

ODP General Meeting

2nd November 2026

open digital planning

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? Yes, and we add the video to the ODP hub

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Classification: Controlled

Agenda

- Norwich was a blast: Mike Burrell
- ODP Camp feedback: Phil James
- An Introduction to the Digital Planning Directory: Dr Wei Yang
- Planning Data: Kobi Hartley
- Get ready for Blaby: Josh Codjoe
- Digital Planning Improvement Fund Round 5: Tom Lowndes
- Planning Software funding: Celia Stone

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Norwich was a blast

Mike Burrell – Planning Policy Manager

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ODP Camp 2026

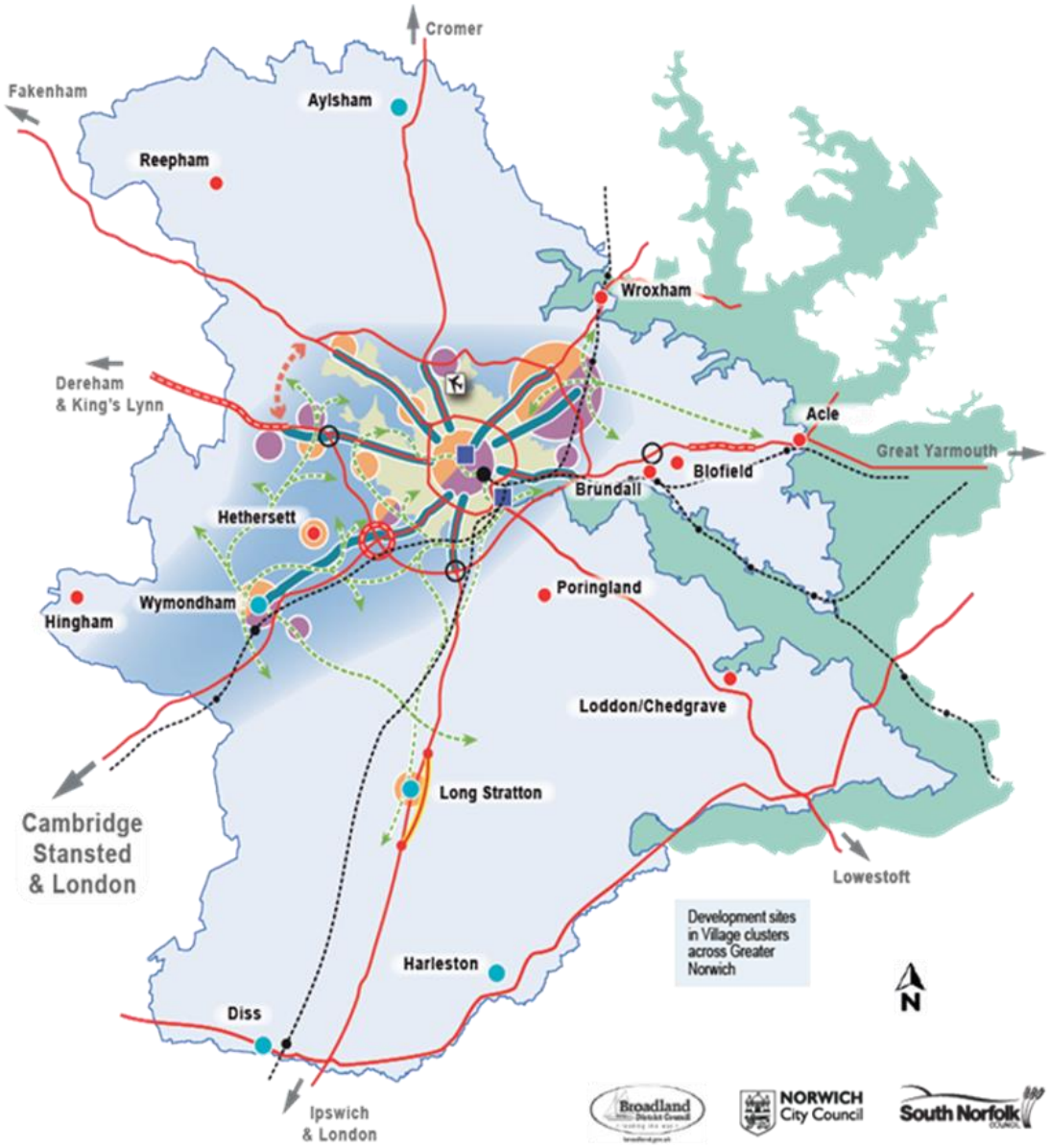
- Took place on October 7th at The Halls, Norwich
- Newly refurbished 14th century Grade 1 listed monastic buildings
- Hosted by the Greater Norwich Development Partnership (GNDP)





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What is the GNDP?

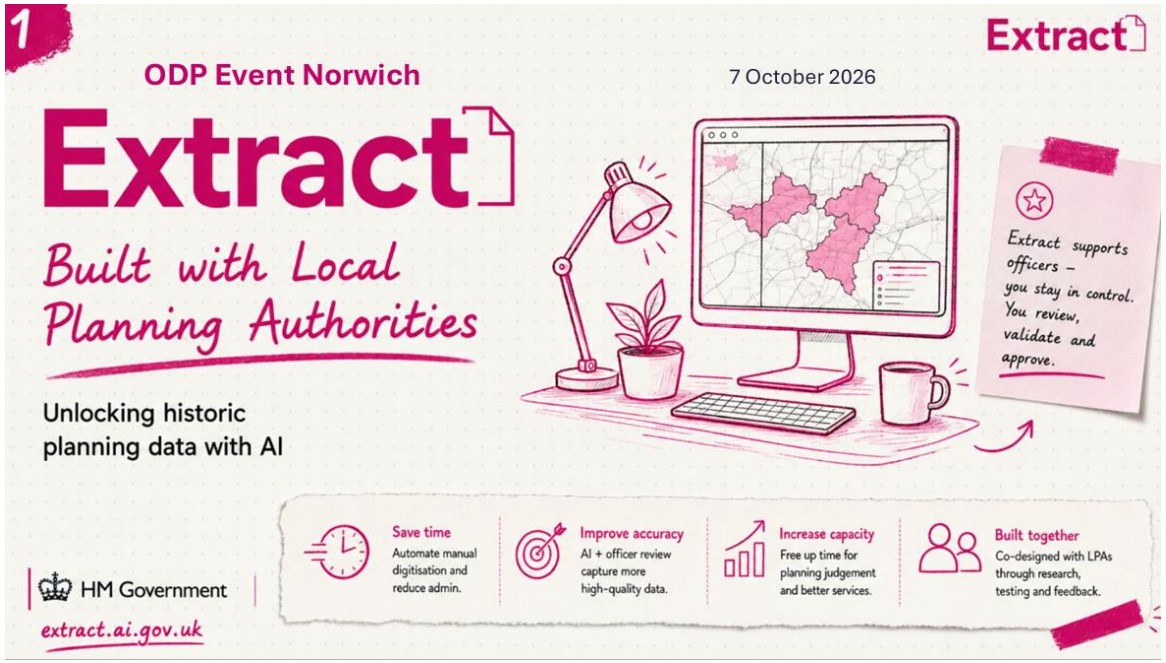


- A long-term partnership involving Broadland, Norwich and South Norfolk LPAs, working with Norfolk County Council with involvement from the Broads Authority
- Its focus is plan-making, currently preparing its third joint strategic plan
- Greater Norwich also has pooled CIL + infrastructure planning through the Greater Norwich Growth Board (GNGB).
- We also work closely with other Norfolk LPAs through the Norfolk Strategic Planning Forum.

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Preparation for the event



- Phil and Josh met with our team for regular check-ins over several months ahead of the event and offered lots of support to help us prepare to host the event.

- They struck a great balance of sharing their expertise from running previous ODP events, while also giving us plenty of freedom to make the event our own, through things like selecting the venue and catering, and collaboratively shaping the agenda.

- Phil also joined a meeting with our partnership directors early in the process, which helped our senior leaders understand the context of the event and provided an early opportunity for them to ask questions and contribute ideas.

- Liaison with attendees dealt with by MHCLG staff

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On the day

- The event was well organised and ran smoothly
- The venue proved to be excellent, including IT, space for breakout activities, catering and general facilities
- There was a good mix of presentations, active engagement and opportunities for discussion, including with those who had displays.
- The event was well attended, including a range of professionals
- The lunchtime city centre tour was affected by the rain, after several months with very little rainfall!

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Main benefits for the GNDP

The event provided:

- A clearer understanding of the opportunities digitalisation offers for producing local plans.
- An opportunity to discuss the new plan-making system and the likely content of new local plans with fellow professionals.
- A chance to build links with other planners, government representatives and planning organisations, supporting the further development of our thinking on plan-making and digitalisation.
- An opportunity to showcase the newly refurbished Halls and Norwich city centre and raise the profile of Greater Norwich.
- Greater Norwich staff gained experience of helping to organise and attended a high-profile national event.





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Questions

www.greaternorwichdevelopment.gov.uk



Broadland District Council

NORWICH City Council

South Norfolk COUNCIL

Working with Norfolk County Council

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ODP Camp feedback at a glance

The scale of participation at Norwich, alongside the feedback sample used in this deck.

162

total attendees

46

LPAs represented

42

feedback responses

A well-attended national community event, bringing together local planning authorities, delivery partners and back-office suppliers.

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Planning Data Team was the highest-ranked stall

Percentage ranking score from the 42 respondents who attended the lunchtime stalls.

1	**Planning Data Team**	**79%**
2	**Extract**	**72%**
3	**Back-office suppliers**	**71%**
4	**Planning Advisory Service (PAS)**	**69%**
5	HM Land Registry	**61%**
6	Digital Taskforce for Planning	**44%**
7	Digital Planning Register	**40%**
8	PINS	**40%**
9	Plan Making Works	**24%**

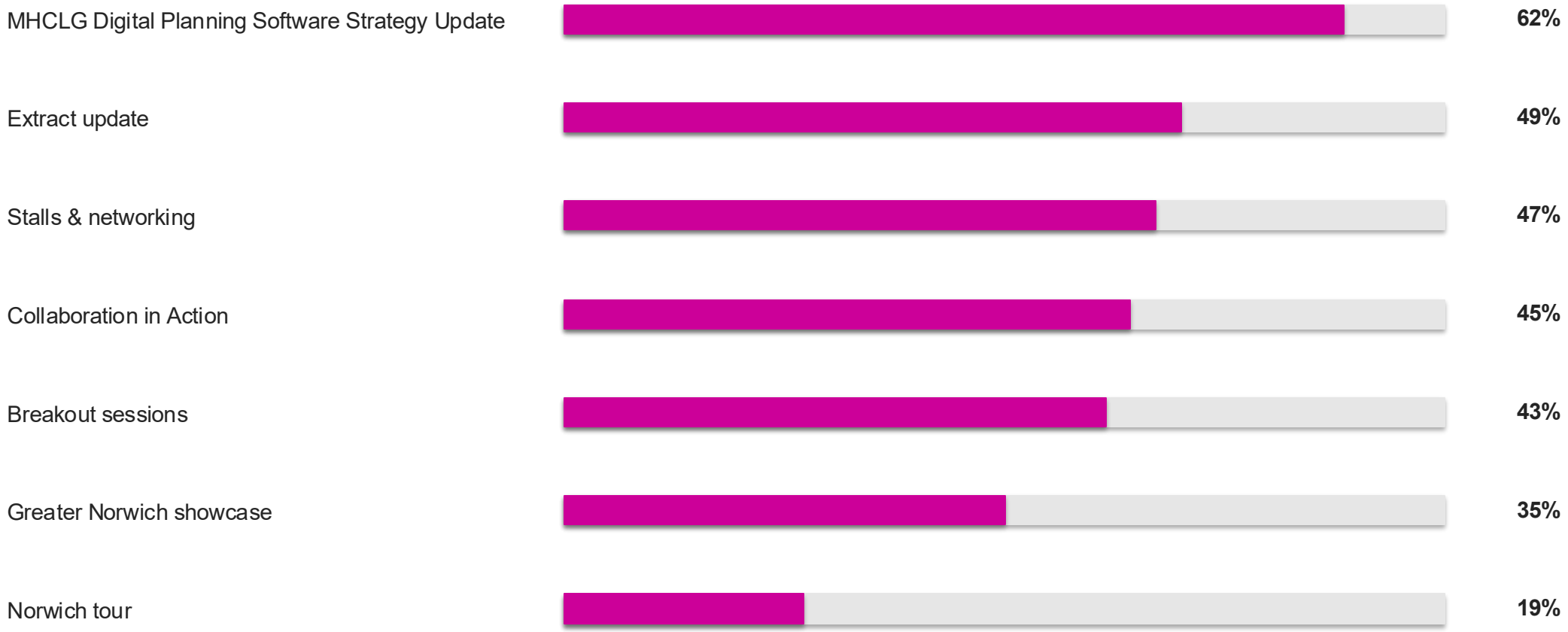
Ranking score

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Strategy, Extract and networking led the agenda

Event elements most often ranked first by respondents.



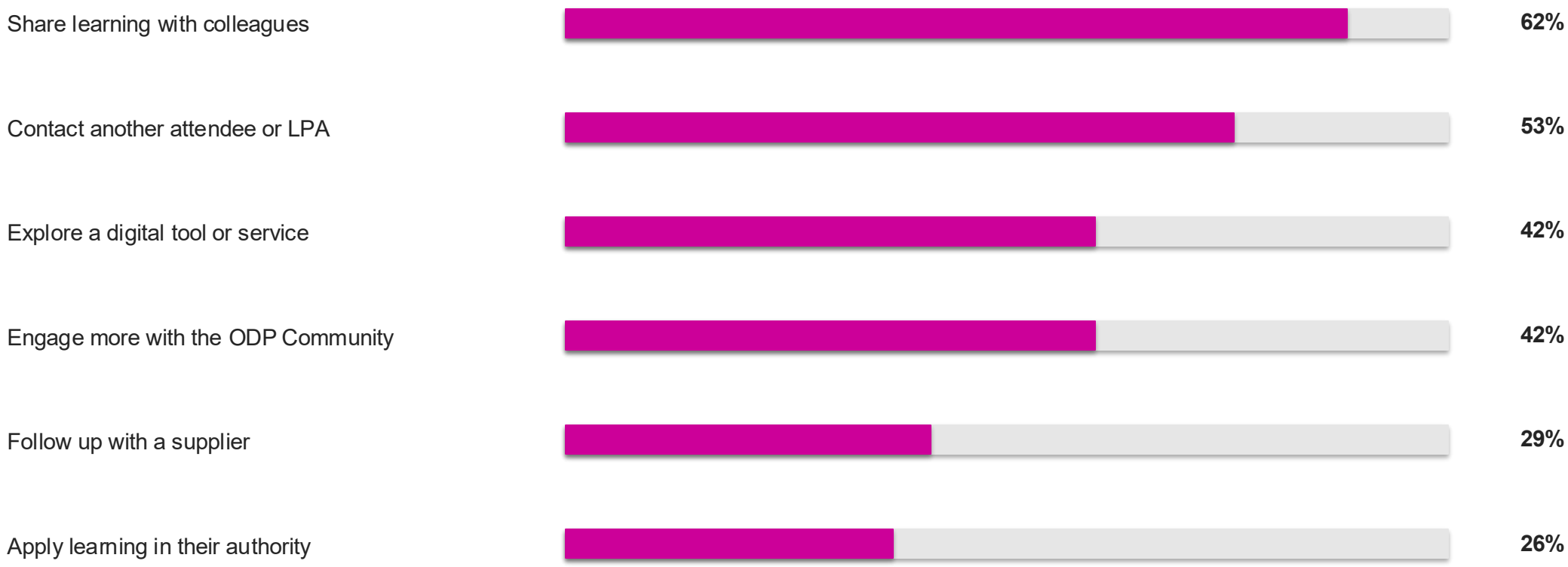
Most often ranked #1

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The clearest outcome was knowledge-sharing

Respondents could select more than one action they were likely to take next.



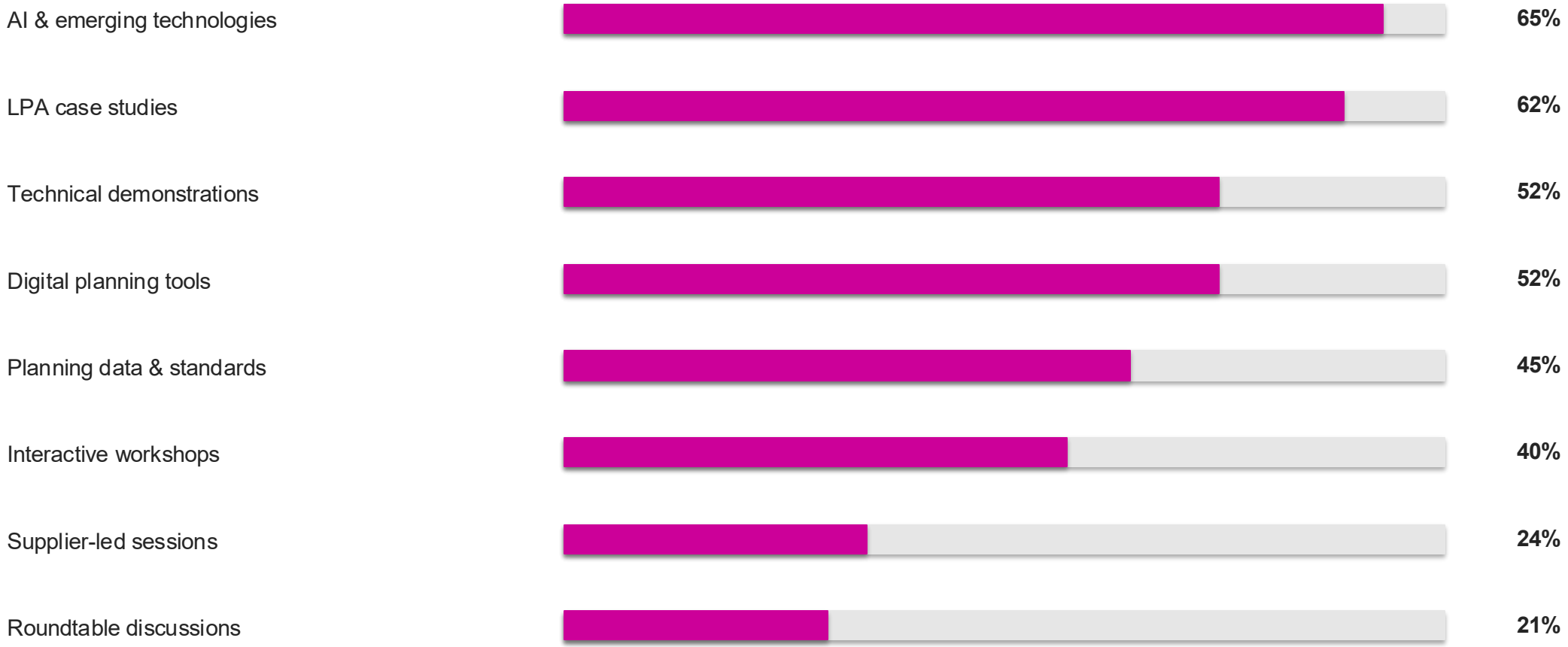
Only 1 respondent selected "nothing specific"

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Future events should be practical, peer-led and forward-looking

The strongest demand centered on emerging technology, LPA experience and hands-on demonstrations.



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In attendees' own words

A small selection of anonymised comments from the survey.

"First time attending and found it very informative! Will be attending again."

"It was a good networking opportunity to speak to representatives from the suppliers."

"LOVE LOVE LOVE the addition of the Norwich tour."

"Something a bit more interactive that allows good open two-way discussion and debate."

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An Introduction to the Digital Planning Directory

Dr Wei Yang – CEO
Digital Taskforce for Planning

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An Introduction to the Digital Planning Directory

2 November 2026

Dr Wei Yang OBE

CEO, Digital Task Force for Planning

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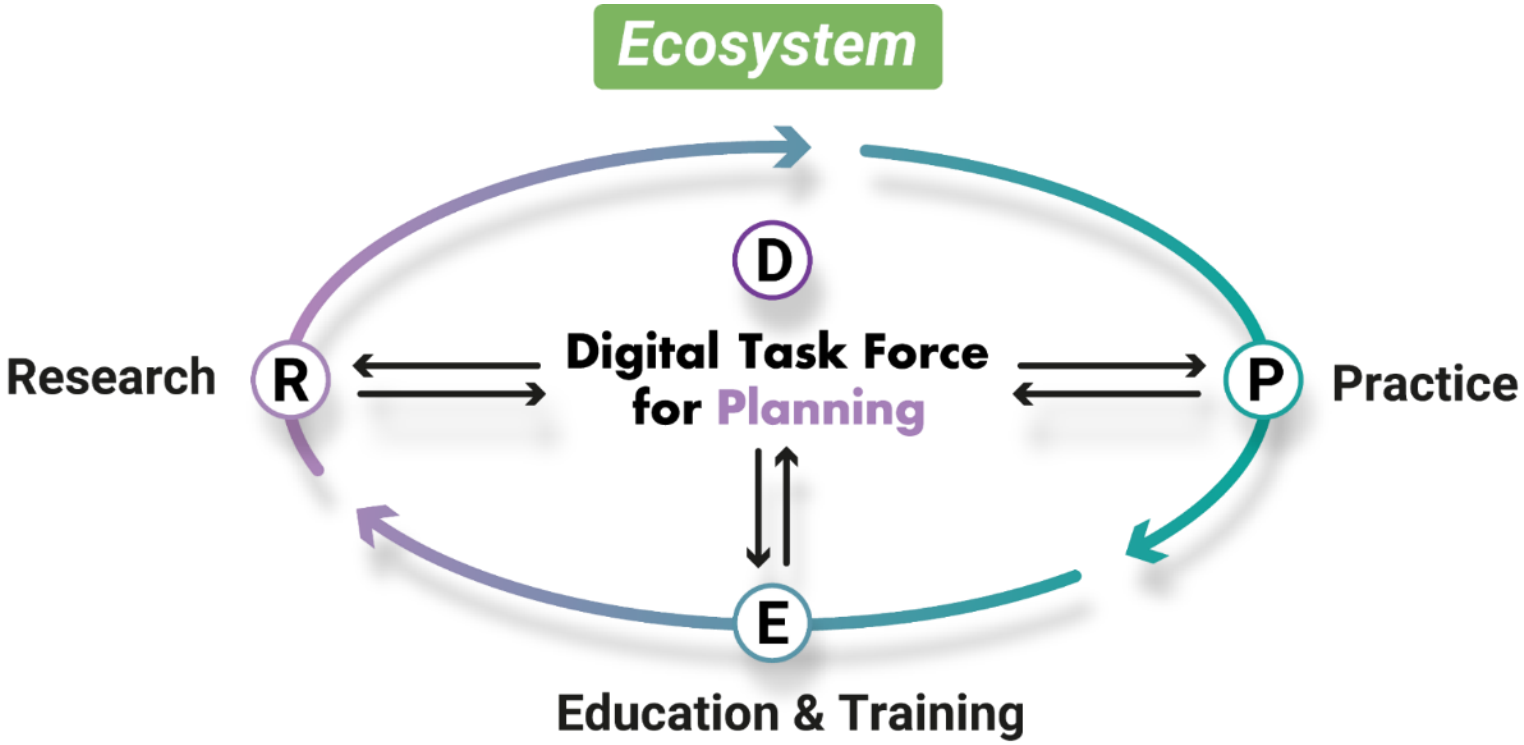
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Digital Task Force for Planning

Digital Task Force for Planning

Digital Task Force for Planning

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



- **Developing & implementing** a digitally enabled integrated approach to planning
- **Consolidating** fragmented research, knowledge, data, methods, and tools
- **Identifying** gaps and stimulating further innovation

Planning for Long-Term Systemic Resilience

Housing

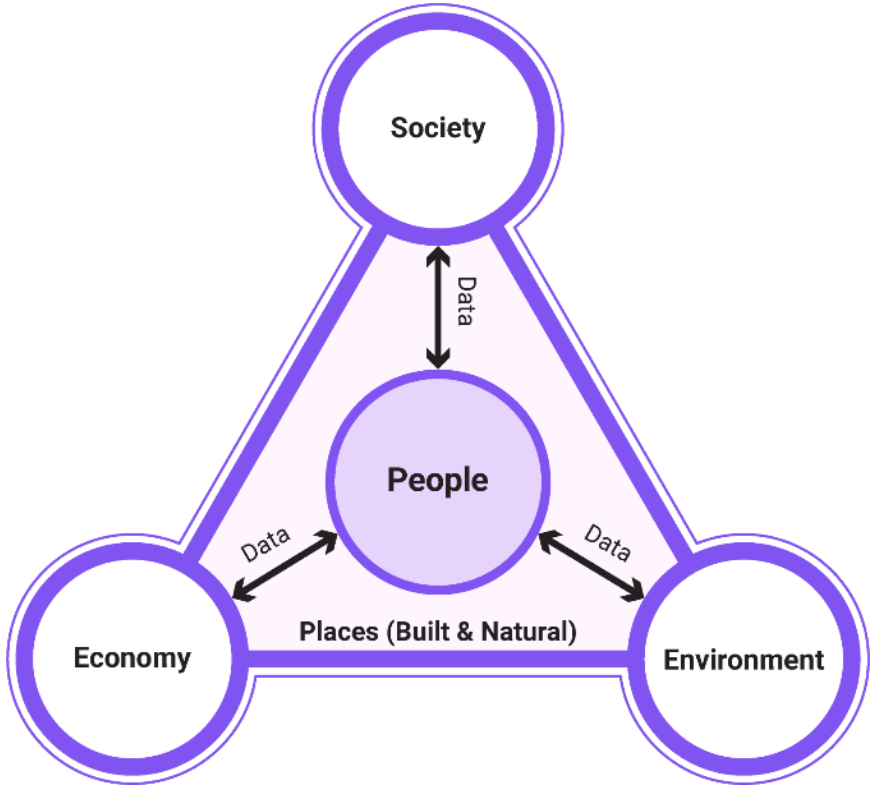
Transport

Energy

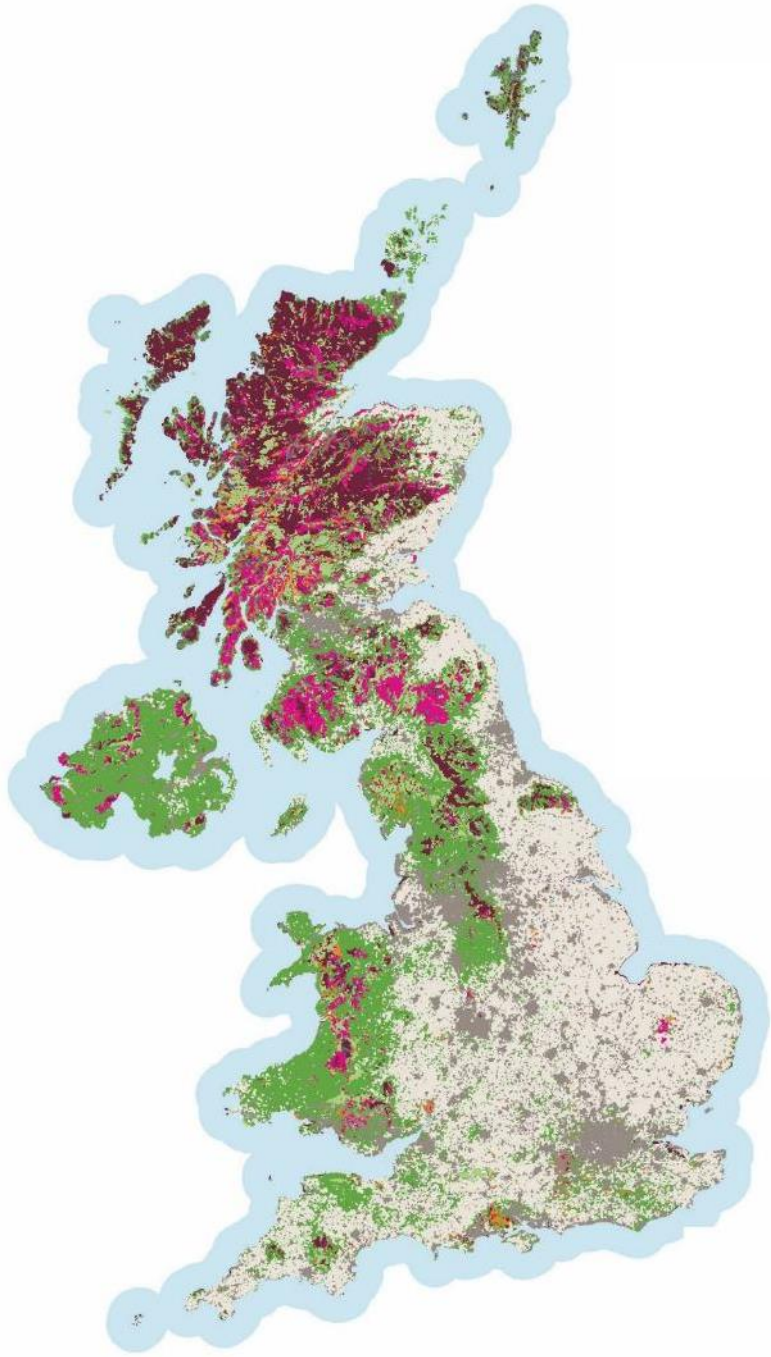
Water

Biodiversity

Food



A Digitally Enabled Integrated Approach to Planning



Map of U K Land Cover, Royal Society (2023), Multifunctional Landscapes (adapted from U K CORINE Land Cover 2021. U K Centre for Ecology and Hydrology).

Digital Planning Directory

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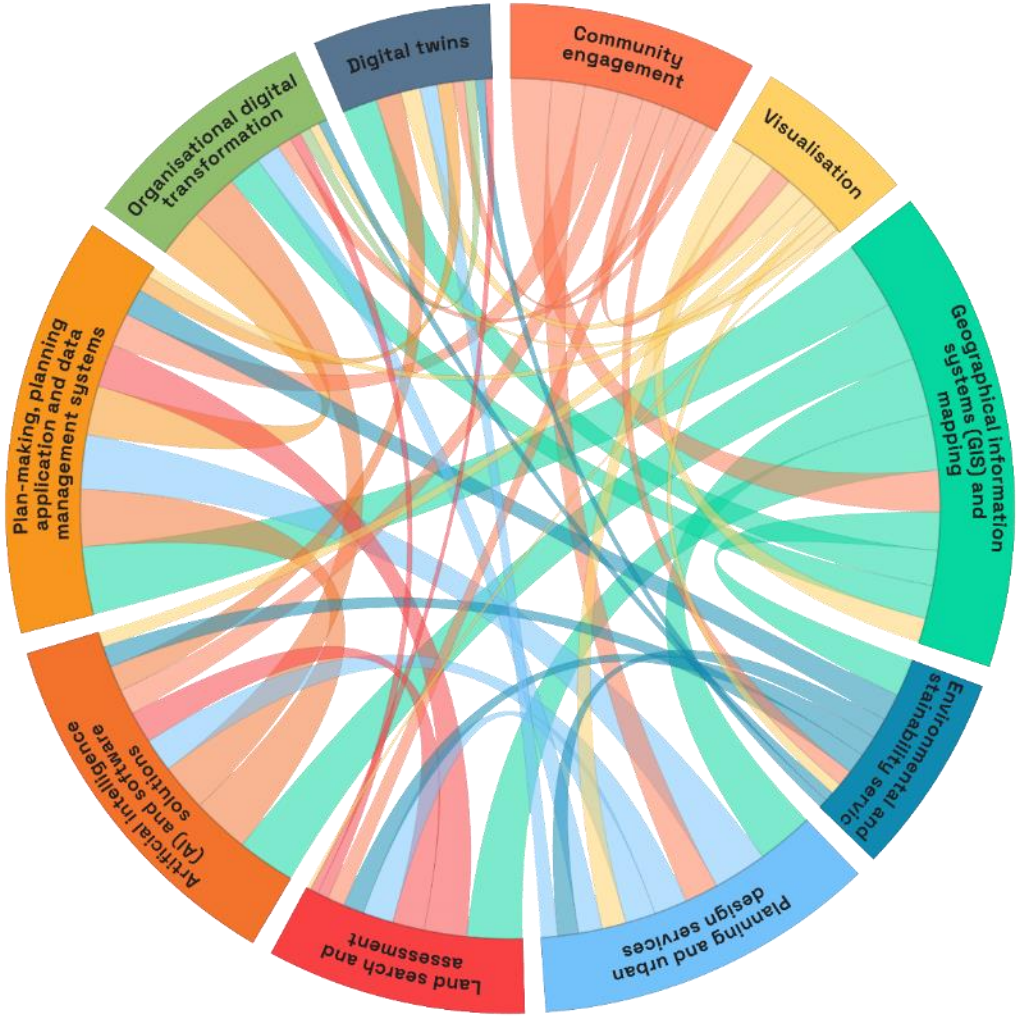
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Our Purpose:

To build the foundations of a scalable digital planning ecosystem that transforms mainstream planning practice for the public good



https://impact-2025-26.digitalplanningdirectory.org/

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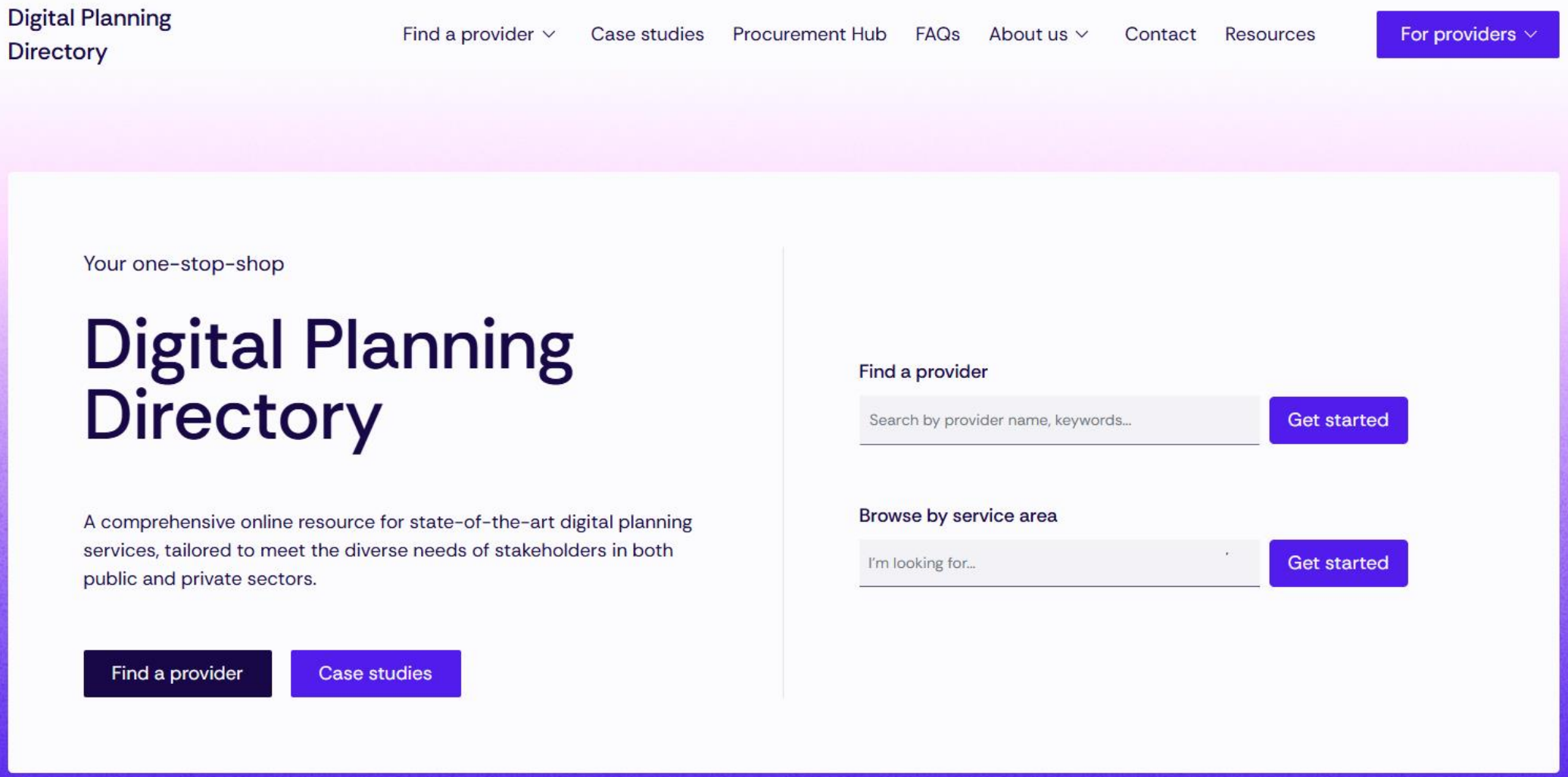
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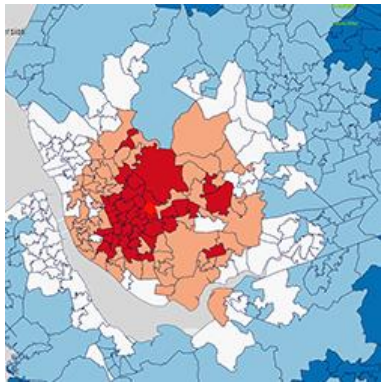
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Community Engagement



Visualisation, 3D Modelling and Animation



GIS and Mapping



Environmental and Sustainability Services



Planning and Urban Design Services



Land Search and Assessment



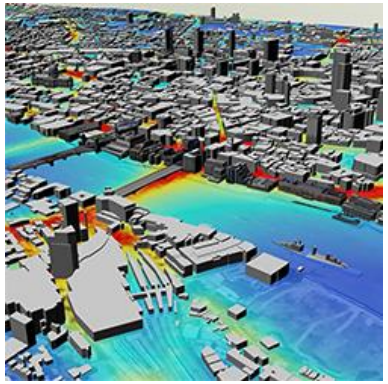
AI and Software Solutions



Plan-making, Planning Application & Data Management Systems



Organisational Digital Transformation



Digital Twins

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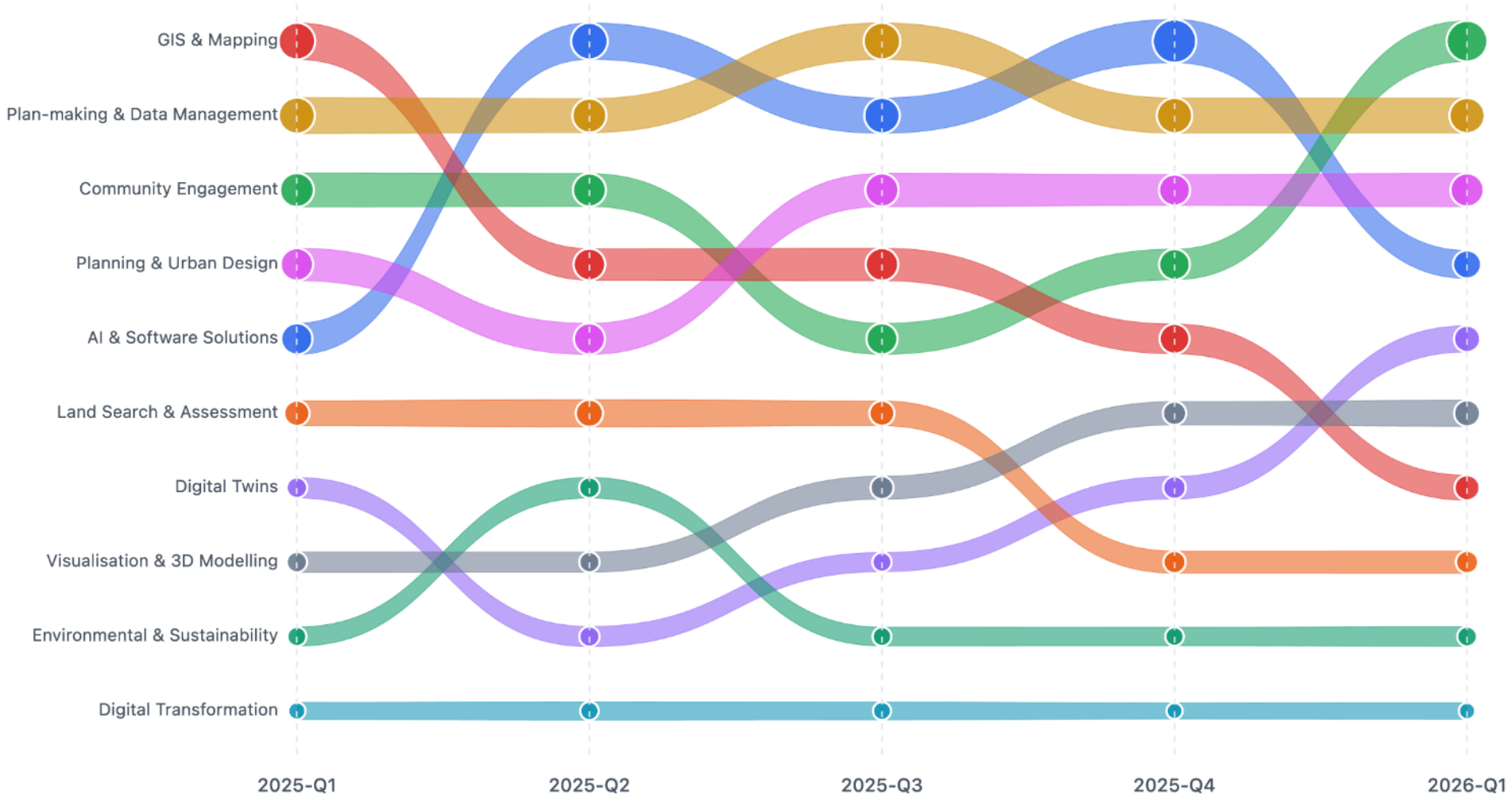
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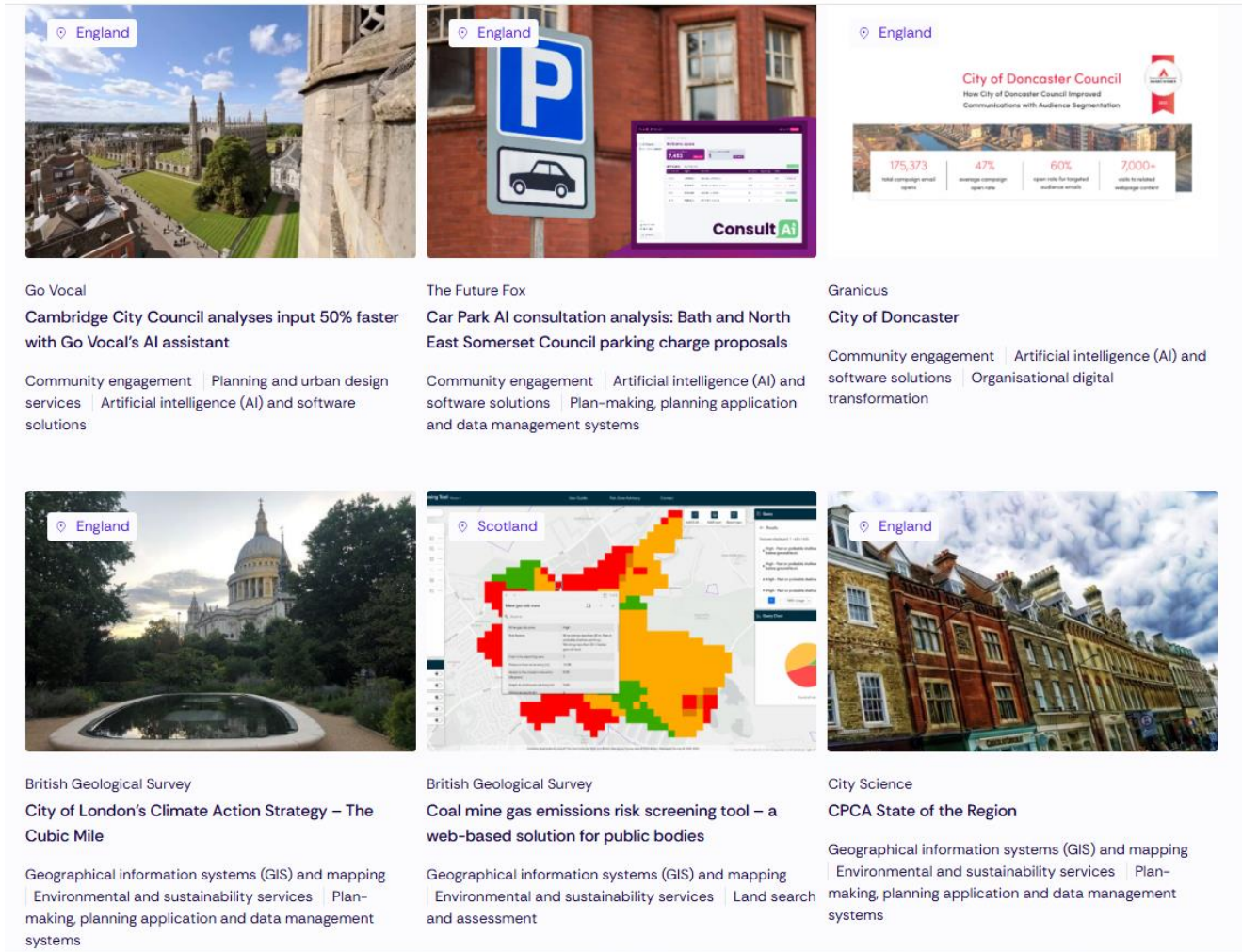
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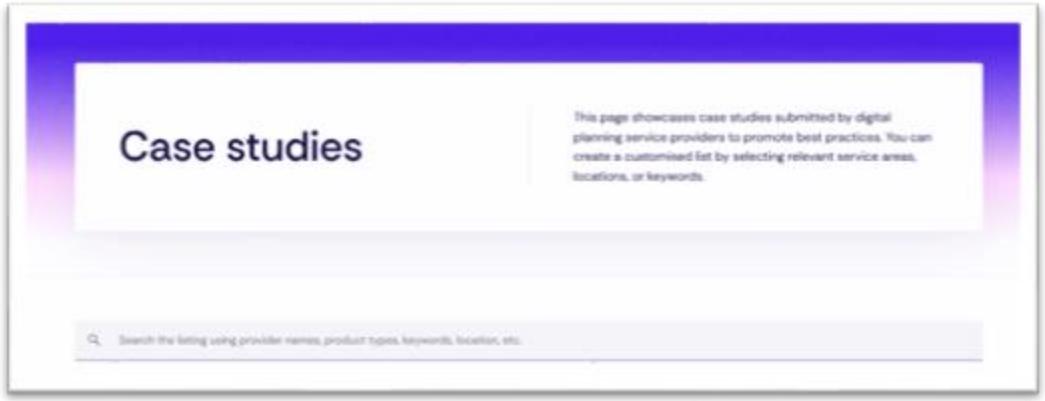
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https://digitalplanningdirectory.org/case-studies/

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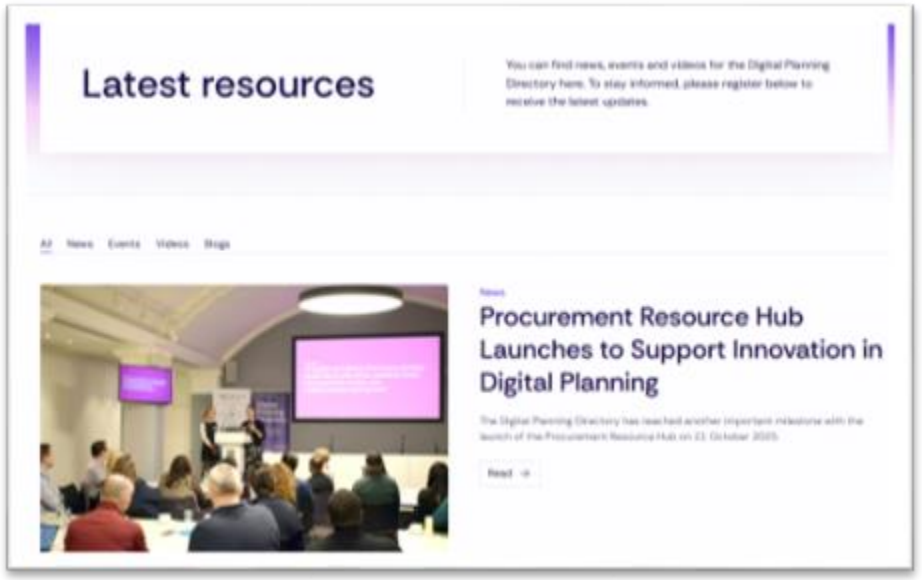
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Online Show & Tell Events



https://digitalplanningdirectory.org/resources/?_resource_category=videos



Videos

Digital Planning Directory Online Show and Tell: Sustainability Enabled by Digital Innovation

This one-hour session presented a range of state-of-the-art approaches to using digital tools to support...



Videos

Digital Planning Directory Online Show and Tell: Driving Innovation Through Smarter Procurement

This Show & Tell features expert perspectives from across government and industry, exploring smarter approaches...



Videos

Online Show & Tell: Smarter Planning: Data, Processes, and Insights, 4 December 2025

This Show & Tell began with an introduction from the MHCLG Data Standards Team, followed by a showcase o...



Videos

Digital Planning Directory Online Show & Tell: Milton Keynes City Council, 13th November 2025

A one-hour session showcasing Milton Keynes City Council's digital planning journey and MHCLG Open...



Videos

Digital Planning Directory Online Show and Tell: Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service, 7th October 2025

Watch this one-hour webinar to learn how the Cambridge team has advanced their digital planning journey —...



Videos

Digital Planning Directory Online Show and Tell: Utilising Data for Better Planning Outcomes, 18th September 2025

This webinar, Utilising Data for Better Planning Outcomes, showcases how data-driven insights are transforming...

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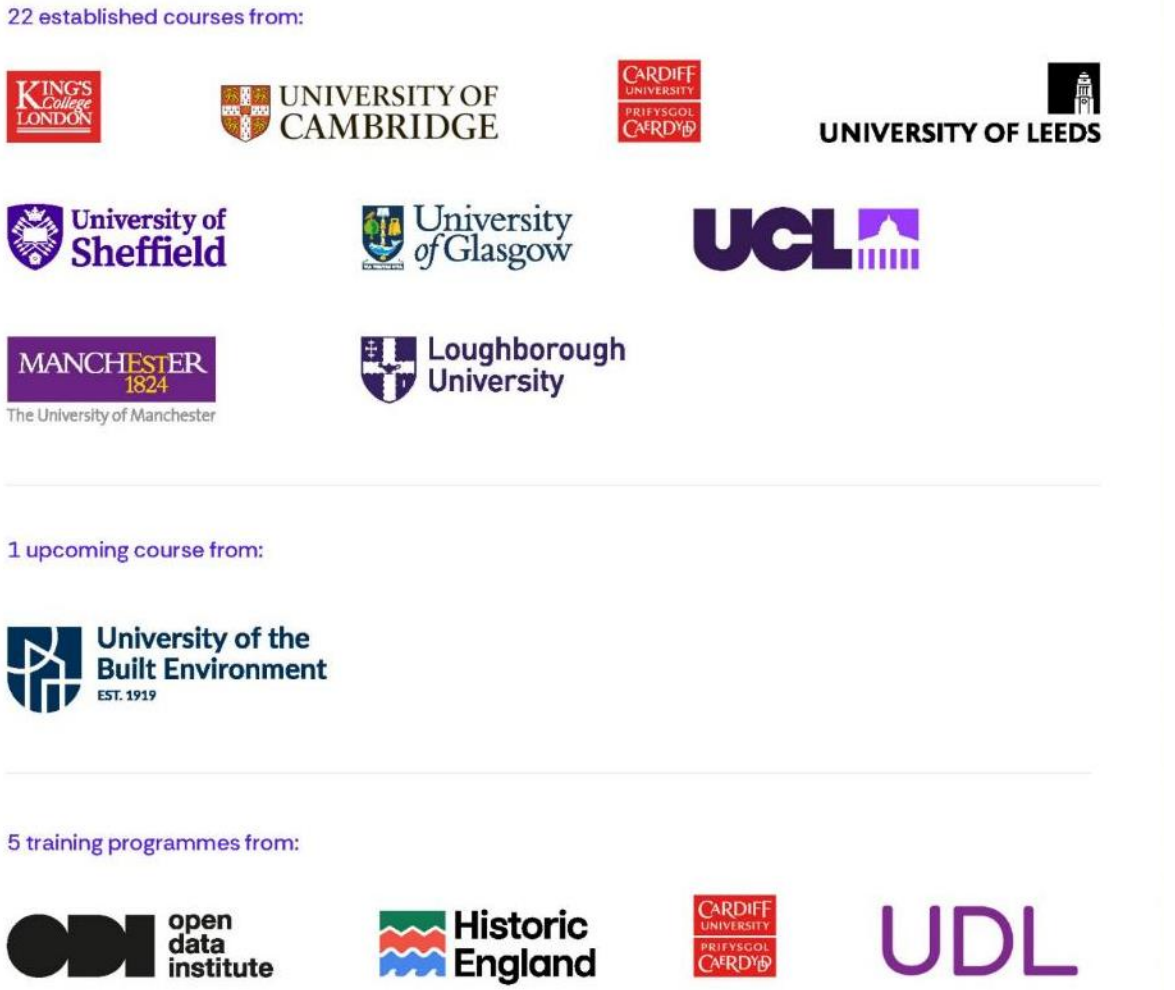
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Digital Planning Education and Training Listing



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Procurement Resource Hub

The Procurement Resource Hub brings together government procurement guidance relevant to digital planning, helping planning authorities and service providers identify effective approaches and streamline the procurement of innovative digital planning tools and services.

https://digitalplanningdirectory.org/procurement-hub/

The Procurement Resource Hub is designed for planning authorities and service providers who want to better understand the procurement process for innovative digital planning solutions. In the Hub, you will find selected guidance grouped in four different **Procurement Pathway** phases. Guidelines in the **PLAN** phase to help you identify what you need and why. Resources in the **DEFINE** phase will support you in setting out your requirements and preparing your documents. Information in the **PROCURE** phase explains how to run the procurement and choose suppliers. Materials in the **MANAGE** phase will help you oversee the contract and supplier performance.

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Navigating the Procurement Pathway

Plan

Develop a strategy and plan in line with business objectives and commercial policy outcomes, have clear and transparent commercial pipelines and a good understanding of the market.

Define

Identify options and determine relevant procurement requirements that encourage broad participation, and are open and accessible to all.

Procure

Prepare procurement documentation and publish, select suitable suppliers, evaluate bids, award and mobilise the contract.

Manage

Establish a contract management plan to monitor performance and ensure successful delivery of contractual obligations, exit and contract closure.

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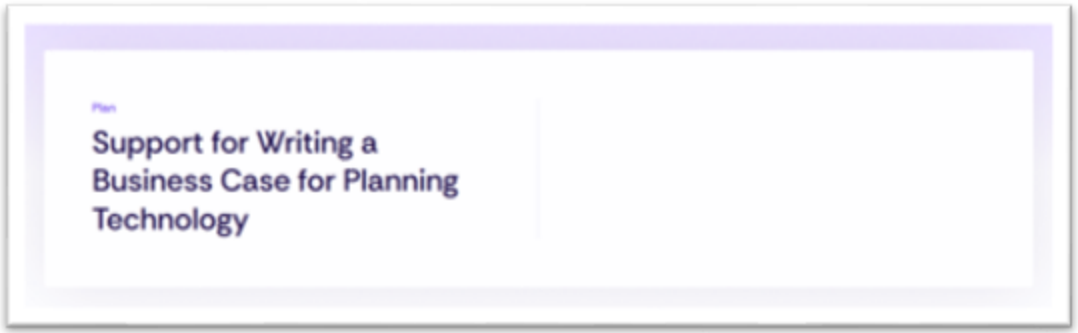
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Support for Writing a Business Case for Planning Technology

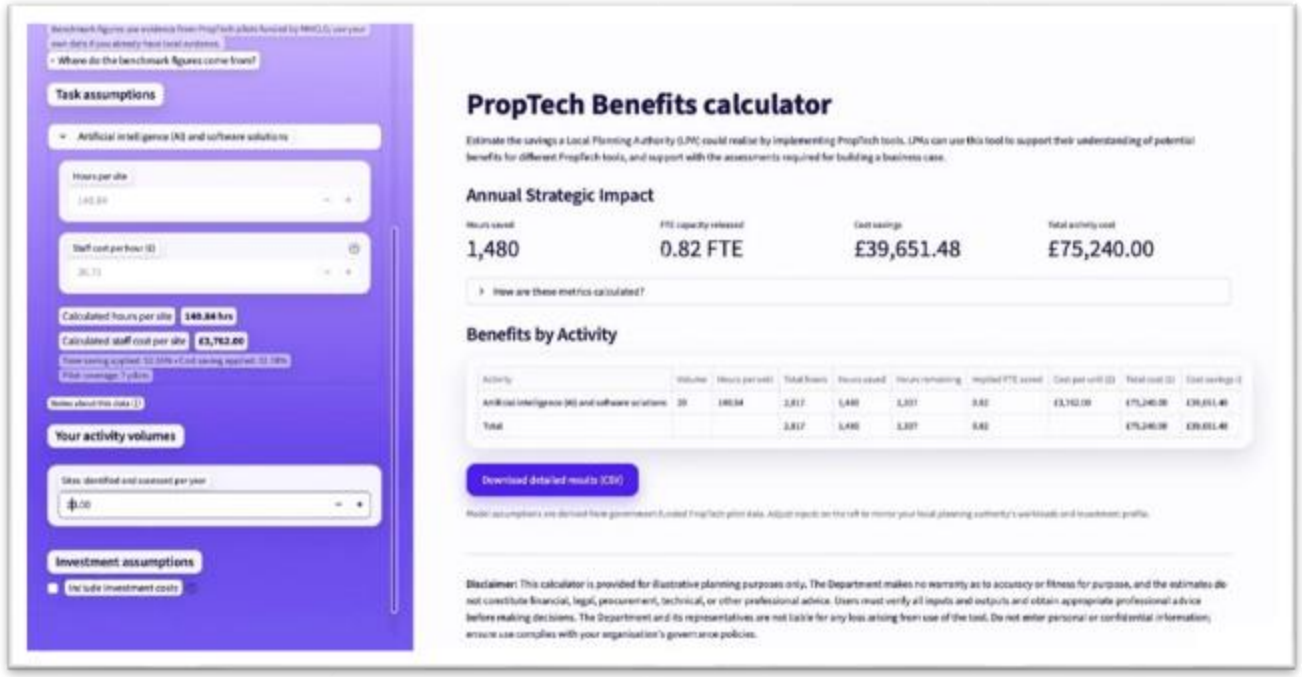
Are you trying to secure funding for a new digital planning tool or service? We know that writing the business case is often a challenging part of this process. You will likely need to get through multiple approval stages, convince different decision makers, and make a compelling argument when the benefits are not always easy to quantify.

To help you navigate this, the Digital Task Force for Planning (the creators of the *Digital Planning Directory*) have created a set of practical "prompts" to make this easier. Each prompt helps you write one section of your business case using the Treasury's five case model. The prompts include ideas, examples and approaches drawn from Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) that have successfully secured funding for planning technology.

Alongside these prompts, we have also created a ***PropTech Benefits Calculator***. This calculator can help demonstrate potential value for money from adopting digital tools and will output figures that can help support an economic case for investment.



https://digitalplanningdirectory.org/procurement-hub/support-for-writing-a-business-case-for-planning-technology/



https://digitalplanningdirectory.org/procurement-hub/proptech-benefits-calculator/

Digital Task Force for Planning

Digital Planning and Spatial Thinking in National Strategies

Planning and Infrastructure Act – Strategic Planning	National Planning Policy Framework	A New System for **Digital-First** Local Plans
Local Growth Plans and Spatial Development Strategies	New Towns – to adopt a digitally-enabled integrated approach to planning	10-Year National Infrastructure Strategy
DEFRA Land Use Framework	Industrial Strategy White Paper	National Integrated Transport Strategy
Strategic Spatial Energy Plan	Food Strategy	*Etc.*



Housing



Transport



Energy



Water



Biodiversity



Food

Digital Task Force for Planning

Next Stage Priorities: Digitalisation in Mainstream Planning



Establishing robust data standards for interoperability and quality assurance



Developing data infrastructure that supports **strategic planning** and cross-departmental, cross-disciplinary, cross-boundary and cross-sector **data sharing**



Upskilling planners and transforming planning education for a digitally empowered workforce



Scaling innovation through active engagement with public, private, and academic stakeholders and breaking down procurement barriers

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Monthly Newsletter

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Welcome to the Digital Planning Digest

3rd June 2026

Dear Colleagues,

May is always a busy month in the built environment calendar, and this year has been no exception.

At UKREiiF in Leeds, it was encouraging to see digital innovation in planning firmly established as part of the conversation on growth and planning reform. Discussions have clearly moved beyond the question of why digital transformation matters to a more practical focus on how it can be delivered. Across the conference, there was strong interest in the role of digital methods, tools and data, as well as digital skills and capacity building, in enabling a more effective planning system. It was also a pleasure to meet so many colleagues from across the **Digital Planning Directory ecosystem** and see first-hand the growing momentum behind digital planning innovation.

Another highlight this month was meeting Emma Squire, Co-CEO of Historic England. Building on Historic England's contribution to the Directory's Education & Training Listing, we discussed opportunities to strengthen collaboration around digital capability, helping planners make better use of data and digital innovation to support both place-making and the stewardship of our historic environment.

Upcoming Events

Space Data for National Resilience (a Space4Climate In-Person Event) – 25 June 2026, Henley Business School, Reading

This upcoming Space4Climate workshop will bring together experts from industry, government and academia to explore how satellite Earth Observation data can help address real-world resilience and environmental challenges.

Focused on practical outcomes, the event will examine how space-based data can support decision-making across a range of sectors. **Dr Wei Yang will co-facilitate a workshop on Space Data for Scenario Planning**, exploring how these emerging data sources can inform long-term planning and resilience.

We encourage anyone interested in the future role of data, climate intelligence and spatial planning to attend. **Register here by June 15.**



Sign Up Here

Sector News

Get Involved in MHCLG Digital Planning Research

The MHCLG Digital Planning Programme is looking for volunteers to take part in research that will help shape the next generation of digital planning tools, standards and guidance.

Current areas of work include new Local Plan guidance, the Extract automated document-reading tool, planning data standards and site mapping tools. The programme is keen to hear from planning officers with a wide range of experience and digital skills, from early-career planners to senior practitioners. Opportunities may also be available for software suppliers, developers and legal professionals.

This is an excellent opportunity to help ensure future digital planning services are designed around the needs of the sector and those who use them every day.

If you are willing to contribute your expertise, you can register your interest below.

Volunteer to Participate

Historic England Publishes New Strategic Plan 2026–2031

Historic England has published its new Strategic Plan 2026–2031, setting out an ambitious vision to position heritage as a catalyst for growth, place-making and sustainable development. The strategy is centred on three priorities: Growth, Place and Sector, reflecting the organisation's commitment to supporting thriving communities and a resilient historic environment.

Of particular interest to the digital planning sector is the recognition of Digital Services as one of Historic England's core enabling functions. The strategy commits to using AI, data and modern digital systems to deliver smarter, faster and more connected services for stakeholders. This signals a growing recognition of the role that digital innovation can play in supporting better planning outcomes, more effective stewardship of historic assets, and heritage-led growth.

Blogs

Publishing a Common Architectural Model for Local Government

Phil Rumens, Principal Technologist, GDS Local

In this blog, Phil Rumens introduces GDS Local's new common architectural model for local government, designed to provide a shared language for describing technology, systems and services across the sector. As councils face increasing service pressures, digital transformation challenges and Local Government Reorganisation, the model aims to support greater interoperability, collaboration and more informed technology decision-making.

The blog highlights how a common approach can help local authorities better understand their technology landscape, reduce duplication and create stronger foundations for modern, user-centred public services.

Read the full blog here.

The Evidence Loop: What 170,000 Appeals Reveal About Policy

David Robinson, Co-Founder, Planning Appeals

Robinson's article explores how the structured analysis of more than 170,000 planning appeal decisions is helping to reveal how planning policy operates in practice. Drawing on data from the Planning Appeals platform, he highlights emerging trends including the impact of recent Green Belt policy changes, the growing influence of "grey belt", and significant differences in appeal outcomes depending on the procedure used.

The article makes a compelling case for treating appeal decisions as a valuable **feedback loop** for the planning system, providing evidence that can inform policy-making, local plan reviews and decision-making. By making patterns in inspector reasoning and policy interpretation visible at scale, the analysis offers new insights into how planning policies are being applied on the ground.

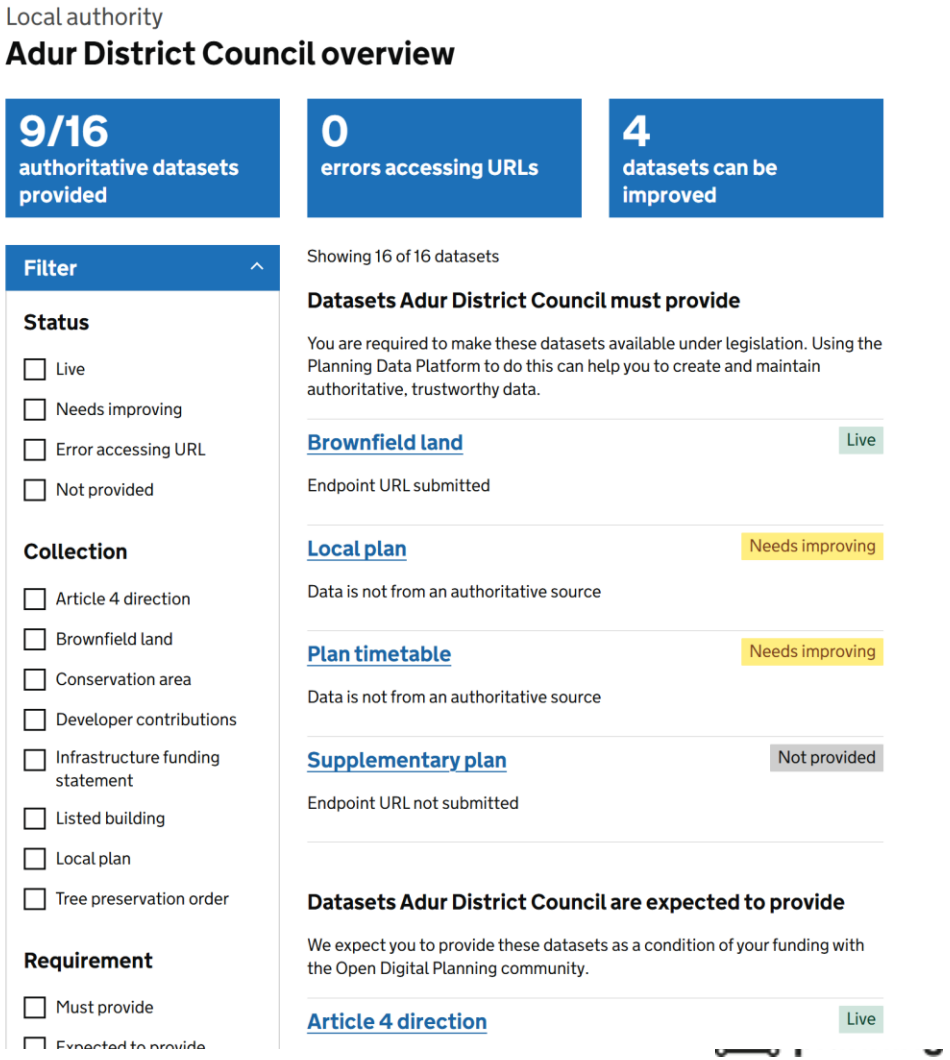
Planning Data Team

Kobi Hartley

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Changes coming to LPA Dashboard

- Adding data quality measures to the LPA dashboard
- Detailed breakdown of data quality for each dataset
- To get accurate measurements we need some information on how often you update ODP-mandated datasets



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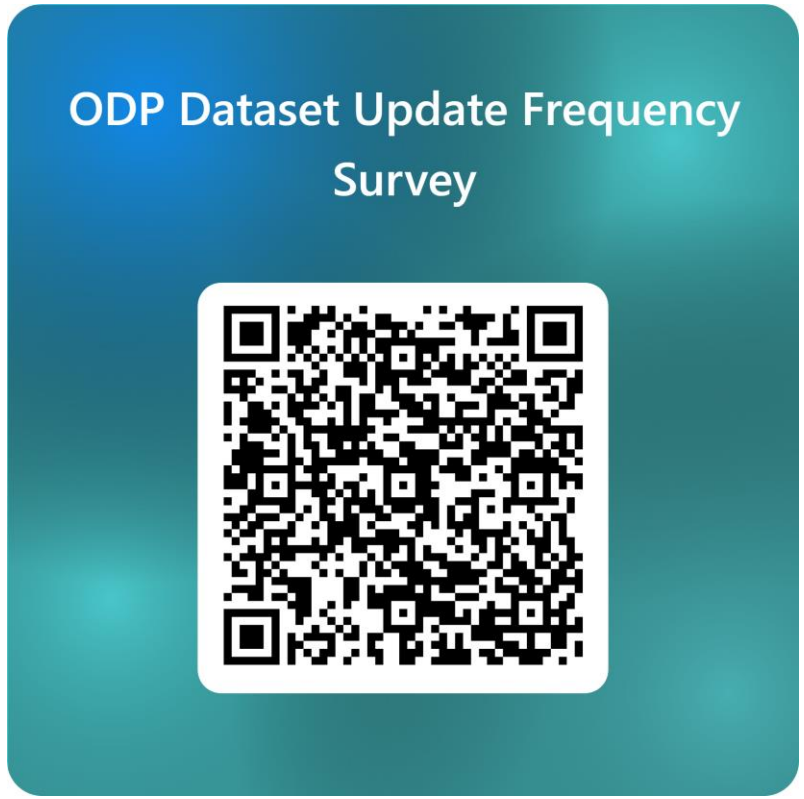
SUPER short survey [LINK]

1. Which LPA do you represent? *

Enter your answer

2. How frequently do you update each mandated ODP dataset? *

	Weekly	Monthly	Quarterly	Annually	Less than annually	Not currently updated
Conservation areas	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Listed buildings	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Tree preservation orders	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Article 4 directions	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯



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ODP Winter Event, look out Blaby

Josh Codjoe

open digital planning

ODP Winter Event – 10th December

- Latest ODP updates
- Interactive sessions and networking
- University of Nottingham showcase on PARM (Projection Augmented Relief Model)
- 3 afternoon breakout sessions, including Cyber Resilience in Digital Planning

Help shape the day

- Have an idea for the agenda?
- Attending and willing to present or facilitate an afternoon breakout session?
- Please get in touch. We'd love to hear from you!

Scan the QR to register now!



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Digital Planning Improvement Fund Round 5

Tom Lowndes

open digital planning

£50,000 and practical support to help your authority adopt and use digital planning tools effectively

- Your authority will use this funding and support to:
- improve the planning data your tools rely on
- build staff skills and confidence
- identify and carry out improvements to your planning service
- learn from other authorities through Open Digital Planning

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Share the opportunity

- Why are we looking to recruit 20 more councils
- Application opens for four weeks. 12th November to 11th December
- Q&A session Thursday November 19th, mid day.
- Payment this financial year
- Onboarding in Easter 2027

Classification: Controlled

Funding to support Planning Software modernisation

Celia Stone

open digital planning

How could the funding help your authority?

- Improve your current systems
  - Upgrade to the latest version
  - Upgrade or improve connectors between systems
  - Improve the effectiveness of your current software or processes

- Move to modern planning software
  - Procure new modern development management software
  - Replace software that is approaching the end of its contract

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Things to start thinking about…

- Could you get more from the features and functionality already available in your software?
- Are there upgrades, integrations or connectors that could improve how your systems work together?
- Do you need any support in switching to different software?
- Is your current software contract coming to an end or due for review?

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Next General Meeting –

Monday 7th December

open digital planning

Tell your story!

- We'd like to continue LPA showcase slots at future General Meetings
- If you'd like to take a 10-minute showcase slot, please get in touch with Tom
- 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!

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