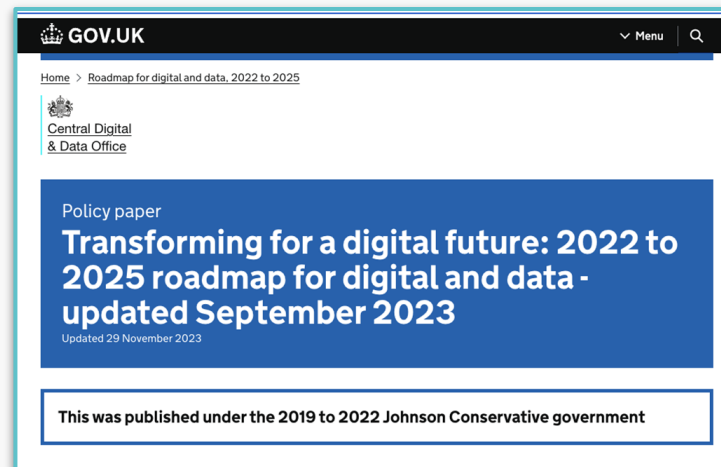Government Digital Service

Department for Science, Innovation & Technology

Theo Blackwell
Local government collaboration sprint
Government Digital Service

The Government's 2022-25 Roadmap for Digital and Data stated that it does not directly apply to local government

"This roadmap is for central government departments and does not directly apply to local government or the devolved administrations. However, CDDO and the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities are jointly engaging local government to help create alignment with these plans by supporting reform of local services and, where appropriate, encouraging join up with central government services. CDDO is also working closely with the devolved administrations to ensure there is close alignment between the government roadmap and their existing plans."

GOV.UK ⌄ Menu 🔍

Home > Roadmap for digital and data, 2022 to 2025

Central Digital
& Data Office

Policy paper
Transforming for a digital future: 2022 to 2025 roadmap for digital and data - updated September 2023
Updated 29 November 2023

This was published under the 2019 to 2022 Johnson Conservative government

GDS

New GDS has brought together:

The State of digital government review had a spotlight on local government

Spotlight on local government

Local authorities experience the challenges described in this report, but also have specific features which digital reform must address:

- **Market concentration:** common systems, such as those supporting child social care and electoral systems, are highly concentrated with a small number of suppliers, increasing both the importance and challenge of ensuring high performance and value for money from those suppliers.

- **Digital resourcing:** local government has the lowest proportion of digital data professionals in the workforce across the public sector, at 2%, below the NHS and central government departments.

- **Supply chain dependency:** due to the lower proportion of digital and data professionals in local government, there is a higher reliance on outsourcing, increasing dependency on a concentrated supply chain. This also results in challenges for councils to drive compliance assurance with data protection laws, the public sector equality duty, council's preferred security controls and accessibility legislation.

- **Cloud adoption:** a lack of internal teams and capacity to drive migration means cloud adoption is lower in local government than central government departments, increasing the overhead of managing infrastructure, and dependence on sub-scale data centre facilities. Funding structures are also a constraint on adoption.

- **Sector fragmentation:** despite having similar needs, and the work of the Local Government Association (LGA) to connect and address these needs, the inherent structure of local government increases fragmentation of talent, buying and systems.

- **Citizen proximity and digital inclusion:** because local government services feature so prominently in citizens' lives, there is a particular need to ensure that services are inclusive: the LGA and authorities are working together to pioneer approaches to inclusion.

Public sector as a whole faces "deep systemic challenges: institutionalised fragmentation; persistent legacy, cyber and resilience risk; siloed data; under-digitisation; inconsistent leadership; a skills shortfall; diffuse buying power; and outdated funding models."

GDS

Local Government facing initiatives

1. **One Login scaling** - Single sign-on system to eliminate multiple accounts.
2. **Digital Backbone*** - Technology enabling seamless service journeys across organisations.
3. **Joint Procurement** - Collaborative buying to improve value and outcomes.
4. **National Data Library** - Central repository making data sharing easier across public sector.
5. **Common Data Standards** - More unified approach to data exchange.
6. **Digital Leadership** - Required tech expertise in senior management by 2026.
7. **Coordinated Requirements** - Reducing conflicting digital demands from central government/new collaboration models.

The sprint

GDS

5 areas:

1. broader adoption of **AI tools** and GDS products
2. reducing IT costs and **data friction**
3. making it easier to share and **use data** across local government
4. helping councils get the digital **and data** leadership and other skills they need
5. how central government supports **local data innovation** across all levels of government

GDS

12 week sprint ending early April 2025

- **Discovery**
- **Engagement**
  - 30+ 1:1 digital practitioners
  - Regional visits
  - 6+ events

Produces…
  - Internal action plan with recommendations
  - Ministerial event

GDS

We need your views…

Government
Digital Service

Department for
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GDS products

"Strengthen and extend our digital and data public infrastructure: expanding GOV.UK One Login and other common components…"

Which delivery areas would most benefit from **One Login**? (For example, social care/vulnerability)

Is it a priority to scale Notify, Pay, Forms / what is the dependency on IT market change?

⚜ GDS

AI & local government

Minute, **Consult** are I.AI products which could be applied in local gvt.
Digital Planning

But what about genesis? AI can address **unmet needs** (may include non-Gen AI uses at scale e.g. predictive data; computer vision) of local government

National Data Library

Strengthen and extend our digital and data public infrastructure:..enabling access to data through the National Data Library

Local government faces technology, legal, capacity hurdles which need to be locked-in to programme

- What stops you sharing data effectively across local government?
- How have you overcome this?

Capacity

GDS has a suite of capacity building tools, frameworks (e.g. pay, skills), resources which could be more open to local authorities…

The sprint will begin to shape what this looks like for local government

GDS

Central ↔ missing middle ↔ local

Gap between central government (often remote) and local (often fragmented) needs to be addressed.

Where **regional collaborative innovation** exists we've seen start of innovation at scale, cost savings and collective energy/synergy.

Greater central government coordination is necessary
Is there a case for addressing the missing middle?

👑 GDS