

A Never Ending Process



The initial aim behind the National Land and Property Gazetteer (NLPG) was to bring together all of the address and location data held by local authorities into one national hub, allowing for efficiencies and economies of scale for individual authorities. Since this initial concept the scope for wider public service benefit has been recognised.



Emergency services take-up

Thanks to the Mapping Services Agreement (MSA), it's not just local authorities that are benefiting from the information management processes and strategy behind the original concept of the NLPG, but their partners in the emergency services and national parks. Due to the rigorous procedures underpinning the NLPG process, the data contained within the NLPG is the most accurate and up-to-date available, a fact that has not gone unnoticed by the emergency services. As well as benefiting them through greater efficiency, their ability to better locate the site of an emergency incident will ultimately result in the saving of lives.



Since the FiReControl project announced that the NLPG would be the key address dataset within the new Regional Control Centres, take-up of the NLPG by the fire and rescue services and joint working with their respective local authorities has been greatly increased.

'Underpinning transformational government'

Examples of this joint working can be seen in Intelligent Addressing's and IDeA's recent publication 'Underpinning Transformational Government'. The 55 page booklet contains case studies from the winners and those highly commended from the 2007 Exemplar Awards. The booklet contains examples of where public sector organisations have joined up their services to make a real difference to people's lives locally.

Responding to emergency requests, keeping streets clean, refuse collection, removal of abandoned vehicles and graffiti, urban planning and street lighting all need integrated geographic and demographic information – and data cannot be integrated without getting the basic building blocks in place. This isn't a small administrative issue, but a massive task that cuts right to the heart of what public sector organisations are all about – providing the right services to the right people in real places. Copies of the booklet can be requested from IA or downloaded from the NLPG website.

Birmingham completes the NLPG jigsaw

Birmingham City Council recently became the last local authority to commit to the NLPG process by signing up to the MSA. With Birmingham on board, all councils with a statutory responsibility for street naming and numbering are now submitting updates to the NLPG central hub. Paul Tilsley, deputy leader of Birmingham, said signing the agreement showed that the authority recognised the importance of geographical data for the delivery of services: "The benefits which the council's ten-year business transformation programme will deliver include a large number of improvements to area and community services and sharing comprehensive and accurate local information with our partners is an essential contributor to our success."

2008 conference and awards

Glynn Evans, head of transformational government strategy at Birmingham, will be presenting at the 'Underpinning Transformational Government' conference and NLPG NSG Exemplar Awards at the Birmingham ICC on 16 October. Preparations for the event are well under way with the issuing of a Call for Papers and confirmation of the main speakers. See the NLPG website for further details: www.nlpg.org.uk.

NLPG and NSG 'INSPIRED'

The ability of the NLPG and NSG to enable the joining up of public sector services has been recognised at Pan-European level. Both the NLPG and the NSG have been accepted as draft specifications for INSPIRE – the

Infrastructure for Spatial Information in Europe. Following an open 'Call for Specifications' the local government datasets were selected as reference data models. From 2009 any new address datasets across Europe will have to accommodate the agreed data structure and any existing datasets by 2016.

NLPG 'CORE' to electoral process

The Ministry of Justice has made a recommendation to the Electoral Commission to move toward BS7666 addressing, together with a proposal for its implementation across Great Britain. With the acceptance of the MoJ's advice, the secretary of state, under the Representative of the People Act, will direct every electoral registration officer (ERO) to comply with the standard. If the recommendation is accepted, EROs will have until 1st December 2009 to standardise their addressing data to BS7666.

NLPG commercial launch

On 30th April 2008, the Local Government Information House and Intelligent Addressing will formally announce the availability of commercial licensing for the NLPG at an event in central London. This event is a key milestone in the availability of the definitive, standardised and authoritative source of addressing information.

Now with every local authority in England and Wales signed up and committed to the NLPG process, the advent of a commercial licence for the data will enable central government, the utilities and the private sector to derive the benefits of an address gazetteer, regularly maintained at source.

This event is aimed at potential end users of the NLPG and is designed to explain the NLPG process, which has led to the development of the only national address dataset which is compliant with the national standard, BS7666 (the NLPG is 100% compatible with its sister project in Scotland, the National Gazetteer for Scotland). The event includes a presentation of the NLPG 'in action', as well as outlining the terms of access to the gazetteer.

For further information on the NLPG:
www.nlpg.org.uk