

THE GLA'S INFRASTRUCTURE TEAM

2020 /21



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We are the GLA's Infrastructure Team

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We are here to drive coordinated planning and delivery of infrastructure across London.

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We run the GLA's infrastructure coordination service.

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We research and develop infrastructure policy recommendations.

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We drive development and use of infrastructure data and innovation tools.

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We manage the London Infrastructure Group, the Mayor's Infrastructure Advisory Panel and the Mayor's Infrastructure Young Professionals Panel.

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We led preparation of the London Infrastructure Plan 2050 and maintain an evidence base on London's infrastructure requirements.

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Through our body of our work we seek not only to solve current problems, but also to find opportunities to evolve London's infrastructure, such that it meets the demands of Londoners for many decades to come.

Purpose

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Mayoral priorities for the infrastructure team

Help enable and accelerate delivery of affordable housing.

Minimise the disruption to Londoners caused by infrastructure works.

Support the common agenda of good growth.

Drive decarbonisation of London's infrastructure and strengthen its resilience.

Improve diversity and inclusion in the infrastructure sector.

Specific Issues

Delivery of affordable housing

The Mayor has a target of delivering 65,000 homes per year, of which 50% are affordable. As a significant component of development costs, infrastructure is often integral the commercial viability of development. It can also dictate delivery programmes as developers are dependent on cooperation with local communities and infrastructure owners.

But it can be difficult to align the priorities and activities of each stakeholder and so if cooperation breaks down, especially on schemes with fragile commercial viability, the quantity, cost and quality of affordable housing invariably suffers.

Supporting good growth

Good growth requires infrastructure developed with recognition of the multiple roles that it plays in urban environments, formed from a rich network of interdependencies. When infrastructure is developed under individualistic agendas, it rarely meets the good growth standards. It becomes solely fit for a singular purpose tends to create problems for other layers of London's infrastructure.

Disruption caused by infrastructure works

London is the most congested city in the UK, and the eighth-most congested worldwide. Congestion costs the country over £6.9 billion, of which £4.9 is attributed to London (Inrix, 2019). On London's biggest roads, about 15% of congestion is a result of streetworks and roadworks (TfL, 2017).

Driving decarbonisation and strengthening resilience

Significant transformation in London's infrastructure will need to occur to meet net zero targets and maintain a resilient network. Integration with housing and transport is key, as well as focusing on how to heat the city and manage water use.

Diversity and inclusion in the infrastructure sector

The sector will also need to undergo significant systemic change to increase diversity and inclusion as women, people from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) backgrounds, disabled and LGBTQ+Londoners are significantly under-represented in the industry compared to the economy as a whole. A diverse and inclusive workforce is essential to drive equitable outcomes that benefit all Londoners.

Our Role

London's infrastructure is shaped by a wide variety of people, organisations and by the demands of Londoners themselves. Indeed, the Mayor's priorities are shared by many of those we work with, but owing to the complex interdependency and geographical spread of infrastructure networks, it is difficult for each actor to individually engage with other layers of London's infrastructure and manage how the their work impacts others.

Our role is to lead and work between those who shape London's infrastructure, developing solutions to crosscutting issues, embedding collaborative working practices and aligning work towards the Mayor's priorities. Specifically we do this by:

- Investigating the sources and impacts of systemic issues.
- Developing London's infrastructure policies and vision in response to the issues found.
- Providing leadership to those shaping London's infrastructure.
- Helping actors coordinate their work with others.

To do this, we work at all stages of infrastructure regulation, planning, funding, financing, design, construction, maintenance and improvement.

Types of infrastructure

- Utility Networks Energy Infrastructure -
- Public Realm Cycle Ways Roads Streets -
- Squares Parks Waterways -
- Ecological Corridors Wetlands -
- Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems -
- Flood Management Infrastructure -
- Water Recycling Transport Networks -
- Waste and Recycling Infrastructure -

While various other teams and organisations may lead on planning, delivery and maintenance of specific types of infrastructure, we help coordinate their activities across many layers of London's infrastructure, identifying interfaces and seeking alignment in shared outcomes towards the Mayor's priorities.

We also consider the needs of London's social infrastructure and public services in our work, recognising that civil infrastructure plays many roles in urban environments.

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A permanent role for the GLA

The team was established in 2014 in recognition of a need to identify London's infrastructure requirements given London's growth.

Since the release of the London Infrastructure Plan 2050, the team has expanded in scope and now seeks to coordinate the planning and delivery of infrastructure across London.

Our current initiatives have been targeted as the most important interventions to address the Mayor's infrastructure priorities. They are also seen as building blocks that give other initiatives the best chance of success.

However, Londoners' demands of the city's infrastructure present complex and evolving challenges that can sometimes manifest in competing priorities between networks.

Those demands are therefore unlikely to be met by any one set of ideas, but are better served by evolving combinations of initiatives over time.

Therefore, we regularly assess our programme of work in search of new opportunities that compound benefits and work towards the continual improvement of London's infrastructure over time.

Current Priorities for the Infrastructure Team 2020/21 • Diversity and Inclusion • Infrastructure Decarbonisation and Resilience Policy Development • Infrastructure Regulation London's Infrastructure Mapping Application (IMA) Data and Innovation Tools London's Underground Asset Register (LUAR) • London Development Database Automation • Planning for Growth Service Streetworks Coordination Service Infrastructure Coordination Service Developer Infrastructure Coordination Service The London Infrastructure Alliance Contract We work to meet Londoners' demands of their infrastructure, reflected by representative bodies and the organisations in our supporting network: Mayor's Infrastructure London Infrastructure Mayor's Infrastructure Infrastructure Young Professionals Advisory Panel Regulators Group **Panel** Infrastructure Asset Transport for London London Boroughs **Developers** Owners and Network Rail

Continual Evolution of London's Infrastructure

While we aim to find new efficiencies in the way London's infrastructure is planned, delivered and maintained today, our work also presents opportunities to drive evolution of London's infrastructure for the future.

Amongst others, our work presents opportunities for efficient evolution of 'complete streets'. Complete streets are equipped to support good growth, responsive and adaptable to Londoners needs.

So in each of our projects, we aim to take advantage of disruptive construction work and, where desired, reinstate with improvements to street infrastructure, rather than just replacing back the old forms.

Placement of complete streets components incrementally improves the performance of London's infrastructure networks all together.

Example Components of Complete Streets

Sustainable urban drainage systems - Trees, planting and soft landscape - Comfortable pedestrian environments, street furniture and spaces to dwell - Spill-out spaces for building frontages - Traffic calming and safe pedestrian crossing points - Safe cycling routes and cycle parking - Adaptable allocation of spaces and uses, such as loading and parking bays - Electric vehicle charging points - Street lighting - Adaptable utility conduits.





Our Work

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Data and Innovation Tools

We are working on the development of a range of tools that are and will greatly improve the ways infrastructure is planned, designed, built, maintained and upgraded.

London's Infrastructure Mapping Application (IMA) is an interactive web-based mapping tool that displays growth and development data, future infrastructure investment data, and contextual information relating to construction and infrastructure in Greater London. It is used to identify collaborative working opportunities and build cases for targeted investment.

London Development Database Automation is streamlining how information on planning applications is collected from local authorities in order to create a live, automated, and comprehensive feed of development data for London.

London's Underground Asset Register (LUAR) is building a digital map of London's underground infrastructure assets. The map will help excavators avoid dangerous utility strikes and promote efficient exchange of data when works are prepared.

Infrastructure Coordination Service

The planning for growth service is provided to facilitate strategic planning of infrastructure requirements in London's high growth locations, with an aim of ensuring infrastructure is understood and delivered ahead of demand materialising.

The streetworks coordination service is targeted at infrastructure asset owners undertaking planned work on their assets. The service fosters systemic long-term planning of collaborative works between companies, working to derive maximum value from minimum disruption.

The developer infrastructure coordination service facilitates developers' engagement with local infrastructure asset owners. It therefore helps development stitch effectively into local infrastructure networks and by reducing risk, relieves pressure on development viability.

Policy Development

Our infrastructure policy development work is guided by the Mayor's priorities and draws on the experience and aspirations of our network.

We work to ensure that the policy, regulatory and commercial frameworks that guide infrastructure development are built with evidence of Londoners' demands and the challenges faced by the infrastructure sector in meeting them. We therefore feed into:

The London Plan and other Mayoral strategies, GLA and TfL guidance, national infrastructure policy, the National Infrastructure Commission, regulatory requirements of infrastructure and conditions of infrastructure funding administered by the GLA.

Aligning with the Mayor's priorities, our primary areas of focus are:

- Diversity and inclusion in the infrastructure sector
- Decarbonising London's infrastructure
- Strengthening the resilience of London's infrastructure networks

Cross-cutting activity

To support the service, our team work with key stakeholders and set up methodologies for monitoring, evaluating, assessing benefits, setting up risk mitigation mechanisms and best practice for streetworks collaboration. This includes various research activities and publishing any useful documents and tools (including a benefits calculator to enable the case for collaboration at planning and post-delivery stage).

All this information is used to look at how collaboration can be made business as usual and how infrastructure coordination services can be scaled-up consistently at pan-London level.

Moreover, the team is working on a contractual mechanism based on the FAC-I (Framework Alliance Contract) to formalise collaboration, to better define roles and responsibilities and provide solutions within collaborative projects.

Who we work with

Other teams within the GLA

- Transport Digital Connectivity Environment -
- Planning Regeneration Housing and Land -

The infrastructure team is held within the Good Growth Directorate of the GLA's corporate structure.

We support other teams with infrastructure expertise and by representing the views of London's infrastructure stakeholders.

Infrastructure Asset Owners

- Utility Companies Digital Connectivity Providers
- Highways Authorities The Environment Agency
- Lead Local Flood Authorities TfL Network Rail

Our work benefits from the close support of London's infrastructure asset owners through the London Infrastructure Group.

As the principal contributors to TfL's lane rental fund, London's infrastructure asset owners have funded the pilot tests of the infrastructure coordination service and guided development of our work programme to provide continuous support.

Our programme has therefore been crafted to meet challenges of interdependence between London's infrastructure asset owners, fostering outcomes that are mutually beneficial for the Londoners whom their organisations serve.

London's boroughs

We work in partnership with London's boroughs in all strands of our work.

As guardians of a large amount of London's infrastructure, particularly in their roles of Highways Authority and Planning Authority, boroughs play a key role in development and delivery of each of our initiatives.

In particular, our partnerships help to coordinate strategic responses to systemic and regional issues that can be difficult for boroughs to address by themselves.

Transport for London

We work predominantly with TfL's surface transport and planning teams to promote coordinated infrastructure improvement projects across London.

Pilot tests of our Infrastructure Coordination Service have been developed in partnership with TfL and, along with the Infrastructure Mapping Application, are funded by the TfL Lane Rental Surplus Fund.

Our work alongside TfL therefore helps to embed long-term coordinated planning into maintenance and capital investment projects, reducing disruption to Londoners and relieving pressure on commercial viability.

Central Government and Infrastructure Regulators

We work closely with and lobby central government, National Infrastructure Commission and regulators for changes that address and improve London specific issues

We are funded by and partner with the Cabinet Office's Geospatial Commission to deliver the LUAR project.

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Infrastructure Coordination Service

Set up and Pilot Projects

The Infrastructure Coordination Service is a new permanent dedicated resource to support coordination of infrastructure and development planning and delivery in London.

Coordination of infrastructure is important in realising ambitions for good growth and housing delivery as well as driving down the costs of infrastructure provision.

Endorsed by the Mayor's London Infrastructure Group, the service received £2.87 million in funding from TfL's Lane Rental Surplus Fund with the principal objective of reducing disruption and other adverse effects caused by street works and roadworks.

The service is also designed to:

- Deliver benefits to the public from improved development and infrastructure works coordination; and
- Deliver benefits to infrastructure providers by facilitating improved efficiency and effectiveness of delivery.

Working at both ends of the planning and delivery spectrum, the workstreams of the initial two-year work programme are focusing on demonstrating the benefits of coordination by piloting a range of initiatives and services, which also aim to provide local benefits. This evidence will be used to secure long-term funding and scale up the service.

Scaling Up the Service

Given the limitations of current resources, we can only focus on a small group of boroughs and selected number of activities. The aspiration is to further develop our services and scale up our efforts across London while continuing to demonstrate the benefits.

This kind of pan-London coordination can deliver better outcomes for communities, businesses, and industry, including more satisfied residents and businesses, cost savings within wider public sector works programmes, more efficient business practices and a better and safer public realm, driving innovation in the design, maintenance and construction of infrastructure.

These outcomes have started to emerge in this initial phase and we are becoming increasingly confident that much more can be achieved by scaling up the approach and continuing to change business practices of infrastructure providers and local authorities.

Current funding for this phase expires in June 2021 and work has started to develop a business case for a scaled up service.

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Infrastructure Coordination Service: Planning for Growth

Specific issues under address

For key growth areas across London, new housing and commercial development are subject to delivery targets, phasing and master planning ensuring development is well anticipated and planned.

However, such is the complexity of London's infrastructure, the processes and procedures that shape such plans often struggle to capture the complete set of infrastructure improvements that would be needed to support development, leaving issues unresolved through the planning processes, and only to be realised through delivery.

This leads to situations, for example, where sites receive planning permission and construction commences only for projects to stall as available capacity in local utility networks is found to be insufficient.

Responses

Planning for growth means anticipating demand for utilities infrastructure in key growth areas ahead of need in a fully integrated way, such that new development can be delivered in a more timely and effective manner.

In partnership with the London Borough of Tower Hamlets, the team is trialing new approaches focussed on the Isle of Dogs. This includes the creation of an integrated utilities strategy and comprehensive development phasing research, with the goal of achieving well-coordinated, good growth in this fast-developing area.

Benefits

Clearer picture of development requirements: the service enables boroughs and utility companies to better prepare for future development, establishing defensible evidence bases for strategic infrastructure investment and collection of developer contributions.

More efficient development delivery: reduced development uncertainty leads to fewer unnecessary delays and improved delivery.

Well-coordinated good growth: delivering fast and non-disruptive connections to new developments all feeds into our ultimate goal of achieving good growth for London.

Future Plans

Work remains focused upon the Isle of Dogs as pilot studies are ongoing. The intention is that, in time, these new approaches will become 'business as usual' and that they can be readily adopted for any of London's growth areas to deliver development in a timely and effective manner.

Options are also being explored to develop evidence bases for wider areas at a subregional level to inform borough planning and developer contribution frameworks.



Infrastructure Coordination Service: Streetworks Coordination

Specific issues under address

Thousands of streetworks occur across London every year, causing significant disruption, congestion and impacting London's air quality. Many projects requiring street works are undertaken in isolation, with just one utility company, infrastructure provider or highway authority promoting works.

In some cases, this means that one project will take place, only to be followed by a second project in the same road space shortly afterwards.

Responses

With the backing of the Mayor's London Infrastructure Group, we are seeking to deliver a range of pilot projects bringing together streetworks operators and highways authorities to deliver collaborative works.

Our vision is to jointly develop, agree, deliver and scale a coordinated, pan-London 'dig once' approach to street works that is proactive, strategic and efficient.

Our team of policy, project management and engineering experts provide support for collaboration at all stages; from the earliest scoping phases utilising tools such as the IMA, through to delivery.

Benefits

Reduced disruption: collaborative working can significantly reduce road closure times, reducing disruption.

Improved air quality: reduced road closures leads to fewer harmful emissions

Cost savings: collaborators can make significant savings through shared costs as well as benefiting from lane rental charge waivers and other arrangements.

Future Plans

The team is aiming to deliver 10 collaborative streetworks by summer 2021, to demonstrate the approach and its outcomes. Of these, two have been completed, three are in the planning stage, and five are being progressed now.

Pilot projects are subject to rigorous monitoring and evaluation to capture the benefits from collaboration as well as document best practice within collaborative projects.

These findings will be shared with the wider sector as the team seek to embed collaborative working as a business as usual approach. Alongside this, the team will continue to use their expertise to identify and support opportunities for collaboration and work with regulators to develop new incentives.



Our work infrastructure countries

Infrastructure Coordination Service: Developer Infrastructure Coordination Service

Specific issues under address

Uncoordinated development infrastructure works are causing unnecessary disruption to Londoners.

The wasted expense of this work adds pressure to the commercial viability of developments and slows the delivery of affordable homes, stretching London's ability to meet good growth targets

Responses

In partnership with local authorities, we have developed a new infrastructure coordination service, specially set up for use by London's developers.

In providing the service, borough based infrastructure coordinators work closely with developers through formulation and delivery of their proposals, helping them manage the opportunities and constraints at interfaces with their local infrastructure networks, seeking opportunities for collaborative working.

Developers using the service will be able to draw on the coordinator's valuable local knowledge and strong working relationships with local infrastructure asset owners when planning, designing and building their schemes.

Various types of development benefit from the service, from healthy streets and public realm improvement schemes to the delivery of vital housing.

The service is set up to be financially sustainable with fees charged at rates benchmarked for cost-recovery.

Benefits

Reduced disruption: with works delivered collaboratively between various developers and infrastructure companies, disruption to local communities can be reduced and the degradation of existing infrastructure caused by repeated works minimised.

Reducing pressure on development viability: problems in the organisation of development infrastructure works can cost developers, local authorities and utility companies dearly. By building working relationships between each party through the course of projects, we create the best chance for smooth delivery and to uphold the standards of good growth.

Facilitating better planning for growth: improved mutual engagement between developers, utility companies and local authorities in pre-planning and delivery stages feeds back to facilitate strategic planning and investment.

Future Plans

The service will be first launched by the City of Westminster, LB Tower Hamlets and LB Croydon with ambitions to add more boroughs and scale up further. During the pilot phase the service's performance will be monitored and evaluated to inform potential expansion.





Infrastructure Coordination Service: Development of Framework Alliance Contracts

Specific issues under address

The team has been working with stakeholders on developing a contract to govern collaborative works. Stakeholders have presented concerns around legal and commercial implications of collaboration if the different teams operate on site without a contract or framework governing their collaborative relationship.

Responses

The team have identified the FAC-I as a basis for a London Infrastructure Alliance Contract as a versatile standard form alliance contract that sits over the top of pre-existing contracts.

The contract acts as an umbrella governance agreement between utilities and highway authorities linking up multiple projects and integrated teams by establishing new processes for collaborative working.

It sets up agreed procedures as well as a governance structure that will align differing needs and interests.

Benefits

We aim that the contract will unlock opportunities for greater collaboration between alliance members, establishing the contractual relationships that need to be in place to allow collaborative working to practically take place on site.

It will offer improved integration among clients, consultants, contractors, other supply chain members and stakeholders and enable sharing of practices and lessons learned between team members and between projects.

The overall goal is that it will facilitate a shift towards a new industry standard of collaboration and improve coordination and efficiency in the planning and delivery of London infrastructure.

Future Plans

The team is currently working with key stakeholders to develop the contract. Our expert legal team is ensuring that the contract is built in a way that it enables the delivery of our objectives.

The contract will be out for consultation with alliance members over the summer of 2020, targeting launch later in the year.

Infrastructure Policy Development

Specific issues under address

Significant transformation in London's infrastructure will need to occur to reduce carbon emissions and combat climate change. London needs innovative policies and investment in new technology to enable a 1.5C compatible pathway.

Infrastructure has an vital role in the functioning of the city and has major challenges to overcome to decarbonise and tackle climate change including heating the city, recycling and reusing water, and coordinating large scale systems change while minimising disruption to Londoners. Additionally, infrastructure needs to incorporate net zero considerations into good growth priorities such as delivering affordable housing and public transport. This requires coordinated approaches and early integration in the design and planning of new systems.

Ensuring long term resilience in the face of the net zero transformation raises important risks requiring research and evidenced based solutions.

The Covid crisis has shown just how important it will be to maintain resilience. Network supply and capacity; coastal erosion and surface water flooding; and the impact of higher temperatures, wind and lightning on utilities need to be designed, planned and managed to strengthen the resilience of our infrastructure systems while reaching our net zero targets.

In addition to the impacts of net zero, the sector will also need to undergo significant systemic change to increase diversity and inclusion.

A lower than average number of women, BAME and those who identify as deaf and disabled are employed in the infrastructure sector in London, when compared to all other sectors. The Mayor's London Infrastructure Group has committed to work to increase the diversity and improve inclusion of the infrastructure workforce in London. Having a workforce that is reflective of the wider population as well as the communities that they serve is essential to drive equitable outcomes that benefit all Londoners.

Responses

Decarbonisation

Working to drive the Mayor's position on net zero by developing evidenced positions to guide policy, steer our engagement with government, local authorities and infrastructure providers, and inform the development and delivery of practical outcomes.

Regulation

Working with regulators to ensure the our infrastructure networks operate in the interests of Londoners and London's challenges.

Resilience

Ensuring infrastructure planning and delivery enables London's growth whilst maintaining network resilience.

Diversity and Inclusion

Guiding the infrastructure sector for greater diversity and inclusion by acting on the four pledges set by the London Infrastructure Group.

Panels

Sponsoring the Infrastructure Coordination Service, Infrastructure Advisory Panel and Young Professionals Panel.

Government engagement and stakeholder management

Working closely with the National Infrastructure Commission and Government on policy reform. Providing the secretariat to the Mayor's London Infrastructure Group; a group of senior representatives across infrastructure providers, regulators, government and wider industry.

Benefits

The infrastructure team is well placed to take a strategic approach to infrastructure policy, tackling cross-cutting problems and lobbying on behalf of our stakeholders to government, regulators and industry. We can test and pilot solutions within our coordination programs and use our data as an evidence base to integrate policy solutions with practical delivery focussed outcomes.

A London Infrastructure Network

As secretariat for the London Infrastructure Group, Infrastructure Advisory Panel and Young Professionals Panel, we can provide our stakeholders with access to a unique industry network to provide improved outcomes for all.

Strategic Policy Positions for London

Through our proactive work with the NIC and government, we can formulate guidance for London boroughs and infrastructure providers that ensures a consistent approach to planning London's infrastructure.

Connecting our stakeholders and creating networks

By taking a strategic approach, we can connect diverse stakeholders and find new solutions in between multiple viewpoints. We aim to integrate and coordinate to foster innovative approaches to infrastructure. For instance, we are working with infrastructure providers and regulators to develop business plan incentives that reward coordination and allows investment towards decarbonisation initiative.

Future Plans

The policy team's work requires constant dialogue and input from its stakeholders to help shape Infrastructure policy for London.

As an infrastructure provider, tell us:

- Where do you see gaps in policy or guidance on infrastructure? What London-wide policies could improve the transformation, efficiency and quality of the delivery of infrastructure?
- In your view, what regulatory reform would be required to keep consumers to keep bills low, whilst allowing investment and innovation to secure ambitions around decarbonisation and resilience?
- How do you think we can best improve diversity and inclusion in the Infrastructure sector? Get in touch and tell us about the great work you are doing.

As a London Borough and Statutory Highway Authority, tell us:

- What can help streamline and coordinate the delivery of infrastructure, particularly on our initiatives for infrastructure coordination?
- What types of strategic planning policy would ensure development is delivered in a timely manner, working to achieve decarbonisation and good growth ambitions?

As an Industry Leader, tell us:

- How you can help guide our policy and research to support our ambitions for good growth in London?
- How can we foster innovation through the major transformations occurring in the infrastructure sector?
- How do we drive practical delivery and coordinated outcomes that improve outcomes for Londoners in housing, transport and street design?

Data and Innovation Tools: Infrastructure Mapping Application

The London Infrastructure Mapping Application is an interactive web-based mapping tool that displays growth and development data, future infrastructure investment data, and contextual information relating to construction and infrastructure in Greater London. Version 3 of the tool was launched by the Mayor in February 2020.

Key Features

The IMA has 25,000 data points and over 50 context layers which are regularly updated as we incorporate new datasets sourced directly from asset owners/ works promoters. Key features include:

- Collaboration tool: this tool automatically identifies streetworks schemes which overlap in space and time
- Probability of Development: the IMA models & visualises the likelihood of residential construction projects to be delivered as expected by a specified date
- **Dormant sites filter:** the IMA can filter out residential projects that haven't completed a new unit for a specified number of years
- Area summarisation and data visualisation: the IMA can summarise the scale, scope and status of infrastructure and construction projects happening in a specified area to build understanding and improve usability

Key Uses

Development data (actual and modelled) in the tool supports infrastructure providers, developers and the public sector to better plan for growth enabling timely housing delivery.

The IMA also supports the GLA's Infrastructure Coordination Service and partners to identify opportunities for coordinated street works and minimising road network disruption, by providing data on thousands of kilometres of utilities and transport assets and details for future investment plans.

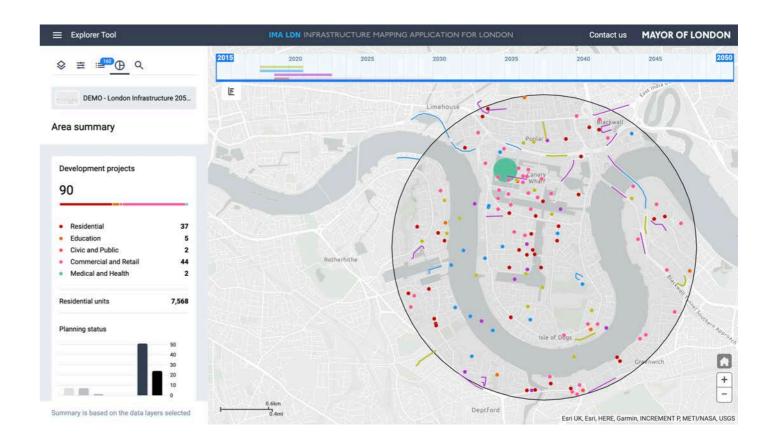
Future Plans

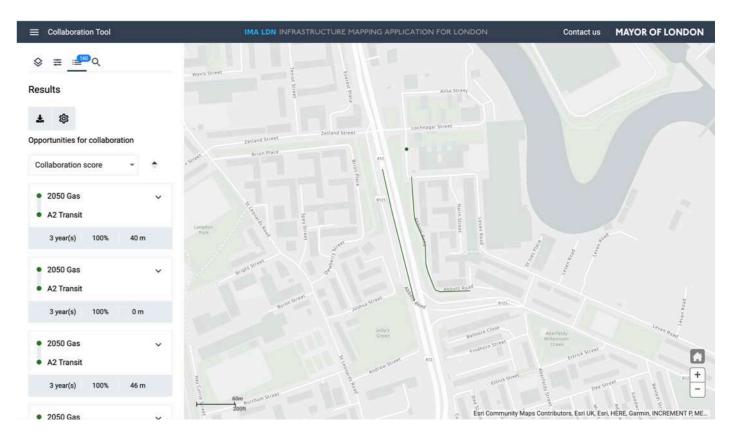
By the end of 2020, Version 4 of the IMA will deliver additional functionality requested by partners and users, including further predictive models that support decision making, as well as functional improvements.

The IMA will also establish live connections with partners' own GIS (mapping) tools to facilitate easier data transfer.

The IMA's database will continue being updated and expanded through regular data updates.

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Data and Innovation Tools: London's Underground Asset Register

London's Underground Asset Register is a pilot project that has built a digital map of London's underground assets across 6 local authorities. Striking underground pipes and cables causes serious injury to excavators and the economic cost of these utility strikes has been estimated at £1.2 billion a year nationally.

Key Features

The tool currently contains data from 21 infrastructure providers across 6 London local authorities including over 2.5 million unique underground water, electricity, gas, transport, telco and planning data points.

Key Benefits

The pilot is being undertaken to test five use cases: as per government guidance safe digging, on-site efficiency, site planning, data exchange, and coordination.

Future Plans

The initial pilot phase concluded on 31st March 2020 contributing to Government's evaluation of the benefits of further funding for mapping of underground assets.

The team have received a commitment from Government to continue funding LUAR through the next phase of the project until March 2021. The project will expand its coverage to new local authorities and organisations in summer 2020, taking what has been learned and applying this knowledge to scale the opportunity for others to benefit.



Data and Innovation Tools: London Development Database Automation Project

The London Development Database Automation project is transforming how Boroughs share data on planning applications with London City Hall by creating a streamlined, more automated process.

Key Features

- Truly collaborative project across London's planning authorities, IT providers and the GLA.
- Updated planning application standard to ensure key information is asked up-front and captured in a machine-readable format.
- Automated passage of data through back office systems and to City Hall.
- Will result in a 'live hub' of planning application information, accessible to all Londoners.

Key Benefits

- Reduced borough workloads as data travels easily between systems without manual input
- Easy access to more up-to-date and complete data across London, enabling better infrastructure planning among other outcomes.

Future Plans

Test the live data feed, as IT providers finish the necessary development work.



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