E-Planning Portal Update - 27/01/21

E-Planning Pilot to begin Q3 2021

Over the coming months, the project team will work with the vendors, Provident and Annertech, to complete the e-Planning Portal to the point where online planning applications can be accepted

Following User Acceptance Testing in Tipperary and Galway County, a 12-week Pilot of the Portal will begin in Tipperary and Galway County in Q3 2021.

The Pilot will give an opportunity for agents to trial the portal, which will spread awareness due to the portal's ease of use and lack of traditional "brick and mortar" restrictions (i.e., Local Authority opening hours). Following the Pilot, the ability to make online applications will be rolled out nationally. Once this has been fully rolled out, online submissions and Part 8 applications will then be rolled out nationally

What has been done so far ?

In 2019/20, the ability to register , to submit a Planning application and for notifications to issue electronically was successfully tested in Tipperary and the LGMA.

In order for this to be rolled out nationally , some additional functionality needed to be completed and tested and the servers on which the portal needed to be built and configured.

Thankfully, the DHLGH agreed to provide additional funding to undertake this work.

Document Categorisation Standards have been agreed and rolled out across many Local Authorities.

A Roadmap for the re-development of iPlan has been agreed, with iPlan version 4.3 rolled out to 12 Local Authorities and system-testing of iPlan v5.0 about to begin.

How can Local Authorities get ready ?

- Adopt Document Categorisation Standards (target date : end April 2020)
- If Local Authority is an iPlan site, upgrade to iPlan v4.3 (target date: end May 2020)
- Nominate people (SPOC's, IT contacts) to engage with the e-Planning Project Team & Working Groups
- Ensure local application form (part A) is as prescribed in form 2 of schedule 3 of the planning and development regs 2001 (as amended)
- Ensure any additional /supplementary information required locally is in a (Part B) application form
- Consider what software and hardware will be needed to manage applications electronically
- This will be a national portal integrating into local systems there fore it is vital that there is uniformity nationally with the application form part A and document categorisations

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Integrations

Twenty four Local Authorities use iPlan as their planning system, whilst APAS is used by the Dublin Local Authorities and Wexford, with Cork City and County using Odyssey. There are eight Document Management systems used throughout the country.

For iPlan authorities, integration between the Portal and the Planning System will be two—way, with planning applications and documents being passed from the Portal to iPlan in one direction and updates to the application (validation/decision made etc) passing from iPlan back to the portal, from where email notifications will issue. If Further Information is required, this can be submitted via the portal.

For APAS & Odyssey authorities, integration will be one-way only, with the planning application and documents being submitted via the Portal, passed from the Portal to APAS or Odyssey and from that point onwards, all subsequent processing/notifications will be dealt with by APAS or Odyssey.

Communications

Over the coming months ,we will communicate as required, using various means such as:

- Webinars with particular user-groups e.g. Planning staff, IT staff etc
- Webinars with Planning Agents and Prescribed Bodies
- Regular Newsletters to all interested parties
- Updates to our Extranet Site - https://lgma2015.sharepoint.com/sites/extranet/pla
- Meetings with Working Groups (Process & Change Management; Data Finance & legislation; Scanning & Technology; Apas & Odyssey)
- Updates to Groups such as CCMA; Heads of IS; PSROG etc
- Contribution as Action Leader to the Construction Sector Group Project Innovation & Digital Adoption Project
- Emailing Single Points of Contact within each Local Authority
- Emailing Planning Directors of Service within each Local Authority
- Emailing IT Contacts within each Local Authority

If you wish to be added to these communication channels, please contact one of the Team.

Contact the team

Eileen Dennan	Project Manager	edennan@lgma.ie
David Frost	Project Leader	dfrost@lgma.ie
Teresa Kiely	AO, Planning	teresa.kiely@tipperarycoco.ie
Aileen Speight	Technical Officer	aspeight@lgma.ie
Cian Dougherty	Jnr Business Analyst	cdougherty@lgma.ie

LGMA
An Ghníomhaireacht
Bainistíochta Rialtais Áitiúil
Local Government
Management Agency

www.lgma.ie
E info@lgma.ie