

Call for Evidence: AI in Planning

The London Assembly investigates issues of importance to Londoners and holds the Mayor to account. The London Assembly Planning and Regeneration Committee has launched an investigation to understand how AI is currently being used by planners in London, what impact AI is having on the planning system and profession, and how the GLA guidance can support its adoption.

Below is information about the investigation and Call for Evidence, as well as key questions that the Committee is interested in.

Who can submit evidence?

This Call for Evidence is open to all who would like to respond.

Why is the Committee exploring this topic?

The term 'AI' is a catch-all term for other technological advancements including machine learning, generative AI and large language models. Like many other industries, there is much speculation about the potential role artificial intelligence (AI) could play in planning, both in the context of use by planning professionals and by members of the public.

The government has been encouraging the use of AI across a range of areas, including in improving processes within the planning system.¹ The Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) believes that AI could improve the efficiency and effectiveness of planners and their impact on the built environment.² The RTPI has identified four emerging opportunities for planning:

- Availability of data
- Realtime impact modelling
- Faster and better consultations
- Automated decision making³

Recent reports demonstrate that AI is being commonly used within the planning system, however as a new area, detailed evidence of how it is being used and its impacts in the sector are still emerging.

A July 2026 report, [Mapping the AI Landscape in the Built Environment](#), concludes that given its use is already widespread, "The central challenge is [...] not whether AI can add value, but whether the sector can integrate it responsibly. AI adoption is not simply a technology or IT issue, but a professional practice, workforce and governance issue, cutting across skills, liability, data quality, procurement, assurance, commercial models and public trust."

The GLA has been actively encouraging the use of AI to improve efficiencies and quality of data within the system in London. The Mayor stated that the GLA was developing guidance for local planning authorities on how to manage the risk of adoption of AI products. Guidance was planned for June 2025,⁴ however this had not yet published at the time of writing. The GLA has established a dedicated

¹ MHCLG. (2026). [AI tool to slash decision times](#)

² RTPI. (2026). [An introduction to planning and AI](#)

³ RTPI. (2026). [An introduction to planning and AI](#)

⁴ London Assembly, [AI-Driven Decision-Making in Planning](#) (2025)

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space for shared learning through the ATLAS London Programme⁵, as well as supported boroughs to identify and improve the quality of planning data through the Planning London Datahub.⁶

Central government has been actively promoting the use of AI in planning to ‘modernise England’s planning permission system and accelerate housebuilding to meet the government’s ambition to deliver 1.5 million new homes.’⁷ Initiatives run by the MHCLG in this area include [Local AI](#), [digital planning programme](#) and [incubator for AI](#). Two tools being piloted by London boroughs are:

1. The Augmented Planning Decisions (APD) prototype, currently being trialled with three councils (Barnet, Camden and Dorset), uses AI to triage and summarise householder planning applications and provide an initial assessment for planning officers, with the aim of halving average decision times from eight to four weeks.
2. Extract, an AI tool developed through MHCLG’s Digital Planning programme, is now available to all local planning authorities to convert historic planning documents and maps into usable digital data, freeing up planners’ time for more complex applications.

Will responses be published?

For transparency, we will publish most written submissions and the name of the individual or organisation that submitted it. Exceptions to this are applied where there is a legal reason for non-publication or if there is a safeguarding or welfare issue. If you would like your evidence not to be published with your name or to not be published, please let us know and the Committee will consider it. However, this cannot be guaranteed, and the Assembly may be required to release non-personally identifiable information if requested under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Read the [GLA’s privacy notice](#).

What will the evidence I provide be used for?

The responses to this Call for Evidence may be used to inform recommendations to the Mayor, which will likely be published in a report or a letter.

If information and/or quotations from your submission to this Call for Evidence are used in this publication, we will cite you. We will inform those who have submitted evidence about the outcome of the investigation.

How do I submit evidence?

Please send evidence by email to: scrutiny@london.gov.uk

The deadline for submission is **26 November 2026**.

⁵ London Assembly, [AI Planning Pilots in London Boroughs](#) (2025)

⁶ London Assembly, [Digital Tools to Accelerate Planning Decisions](#) (2025)

⁷ MHCLG. (2026). [AI tool to slash decision times](#)

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The Committee welcomes any evidence relevant to the following principal questions:

1. How is AI currently being used in planning by the GLA and London boroughs?
 - a. What are some of the most common AI tools used by planners in London?
 - b. To what extent are the AI tools used by planners approved by and under the guidance of employers?
 - c. What barriers exist in the adoption of AI by planners? How can these barriers be addressed?
2. What challenges does the use of AI in planning present Londoners?
 - a. Do Londoners know when and how AI is being used within the planning system in London, and should they be told?
 - b. What impact could the use of AI in planning have on trust and confidence in planning officers/the planning system?
3. What safeguards are needed when AI is used across different planning functions?
 - a. Are existing safeguards and guidelines sufficient?
 - b. What role should the GLA play in guiding the responsible use of AI across London?
4. What are the benefits and risks of AI in planning?
 - a. How can London capture the potential benefits of AI in planning?
5. How is the availability of generative AI to local residents, and the increased representations this leads to, impacting the planning process?

Please select those most relevant to you or your organisation – you do not need to answer all questions.

Please feel free to share any other information on this topic you feel would be useful to the Committee.

About the Committee

The Planning and Regeneration Committee holds main responsibility for examining the London Plan, the **London Legacy Development Corporation** (LLDC), the **Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation** (OPDC) and the **Oxford Street Development Corporation** (OSDC). Read more about our [previous work](#).

Committee Members

- **James Small-Edwards (Chair) (Labour)**
- **Andrew Boff (Deputy Chair) (Conservative)**
- Sem Moema (Labour)
- Elly Baker (Labour)
- Benali Hamdache (Green)
- Shaun Bailey (Conservative)

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