

Business case

Our solution is likely to give a typical council £517k of benefits per year. Along with significantly reduced licensing and set up costs, this means an NPV of £88m assuming 100 councils adopt by 2030.

Cost of process

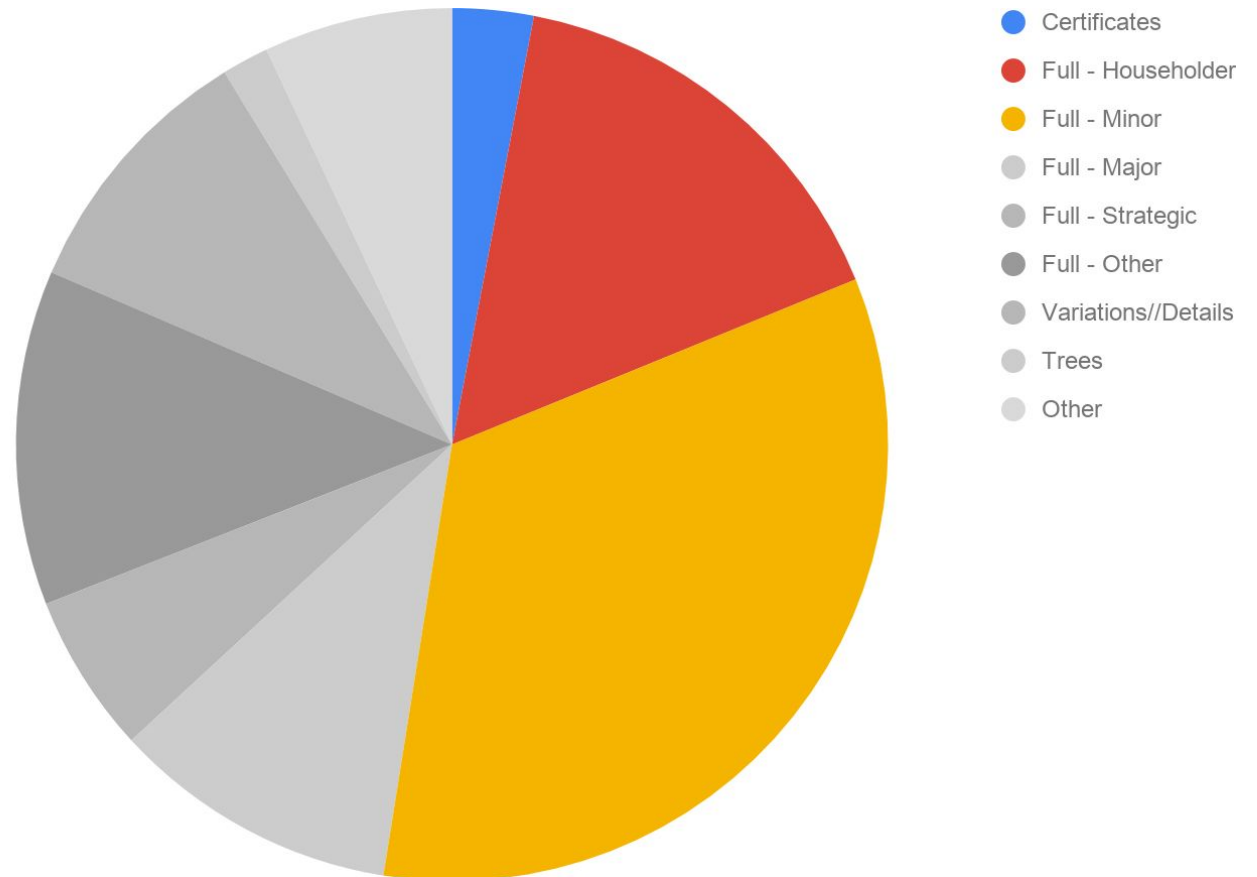
- Discovery research estimated the annual cost of processing “simple” planning applications at Southwark Council to be £533k
- Feedback from other councils suggested this estimate was low
- Estimated annual cost for all other application types was £482k, making a total of £1,015k
- A recent unpublished Future Cities Catapult report stated slightly higher annual costs of £1,394k per council
- A combination of these costs is used in our calculations and benefits case below

	Simple	Others	Total
Annual cost of processing applications (per council)	£533,350	£860,650	£1,394,000
Target % reduction	50%	25%	35%
Total annual saving (per council)	£266,675	£215,163	£481,838

Why MVP (simple applications) first?

Recommendation is to establish a minimal viable product (MVP) that is focussed on simple applications, before building out the full-service product to handle all applications.

- “Simple (8-week)” applications account for over **50% of Planning Officer time**
- Creating an MVP back-office system to **improve the processing** of these applications could reduce that time **by 50%**
- **Patterns identified** for simple applications (constraints, considerations, conditions) also appear to **apply to other application types** (majors)
- **Learnings from MVP** would inform full-service development (Alpha and Beta phases)
- Conservative target is to **reduce time spent** on other applications by 25%



Roadmap

Plan to develop system and integrate with other projects.

	19/20	20/21	21/22	Beyond
Number of Councils	3	5	10	90+
MVP beta Establish end-to-end MVP service for “simple” applications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved workflow for Planning Officers Integrate with Hackney SMPA Provide reporting API for GLA and MHCLG Simple public register using Open Data Standard 				
Full service build Discovery, alpha and beta to establish full service <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Process all application types Integrate with PlanX and others Open API for other third party applications 				
Live service Ongoing enhancements to the service and rollout to other councils <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business development Product management Customer support 				

Opportunity amongst councils

- High engagement: **14 councils** already involved in research and user testing
- Others offering support and **willingness to participate** in future work
- Councils pushing for **shorter contracts** with existing suppliers (two years in Hackney and Southwark) to allow potential future adoption
- Overwhelmingly **positive comments** on usability and transformative potential

"This would **save a lot of time and work** in repeating the same tasks as we currently do now."

"It's **designed the way we want it.**
We love it."

"It's literally **all on one screen.**"

"What? No PDFs?
Revolutionary!"

"I hope this [goes]
live tomorrow."

"It will just **transform development in the UK**, that's all... It's a dream."

"If you brought in something like this in, we would need to **completely redesign our process**, because currently it's all based on Uniform"

Net present value: £88m

Assumptions

- Year 1: Initial MVP build to manage simple planning applications in partnership with 3 councils at cost of £1,181,892 (build + enhancements)
- Year 2: Full service developed with 2 more partner councils joining to manage all application types at a cost of £1,546,606 (build and enhancements)
- No cost savings delivered within first 2 years
- Cost to council of processing minor applications reduced by 50%, all other applications by 25% on launch of full product, amounting to £226k annual saving per council
- £542k invested each year into support, maintenance and enhancement of BoPs software, outsourced to specialist providers
- 3-4 person cross-council product management team responsible for promoting service, monitoring through data analysis and user research, and prioritising enhancements, at a cost of £60-150k per year
- Adoption of around 10 new councils a year after launch of full product up to 90 councils in 2029/30
- Renewal/replacement/upgrading of software systems currently costs councils £250k every 10 years - adopting BoPS will be a one-off £50k
- Councils will pay an annual licence fee of £10k for BoPS, compared to estimated £34k for current systems

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1WjS0mrtbIKlit1E26J-033awyFAcutB7R77AfXBe7oM/>

	A	B	C	D
1	BoPS software costs			
2	Cost of MVP			
3	Cost of full service	£543,698	See "BoPS software costs" for a	
4	Ongoing development (annual)	£868,412		
5	Support & maintenance	£542,194		
6		£36,000		
7	Council costs			
8				See "Council co
9	Annual licence fees	Current systems	With BoPS	
10	Cost of transactions	£34,250	£10,000	
11	Benefit from transactions	£568,954	£367,222	No savings expe
12	Renewal/implementation cost	£0	£0	
13	Years between renewals	£250,000	£50,000	
14		10	0	Assume new cou
15				
16				
17		MVP (Minors)	Full system (all applications)	
18	Councils onboard (total)	19/20	20/21	21/22
19		3	5	10
20	Software costs			
21	Design and development (outsourced)			
22	Ongoing enhancement (outsourced)	£543,698	£868,412	
23	Support and maintenance (outsourced)	£542,194	£542,194	£542,194
24	Product management (cross-council team)	£36,000	£36,000	£36,000
25	Total costs	£60,000	£100,000	£100,000
26		£1,181,892	£1,546,606	£678,194
27	Annual savings (per council)			
28	Transaction savings			
29	License savings	£0	£0	£201,732
30	Other benefits	£0	£0	£24,250
31	Implementation/renewal (new councils only)	£0	£0	£0
32	Total savings	£0	£0	£200,000
33		£0	£0	£3,259,822
34	Annual income			
35	License fees (per council)			
36	Total income	£0	£0	£10,000
37		£0	£0	£100,000
38	Total net benefits per year			
39	Discount factor	-£1,181,892	-£1,546,606	£2,681,628
40	Discounted net benefits	100%	97%	93%
41		-£1,181,892	-£1,494,305	£2,503,329
42	Net Present Value			
43		£88,610,598		