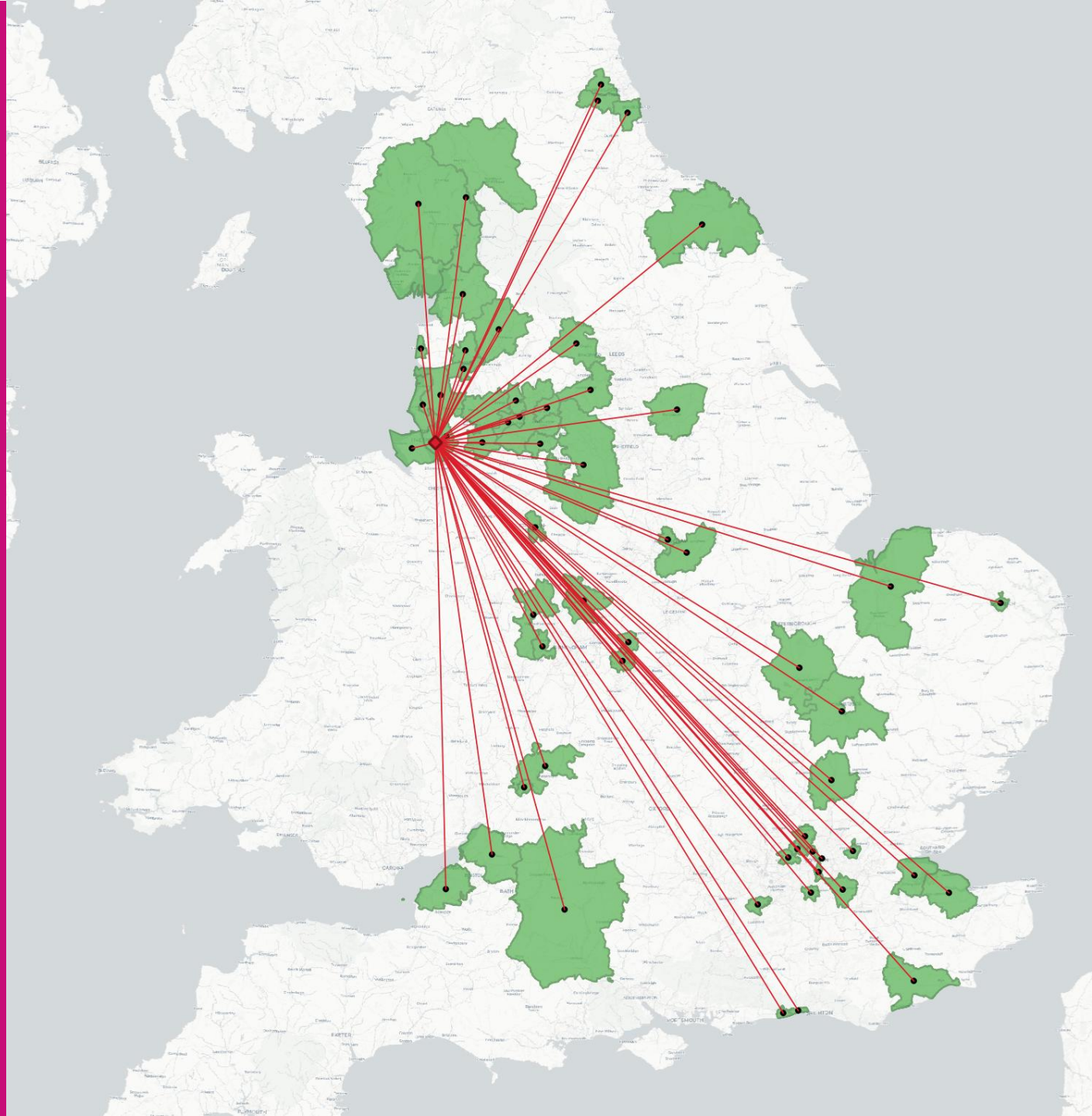
Senior Community Manager/
ODP events lead



Carly Hughes

Senior Community Manager

Most importantly,
hello and
welcome to the
LPAs in the room!





Thank you to Liverpool City Council 🎉

We are so grateful to all LPAs who volunteer to
host events

Welcome to Liverpool

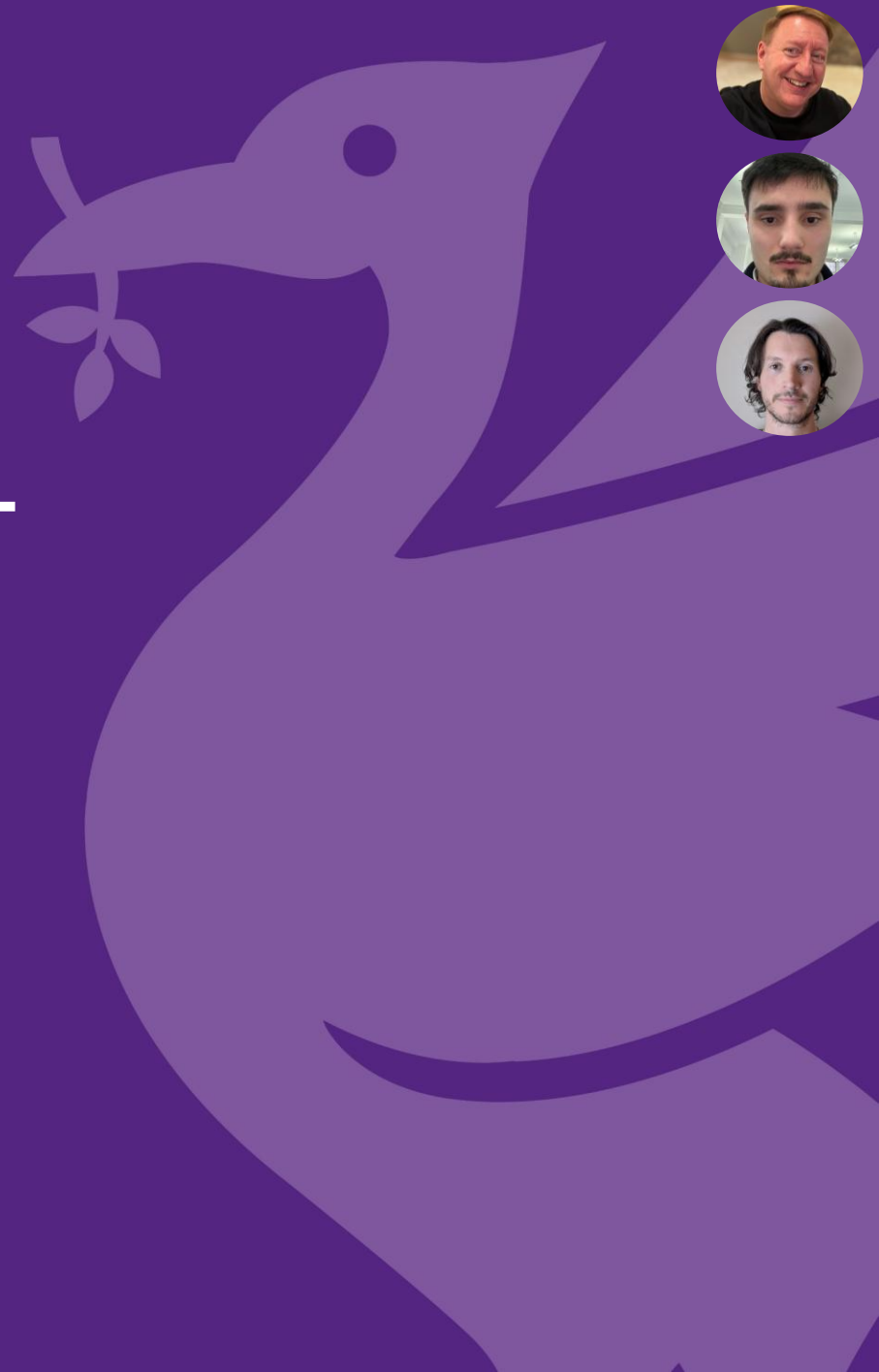
Felicity Collins

Strategic Projects Manager



SHOWCASING LIVERPOOL

CITY, HERITAGE AND PLANNING EXCELLENCE



Liverpool Overview

Maritime Heritage and Global Port

Liverpool's maritime heritage shaped its role as a global port and hub for trade, migration, and cultural exchange.

Cultural Identity and Community

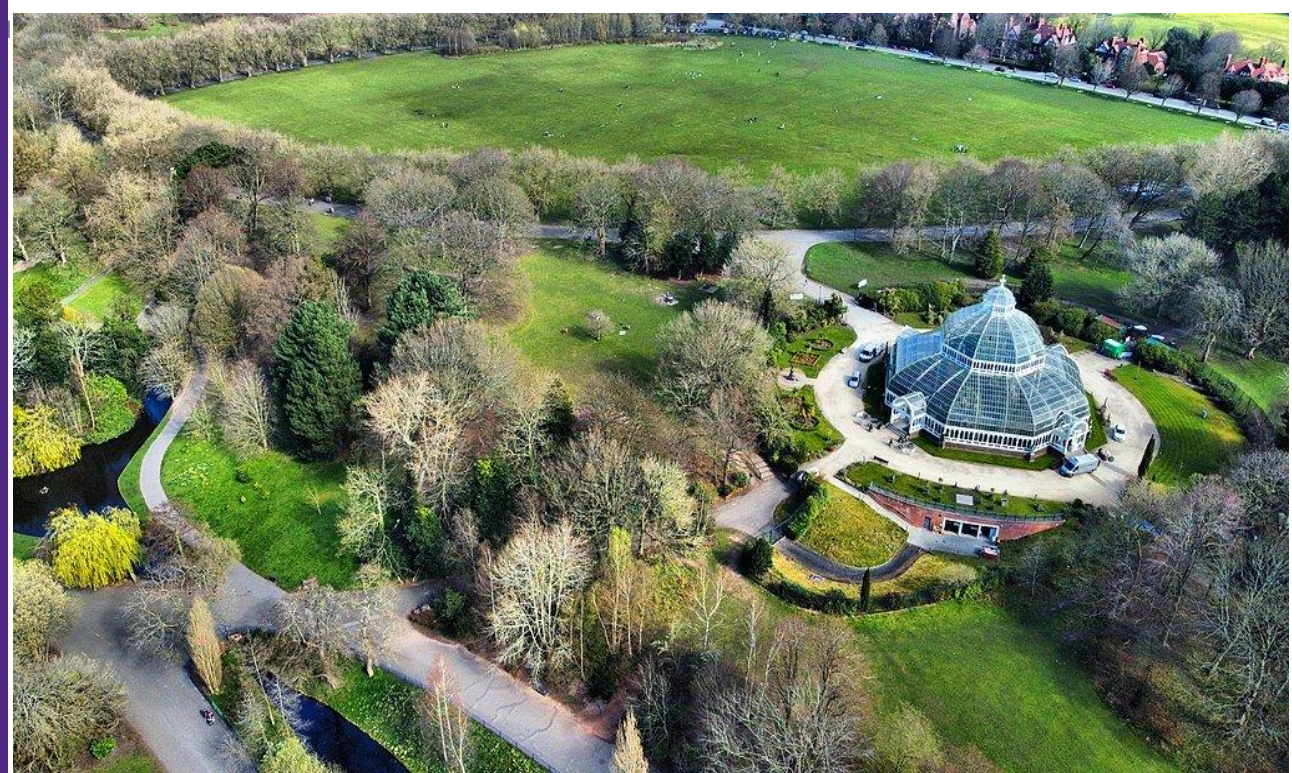
The city's strong civic identity is shaped by its culture, music, sport, and resilient communities.

Green Spaces

Liverpool has over 1000 hectares of green space, which are protected in perpetuity

Urban Regeneration and Innovation

Liverpool has transformed from industrial decline to a city focused on inclusive growth, sustainability, and modern development



Facts and Figures (Culture & Tourism)

**£6.25 BN LCR VISITOR
ECONOMY**

**60.29M VISITOR NUMBERS
(4.4M INCREASE YOY)**

**58,435 JOBS IN THE SECTOR
(13% INCREASE YOY)**



Iconic Waterfront

Iconic Waterfront Architecture

The Royal Liver, Cunard, and Port of Liverpool Buildings define the waterfront's architectural character and maritime heritage.

Albert Dock Transformation

The repurposed Albert Dock is a vibrant mixed-use area combining culture, leisure, tourism, and employment opportunities.

Heritage and Regeneration Balance

Ongoing regeneration balances economic growth with heritage protection, public access, and long-term sustainability



Liverpool's Skyline

Historic Landmarks

Liverpool's skyline features iconic historic landmarks like the Royal Liver Building and prominent cathedrals symbolizing ambition and faith.

Modern Development Strategy

The city uses a design-led approach to manage new tall buildings, balancing growth with respect for heritage and views.

Civic Identity and Growth

Liverpool's skyline is a shared civic asset that strengthens global identity while supporting regeneration and growth.



Economy, Culture and Connectivity

Diverse Economic Sectors

Liverpool's economy thrives on universities, health sciences, digital innovation, and its globally significant port.

Cultural and Tourism Influence

Museums, music heritage, festivals, and sporting events attract millions, boosting Liverpool's cultural economy.

Transport and Connectivity

Efficient rail, port facilities, and active travel networks enhance accessibility and support economic growth.



EUROVISION

SONG CONTEST

UNITED KINGDOM

LIVERPOOL 2023



Music

Music Heritage

Long history of successful musicians

As important to the City as physical heritage

The Beatles

Gerry and the Pacemakers

Cilla Black

FGTH

Sonia



Comedy

Liverpool is famous for its humour

Liverpool has a rich comedy heritage, ranging from iconic classic stand-ups and variety entertainers to the modern-era stars who now fill major UK arenas

- Ken Dodd
- John Bishop
- Chrissy Rock
- Paul Smith



Regeneration Across the City

Transforming Urban Spaces

Liverpool's docklands and industrial zones are revitalized into new neighborhoods and economic hubs.

Key Regeneration Areas

Liverpool Waters, Baltic Triangle, Paddington Village, and city centre are focal points delivering homes, jobs, and culture.

Inclusive Social Investment

Regeneration prioritizes social and economic equality, focusing on investment in North Liverpool, including the new Mayoral Development Corporation, bringing thousands of new homes to the North of Liverpool



Managing Tall Buildings

Opportunities of Tall Buildings

Well-designed tall buildings support urban regeneration, housing delivery, and economic growth in Liverpool.

Challenges of Tall Buildings

Poorly planned tall buildings can harm heritage assets, key views, and the city's skyline.

Policy and Design Principles

Liverpool's policy guides appropriate location and design, considering context, heritage, sustainability, and public realm.

Positive City Contribution

Consistent policy application ensures tall buildings enhance Liverpool's image and urban function.



Planning in Liverpool

- Over 75 staff working across different disciplines
 - Development Management
 - Placemaking and Policy
 - Enforcement
 - Technical Support (including Digital Team)
- In excess of 3500 applications per year
- Over 60 major applications in last 12 months



Major Stadia

Hill Dickinson (Everton Stadium)

- The new Everton Stadium at Bramley-Moore Dock is a flagship waterfront regeneration project, forming part of Liverpool's wider northern docks vision to reconnect communities with the waterfront and unlock long-term growth. It sits within a broader programme of investment across Liverpool Waters, designed to create new opportunities for living, working and leisure while enhancing green infrastructure and public realm.



Anfield Stadium (Regeneration Programme)

- The expansion of Anfield Stadium is embedded within a wider spatial regeneration framework for the surrounding community, focusing on housing renewal, public realm improvements and local economic uplift. The programme recognises Anfield as a key inner-city neighbourhood, with regeneration designed to strengthen community cohesion and support long-term sustainable growth



Heritage in Liverpool

Heritage Assets

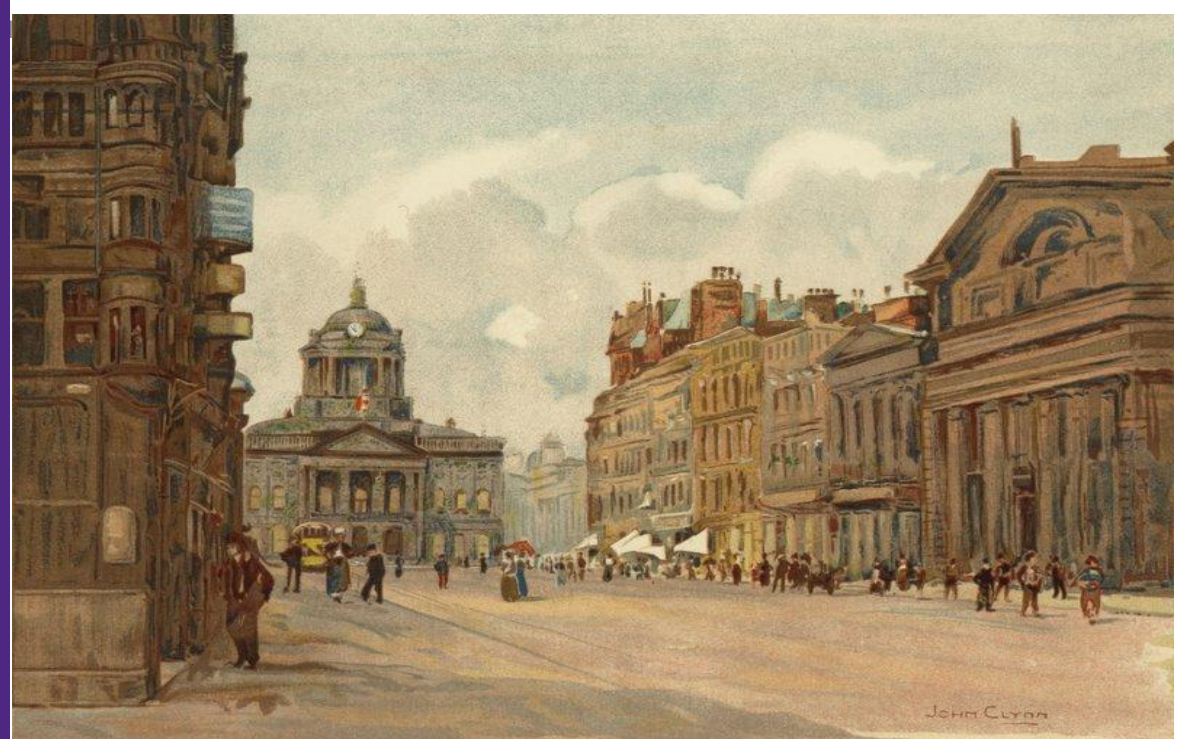
- Liverpool has 1538 listed buildings. This figure rises to over 2500 when taking into account all designated buildings

Conservation Areas

- 36 Areas covering 19000 properties

StoryMaps – Conservation Area Project (2025–26)

- Reviewed all 36 Conservation Areas, including new Statements of Significance and detailed appraisals for 3 priority areas
- Shift to digital, map-led outputs, replacing text-heavy PDFs
- Delivered via ArcGIS StoryMaps, combining mapping, historic overlays, images and narrative
- Improved communication of place, including clearer boundaries, key features and area evolution



Digital Planning

AI and Innovation

- AI brownfield pilot with Liverpool University to assess 30 potential sites and identify new brownfield land.
- PlanAI (University of Liverpool) procurement in final stages for Local Plan consultation analysis. The tool will summarise and categorise consultation responses much faster than current manual processes, helping break down comments by themes, demographics and location.
- Exploring a trial of AI validation software with Valon
- Digital planning guidance/advice note progressing, subject to government direction on format.

Team and Capacity

- Digital planning team expanded to two Digital and Data Planning Officers plus a GIS Officer.
- Focused on faster planning decisions, better engagement, and improved access to planning data.



Digital Planning

Digital Planning Directory Hosts 2025 Summer Reception in Liverpool

Digital Tools and Platforms

- Vu.City developer webpage now live, with 3D model guidance and downloadable Key Views for use by developers.
- Citizen Space procured and used for Local Plan Regulation 18 engagement, SPD engagement, and no being utilised by different departments across the council.
- Supporting M365 migration from personal and team drives to OneDrive and SharePoint. This includes helping staff prepare for the move through data cleansing, guidance and training, supporting the shift from personal drives to the cloud, and improving how files are stored, shared and managed to support collaboration.

Funding and Delivery

- £20k Track 1 funding awarded to deliver PlanX customer pathways for planning permission guidance.
- £20k Track 2 funding awarded to improve reporting, data management and automation using Power BI, AI workflows, agents and FME.



Future Vision

Sustainable and Inclusive Growth

Liverpool aims to develop sustainably while promoting inclusivity for all residents, balancing heritage with innovation.

Plan-Led Development

Strong planning policies and collaboration ensure high-quality neighbourhoods and economic growth.

Climate Change Response

Future development strategies focus on addressing climate change to improve city resilience.

Enhanced Quality of Life

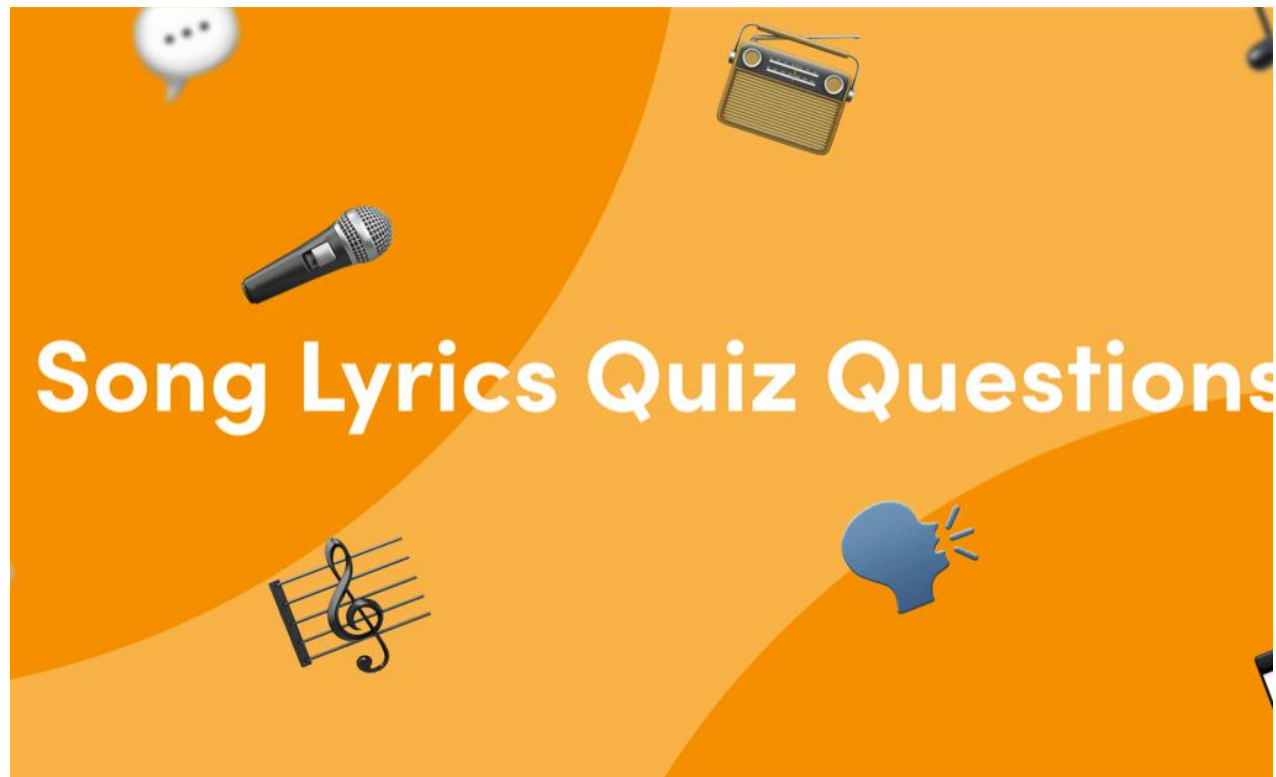
Plans aim to enhance Liverpool's character and improve living standards for its residents.





Icebreaker

Icebreaker – Name that Tune

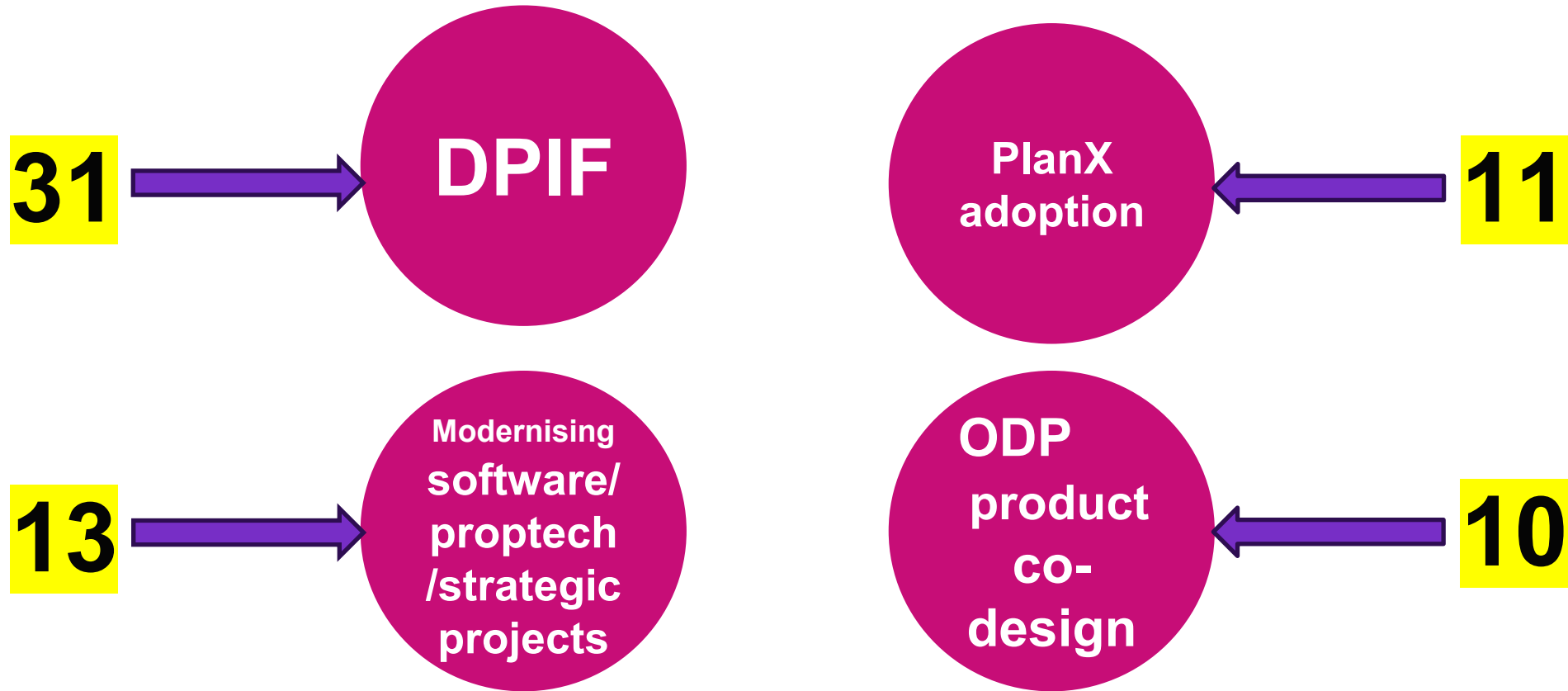


- Liverpool as you have just heard is famous for its music heritage and is a UNESCO site for music
- What better way to get to know each other than through some great Liverpool music
- You will have a list of 10 lyrics from songs by Liverpool singers/groups
- Name the song and the artist – please confer with the people on the table
- Feel free to sing along when we play the answers



"Find your people"

A chance to reconnect pre-pub!



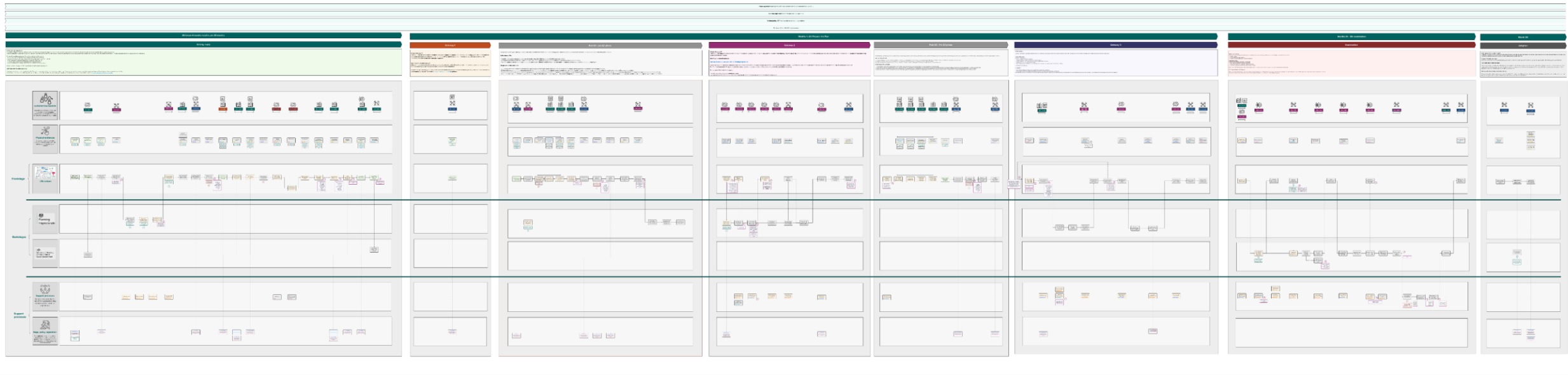


Break (11:10-11.25)

Working Sessions



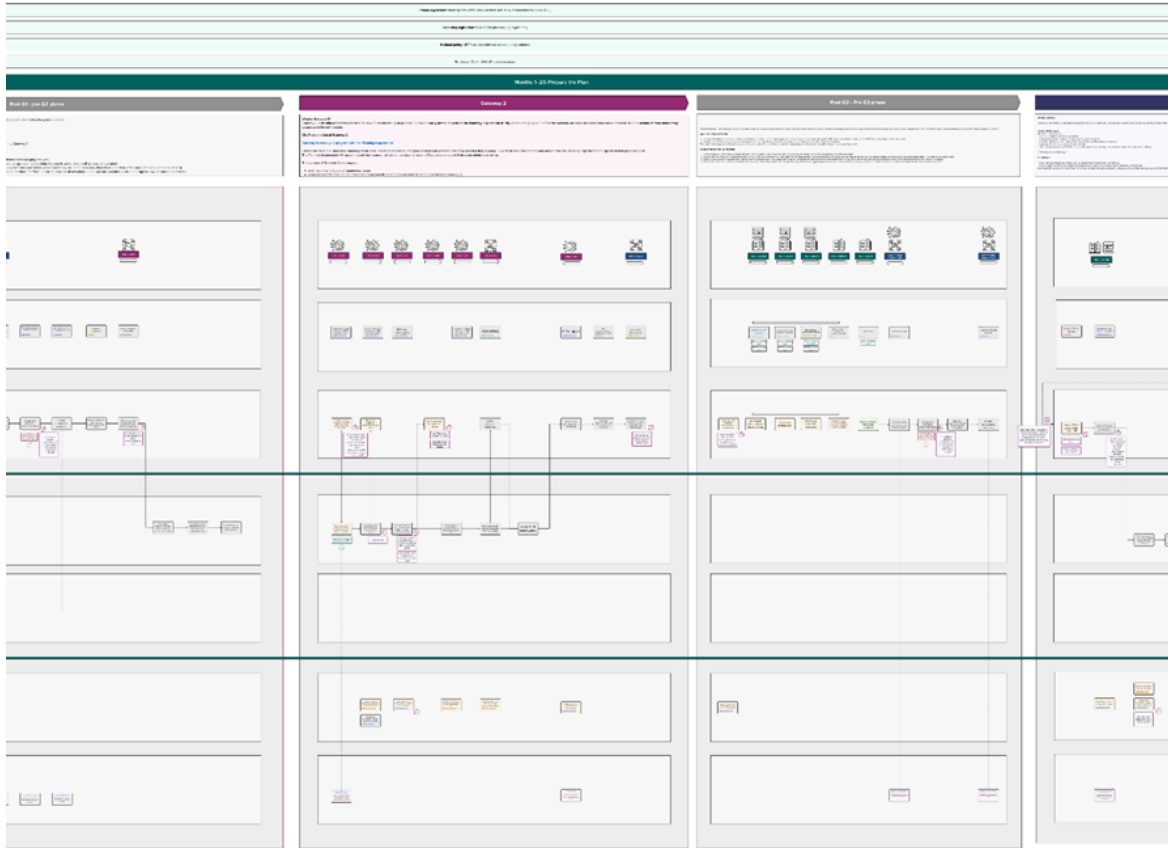
Local plans service blueprint



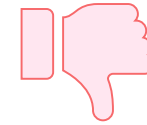
- **End-to-end view of the 30-month local plan process** - showing all phases, from early vision through to examination and adoption.
- **Who does what, and when** - mapping the roles of LPAs, MHCLG, PINS and others across each stage.
- **Key interactions and handoffs between organisations** - where decisions, submissions, and feedback flow between actors.
- **Evidence, governance, and statutory touchpoints** - highlighting where regulation, guidance, and required outputs shape the process.
- **Where complexity, gaps, and opportunities sit** - making pain points and duplication visible so they can be improved.



Test it, challenge it, improve it: what we need from you



• Does this reflect reality?



• Where does this feel harder than it should be?
Where does this break down in practice?



• Where do you need more clarity to deliver this confidently? Where are the points that slow you down or cause rework?



• Where could we do this smarter? Where have you tried something new (or want to), and what difference did it make / would it make?

From Documents to Data: Improving Building Control Services



A collaborative session with the team who are delivering building control innovation

Work in teams to rethink the process, test ideas and design an MVP service for building control with a focus on data

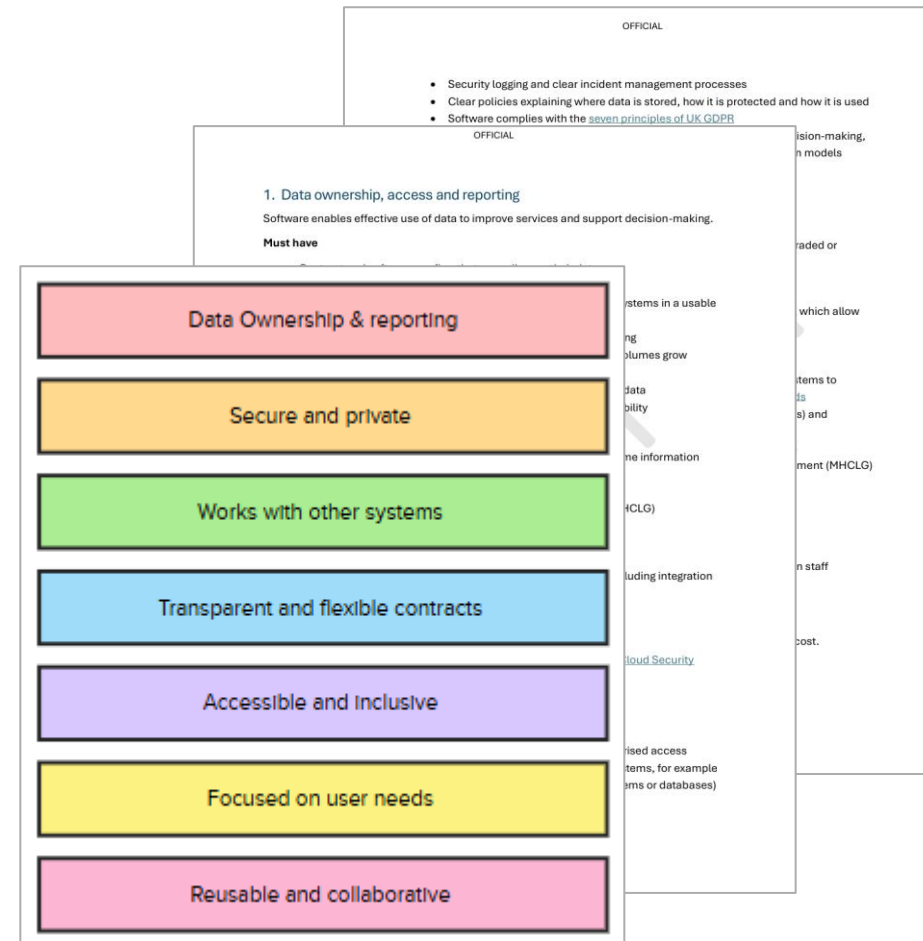
You will create a mini map of post-it data with a few pages of paper mockup showing the first steps



Definition of Modern Digital Planning Software

Practical guidance to support with procuring software optimised to improve your day-to-day work

Help us test whether our latest draft meets the needs of Planning teams



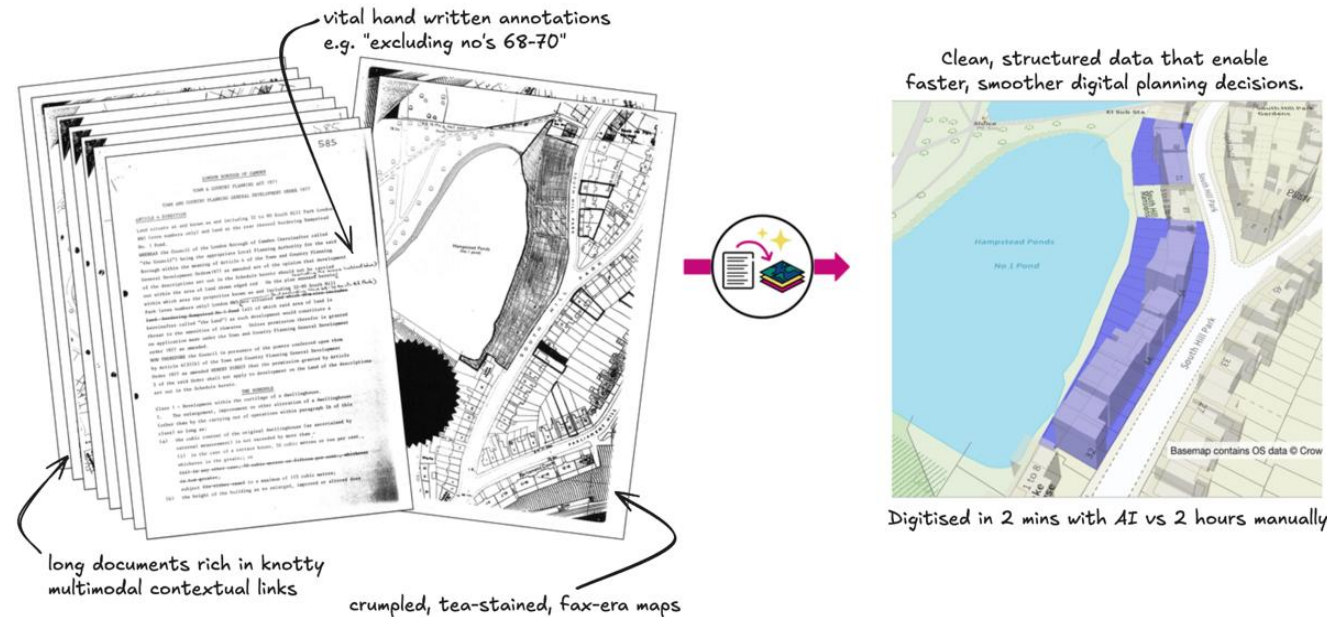


Extract

Chanelle Williams, Gordon
Aiken & Felix Reilly
– MHCLG & i.AI

Extract

Why use Extract now?



Planning data shouldn't be trapped in PDFs, scans and paper records.

Extract helps Local Planning Authorities turn historic planning documents into usable, standardised planning data.

Reduce manual effort. Improve planning data quality. Support better digital planning services.

ODP Liverpool event • 4 June 2026 • Launch

Why should LPAs use Extract?

Because the scale of historic planning data is too big to solve manually

190k–240k

priority planning records
estimated across England

20–25%

already published
on planning.data.gov.uk

15 mins–2 hrs

per digital record
using existing manual methods

1/3

missing key fields
name or start date missing

1

Planning records are fragmented

Stored across PDFs, scans, old maps and archived systems.

2

Manual digitisation takes time

Specialist GIS skills are often needed to trace complex boundaries.

3

Modern services need data

Standardised, machine-readable data is the foundation for digital planning tools.

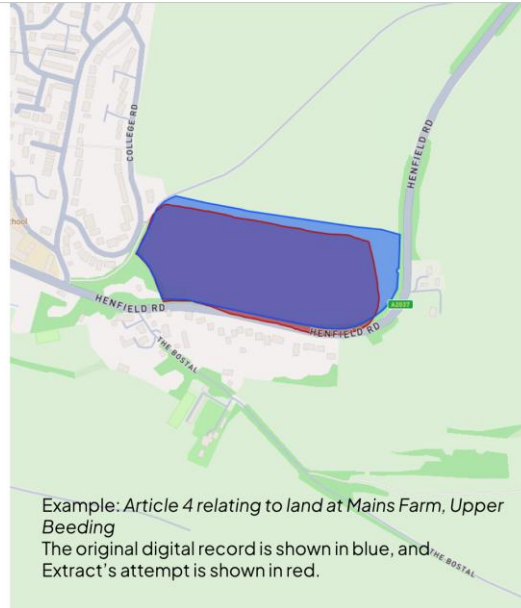
Every hour spent tracing old maps is time not spent on planning judgement, policy work or better services for residents.

What the evaluation tells us

Extract is not fully automated — it gives officers a strong first draft to review

LAI

A good quality extraction of a conservation area or article 4 area has at least 80% overlap with the original, human-drawn area

**LAI**

A good quality extraction of a tree preservation order has at least 80% of zones and trees close to the right place

**56–69%**

good first draft
across all document types

50–80%

time saving
when output is good

30–55%

overall reduction
up to half of total effort

76%

good at least once
over three attempts

0–2%

no output
failure rate

User review remains essential: officers check, correct and approve before export.

Built with LPAs, not just for LPAs

User input shaped the service before national launch

42

LPAs onboarded
ahead of launch

32

sessions completed
onboarding + user research

413

records tested
representative evaluation set

10

LPAs sampled
by region and rural/urban type

Real workflows

Planning, GIS and digital teams tested the review, correction and export journey.

Continuous feedback

LPA insight shaped language, usability, product priorities and support materials.



“It is going to really help us process the TPO backlog.”

This is just the beginning

Three datasets now become the foundation for what comes next

Conservation Areas

Estimated 12,000–12,400 records
86–88% already published
Focus: improve coverage and quality

Article 4 Directions

Estimated 9,000–16,000 records
18–30% already published
Focus: unlock missing constraints

Tree Preservation Orders

Estimated 175,000–215,000 records
16–20% already published
Focus: address high-volume backlog

Today



Tomorrow

Better public access

Planning constraints are easier to find and understand.

Faster Local Land Charges prep

Cleaner constraints data supports migration and reuse.

Modern planning tools

Feeds PlanX, BOPS, Digital Site Register and future services.

Future AI opportunities

Reusable data creates safer foundations for new AI-powered planning products.

The value is not just creating data — it is what becomes possible once the data exists.

Early feedback

- "I've found Extract AI to be an excellent starting point in the digitisation process. Its georeferencing capabilities and ability to extract relevant textual data are especially valuable, providing a strong foundation that can be further refined through human expertise." **Arthur Clarke, GIS Support Officer (Publica)**
- "We have been testing Extract using decision notices and site plan to look at PD. It picked up the plotting beautifully, and some PD restriction conditions. It is not picking up conditions relating to restrictions on garage use and parking (but understand it is not set up for that yet!) so we added them in manually." **Sophie Romain, Senior Planning Support Officer (South Gloucestershire)**
- "We explored using the Extract AI tool to support our Tree Preservation Order plotting. We met with the product team who kindly made the visit down to Adur and Worthing's Town Hall to test the tool with our own data, giving us the opportunity to provide feedback directly to the team. It was really valuable for us to be a small part of such an innovative and exciting project. It shows real promise for substantial time-saving." **Simon Millier, Head of Technology and Design (Adur and Worthing Councils)**
- "Extract is a fantastic tool having used it for checking our TPO and Article 4 Direction documents. We are also excited to see if its capability can extend to helping us scan old paper planning application files."
Carly Stoddart, Continuous Improvement Lead Planning (Swale)

Planning Inspectorate support

"The Planning Inspectorate is following closely the work being led by MHCLG and Local Authorities to enable greater use of new AI-enabled tools like Extract and the Augmented Planning Decisions Prototype.

AI guidance provided by the Planning Inspectorate upholds public and professional responsibility for the information generated and supports human control and oversight. We will keep our guidance under review to maintain this 'golden rule' for AI use, as this technology improves and we understand more about the impact on any casework."

Graham Stallwood, Interim Chief Executive

Launching today — now let's see it in action

Access, support and feedback routes are ready for LPAs

Access available

LPAs can begin using Extract from launch.

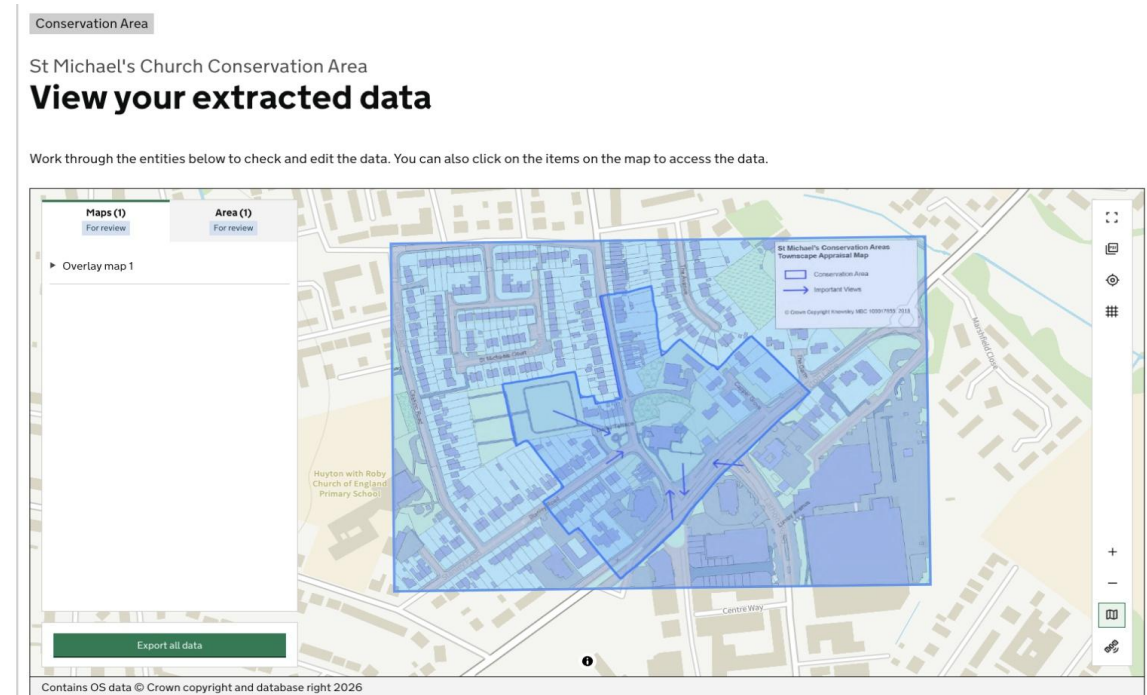
Weekly Extract drop-ins

Regular sessions for questions, support and shared learning.

Dedicated support route

Extract@communities.gov.uk

LIVE DEMO



Upload → extraction → review → edit → export

Digital Twins





UNIVERSITY OF
LIVERPOOL

VEC

VIRTUAL
ENGINEERING
CENTRE

Digital Twins for Smarter Planning and Regeneration

Supporting Better Planning Decisions, Infrastructure Delivery and Citizen Engagement

Dr Konstantin Vikhorev

The Modern Complexity Challenge

Why Planning Needs New Tools

Modern urban planning requires the orchestration of diverse, interconnected systems. Current traditional toolkits are no longer sufficient to navigate the following pressures:

- **Systemic Pressures:** Balancing housing growth with regeneration needs and aging infrastructure.
- **Sustainability & Finance:** Managing aggressive net-zero carbon targets under severe financial constraints.
- **Integration Complexity:** Integrating transport, energy, environment, heritage, and public health into a unified spatial strategy.
- **Governance:** Increasing the requirement for public transparency in complex development outcomes.

Traditional planning tools fail to model or capture the vital cross-system interdependencies that define city development today.



Overview

What Is a City Digital Twin?

Definition

A dynamic, shared digital representation of a city that integrates 3D modelling with planning, infrastructure, transport, environmental data and real-time and historic city data.

Primary Purpose

- **Simulation:** Test complex urban scenarios.
- **Visualisation:** Model the potential impacts of infrastructure projects.
- **Decision Support:** Enable data-driven, evidence-based urban planning.
- **Engagement:** Improve collaboration and transparency with the community.

The 'Living Map' Analogy

Think of it as Google Maps enhanced with deep planning intelligence and real-time simulation capabilities.



Why Digital Twins Matter for LPAs

Creating a shared, digital environment for planning and infrastructure development



Evidence-Based Planning

Provides robust, data-driven insights to support smarter policy decisions.



Cross-Departmental Collaboration

Breaks down silos by providing a unified view of planning, transport, and environmental data.



Improved Public Transparency

Enables interactive, accessible visualizations that demystify projects for the community.



Risk Identification

Allows for predictive modelling to spot potential infrastructure or environmental conflicts early.



Infrastructure & Energy Planning

Supports energy planning, infrastructure coordination and sustainable urban growth.

Building the City Digital Twins

Project Overview and Strategic Implementation

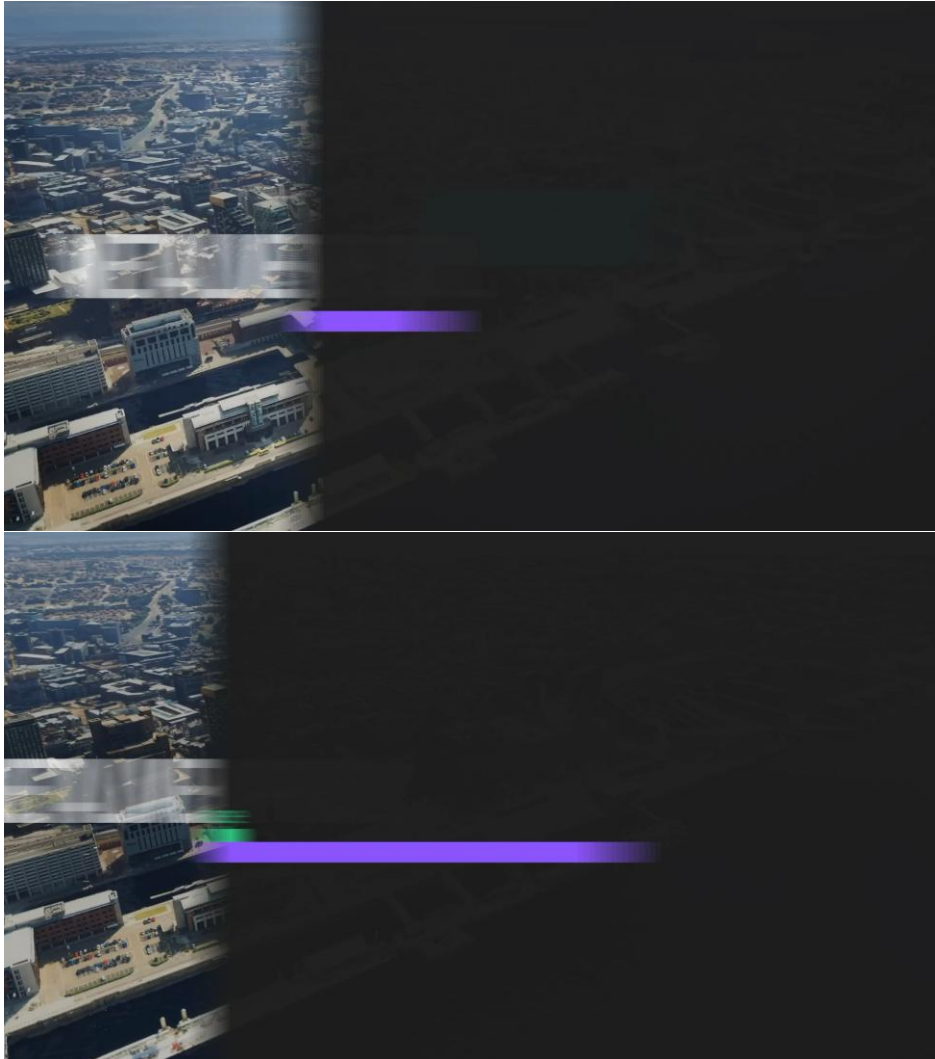


- **Scope**
High-fidelity digital twin of the Liverpool, Nottingham and Bradford
- **Key Data Sources**
Integration of LiDAR, aerial imagery, transport infrastructure, and historical planning datasets.
- **Core Capabilities**
Interactive 3D visualisation, predictive scenario testing, and infrastructure analytics.

To provide robust, evidence-based planning intelligence that drives smarter urban development and regional growth.

Practical Planning Applications

Leveraging data and technology to improve urban outcomes



- **Transport & Mobility**

Analysis of traffic flow, promotion of active travel, and integration of public transport networks.

- **Regeneration**

Optimization of density, protection of heritage sightlines, and assessment of the public realm.

- **Environment**

Predictive modelling, real-time air quality monitoring, and advanced carbon/energy mapping.

- **Engagement**

Deployment of interactive consultation platforms and enhanced accessibility of planning data.

Liverpool Case Study: The Strand

Reimagining a high-traffic waterfront artery



- The Challenge

Balancing private vehicles, public transport, cyclists, and pedestrians while addressing environmental concerns.

- Implementation

Utilised advanced traffic modelling, reallocated road space, and integrated cycle lanes and pedestrian boulevards.

- Key Outcomes

Estimated reduction in carbon emissions exceeding 25%

Cycling uptake projected to increase by more than 300%

Improved pedestrian safety and public realm accessibility

Better evidence for transport and regeneration decision-making

Digital Twins for Regeneration and Infrastructure Delivery

Leveraging virtual modelling for urban planning and development



Regeneration Planning

Test redevelopment scenarios, assess impacts on urban layout, and support strategic long-term programmes.



Transport Integration

Simulate traffic and pedestrian flows to improve connectivity and coordination between infrastructure and development.



Infrastructure Coordination

Integrate utility and energy systems to identify conflicts early and support investment decisions.



Energy and Urban Systems

Visualise demand and capacity to manage the impacts of growth across interconnected urban networks.

Nottingham City: Integrated Digital Twin

Driving Planning and Community Engagement via Advanced Digital Frameworks



- **Application Efficiency**

Accelerates proposal visualization and planning workflows through seamless integration with ArcGIS and immersive environments.

- **Hybrid Engagement**

Combines physical models with digital overlays using Projection Augmented Relief Models (PARM) for enhanced multi-stakeholder participation.

- **Analytical Precision**

Leverages heritage impact analysis and complex environmental overlays like shadow, flood, and transport data for high-fidelity planning.

Outcome: Improved transparency, faster evidence-based decision-making, and accessible planning communication.

Bradford City: Regeneration and Civic Innovation

Strategic focus areas for urban planning and public transparency



Images courtesy of Pishdaad Modaresi, Bradford Council

- **City-Centre Regeneration**

Revitalising urban cores through data-informed spatial planning.

- **Infrastructure Scenario Modeling**

Utilising digital tools to simulate and optimise future urban interventions.

- **Environmental Resilience**

Prioritising climate-responsive design through predictive analysis.

- **Open Access 3D City Model**

Providing a digital replica for research, academic study, and civic participation.

- **Civic Innovation**

Use of Projection Augmented Relief Models (PARM) combining physical city models with projected digital planning data

- **Public Engagement at Scale**

1,458 visitors attended over three days
732 unique visitors engaged directly with the platform Included: investors, architects, students, councils across the UK, MHCLG representatives.

Return on Investment Analysis

Assessing the Socio-economic Value
of 3D Geospatial Information
for the UK Planning Sector

Phase 1: Final Report
October 2024



Drivers

Support business case locally

Drive national conversation 3D value

Focus

Pre-application review (internal)

Site design and assessment (internal)

Inward Investment (external)

Findings

Benefit : Cost ratio of 2:1 (internally – Planning)

Benefit : Cost ratio of 20:1 (external – local AEC)

OFFICIAL

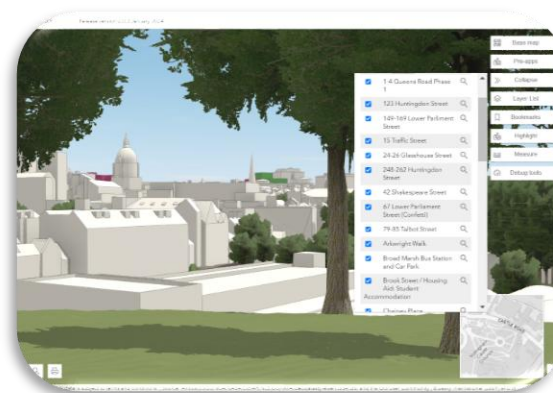
Return on Investment Study

Every £1 of investment = £2 in efficiency and
monetary savings over a 10-year period

Service Costs £36k per annum

Technology, data licencing, operational delivery,
training, management:

Pre-application review



Benefits estimate

Time savings

Value £19.5k per annum

Site design & assessment



Benefits estimate

Time savings

Value: £55.1k per annum

OFFICIAL



LOCAL
DIGITAL

Laying the foundations for better local public services

Local Digital > New research finds investment in 3D modelling delivers double returns in town planning benefits

New research finds investment in 3D modelling delivers double returns in town planning benefits

Back to Digital Planning Programme Case Studies

Challenge

While many Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) recognise the potential of cutting-edge technologies to revolutionise their planning processes, justifying the initial and ongoing investment can be a significant hurdle. New research, commissioned by **Nottingham City Council**, now provides compelling evidence that the investment in 3D (three dimensional) modelling and geospatial technology not only brings tangible benefits but delivers substantial financial returns.

Approach

Case study details

Consultation stage: Development management

Area of work: PropTech

Funding stream: PropTech Innovation Fund Round 3



3D Nottingham

Developer Guide

Nottingham City Council 3D Hub

An ambitious vision to virtual reality



3D Nottingham

Utilising our 3D virtual city environment has become a fundamental part of Nottingham City Council's planning function, particularly when assessing major developments being proposed within the city.



AGI 3D Network Event

Taking Geospatial to another Dimension

University of Nottingham

UK | CHINA | MALAYSIA

City of BRADFORD

METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government

esri UK

UNIVERSITY OF BRADFORD

cyclomedia

imagination

LANCASTER

Ordnance Survey

Sevenoaks

DISTRICT COUNCIL

ConsultingWhere

Accelerating the value of geospatial intelligence

Zmapping

bluesky

WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Geospatial Commission

GO3D

UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL

Project Insights

Lessons Learned from Digital Twin Projects

- **Technical Foundations:** Data governance frameworks and the adoption of open standards are essential for interoperability and long-term project viability.
- **Organisational Alignment:** Success requires structural buy-in across departments and the development of intuitive user interfaces that cater to non-technical stakeholders.
- **Public Engagement:** Implementing interactive spatial models transforms community consultations, fostering more inclusive, informed, and transparent decision-making processes.



Towards Integrated Digital Planning Ecosystems

Future Outlook and Technological Drivers



Scaling Impact

Transitioning from isolated, small-scale pilots to interconnected, regional-scale digital planning services.



Connected Regional Planning Systems

Supporting interoperable planning workflows and connected regional infrastructure coordination.



Real-Time Monitoring

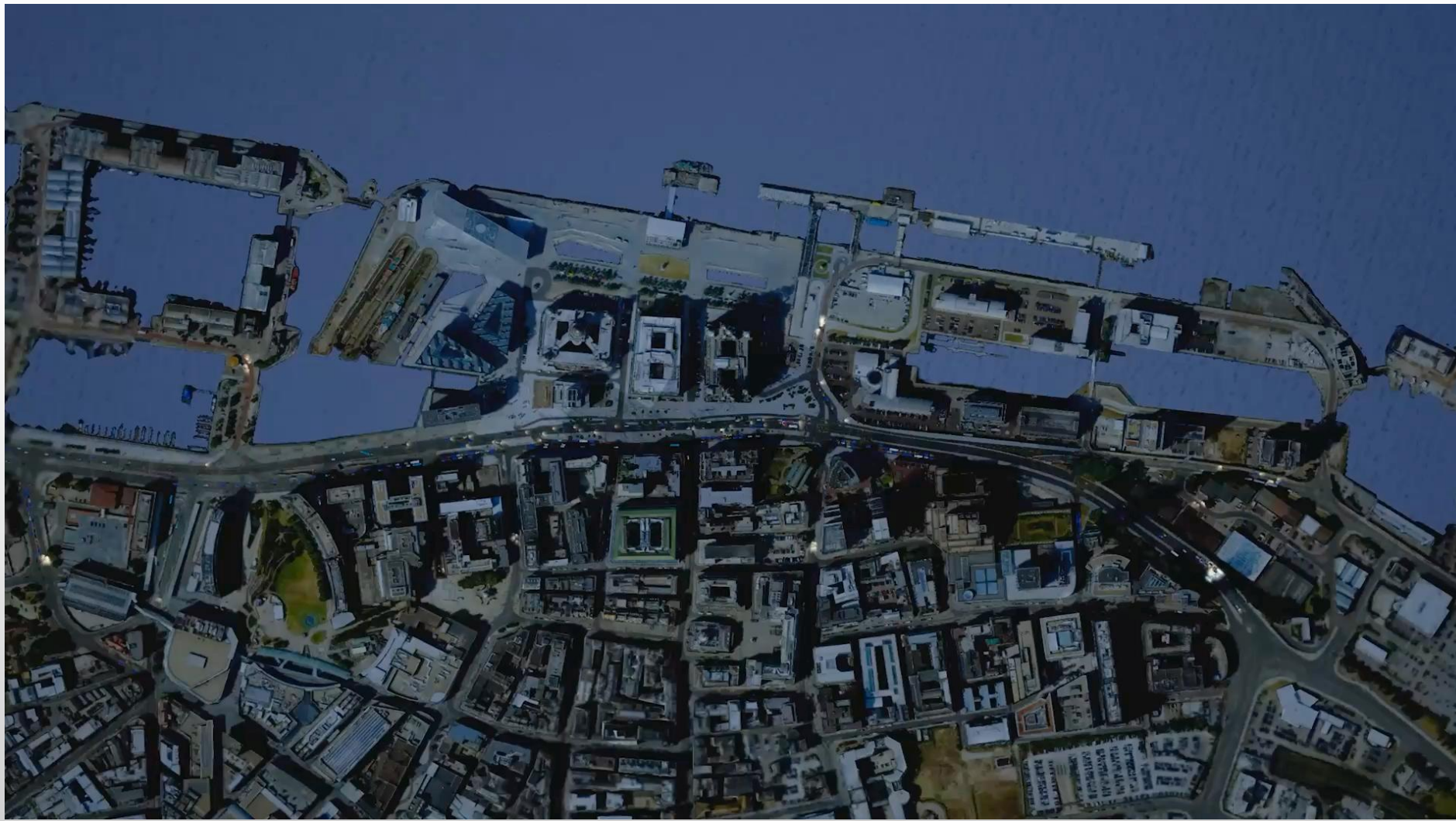
Utilising IoT, Mobile phone data and sensor data to maintain a live, accurate assessment of regional infrastructure.



Integrated Climate Resilience Modeling

Implementing advanced simulations to evaluate environmental impact and long-term sustainability.

City Digital Twin: Meta Liverpool



Contact

Dr Konstantin Vikhorev – Chief Technology Officer

E: k.vikhorev@liverpool.ac.uk

W: www.virtualengineeringcentre.com



Local Fees

Cost Recovery & Localised Fee Setting

ODP Liverpool

Richard Crawley

Local Fees in 15 minutes

1. Why should ODP people care about local fees?
2. Five minute speed guide to fee setting
3. Where next?
4. Next steps and actions

Why should you care?

- New powers to set local fees are designed to improve capacity, innovation, resilience of councils
- Setting them will require data, systems, transparency, finance and spreadsheets
 - It might be you or your team leading this (why not volunteer?)
- It is an opportunity to say publicly what a good application service needs to deliver
 - A budget for innovation, improvement, digital capacity
 - A shift from Local digital / ODP / DPIF / proptech funding to BAU

Calculating costs

Each LPA will have its own approach of establishing the cost of delivering its planning application service. While the government is not prescribing detailed requirements for how these calculations should be undertaken, we recommend that LPAs have regard to the following components:

1. Direct planning application service staff costs

Salaries and associated costs for planning officers, case officers and administrative staff directly involved in processing and determining planning applications, including servicing planning committees.

2. In-house specialist advice costs

Salaries and associated costs for internal technical specialists, such as planning policy, highways, design and conservation, environmental health, ecology, and other relevant disciplines, where their work relates directly to determining the application or they act as formal consultees.

3. External specialist advice

Commissioned expertise not available in-house (e.g., ecology/habitats, highways modelling, engineering, landscape/visual, viability, noise/air quality), including technical input from other local authorities.

4. Indirect costs

Proportionate overheads such as office accommodation, utilities, IT systems, and corporate support services.

5. Activity-based costs

Time and resources for specific tasks, including validation, consultation and publicity, site visits, report writing, committee preparation, and decision-making.

6. Legal costs

Only where required and directly related to processing and determining the application, such as drafting section 106 agreements where costs are not covered through the agreement.

7. Training and capability

Proportionate costs for essential professional training and development, including training for planning committee members, to maintain service quality and competence.

8. Digital enablement and data

Investment in digital platforms, software, and data management tools that support efficient application processing.

Why should you care?

- Honestly, you probably should volunteer
 - You think about services, and service design
 - You think about users and their needs
 - You might have some data about usage, time recording
 - You belong to a strong community with a track record of working in the open
 - You understand the importance of monitoring & evaluation
 - You can see how important data, standards and systems are to making work work

Five minute

1. National fee survey [done]
2. Consultation on approach [closed]
3. An initial “better” set of national fees, and some fee setting regulations [xmas?]
4. You: A decision – do we set our own fees? [?]
5. You: A process and consultation [12 weeks?]
6. New fees start April 27
7. Ongoing monitoring, review and sector learning
 - PAS is here to help



The Consultation

National Default Fee Schedule

- In response to the survey data, we propose to increase all fees to 90% cost recovery.
- The scale of fee increase varies depending on the extent of the shortfall.
- For example, householder will increase by approximately 9% while major S73 will increase by around 57%.
- Fees will continue to be uplifted annually in line with inflation.
- We are not proposing to introduce national fees for listed buildings or protected trees.

Reviewing Fee Categories

- **Outline, full and reserve matter applications** - Seeks to realign with new medium size development category and reflect modern development patterns.
- **Agricultural Development** – Seeks to simplify by aligning more closely with approach for other non-resi.
- **Permission in Principle** – Proposes a flat fee structure with a separate fee band for medium.
- **Section 73/73B** – Proposes the same fee for both types.
- **DoC and biodiversity gain plans** – Seeks views on charging for discharge of condition per condition and whether a new category is required for biodiversity gain plans.
- **Prior approval applications** – Proposes that all prior approvals without a fee should be charged the same flat fee.
- **Certificates of appropriate alternative development** – Propose to increase the fee beyond that of certificate of lawful use to reflect the additional work involved.
- **Section 106A applications** – Seeks views on a new fee for modifying / discharging planning obligations and what this fee should be.



The Consultation

Surcharge for Statutory Consultees

- Aims to better fund statutory consultees and streamline the planning application process.
- The surcharge is proposed to be within the region of 10% of the national default fee.
- A more detailed consultation the surcharge, including questions on the level it should be set and types of applications it should apply to, will follow in due course.

Local Fee Setting Principles

1. LPAs may choose to vary from the default fee for one or more categories.
2. LPAs should consult and notify before they take effect.
3. LPAs must publish a schedule and evidence used to justify.
4. Local fees must operate within existing categories.
5. National exemptions and guarantees must be maintained.
6. Fees must reflect average cost estimates and not exceed recovery.
7. Cross subsidisation between categories is not permitted.
8. Local fees should be regularly reviewed.
9. Planning fee income must be ringfenced for the statutory planning decision making function.
10. Planning fees must not be used to fund wider planning services.

Where next?

- Short term
 - Some redesign– what is a “good service”? What is the point of a PPA if your base service is good quality? Is pre-application advice part of a good service?
 - A conversation – do we understand value from a users perspective? From the public’s perspective? If costs can flex where does downward pressure come from?
 - A benchmark and league tables – who is cheap and who is not? Is there a reason?
- Medium term
 - A challenge– does technology / innovation decrease DM costs?
 - More pressure on plans / policy / enforcement? Or strategic murkiness over “DM tools”?
- Long term
 - Holistic thinking about developer’s costs – the application fee is only a small part
 - Finding market forces analogies for monopolies
 - Competition for simple decisions from elsewhere?
- Setting fees feels like a spreadsheet job, but there is plenty philosophy

Next steps

- Join the basecamp
 - We're doing some thinking in preparation for the regs
 - [Localised Fee Setting | Local Government Association](#)
- Flag the opportunity
 - Scope should also include pre-application, PPA, NSIPs
 - Open data on costs and evidence
 - You don't have to decide yet to actually set local fees – some of the prep is useful anyway
- Be prepared for some quite “big” questions
 - We're not fixing the price of the way we've always done things
 - We are pricing how things are just now
 - Knowing that the future is going to look very different

Thank you



Stalls over lunch

- Planning Data Team (MHCLG) – Kobi
- Planning Advisory Service (PAS) – Richard
- Extract team (Boardroom) – Gordon
- FME – Alice, Ciara & Abbi
- Liverpool Uni - Konstantin
- Imago & Brownfield Data (MHCLG) – Brigid, Benjamin & Gianfranco
- Unboxed – Tom



After lunch...

- ODP update
- Planning Pipeline Alpha launch
- Working sessions - Plan Making Service Map, Building Control, Modern Digital Software
- Wrap up, feedback and launch of ODP camp



Lunch (12.50-14.10)

Enjoying chatting with other ODP members? Join coffee roulette!

Meet and connect with other Open Digital Planning (ODP) members

Random pairings every 2 weeks to build relationships and share ideas

HOW IT WORKS

- Join #coffee-roulette on ODP Slack
- Get randomly matched with another ODP member every 2 weeks
- Arrange a chat within 2 weeks (online or in person)

NEXT PAIRING: Friday 5th June
Everyone welcome – join today!



ODP Update





Planning Pipeline Discovery

GMCA X GLA ODP Strategic Project

Emma Poolan, GMCA

Principal, Planning and Housing

Research Programme Manager – Digital Planning

emma.poolan@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk

GMCA X GLA Strategic Project Overview

1. A collaboration between the Greater Manchester combined authority and the Mayor of London 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 Datahub 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.

Project Objectives

- Exploration of current Greater Manchester approach to monitoring development sites through the planning system
- Pilot the application of London planning data hub to Greater Manchester as a tool to monitor development across Greater Manchester
- Develop an understanding of how a shared platform for collecting and sharing data might work
- Build an understanding of how the built environment sector can engage better with development data to deliver quality outputs
- Develop recommendations for how the built environment data work can scale including an initial business case for this work

Progress to date: Planning Pipeline Discovery

Engagement



Engaged with all 10 Greater Manchester Local Authorities, the Planning Portal, Back Office Suppliers and Atkins

Scope Needs



Scoped out the requirements of all stakeholders and identified needs and roles

ODP Community Engagement



Presented at ODP general meetings and the Lambeth event

Governance



Identified and adopted appropriated governance standards

Early Build



Procured the Discovery Stage 1 connectors and start the initial stages of the GM Planning Pipeline build



This will bring us



Timely insights



Better tracking



Expandable model



Low risk delivery

Next Stages

Core System Development

- Testing of the live datafeed (GM Planning Pipeline) and testing of the use cases for the datafeed
- Working with the Greater Manchester Local Authorities to more easily monitor strategic plans
- Create a how to guide for other strategic authorities who would like to develop similar tools.
- Share findings and key outputs with the ODP community

New Capabilities

Explore compatibility with emerging digital planning providers

- Planda
- BOPS

Improve Data Quality

- Developing the GM Planning Pipeline to include Decision Notice data in relation to planning approvals
- Starts and Completions portal

Develop dashboards and visualisations for key decision makers

Delivery Approach



Strategic and business user cases

“What is the pipeline of affordable homes over the next 5 years?”

“Which developers are developing schemes across the city region and to what volume?”

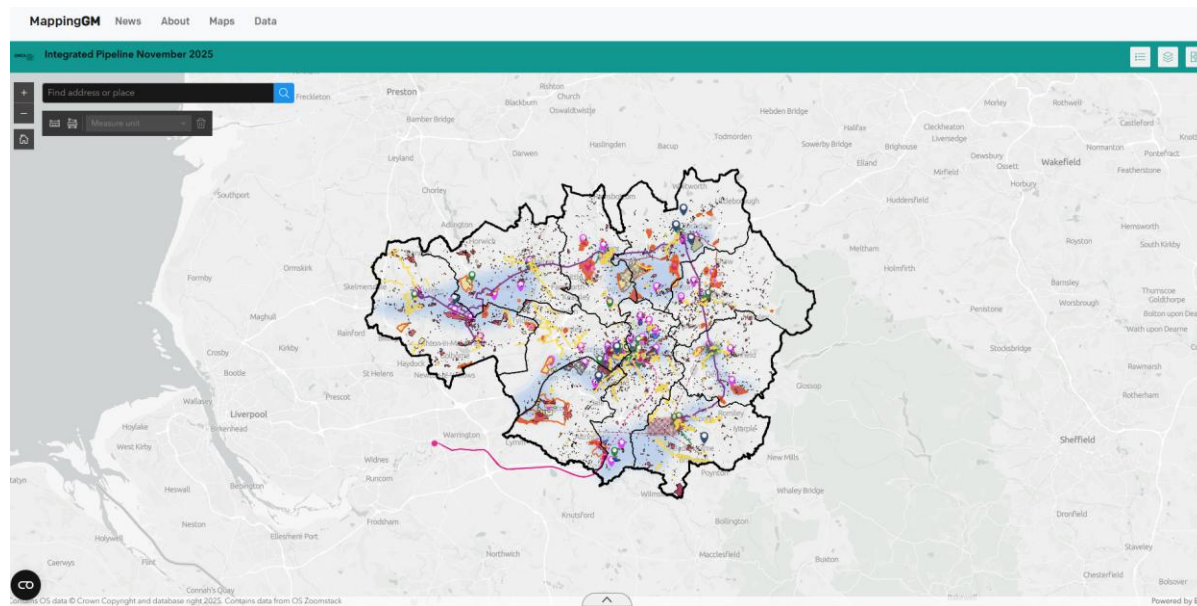
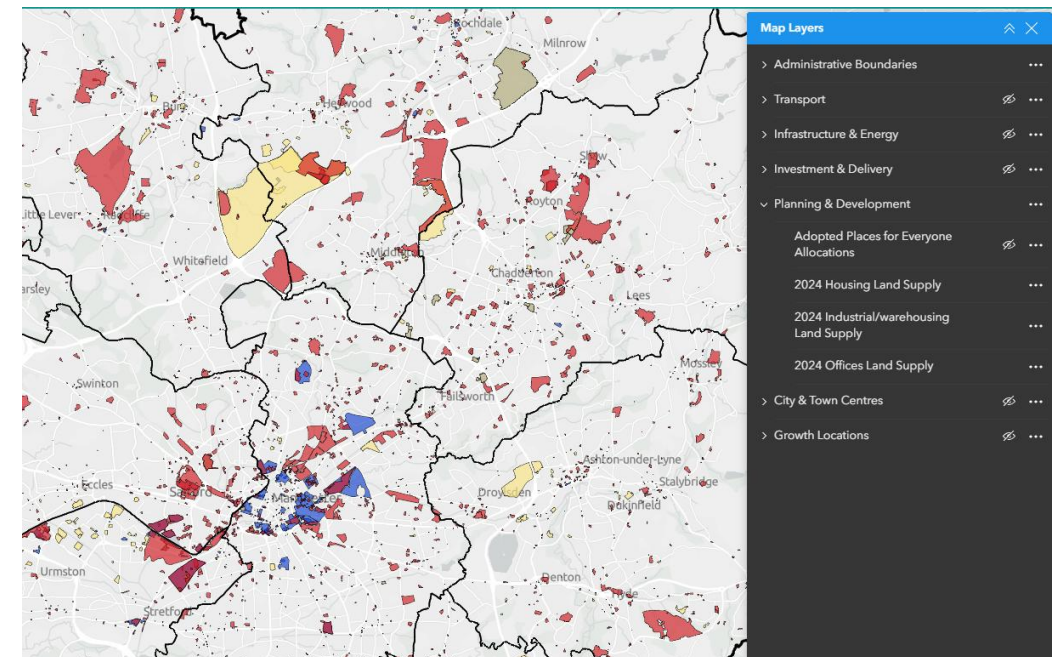
“How many stalled sites are there and who are the developers with stalled sites?”

Bring together planning application data across GM into a single data set, where we can see the life cycle of an application in the planning system seeing a pipeline view rather than a retrospective snapshot

Cross-boundary analysis, which is currently difficult without coordination or shared data across local authorities

Integration into current GMCA work

The GM Integrated Pipeline sets out the infrastructure and physical development needed to deliver GM's growth ambition over the next 10 years.



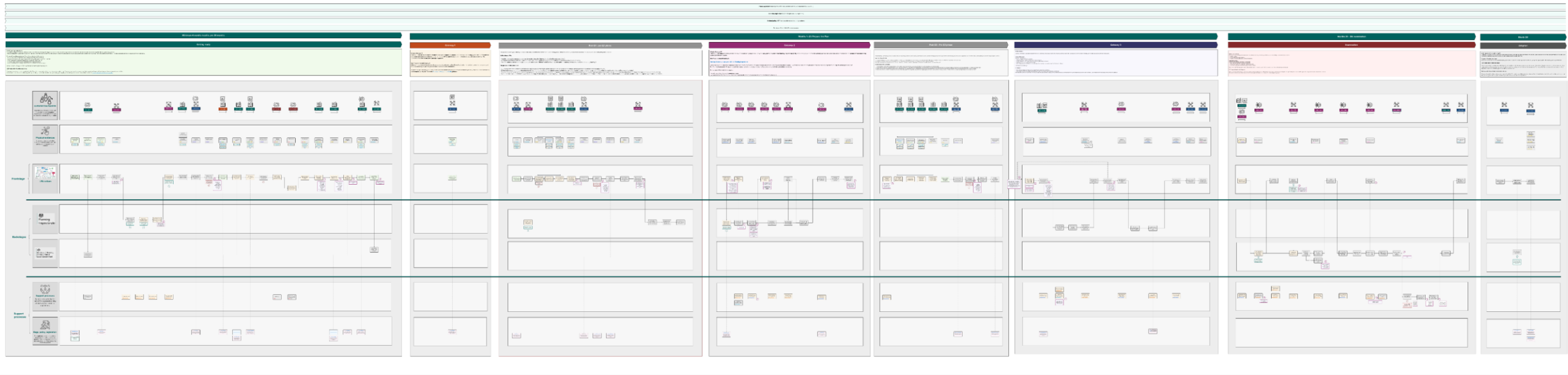
Thank you

emma.poolan@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk

Working sessions



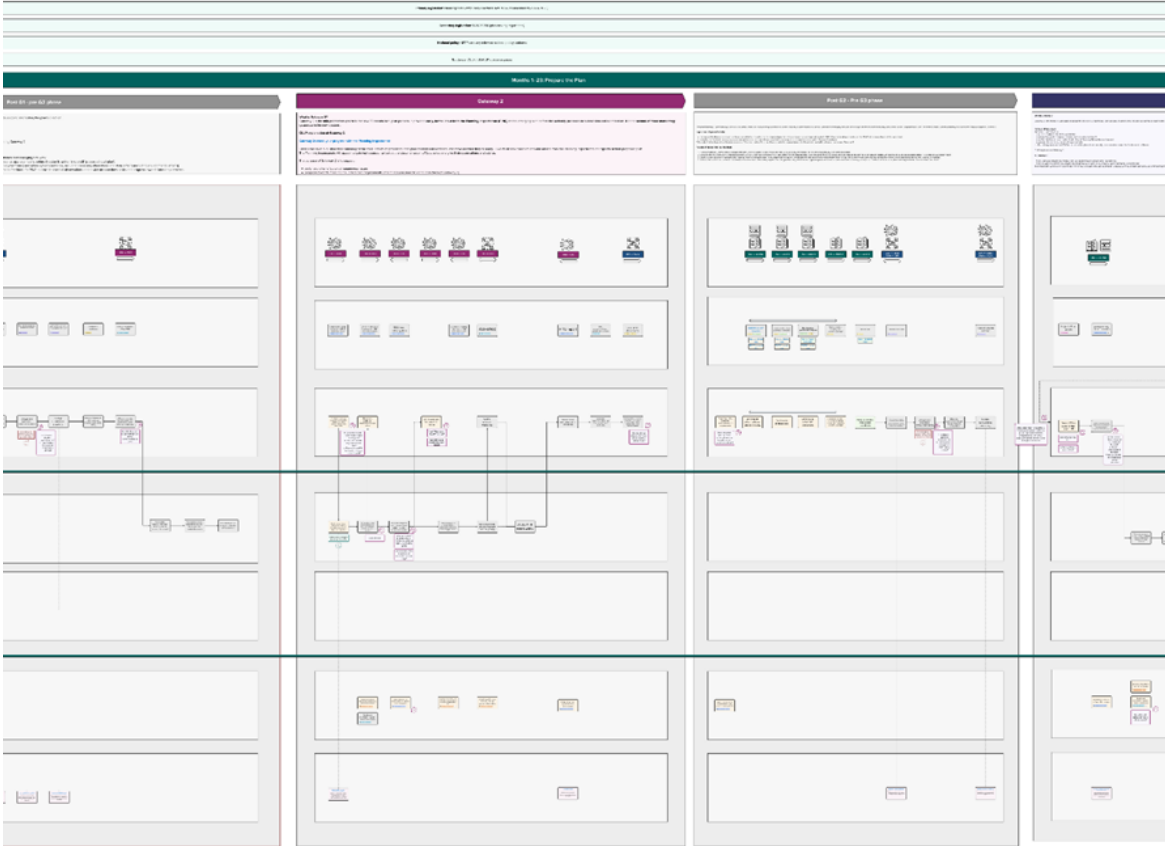
Local plans service blueprint



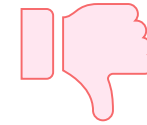
- **End-to-end view of the 30-month local plan process** - showing all phases, from early vision through to examination and adoption.
- **Who does what, and when** - mapping the roles of LPAs, MHCLG, PINS and others across each stage.
- **Key interactions and handoffs between organisations** - where decisions, submissions, and feedback flow between actors.
- **Evidence, governance, and statutory touchpoints** - highlighting where regulation, guidance, and required outputs shape the process.
- **Where complexity, gaps, and opportunities sit** - making pain points and duplication visible so they can be improved.



Test it, challenge it, improve it: what we need from you



- Does this reflect reality?



- Where does this feel harder than it should be?
Where does this break down in practice?



- Where do you need more clarity to deliver this confidently? Where are the points that slow you down or cause rework?



- Where could we do this smarter? Where have you tried something new (or want to), and what difference did it make / would it make?

From Documents to Data: Improving Building Control Services



A collaborative session with the team who are delivering building control innovation

Work in teams to rethink the process, test ideas and design an MVP service for building control with a focus on data

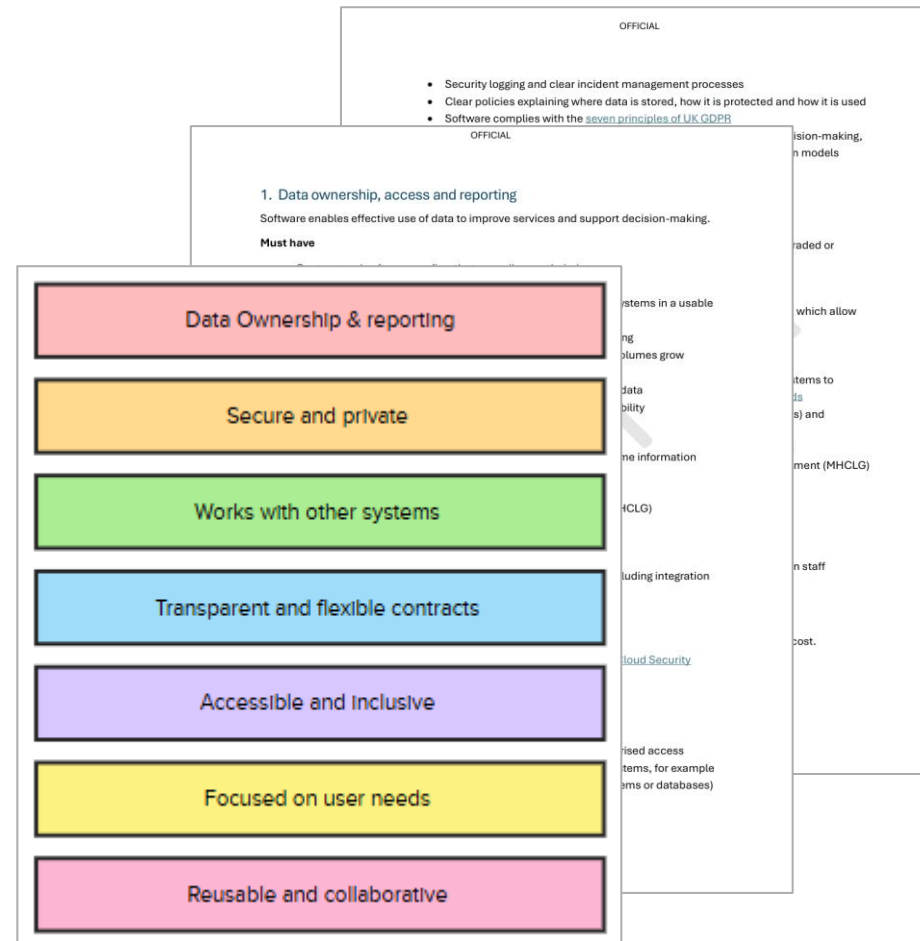
You will create a mini map of post-it data with a few pages of paper mockup showing the first steps



Definition of Modern Digital Planning Software

Practical guidance to support with procuring software optimised to improve your day-to-day work

Help us test whether our latest draft meets the needs of Planning teams



Identifying Brownfields: Local Planner Survey



Wrap up





Thank you for being here today!

- ODP is what you make of it – dive into all those opportunities
- Make your way into slack – say hello to the people you've met today!
- Would you like to host an event in 2027?

Our next event



Our next event!

- Sign up to our next event:

ODP Camp- Greater Norwich Development Partnership

- Scan the QR to register now!

Open Digital Planning - ODP
Camp- Greater Norwich
Development Partnership





ODP Social!

- The ODP Social will be on the MV Royal Daffodil
- Address: Canning Dock, Liverpool L3 4AN

Thank you!

Please take a minute
to complete the
feedback survey by
scanning the QR Code.

Open Digital Planning - Summer
Event - Liverpool City Council

