DIGITAL PLANNING

Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government

Planning Data Standards Community

Consultation Special - November 2026

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Today's Agenda

01 Welcome

02 Programme Update

03 How we got here

04 Consultation

05 Close

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Why this community exists



To power modern planning services, AI-enabled tools and supports the system to implement planning reforms, we will…

Community aim

… **Work together to co-develop and test specifications**

by **openly sharing knowledge, evidence, questions, updates and answers**

and provide **mutual benefit** for the whole community.

Planning permissions project aim

… **Standardise the data** that flows through the planning permission process

making it **more consistent and easier to use**

creating **a foundation for continuous improvement** and innovation.

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Housekeeping

A little bit different

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

We will answer what we can, say when we can't and point you towards the consultation where appropriate

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

We are recording this session just for us

Digital planning from here

Razeeb Ahasan

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Digital in wider planning reforms

- Changes to the NPPF
- Reforming existing NSIP regime
- Reforming planning fees and committees
- Reforming local plan & new strategic plans
- Increasing LPA Capacity and Capability
- **Digital transformation in planning**





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Enabling a modern planning system

MHCLG's Digital Planning Programme for 2026 - 2030

WHAT WE'VE LEARNT

Technology alone cannot deliver change.

Planning authorities cannot adopt proven approaches with such fragmented data and systems.

Under these conditions, progress is uneven and the pace of change is limited.

Planners need stronger national infrastructure, confidence and practical support to rewire their services.

2030 GOALS

Address structural barriers

Support consistent implementation of planning reforms.

Scale national digital planning infrastructure

Drive adoption of data standards and modern planning software, including artificial intelligence

Define MHCLG's role

Underpin a modern planning system for England

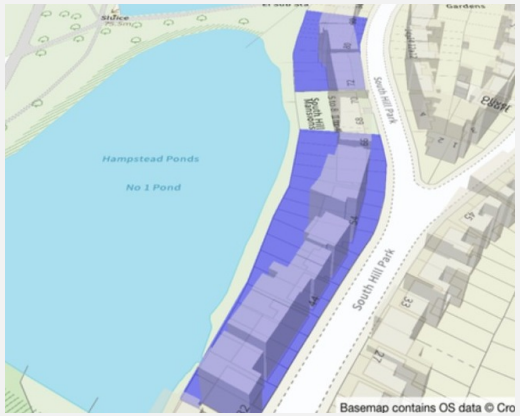
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Enabling a modern planning system

To seize a unique opportunity for change

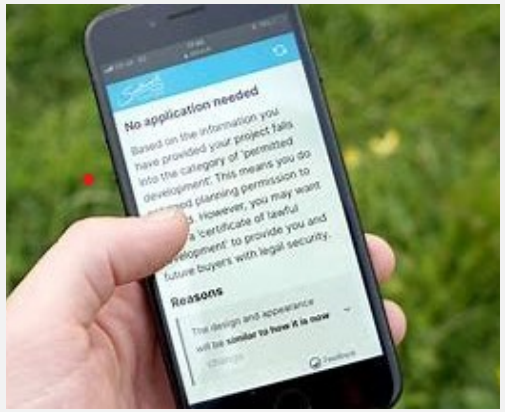
HOW WE'RE DELIVERING



REDUCING PLANNING DELAYS

Data for decisions and plans

Making planning data for more open, standardised and easier to access.



BUILDING CAPACITY

Supportive software and services

Putting the right tools, including AI, in the hands of every planner.



BUILDING CAPABILITY

Turning planning reforms into practice

Improving planning service's digital maturity.

WHAT WE'RE DELIVERING

- Data Standards
- Planning Data Platform
- Open Digital Planning
- Online Tools and services (incl. AI)
- Policy and regulations

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Budget 2026

Announcement



"Making MHCLG's PlanAssist frontier AI tool available to all councils in England by the end of 2027, subject to further testing, to halve routine planning decision times and build capacity in the planning system. ***The government will also mandate the digitisation and publication of key planning documents as open data by the end of 2027, removing barriers to wider AI adoption."***

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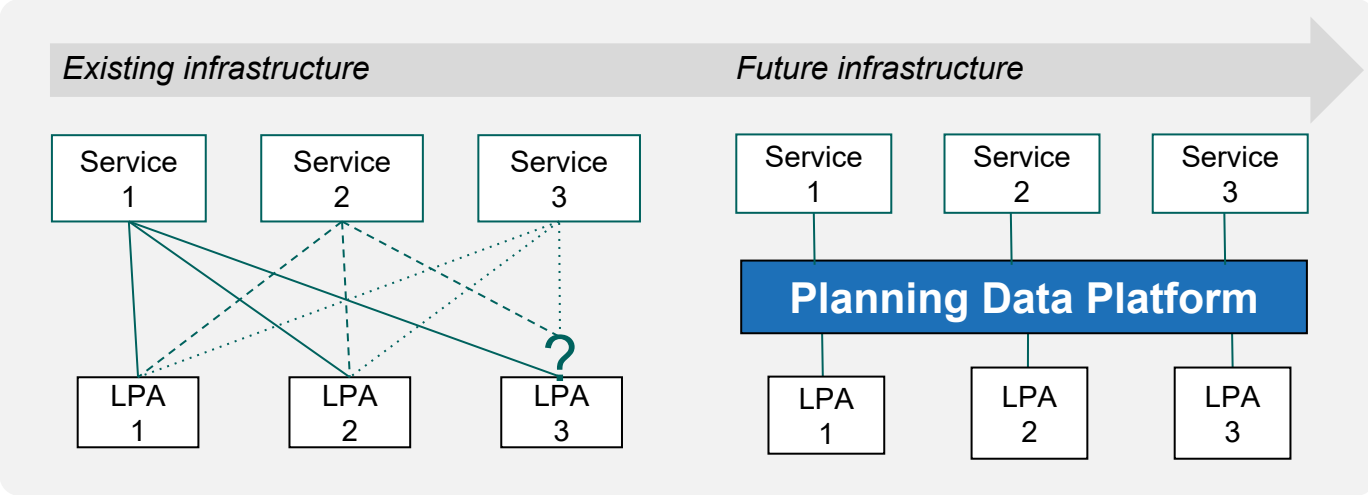
Why planning data matters

Unlocking data requires a shift from forms and documents to data standards

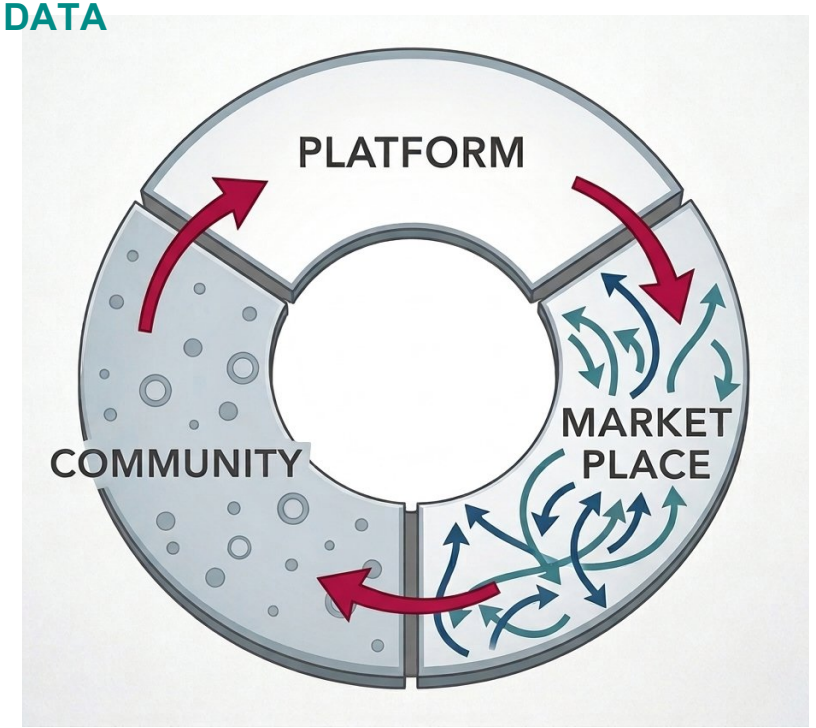
MHCLG is mandating data standards to move planning information seamlessly across the planning system.

Standardised data is easier for planners to use and access. It enables innovative digital tools and AI that save officer time.

NATIONAL PLANNING DATA INFRASTRUCTURE FOR ENGLAND



THE VIRTUOUS CIRCLE OF PLANNING DATA



How the community got here

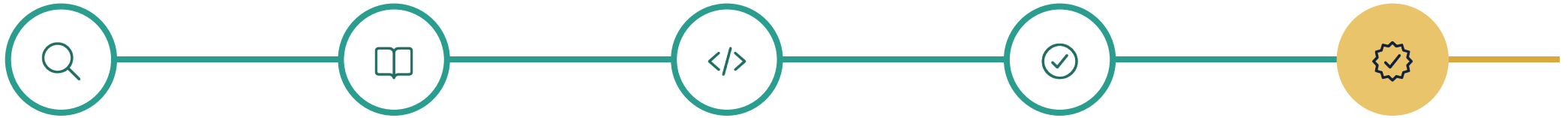
Mike Rose

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From forms to a national standard

Planning permissions standards project timeline. Nov 2024 – Nov 2026



Listen

Late 2024

1,300 fields found in the forms

Draft in the open

Early 2025

First drafts shared for feedback

Make it machine-readable

Mid 2025

Declarative model; decisions in scope

Prove and decide

Late 2025 to early 2026

Candidate stage; a “line in the sand”

Ready to mandate

Mid 2026

National Public View defined

Consultation live!

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How our thinking matured

What changes along the way

Forms	→	**Data**
Planning applications	→	**The whole permission process**
Specifications	→	**A mandated standard**
What to collect	→	**What to publish: National Public View**
Describing data	→	**Checking it: conformance & compliance**

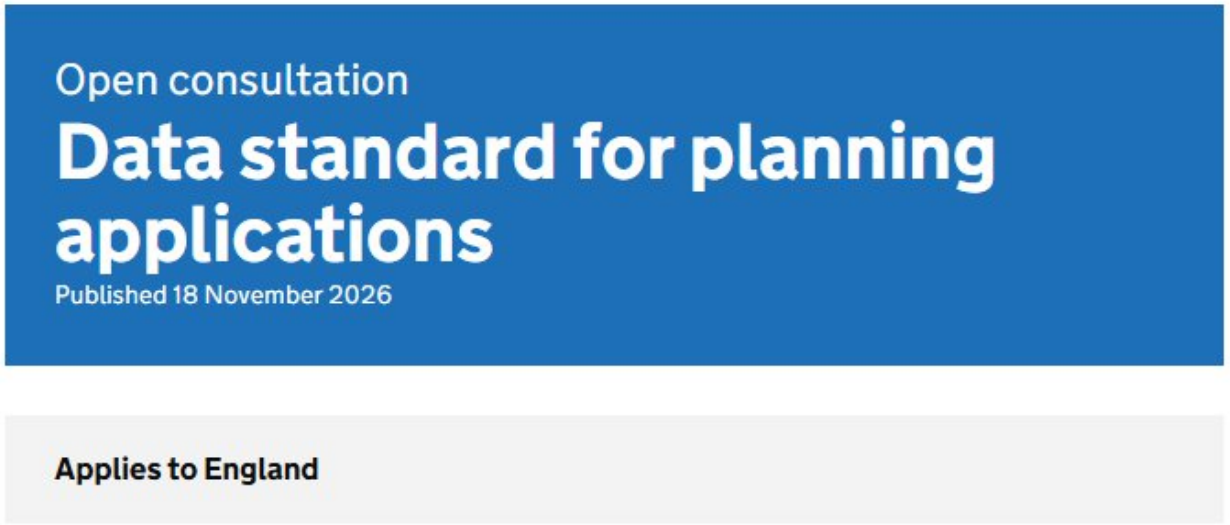
Consultation: Data standard for planning applications

Eloise Maguire

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The consultation



[Data standard for planning applications - GOV.UK]

MHCLG is seeking views on our proposed approach to a data standard for planning applications.

Closes on 30 December 2026.
Please respond using citizenspace.

MHCLG expect to proceed at pace.
Aiming to bring the changes into effect by mid-2027.

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Objectives

A new data standard for planning applications

CORE OBJECTIVE

To establish a mandatory, nationwide data standard for planning applications across England.

POLICY OBJECTIVES

- Apply a more consistent, streamlined and digitally enabled approach
- Increase the availability and accessibility of data relating to planning applications
- Enabling significant efficiency savings in planning services.
- Make it easier to extract key information about planning applications and decisions, providing better data on build out to track progress

BENEFITS ACROSS THE PLANNING SYSTEM

Planning authorities

Less bespoke data work, easier procurement and benchmarking, less website scraping

Software suppliers

Lower barriers to entry, a level playing field and lower integration costs

Applicants

A clearer structure, less risk of an invalid application and potentially faster processing

Government

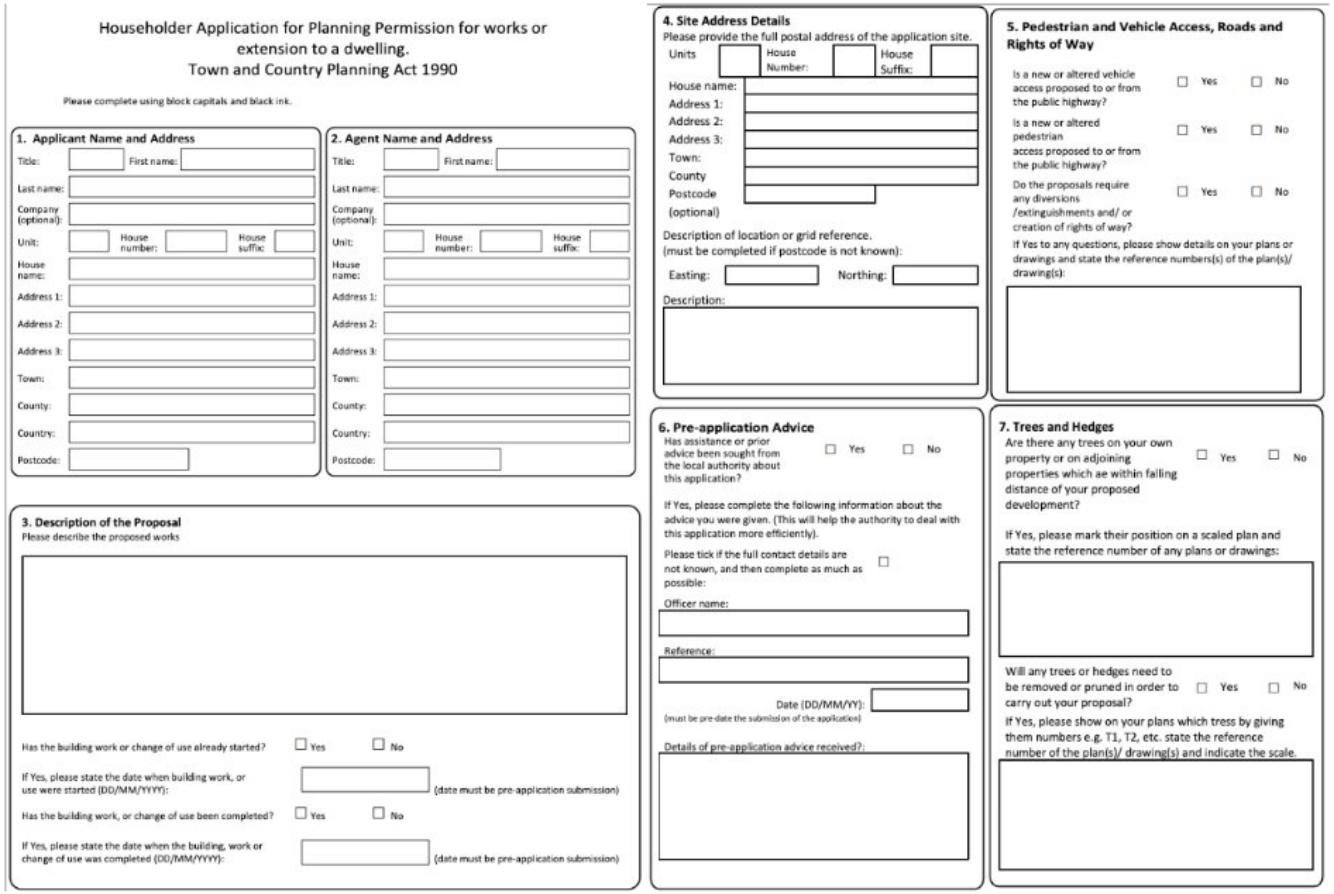
Better monitoring of performance, build-out, housing delivery and policy impact

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The proposal

From forms to data



Householder Application for Planning Permission for works or extension to a dwelling.
Town and Country Planning Act 1990

Please complete using block capitals and black ink.

1. Applicant Name and Address

Title: First name: Last name: Company (optional): Unit: House number: House suffix: House name: Address 1: Address 2: Address 3: Town: County: Country: Postcode:

2. Agent Name and Address

Title: First name: Last name: Company (optional): Unit: House number: House suffix: House name: Address 1: Address 2: Address 3: Town: County: Country: Postcode:

3. Description of the Proposal

Please describe the proposed works

Has the building work or change of use already started? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If Yes, please state the date when building work, or use were started (DD/MM/YYYY): (date must be pre-application submission)

Has the building work, or change of use been completed? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If Yes, please state the date when the building, work or change of use was completed (DD/MM/YYYY): (date must be pre-application submission)

4. Site Address Details

Please provide the full postal address of the application site.

Units House Number: House Suffix: House name: Address 1: Address 2: Address 3: Town: County: Postcode (optional):

Description of location or grid reference.
(must be completed if postcode is not known):

Easting: Northing:

Description:

5. Pedestrian and Vehicle Access, Roads and Rights of Way

Is a new or altered vehicle access proposed to or from the public highway? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Is a new or altered pedestrian access proposed to or from the public highway? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Do the proposals require any diversions /extinguishments and/ or creation of rights of way? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If Yes to any questions, please show details on your plans or drawings and state the reference numbers(s) of the plan(s)/ drawing(s):

6. Pre-application Advice

Has assistance or prior advice been sought from the local authority about this application? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If Yes, please complete the following information about the advice you were given. (This will help the authority to deal with this application more efficiently).

Please tick if the full contact details are not known, and then complete as much as possible: ☐

Officer name:

Reference:

Date (DD/MM/YY):
(must be pre-date the submission of the application)

Details of pre-application advice received?:

7. Trees and Hedges

Are there any trees on your own property or on adjoining properties which ae within falling distance of your proposed development? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If Yes, please mark their position on a scaled plan and state the reference number of any plans or drawings:

Will any trees or hedges need to be removed or pruned in order to carry out your proposal? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If Yes, please show on your plans which tress by giving them numbers e.g. T1, T2, etc. state the reference number of the plan(s)/ drawing(s) and indicate the scale.

Example forms provided by MHCLG on GOV.UK

THE CURRENT SYSTEM

The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 (DMPO) requires a form published by the Secretary of State, or a form substantially to the same effect, to be used by applicants when applying for planning permission.

THE PROPOSED SYSTEM

MHCLG will make secondary legislation under the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act to mandate a data standard for the planning application process, specifying how the data should be structured and published.

MHCLG will continue to create forms that can be filled in, generated from the data standard.

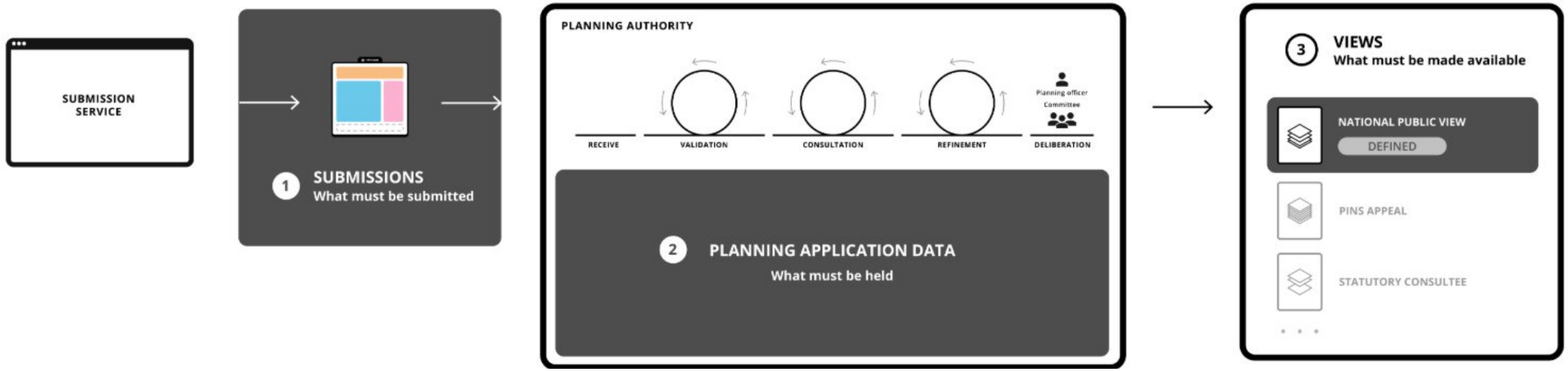
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How the proposal supports users

A new data model for planning applications

DATA MODEL



1 Submissions

The standard defines the information needed for each type of planning application and how it should be structured.

2 Recording data during the process

The standard defines the information planning authorities record as an application is validated, assessed and decided.

3 Decisions

The national public view defines what planning application data should be published as open data.

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Consultation Question

1

What are your views on shifting away from using template document forms to a data standard-led submission approach?

Scope of the data standard

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How the data standard works

Capturing applications and decisions

THE PLANNING APPLICATION DATA STANDARD

Submission

Data required when an application is submitted

Decision

Data recorded when a determination is reached

2 linked data specifications have been developed covering the data required when an application is submitted and to record a decision.

View the detailed specifications in MHCLG's Data Specification Viewer.

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What the standard covers

Submission standard

APPLICATION TYPES COVERED

- Planning permission, including permission in principle and reserved matters
- Prior approval for permitted development routes
- Listed buildings, conservation areas and protected trees
- Lawful development certificates
- Post-permission: variations and non-material amendments
- Other consents: advertisement consent, hedgerow removal notices
- Specialist: onshore oil and gas extraction

97%

Covering the most common application types

HOW INFORMATION IS CAPTURED CONSISTENTLY

An application type brings together modules. Modules group related fields and can use components to reuse groups of fields. Modules can also contain fields directly. Fields define individual items of information and can link to codelists that set allowed values.

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Consultation Question

2 **Do you agree with the initial list of proposed applications that will be in scope for the planning submission data standard?**

3 **Do you anticipate any positive or negative impacts of these proposals on people who share any protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010?**

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What the standard covers

Decision standard

DECISIONS DATASETS COVERED

Planning application
Applications submitted to the authority

Site
Development sites linked to applications

Decision notice
The issued decision and who made it

Planning conditions
Individual planning conditions

Decision condition
Each condition attached to a decision

Section 106 agreements
Agreements linked to developments

Submission data
Links an application to its submitted documents

Permission timeline
Key events, such as valid date, consultation and decision date

HOW INFORMATION IS CAPTURED CONSISTENTLY

The planning decision specification will include the key datasets and fields which are needed to accurately record what was decided, under what circumstances, why and how that decision was reached.

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Consultation Question

4 **Do you agree with the proposed scope of the planning decision specification?**

5 **Do you agree with the list of proposed data requirements that will be in scope for the planning decision specification?**

Roles and responsibilities for implementation

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Implementing the standard

Proposed approach to conformance and compliance

The **national public view** defines which parts of the authority's records are to be made available as open data. It selects datasets, fields and records from the wider planning application data specification.

HOW COMPLIANCE WILL BE JUDGED

1
Capture
Suppliers and authorities capture data to the standard

→

2
Publish
The authority publishes a defined public view as open data

→

3
Check
The department checks conformance within that view

→

4
Compliance anchor
How the department judges whether the legal obligation is met

One compliance point
Checked at the decision stage, which drives consistency upstream with no separate monitoring of submissions

Always a subset
The open data view is always a subset of the planning register, and existing redaction practice still applies

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Implementing the standard

Proposed approach to standardisation

ROLES

Software suppliers

- Produce compliant submission payloads
- Process payloads without losing structure
- Produce compliant decision outputs
- Keep application data in auditable form

Planning authorities

- Require compliance through supplier contracts
- Validate decision outputs before publishing
- Reject non-compliant data as “never been submitted”
- Publish the data the standard requires

MHCLG

- Publish and maintain the open standard
- Support authorities on non-compliance
- Provide model contract clauses and guidance
- Run “check and provide” on Planning Data
- Manage change control permanently

SUPPORTING CONFORMANCE

To assist them to adhere to the data standard more easily, LURA provides that **LPAs may require applicants to submit planning applications to them in accordance with the standard, by publishing a notice.**

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Implementing the standard

Proposed approach to updating the standard

CHANGE CONTROL PROCESS

- Similar to the current planning application forms approach, the standard will need to be updated.
- Data standards are not a one-time publication. Flexibility and revisions are needed to meet the needs of evolving policy and technological requirements.
- A change control process will allow:
  - corrections (fixing an error without altering intent)
  - additions (new fields, application types, or codelist entries that do not alter existing requirements)
  - deprecations or restructuring (removing or redefining mandatory requirements)
- Suppliers, LPAs and the wider community will be notified of changes appropriately.

Figure 2: The broad steps for updating the standard

1. Regulatory, policy or digital change triggers the need to update the data standard.
2. Impact of change is considered against the existing technical specification.
3. Updated data standard is published.

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Implementing the standard

Also in the consultation



PUBLICATION AND REDACTION

LPAs already determine individually what can be made available as a public view of the register for the purposes of discharging their planning function.

Legal obligations may protect certain types of information, particularly personal data and commercially sensitive material. As a result, LPAs may redact information before publication where it is lawful and proportionate to do so.

The existing position in relation to redaction will still apply in the context of the data standard.

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Consultation Question

6

Do you agree with this list of roles? What practical or operational issues, if any, may arise from the proposed roles?

Historic planning data

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Standardising historic planning data

Also in the consultation



HISTORIC PLANNING DATA

Defined as: “any application that has been submitted prior to the commencement date for the planning data regulations for planning applications.”

This valuable data can unlock significant benefits, including, supporting innovation and AI to enable planning decisions.

We would like to explore the potential for historic planning application data to be in scope of the planning application data standard.

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Consultation Question

7

Do you see value in the data standard being applied to existing (historic) planning application decisions, not just those submitted from a future date?

If so, do you have any views on applying the data standard to all historic records, including microfiche and the anticipated level of effort associated with this?

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What happens next

Steps towards a mandatory standard

Consultation closes 30 December 2026

Consultation opens

18 November 2026

Published on GOV.UK

Community & engagement sessions

November & December 2026

Data standards community, PAS and other events

Consultation closes

30 December 2026

Responses due

Government response

Early 2027

Then “proceed at pace”

Changes take effect

Aim: mid-2027

Regulations and Commencement date TBC

Thank you!

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Data standard for planning applications

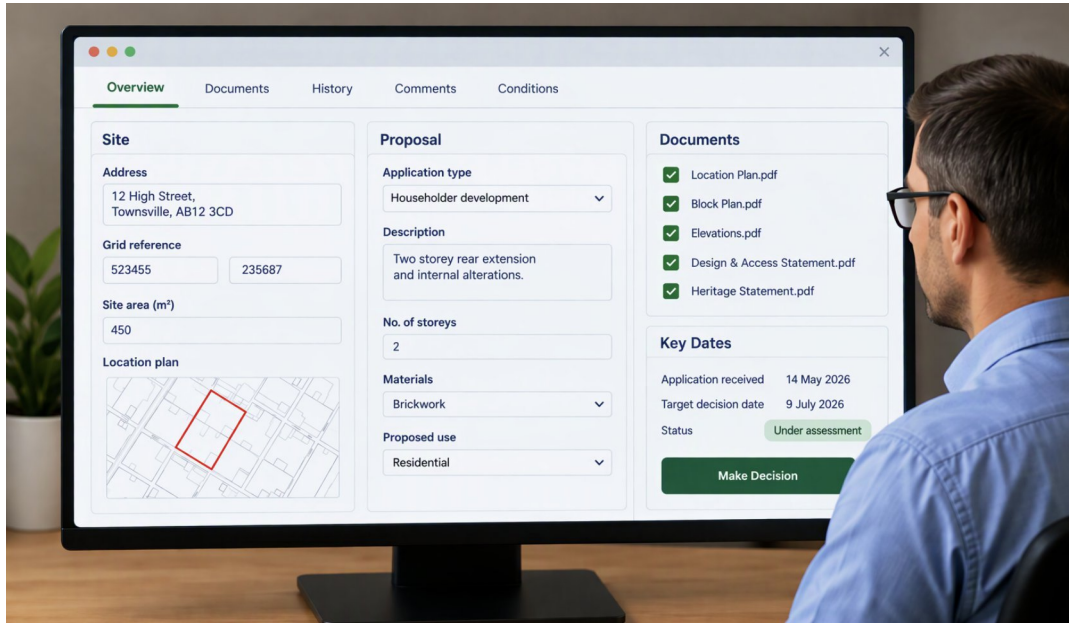
Making planning data for more open, standardised and easier to access

Launched a consultation on our approach to a data standard for planning applications which will be mandated in secondary legislation.

It defines how planning application data should be structured so that planning information is easier to submit, understand, validate and reuse.

For LPAs, the standard should:

- reduce manual work, including automatic reporting to central government
- help check that applications are complete and valid when submitted
- allow different back-office systems to share information
- lower the cost of planning software
- lay the foundation for new digital tools, including AI



Please share your views.

The consultation closes on 30 December 2026