



By Email Only

28 July 2022

Message from Chief Planner

As part of our commitment to share learning as we progress pilots and pathfinders, the Digital Planning Team have provided updates on Round 2 of the PropTech Engagement Fund and last week hosted a Digital Citizen Engagement LPA Showcase Event. 650 people tuned-in to find out about the outcomes and learnings from the pilot projects that are applying different technologies with the aim of improving the breadth and depth of community engagement in planning. The benefits of using technology to support planning was illustrated by Chesterfield Borough Council, who have seen 28 working days of saved officer time, as well as a 63% increase in sites submitted by members of the public between 2016 and 2022, as a result of their new digital citizen engagement tools and digital platform. There are details below on how to sign up for the DLUHC Digital Planning Team newsletter.

This newsletter also provides links to the important announcement on Nutrient Neutrality & Habitat Regulations Assessment made last week and the raising of the maximum and minimum payment thresholds for Home Loss Payments.

Earlier this month I had the pleasure of attending the British and Irish Council Summit in Guernsey. The focus of the policy exchange for the Summit was spatial planning and how it can contribute to the revitalisation of our towns and places; a link to the paper, agreed by all parts of the British Isles and Ireland, can be found below.

Wishing you all a happy holiday and a well-earned break.

Kind regards

Joanna Averley
Chief Planner



Nutrient Neutrality and HRA Update

On 20 July, the Secretary of State for the Environment laid a [Written Ministerial Statement](#) setting out the action government is taking to address the issue of nutrient pollution. This consists of two key elements; obligating the upgrade of wastewater treatment works in nutrient neutrality areas and a strategic mitigation scheme. There was also clarification on the application of Habitats Regulations Assessments for post-permission approvals and the deliverability of sites in nutrient neutrality catchments for housing land supply considerations.

The Chief Planner wrote to all LPAs setting out these matters, as well as highlighting the support from the Planning Advisory Service and the ongoing support from DLUHC to affected catchments. You can read the letter in full [here](#).

Please find further information at the links below:

- [Natural England blog on nutrient mitigation scheme](#)
- [Planning Advisory Service support on Nutrient Neutrality](#)

Home Loss Payments under the Land Compensation Act 1973

Home Loss Payments are payable to owner-occupiers and tenants of dwellings displaced by compulsory purchase or public redevelopment. They have been reviewed annually since 2003. Following the 2022 review, the Government has decided to raise the maximum and minimum payment thresholds for payments to owner-occupiers from £71,000 and £7,100 to £78,000 and £7,800 respectively. The flat rate paid to tenants has been raised from £7,100 to £7,800. [The Home Loss Payments \(Prescribed Amounts\) \(England\) Regulations 2022](#) (Statutory Instrument 2022 No.793) were laid before Parliament on 15 July and come into force on 1 October 2022.

Article 4 Directions: Modification Notices Issued

In the Chief Planners Newsletter of 25 March, it was highlighted how DLUHC were implementing the new national policy on Article 4 directions. We have been working closely with local authorities to negotiate revised Article 4 directions, to ensure that they comply with national policy. On 22 July the Levelling Up Secretary issued modification notices for four London boroughs – Kensington and Chelsea, Richmond, Wandsworth and Westminster. The modified Article 4 directions will come into force when they are publicised by the relevant London borough.

Thank you to all local authorities who are working proactively and constructively with us on their new Article 4 directions. We encourage all other local authorities to consider whether their Article 4 directions should also be revised to ensure



compliance with national policy. Copies of modification notices can be viewed [here](#).

37th British-Irish Council Summit

Following the 37th British Irish Council (BIC) Summit in Guernsey on 8 July, the Council have published a paper on The Contribution of Spatial planning to Town Revitalisation and Building Better Places. The paper was a key topic of discussion for Ministers during the Summit.

The Paper addresses the importance of positive place-making as a means of supporting town revitalisation and the decarbonisation agenda, and asks that, in the context of their own administration, council members consider how the characteristics of successful places can be developed more widely. The Discussion Paper can be read in full [here](#).

The BIC was established under the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement in 1998, to promote positive, practical relationships among its members, and provide a forum for consultation and cooperation. The Council's membership comprises representatives from the UK Government, Irish Government, Scottish Government, Northern Ireland Executive, Welsh Assembly, Isle of Man Government, Government of Jersey, and the Government of Guernsey.

Digital Citizen Engagement LPA Showcase Event – Recording available

On 20 July, the DLUHC Digital Planning team ran a showcase event to highlight projects from round 1 of the PropTech Engagement Fund, which has enabled local authorities to pilot a range of digital citizen engagement tools and practices to make the planning system more accessible and easier to engage communities.

The event had over 650 live attendees from a variety of planning, PropTech and advisory roles across the industry.

Alongside Simon Gallagher, DLUHC Director of Planning, it was brilliant to have six LPAs showcase their projects and reflections from Round 1, with final comments from Chris Standish – Head of Community Engagement at Homes England. A huge thank you to everyone who attended. If you missed the event a recording is now available on YouTube [here](#).

PropTech Engagement Fund: Round 2 Project Updates

A number of updates about the PropTech Engagement Fund Round 2 projects have been added to the Digital Planning Team's website:



- Lambeth Council have launched consultations on designs for public space in the Oval to Stockwell and Railton Low traffic Neighbourhoods (LTN);
- Leicester City Council have completed the third stage of their community engagement for the proposed regeneration of the Stocking Farm Neighbourhood Centre; and
- Lewes District Council have been working with Commonplace to pilot a place-based engagement platform for the seaside town of Newhaven, East Sussex.

Find out more in the ['project updates'](#) section of our web page.

Blog: Digital Planning Reform

The digital planning reform team in DLUHC have been working on how digital and data can improve the current planning system. Paul Maltby, Chief Digital Officer at DLUHC, has published a [blog](#) outlining how this work will save time and money for both citizens and planning authorities, and allow communities to more easily engage in planning and give their views to shape their local area.

The blog outlines three core elements to the approach: A focus on digital citizen engagement, modernising planning software and generating planning data that is easy to find, use and trust.

While legislation underpinning this approach is now in Parliament as part of the [Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill](#), these digital reforms to the planning system are already taking shape in the real world, and are being improved upon based on the feedback from users.

Stay up to date with the work of DLUHC's Digital Planning team

If you would like to receive updates directly from the DLUHC Digital Planning Team you can [sign up using this form](#) and select topics you are interested in.

If you would like to receive specific updates on data-driven planning software from the [RIPA](#) and [BOPS](#) project team, or attend their regular Open Digital Planning show and tell sessions, you can [register using this form](#).