



Department for Levelling Up,
Housing & Communities

UK Community Engagement Conference

Bridget Wilkins

Head of Digital Citizen Engagement - Digital Planning





52% of citizens want to be more involved in local decision making

(Community Life Survey, 2019)

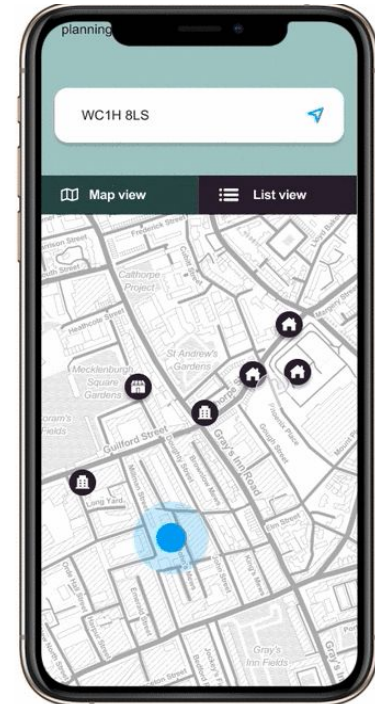
80% 18-34 yr olds have not engaged in local plans

(YouGov 2020)

The power of digital citizen engagement



Making planning easier to engage:



**DIGITAL
PLANNING**

Application opportunities ... how far & wide can we go?

Design Codes

Public Realm
Design

Call for sites

Council led
development

Development
Management
/ JV Projects



Strategic
Planning

Local area
needs
analysis

Low Traffic
Neighbourhoods

Thematic Planning - transport, infrastructure,
public safety, sustainability,

Community
Development

Local Plans

High Street
Planning

Resident &
Occupier
Engagement

Placemaking

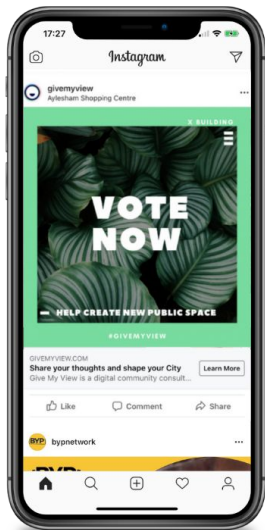
Net Zero
Carbon

Masterplanning

Estate
Regeneration



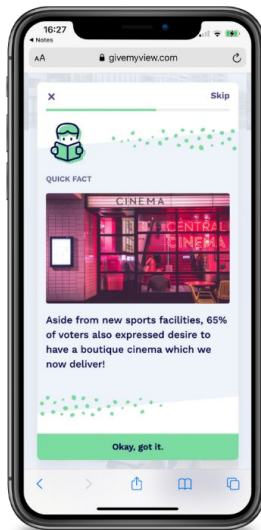
Key elements: Digital outreach that connects to diverse demographics



Click on a targeted social media ads or QR code to begin



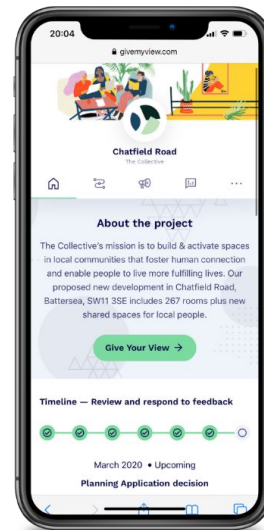
Earn points by answering a series of survey questions



Questions are contextualised with digestible facts



Donate points to a local social initiative




View the timeline, newsfeed, FAQs & visuals

Key elements: Interactive websites, maps and content hosting

 [About the project](#)

 [Timeline](#)

 [Latest news](#)

 [Have your say](#)

 [The team](#)



About this Project

Learn more about the project and why we want to hear from you!



163 responses

High Streets Today

We want to learn about the role that the Borough's high streets play in your life



42 responses

Businesses and Community

What can each of us do to keep our businesses and communities thriving?



149 responses

Movement and Accessibility

Tell us how you get to the high street and how we can help make improvements to your journey



48 responses

Vision

Tell us your vision for the future of our high streets

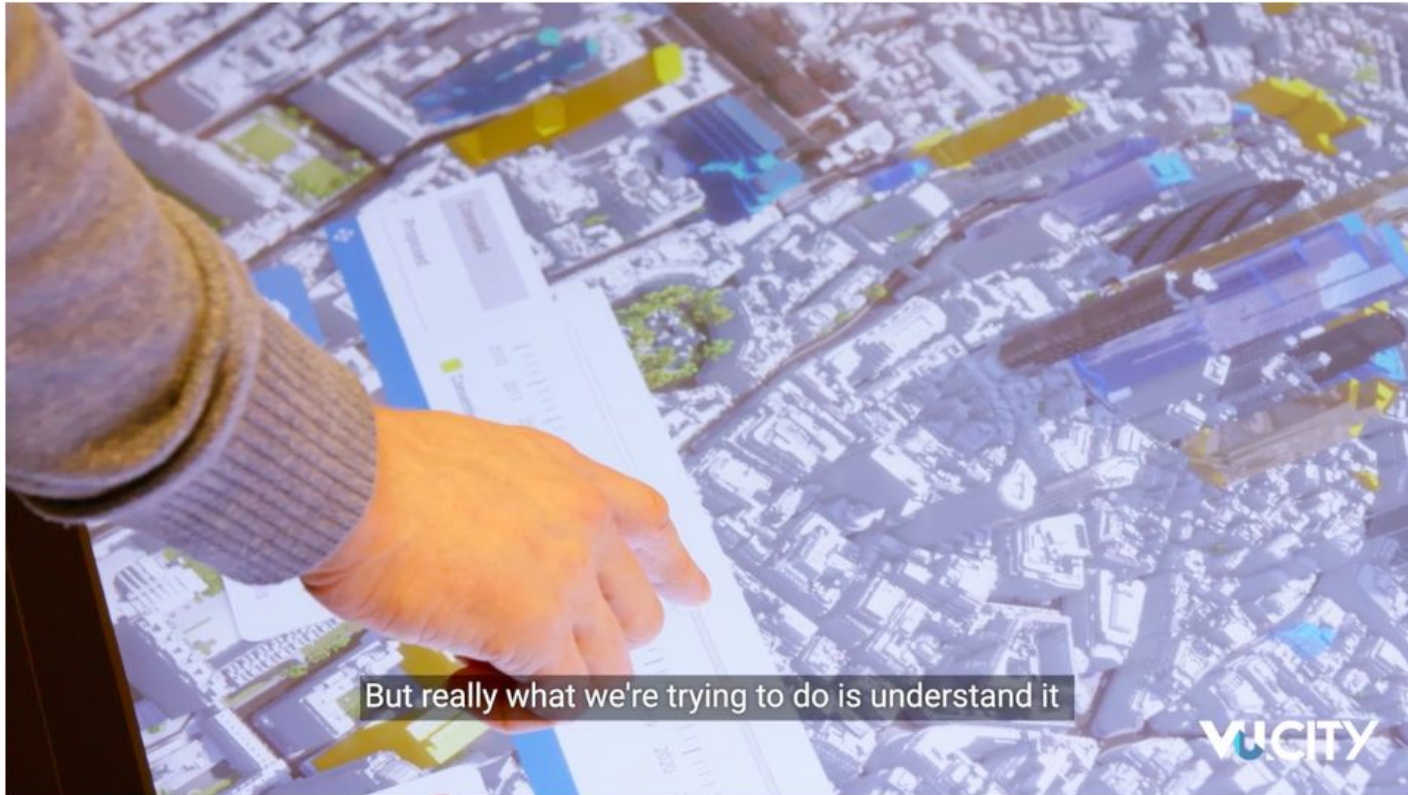


Comment on our Map

To comment on any high street in our borough, drop a pin on our interactive map

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Key elements: Visualising planning proposals & potential



But really what we're trying to do is understand it

VICITY

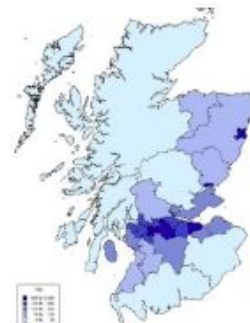


Key elements: Analysing & benchmarking community feedback

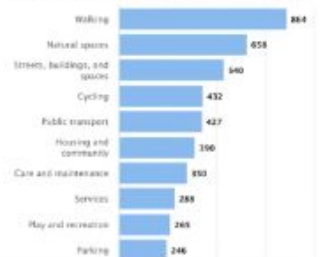
Community-led planning across Scotland

"Placebuilder is a key aspect of
Transforming Places Together -
Scotland's 5-year Digital
Strategy for Scotland, 2020"

Liz Pringle, Head of Digital
Planning, Scottish Government



Number of user comments by effects



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Breaking through the barriers of adoption:



Funding

Team resources & capacity

Legal/Statutory requirements

Integration with existing systems

What to do with all the extra feedback?

Developing & sharing best practice

Vision for digital citizen engagement:

- **Increase the use of digital engagement within the planning process**
- **Make the planning system more accountable and democratic**
- **Offer alternative routes to engage alongside traditional forms of engagement**

Supporting a growing community and ecosystem



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DLUHC - PropTech Engagement Fund

MHCLG launches PropTech Engagement Fund

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) has launched a PropTech Engagement Fund to help councils and the industry step up the adoption of property technology.



Its digital planning team is initially making up to £100,000 each available to 10-12 local authorities for selected projects focused on engagement around the plan-making process and development management.

techUK FOR WHAT COMES NEXT

You're here: The UK's technology trade association > What we deliver > Insights > Digital planning in action

techUK news and views 22 Oct 2021

Digital planning in action

Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities announce new local trials for digital initiatives to make planning process more accessible

In August 2021 the government launched the PropTech Engagement Fund where local authorities were invited to submit bids for up to £100,000 to run pilots to boost engagement in Local Plan consultations, better publicise proposed developments, or to analyse consultation responses.

On 22 October 2021 Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) announced that innovative digital tools will be trialled in 13 areas across England to help local people have their say in the planning process.

Government reveals 13 councils to pilot new 'innovative' digital planning tools

03 NOV 2021

'ing to take forward new ing Up, Housing and

Cotswold District Council to trial innovative digital tools to improve engagement with residents around the future of the Cotswolds

Cotswold District Council has been successful in a funding bid to trial new, innovative digital platforms to help improve engagement with residents and make consultation more accessible for local people.

The trial is due to take place in the New Year as part of a consultation in the Cotswold District Local Plan which will look to make the plan 'green to the core' and better help tackle the climate and ecological emergencies.

Councillor Rachel Coxcoo, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Forward Planning said, "It is so important that councils make the planning process, and other consultations, as easy as possible for people to access, understand and then provide their feedback. It is key for transparency and helping people effectively take part in local democracy.



Finance Transformation Health & Social Care Property Analysis

William Eichler 25 October 2021

Councils selected for £1m digital engagement trials

Thirteen local areas are to share £1m of Government funding as part of an initiative to boost public engagement with the planning process through digital innovations.

The funding, announced on Friday by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, has been allocated to 13 planning authorities under the PropTech Engagement Fund to test new digital initiatives to make the planning process more accessible.

The PropTech Engagement Fund was launched in August 2021. Local planning authority invited to submit bids for up to £100,000 to run pilots to boost engagement in Local Plan consultations, better publicise proposed developments, or to analyse consultation responses.

The selected projects include an online 3D map, which will be created by the London Borough Hounslow. This will help residents to visualise and comment on proposals.

Round 1:

- 6 LPAs - Reg 18 Consultation
- 3 LPAs - Reg 19 Consultation
- 4 LPAs - Planning Publicity
- Language translations
- Engaging young voices
- Engaging ethnic minorities



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**Barking &
Dagenham**



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Round 2:

The programme intends to fund up to 10 projects that address one of the following five themes:

- Theme 1: Masterplanning
- Theme 2: Council-Led Development
- Theme 3: Estate Regeneration
- Theme 4: Community Development
- Theme 5: Wildcard



Round 2 - Further information



**EOI Closing
11:59pm 25th Jan 2022**

How to apply

Please read the full [Expression of Interest guidance](#) before submitting your application.

When you're ready to apply, [complete the application form](#) and email it to DigitalPlanningTeam@communities.gov.uk **by 11:59pm on 25 January 2022**. Please use the subject line 'Application to PropTech Engagement Fund Round 2'.

These files may not be suitable for users of assistive technology. To request an accessible format,



The power of digital citizen engagement



**To find out more please
contact us below:**

DigitalPlanningTeam@communities.gov.uk

Thank you.