



By Email Only

11th October 2022

Message from Chief Planner

This newsletter provides an update on the latest announcements that relate to planning in England.

I'd like to draw your attention to the information about the Planning Data Platform which we are building and in particular the National Map of Planning Data, which can be reached via the link provided. This marks an exciting moment in the digital modernisation of planning.

The platform collects planning and housing data from national sources and local planning authorities (LPAs) and transforms it into a consistent state across England. Anyone can view, download and analyse the data we hold. All the data is also presented in a single digital map on which you can switch on and off a number of data layers.

While it's still in development, the platform and map show the power of readily available data as an input in the preparation of local plans and policies. It further demonstrates how data that is created locally (either through local plans or development management software) can be gathered and shared. This forms part of our wider digital planning programme that many local authorities are now engaged in.

The Planning Advisory Service support to local planning authorities is also introduced below. This support aims to provide best practice in pre-application processes and Planning Performance Agreements.

Finally, thank you to colleagues in Birmingham City Council for an inspiring visit to the city centre which is looking resplendent following the investments over the last years, and Perry Barr where new housing, a station and transformed public realm are delivering a neighbourhood of quality. This all adds up to a strong legacy for the wonderful Commonwealth Games.

Kind regards

Joanna Averley
Chief Planner



New GOV.UK Digital Land planning data platform

The DLUHC Digital Planning Team have launched a new Digital Land [planning data platform](#) on GOV.UK to help make land and housing data easier to find, understand, use and trust. The new platform collects planning and housing data from local planning authorities (LPAs) and transforms it into a consistent state across England. Anyone can view, download and analyse the data on the platform.

The platform is designed for LPAs and related organisations within the planning sector, with the aim of supporting the modernisation of how data is used in planning.

As part of this aspect of the digital planning work, DLUHC are also working with a set of LPAs to collect data from them according to draft data standards. These standards aim to provide the basis to organise data so that it can then be shared effectively. Data standards make it possible for platforms like [planning.data.gov.uk](#) to collect data from a wide range of sources, and automatically produce correct and consistent outputs.

This new platform will enable more user-friendly services to be created which will support communities and developers to interact with local plans and planning application processes, as well as helping improve ways of working for planning officers. In turn, this should lead to a more streamlined, certain and interactive service that benefits all stakeholders. The platform is still in development, you can find out more about it [here](#).

Investment Zones

You will have seen the [Growth Plan announcement](#) on 23 September which referred to the creation of Investment Zones to stimulate growth. This was followed by [further policy detail](#) on 24 September.

Planning deregulation will play a part in the delivery of the zones, alongside fiscal incentives to drive investment. An expression of interest has now been issued to enable areas to put themselves forward for investment Zone status. You can find the Investment Zones expression of interest form [here](#), along with guidance for how to apply.

Support to local planning authorities providing pre-application services and Planning Performance Agreements

Good quality pre-application discussions have significant potential to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the planning application system for both applicants and local planning authorities. The Planning Advisory Service (PAS), on behalf of the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, have been commissioned to carry out a programme of work to support local planning authorities in delivering their pre-application services and Planning Performance Agreements (PPAs).



The programme will primarily consist of delivering:

- A PPA template and guidance for use by local planning authorities;
- best practice guidance for pre-application advice and PPAs; and
- a pre-application fees manual that outlines rates and charging approaches for local planning authorities.

Further information on the programme can be found on the PAS website [here](#).

PAS have also set up a forum which local planning authorities (only) can join to find out information on the work being undertaken and to share their views as the work moves forward. Local planning authorities who are interested in joining the forum should contact Peter.Ford@local.gov.uk or Shelly.Rouse@local.gov.uk.

Recruiting: Deputy Director, Planning Casework Unit, DLUHC

DLUHC is searching for a new Deputy Director to join the Planning Casework Unit.

The Planning Casework Unit sits within the Planning Directorate and advises Ministers on some of England's most high profile planning decisions which are "called-in" or "recovered" for determination by national government. As well as ministerial decisions, around 30 case types are dealt with under delegated powers ranging from allotments to compulsory purchase orders. The circa 34 people in the team are based in London and across 7 other locations. This post reports to the Chief Planner.

You can read the full job advert and apply for the role [here](#) on Civil Service Jobs. The deadline for applications is **11:55 pm on Sunday 16th October 2022**.