

E-Planning Portal Update - 05/07/21

E-Planning Pilot on schedule for Q4 2021

User Acceptance Testing is due to commence in Tipperary and Galway County Councils in September. Following this, a 12-week Pilot of the Portal will begin in Tipperary and Galway County in Q4 2021.

The Pilot will allow agents to trial the portal, where they can experience the portal's ease of use and lack of traditional "brick and mortar" restrictions (i.e., Local Authority opening hours). Following the Pilot, the abil-

ity 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. The first 13 iPlan sites have been identified and communicated with. Dun Laoire Rathdown has agreed to trial the integration between APAS and the Portal.

What has been done since the last update?

- Development work on most of the online planning applications functionality is complete. Work has also commenced on the UI Design for the public facing aspect of the e-planning portal. The URL www.planning.ie has been chosen as the home for the planning portal.
- The UAT server environment is fully tested and signed off, the Production server Environment is almost complete and work on the DR server environment is well underway.
- Document Categorisation Standards have been rolled out across many Local Authorities.
- Engagement with the various stakeholder groups is continuing, with monthly meetings of both iPlan Local Authorities and an APAS/Odyssey working group taking place.
- iPlan version 4.3 is now live in 23 out of 24 LAs.
- Integration with Galway County's DMS is complete, Monaghan's integration has begun.

How can Local Authorities continue to get ready ?

- Adopt Document Categorisation Standards (target date : end July 2020)
- 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 which can be made available online.
- Respond to any requests for information from the Project Team or Working Groups, as required
- Link in with the Project Team and the Single Points of Contact as much as possible
- Check for updates on the Project Extranet site at <https://lgma2015.sharepoint.com/sites/extranet/pla/>
- Consider what software and hardware will be needed to manage applications electronically

Your Questions Answered:

As the project progresses and more Local Authorities become involved, many questions are raised regarding various aspects of the e-Planning portal. Some of the more frequently asked ones are addressed below:

Q. Is the facility there for applicants to submit the site boundary in a .dwg or .shp format. This is extremely helpful for large complex sites.

A. The Portal will not allow for the upload of any documents other than .pdf format. For complex sites, a site location may be requested from the agent as many planning authorities currently do so outside of the portal.

Q. Is there a testing environment setup so everyone can physically see what this system will look like from the customers and authorities point of view?

A. Demonstrations of functionality will be given over the coming months and each local authority will have a test instance of the system rolled out to it prior to go live in that authority.

Q. Will outgoing documents be transmitted via the portal too? Further information requests and notifications to 3rd party submissions received?

A. For iPlan authorities, the Further Information request will be recorded in iPlan as is done so currently, and a letter setting out the FI request uploaded to the DMS. An email will issue to the applicant from the CRM system, with the aforementioned letter attached. For Local Authorities using APAS & Odyssey, their planning systems will manage this interaction.

Q. Will it be a requirement for the LA's planning enquiry system adhere to the new Documents Categorization when displaying documents to the public? Or is this just a requirement for communicating with the ePlanning portal/ABP?

A. Yes all Planning Authorities will need to adhere to the Documents Categorization to enable smooth transfer to the back office DMS. The categorisation also decides which files can be viewed publicly or privately. Integration with ABP also relies on the categories being the same.

A copy of all questions and answers is now available on the LGMA planning extranet at <https://lgma2015.sharepoint.com/sites/extranet/pla/> - please contact one of the team below to get access to this site or if you have any further questions.

Contact the team

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