

# Planning data specifications

Open data standards community group

20 August 2025



# Agenda

**Welcome**

**Updates & discussions**

**Next Steps, Questions & AOB**

# Meeting etiquette

Please raise your hand in Teams or add questions to the chat.

We will be taking notes and sharing a summary on  
<https://design.planning.data.gov.uk/project/planning-applications>

If you do not wish to be cited specifically please let us know.

# Welcome

## Mike Rose



# Our aim

In order to make the planning system data rich and data enabled:

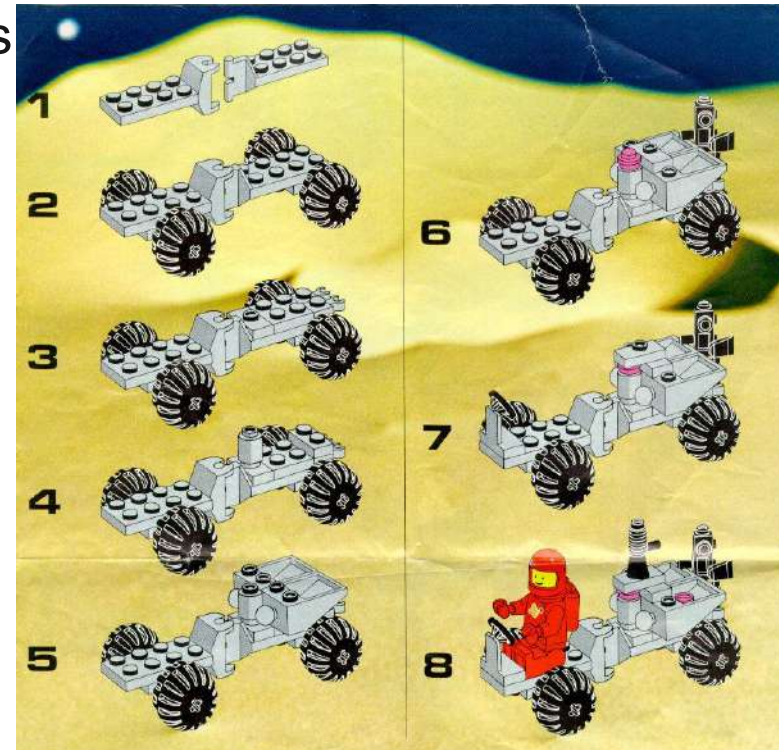
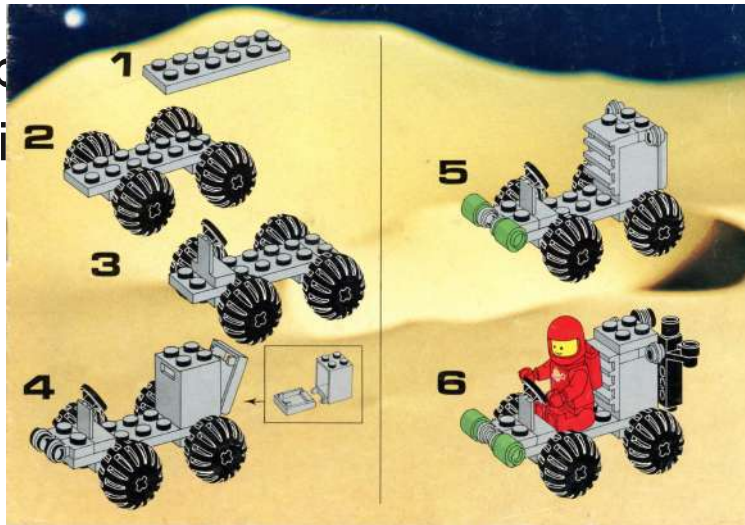
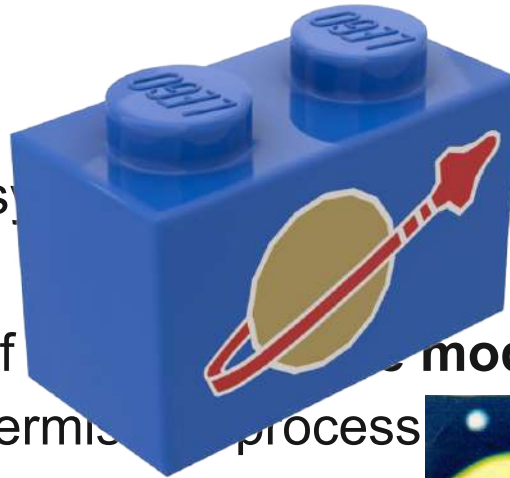
- **Aim:** To develop a set of **open, reusable modular data specifications** to underpin the planning permission process.
- **Scope:** The specifications will **define the structure and format of data** that is required based on the national legislation in place.

# Our aim

In order to make the planning system data enabled:

- **Aim:** To develop a set of **modular data specifications** to underpin the planning permission process

- **Scope:** To define the requirements for the data that is



# MHCLG Open data standards community

To meet our aim we want your help to:

- **co-create** effective, system agnostic planning permission data specifications, resolving issues and supporting testing
- **discuss and prioritise** the next planning permission process data specifications to be designed
- **advise** on other planning data specifications being developed by MHCLG or members of the community

# MHCLG Open data standards community

To meet our aim we want your help to:

- **co-create** effective data standards, resolving issues and supporting testing  
*Help us co-create the bricks*
- **discuss and** design data specifications to be designed  
*Help us prioritise our sets*
- **advise** on other data standards, LG or members of the community  
*Support everyone making sets*

*TELL YOUR FRIENDS!!!*

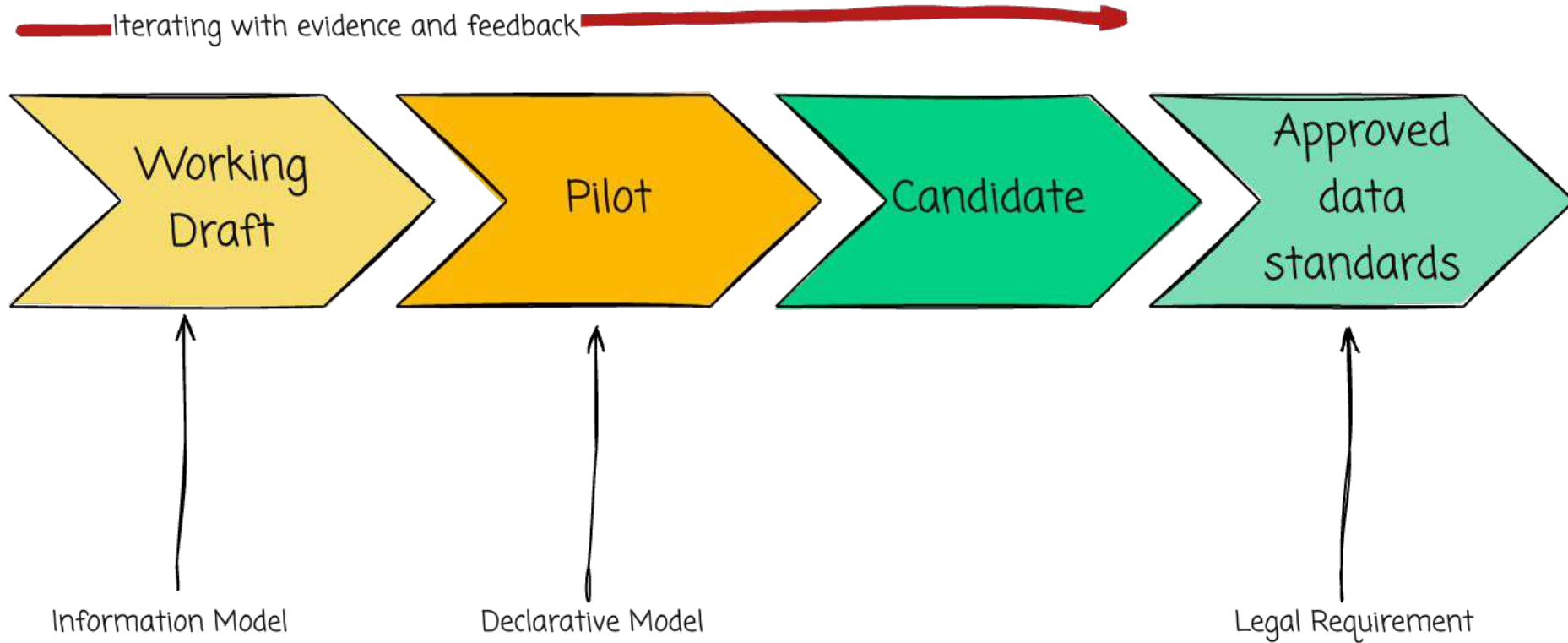


# Co-creation

We want you to give us shareable and evidence-based feedback as we develop the specifications.

We want you to share what you are working on and how it relates to the specifications we are developing.

# Stages of developing specifications



# Specifications to become legal requirement

Indicative timeline towards mandating application submission standards



I want to  
build  
something

Planning  
Application  
Submission Data  
Specifications

Planning  
Permission  
Process

Planning  
Application  
Decision Data  
Specifications

I know if I  
can build  
something

# Data Design update (1)

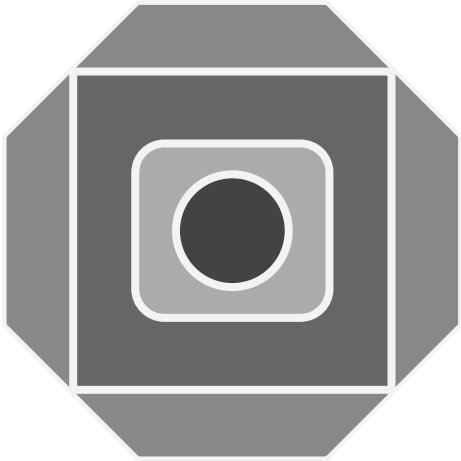
Colm Britton



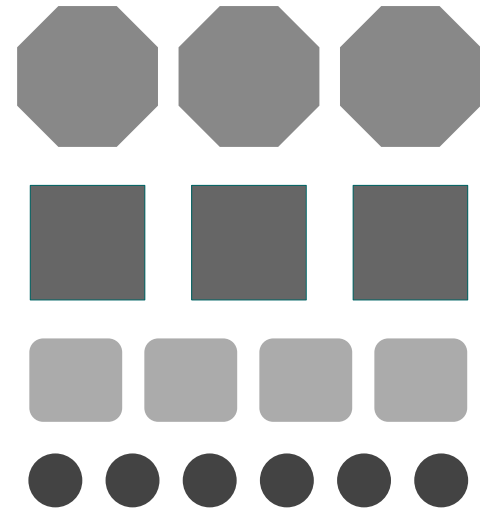
1. Planning application **submissions** data
2. Planning application and **decisions** data

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## Information model



## Declarative model



Making the specification more usable



## Information model (draft)



## Declarative model (pilot)

For wide audience

Good for explaining

Shared understanding

Helps people understand modules and fields

Useful for discussions and agreement

Easy to review

Documents shared understanding in  
human-readable way

Lacks precision by design

For technical audience

Good for conformance

Enforced structure

Helps machine understand and validate data

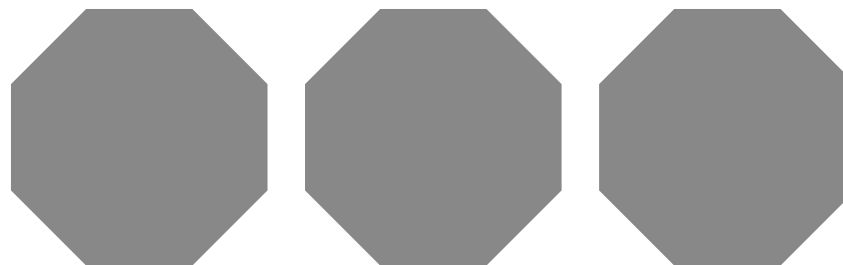
Useful for building tools and services

Easy to use

Documents structure and rules in a  
machine-readable way

Must be precise

# Progress towards the declarative model



APPLICATIONS

23 / 23



MODULES

84 / 84



COMPONENTS

50 / 50



FIELDS

413 / 413



CODELISTS

35 / 35

# Using the declarative model

Declarative models mean it's easier to build tools and services, such as:

- integrity checks
- tool to generate the information models / compiled specifications

# Example

```
name: Householder
...
modules:
  - module: access-rights-of-way
  - module: agent-contact
  - module: agent-details
  - module: applicant-contact
  - module: applicant-details
  - module: bng
  - module: checklist
  - module: conflict-of-interest
  - module: declaration
  - module: materials
  - module: ownership-certs
  - module: parking
  - module: pre-app-advice
  - module: proposal-details
  - module: site-details
  - module: site-visit
  - module: trees-hedges
```

# Example

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  - module: site-visit
  - module: trees-hedges
```

Error in application  
'householder': referenced module  
'energy-consumption' not found in  
module definitions



## Access and rights of way

Information about changes to access arrangements and public rights of way

| reference               | name                             | description   | only for application              | requirement | notes   |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|-------------|---|
| new-altered-vehicle     | New or altered vehicle access    | Is a new or altered vehicle access proposed to/from the public highway                  |                                   | MUST        | Select from the <b>rights-of-way-answers</b> enum |
| new-altered-pedestrian  | New or altered pedestrian access | Is a new or altered pedestrian access proposed to/from the public highway               |                                   | MUST        | Select from the <b>rights-of-way-answers</b> enum |
| change-right-of-way     | Change to right of way           | Will the proposal change public rights of way (diversion/extinguishment/creation)       | full, hh, outline                 | MUST        | Select from the <b>rights-of-way-answers</b> enum |
| new-right-of-way        | New right of way                 | Will new public rights of way be provided within or adjacent to the site                | full, extraction-oil-gas, outline | MUST        | Select from the <b>rights-of-way-answers</b> enum |
| new-public-road         | New public road                  | Will new public roads be provided within the site                                       | full, extraction-oil-gas, outline | MUST        | Select from the <b>rights-of-way-answers</b> enum |
| temp-right-of-way       | Temporary right of way changes   | Are temporary changes to rights of way needed while the site is worked                  | extraction-oil-gas                | MUST        | Select from the <b>rights-of-way-answers</b> enum |
| future-new-right-of-way | Future new right of way          | Will new public rights of way be provided after extraction?                             | extraction-oil-gas                | MUST        | Select from the <b>rights-of-way-answers</b> enum |
| supporting-documents    | Supporting documents[] {}        | Supporting documents that provide additional information about the materials to be used |                                   | MAY         |   |



# In the householder application

## Access and rights of way

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| new-public-road         | New public road                  | Will new public roads be provided within the site                                    | full, extraction-oil-gas, outline | MUST        | Select from the <b>rights-of-way-answers</b> enum |
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# Discussion (1)

## PLANNING APPLICATION SUBMISSION

What tools could help you use the specifications?

## PLANNING APPLICATION SUBMISSION

What else do you need to test these specifications?

# Data Design update (2)

Colm Britton



1. Planning application **submissions** data
2. Planning application and **decisions** data

# Research update

**3** interviews

**12** survey responses

# Research update

“Without robust data, it's difficult to assess the impact of policy changes”

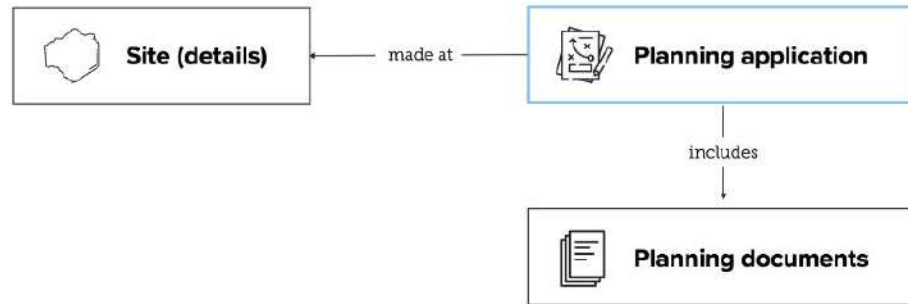
“Current planning statistics are too high-level to support detailed policy analysis”

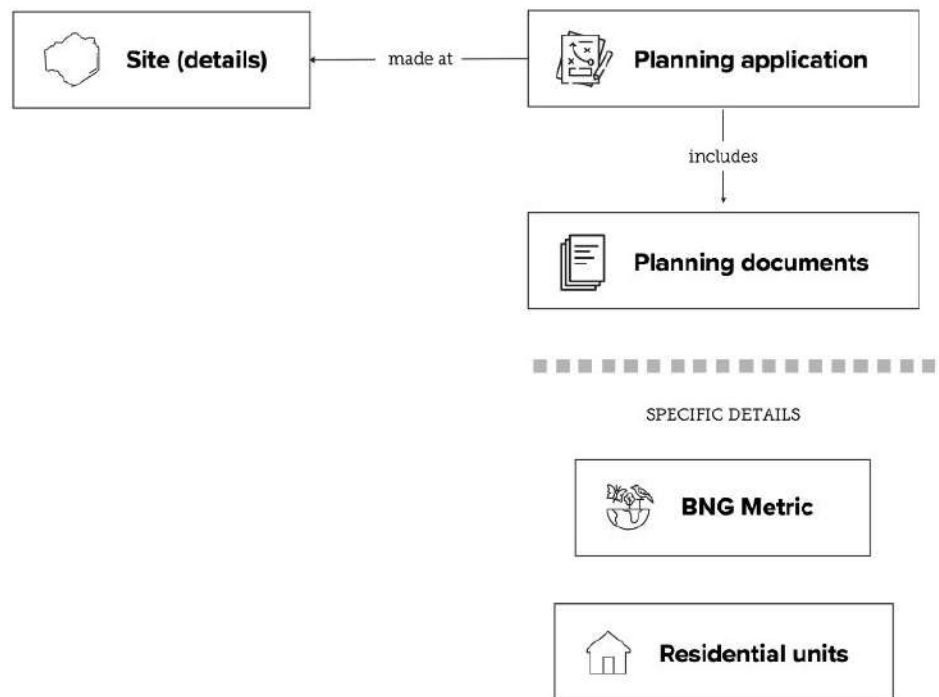
“...believe the inclusion of comments would be an extremely useful part of the specification, given how crucial they are to consultations”

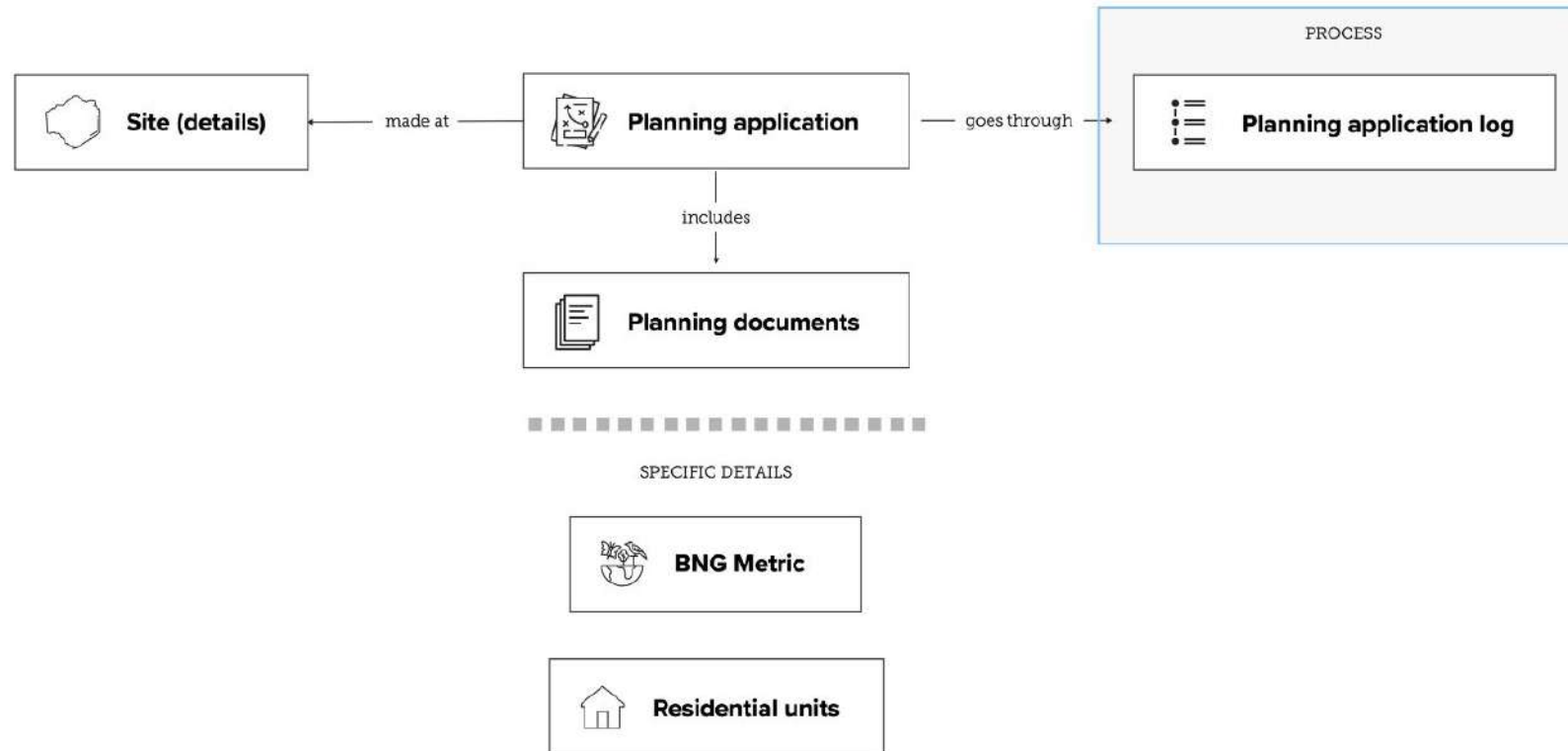
“Data needed: the list of Statutory Consultees invited by the LPA to respond to any given planning application.”

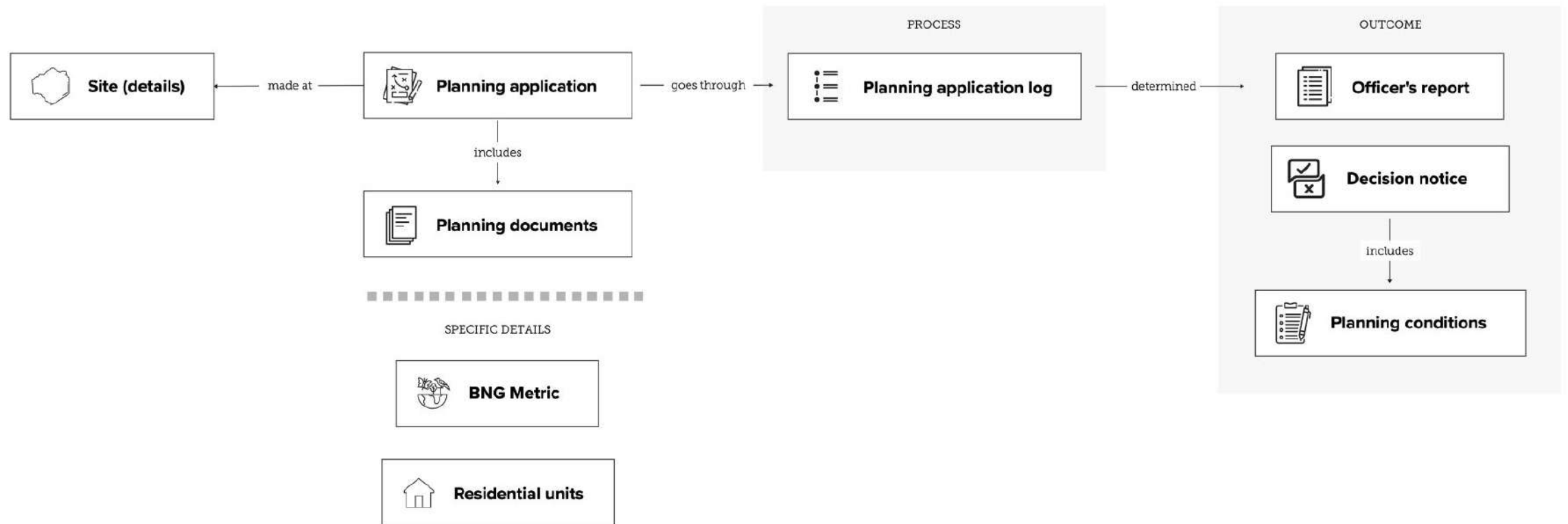


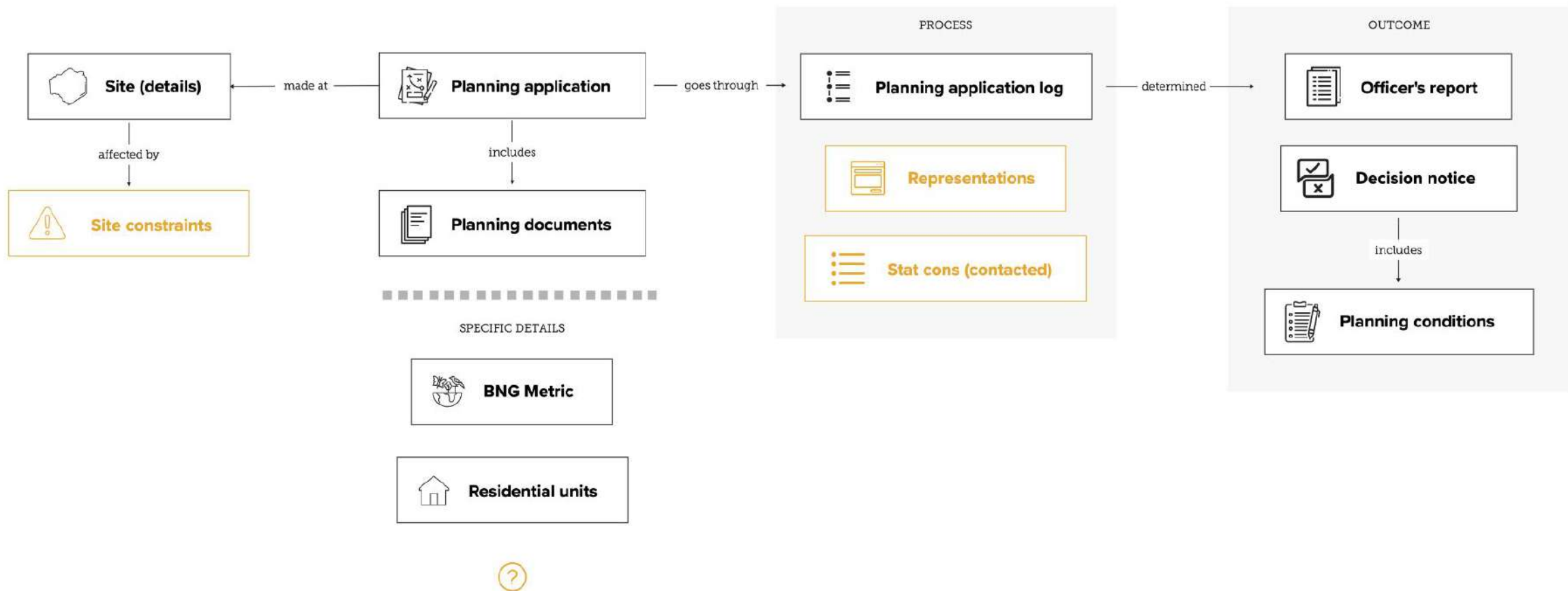












# Discussion (2)

## PLANNING APPLICATION DECISION DATA

What do you think is “decision” data?



# Our survey says...

- Responses and Comments
- Site Visit Information
- Determination Route
- Performance Data
- Dwellings and Commercial Floorspace
- Development Type
- Financial Contributions
- Historic Records
- Housing Site Breakdown
- Application Details

## PLANNING APPLICATION DECISION DATA

What would you want to use decision data for?

# Our survey says...

- Assessing Planning Policy Compliance
- Quarterly Government Reporting
- Open Data Portal
- Evidence for Planning Decisions
- Advising Clients and Research
- Monitoring Local Plan Policies
- Informing Enforcement Processes
- Answering FOI and Councillor Queries
- Housing Land Supply Monitoring
- Equalities Research

# Please complete our survey

CLOSES ON FRIDAY

[Planning decisions survey](#)



Ministry of Housing,  
Communities &  
Local Government



## PLANNING APPLICATION DECISION DATA

What are the specific data points that are needed?

# Community updates



# Next Steps

**Mike Rose**



# Reminder - we need your help!

- Test the declarative models
  - Tell us what you need
  - Provide evidence if they need amending
- Help us understand decision data requirements
  - Complete the survey
  - Volunteer for research sessions
- Keep us all up to date



# Reminder - we need your help!

We do not know everyone who should be involved in this so please:

- Tell your friends!
- Spot where we are missing someone / a group of people **and invite them**
- Make suggestions for others who could / should be involved for us to invite



*Next community session 24th September we plan to:*

- *Update you on our progress*
- *Discuss your specific evidence and feedback [provided in advance]*
- *Discuss any other community updates*

# Links

[Project website](#)  
[Our Glossary of terms](#)

[Repository for planning permissions](#)  
[Modular submission specifications with no issues](#)  
[Modular submission Specifications with outstanding issues](#)  
[Composite application submission Specifications](#)

[2022 planning applications and decisions consideration](#) (as it stands)  
[Planning decisions survey](#) (CLOSES ON FRIDAY)

[Slides from July session](#)

# Thank you!

