20260225 - ODSC - Ask Anything

Date and Time:

25 February 2026
12:07 (UTC+00:00)

Facilitator:

Michael Rose

Attendees:

Colm, Jon, Helen, Jennie, sue rice, Tom Gayler, Claire, Giulio Plandaportal, Ethan Lewis, Tom O (Raiven), Pijush, Andrew White, Pam Warburton, Jono - LB Camden, Tomas Millar, Ed Stacey, Nigel Walley - RLBA, Gary Burt, Rafael, Andrew Presland, Martine Parkes, Shaun Reynolds, Lee Goodall, Jacob Wilkins, Mike, Mel, Victoria, Jonathan, James @ Planning Portal, Simon Long, Ailith Rutt (Canal & River Trust), Nora, Gary Burt, Rhian Lewis, ASDF, Ian Babelon, Andrea, Joanne, Patrick, Alice Pacuraru, Matthew Breeze, Gary Burt, Rebecca, Chris, lcc, Emily (MHCLG), Patrick, Mel

Summary:

Actions:

Learnings:

Topics discussed:

What do you want from this community going forwards?
Votes: 27
Suggested by: Michael Rose

Comments:

If systems are non-compliant post mandation who will be penalised? LPA or system provider?
Votes: 19
Suggested by: Tom Gayler

- Victoria
  Consideration of just how difficult it is to switch suppliers by LPA's is needed - contracts are often long term and involve penalty clauses, if supplier doesn't want to change it is not simply a case of the LPA going "we will look elsewhere" - it takes like a year to just research others.
  Likes:2

Evidence base data standards for longer term planning(Local Plans/Spatial Development Strategies)...on the radar?

Votes: 16
Suggested by: Shaun Reynolds

Comments:
- Rebecca
  Data held by statutory consultees (National Highways mentioned, such as modelling) and also planning applications are soo important for plan making but may not be known about or able to be drawn upon easily - which is important for avoiding solios
  Likes:2
    - James @ Planning Portal
      A national record of standardised data on planning application decisions, accessible via API, will certainly help here,
- Rhian Lewis
  If anyone wants to talk to me about Building Control data standards, please message me in ODP Slack! And thanks to those of you who responded to my call-out on the last community call :)

What about data in between submission and decision? (Validation, consultation etc)

Votes: 15
Suggested by: Emily (MHCLG)

Comments:

Topics voted on but not discussed:

How are planning data standards thought to be part of integration with other built environment data sets (e.g. Building control, golden thread)

Votes: 15
Suggested by: Tom Gayler

Comments:

Mandating back office suppliers to adopt and intergrate standards

Votes: 13
Suggested by: Mike

Comments:

what value do you think planning authorities will get from the decision stage specification?

Votes: 13
Suggested by: Colm

Comments:

Will there be a value for "We've broke the system!" i.e. a required field can't be filled and so has to have junk data in it or the system design has overlooked a special case? (This is so these records can be treated with caution / when system review is taking place, they are easy to identify where it isn't working)

Votes: 11
Suggested by: Matthew Breeze

Comments:

How can community members who aren't existing planning software suppliers get involved in trialling the specification?

Votes: 10
Suggested by: Nigel Walley - RLBA

Comments:

What level of Collaboration exists for Open Data Standards beyond MHCLG say with other public sectors like EA, FC, MMO etc?

Votes: 10
Suggested by: Pijush

Comments:

what worries you (LPAs, suppliers, others) about mandating

Votes: 10
Suggested by: Colm

Comments:

Will APIs or connections between various software be established to enable DM and policy teams to share 'live' data as well as wider in the service/Council? And enable data to 'flow back' again so the process is more automated and seemless rather than silo-ed?

Votes: 10
Suggested by: Rebecca

Comments:

As a newbie, I would like to know how suppliers will be implementing/enabling new data standards in systems?

Votes: 9
Suggested by: Helen

Comments:

Will the data standards make system convergence during Local Gov Reorganisation easier?

Votes: 9
Suggested by: Rafael

Comments:

Do we have any information on how changes are going to be managed. Especially once mandated. Will there be new implementation periods for each change that is made post-mandation?

Votes: 9
Suggested by: Ethan Lewis

Comments:

How do we connect planning data with climate action plan metrics and other policy-related targets?

Votes: 8
Suggested by: Ian Babelon

Comments:

* at what point does someone (I'm presuming planning officer) determine the development type of an application - who does that? How? Are development types standard (set nationally) or locally?

Votes: 7
Suggested by: Colm

Comments:

Have you had input on nature mitigation/recovery schemes that are required for planning decisions?

Votes: 6
Suggested by: Claire

Comments:

Do you understand how Evidence Teams might use the data (so understanding those reporting needs slightly removed from the planning process itself)

Votes: 4
Suggested by: Claire

Comments:

Testing the specifications against statutory returns - reverse engineering to see how they align and support completion of the returns - what work has been done in relation to this?

Votes: 3
Suggested by: Mel

Comments:

Will this be tested with people with no connection to the built environment or data, to ensure that the system is more accessible to non planners and look to engage those who currently do not take part in consultation processes?

Votes: 3
Suggested by: Jennie

Comments:

Are we able to see the user needs that you have gathered?

Votes: 2
Suggested by: Claire

Comments:

How do we maintain data standard consistency across board

Votes: 1
Suggested by: Patrick

Comments: