



Managing Data

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- **Data is part of our everyday lives.** Data and place are closely connected. This relationship is dynamic – as places change, data shows us how. The use of data is set to increase rapidly due to technological change, globalisation, and user demand. The global ‘smart city’ is growing as urbanism increases and data is at the forefront of new place understanding.
- **Data can reveal hidden detail** Data can bolster transparency and democracy. Place-based data reveals empirical detail which can be documented and shared. Greater knowledge of place enables effective, equitable and inclusive planning. This relies on robust methodologies and effective interpretation of data.
- **But it can also be a barrier.** The planning system includes many Local Authorities and Public Bodies. As a result, drawing from varied and complex data sets is challenging and can be expensive. This means standardisation of data across multiple asset owners for key sets and use of Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) is essential.
- **Data can be used to transport and public realm in cities.** Real-time data can aid and transform transport capacity, with benefits for efficiency of travel, especially on public transport. Safety is also a crucial consideration – for example, place-based data can reveal unused urban spaces. Data enables effective and targeted interventions to increase wider place quality.
- **Data and digital planning is an emerging tool in co-design and inclusive planning.** It has a critical role to play in digital and inclusive planning, helping a wider section of the community access and influence the planning process. Often local people aren’t aware of development proposals – this reduces engagement and is unhelpful to achieving positive outcomes. Data can make planning more accessible, for example, through a service where local people, are alerted to relevant planning applications. This avoids people having to use complex planning documents and can build trust and promote wider engagement.
- **Being selective achieves meaningful outcomes.** Select your data for what you want to know – accuracy and pragmatism increases the significance of data but this can only be achieved when clear aims, parameters and quality controls are included.
- **Data for proactive planning.** Clear, targeted data at the earliest opportunity allows for the wider and more nuanced consideration of planning proposals. Awareness of site constraints leads to innovation – for example, reference to a local Historic Environment Record (HER) can draw in heritage value,

when considered from the outset of a project. Equally, subterranean infrastructure requires extensive understanding of existing infrastructure to avoid clashes on site, reducing cost and improving safety. Data sharing is critical!

Speakers:

Bookings: 154

Peter Griffiths, Global Urban Futures expert, BABLE

Paul Downey, Head of Planning Data, DLUHC

Dr Chlump Chatkupt,, Founder & CEO, Placemake.io

Silviu Pirvu, Chief Technology Officer, MEGA Optimal Cities

Sandy Kidd, Team Leader, Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (GLAAS)

Macarena Plaza Helguero, Project Manager Infrastructure Mapping Application (IMA), GLA

Euan Mills, Digital Planning Advisor and founder of Blocktype

Carmel Huntley, Digital Improvement and CIL/S106 Officer, Watford Borough Council

Simon Nielsen, Head of Strategic Analysis, TfL