

The power of possibilities – Connecting with the UPRN/USRN

'Intro' slide

The power of the UPRN & USRN have the ability to connect different datasets linking different departments and services. These connections to different systems can help drive better services, better intelligence, and bring in returns on investments.

'Case study' slide

Here we have some examples where the UPRN or USRN have been successfully used to link different datasets to harness their power. I will give very high-level summary of 3 of these.

- **Nottingham – Carbon Reduction Programme** – Linked different datasets via the UPRN to help improve the carbon footprint of properties. Allowed them to provide advice on improving properties, and identify funding opportunities and projects.
- **GLA - Protecting 45,000 homes from Flooding** – Used the UPRN to link data and analyse flood risks to provide advice and guidance. Allowing cross organisation work to plans develop flood protection and prevention and to help the wider community.
- **Leeds - UPRN Integration** – UPRN embedded into different department systems across council. Used those data links to share intelligence which has helped to realise revenues in many areas of the council that were being missed. It has also helped increase property intelligence. All linking together to build better services.

The following are a summary of the other 3 case studies which were not expanded in the live presentation.

- **Wales - Vulnerable Community** – Used UPRN to link social care, property and fire service data to identify areas of risk and vulnerable communities. Helps plan and plan services better for these areas of vulnerability and be able to respond better in emergency situations.
- **Brighton - EV Charging Points** – Using USRN and UPRN data to identify households who would use current and future on street EV charging. Helped identify key areas where new units could be installed to ensure units were only 5 min walk from the properties.
- **Bath - Low Emission Zone** – Linked street data with current low emission zones enabling these to be mapped. USRN linked to camera location data to identify those who had not paid emission zone charges. Helped contractors on the highway to know where paying correct charge for their works vehicles. This led to less challenges on FPN's issued but increased revenue from tariffs.

But these are only possible through integration of UPRN / USRN as these facilitate the link between the datasets.

I cannot do justice to all the excellent and inspirational studies here, so I would urge you to spend some time looking at these and others and others our case studies pages via the link on this slide.

<https://www.geoplace.co.uk/local-authority-resources/guidance-for-custodians/case-studies>

'Integration statistic' slide

Before we look at some of the things you can think about to connect and realise that potential, this interesting statistic looks at the integration by the UPRN. This taken from analysis from engagement with the local authorities.

44% Fully mandate the use of the UPRN in their systems. But 56% are not fully mandating the UPRN in their systems.

This mean that systems do not use the UPRN, or partially use but allow the inclusion of free text addresses which do not require the inclusion of the UPRN.

That means local authority systems are unable to effectively handle the UPRN which makes achieving anything like those case studies difficult.

Our goal is to help both LAs and software suppliers be more conversant with using the UPRN / USRN in order to allow the great work demonstrated via the case studies to be attainable and accessible to all - through the correct utilisation of the UPRN and USRN.

The following slides will look into some of the reasons why, what we have in place to help and what you can think about.

'What software needs to do' slide

For systems to integrate and realise that potential they need to be able perform 4 functions.

Consume:

- Be able to consume the UPRN / USRN into the software. This must be able to do so in multiple formats.
- Be able to generate load reports when data is loaded to check for any issues in the process.

Update:

- Be able to be updated frequently. This will depend on the frequency of the data refresh you need for each service.

Expose:

- Be able to display the UPRN or USRN in the software.
- Be able to search by UPRN or USRN.
- Have the ability to correctly construct the address.
- Be able to able filter data through different criteria based on the address format.

Export :

- Be able to export the data and include the UPRN or USRN so that it can be loaded into different systems and be used for matching and analysis.

'Procurement' slide

One of issues faced is the procurement of software, is ensuring that they can hold and retain the UPRN or USRN. This allows the connecting of other datasets using these and releasing that data intelligence.

What we have found from engagement with local authorities is that there can be:

- **An ineffective procurement process**

Assumption that the software will allow the UPRN to be consumed, updated, exposed and exported.

Assumption that the key features enabling this come as standard, so never gets specified that they are essential and not optional.

No testing before purchase of the software.

- **Issues with Integration with other systems**

Systems cannot ingest and hold the UPRN (together with updates) allowing the linking of the different datasets.

- **No road map**

No analysis or plan to determine where they are now, where they want to be and tying up with corporate strategies (such as IT).

- **Issues Fixing data consumption & integration issues**

The lack of functionality being fixed by additional consultancy, building manual solutions, or finding additional software solutions. All costing additional funding and resources and putting tensions on the customer/supplier relationships.

‘Procurement tool’ slide

To help we have created a procurement statement for local authorities which can help them include key functionality statements for the tender process. This provides the address handling requirements up front and allows suppliers to be clear on what the expectation and functionality requirements are.

<https://www.geoplace.co.uk/local-authority-resources/guidance-for-custodians/how-to/generate-procurement-criteria>

We can also provide local authorities with a set of both technical and operation questions to consider and adapt (to their situation/scenario) and include in their software procurement processes. It ranges from high level technical and data capture and use, to support and relationships with the software supplier.

We are also engaging with local authorities to capture their experiences and general nuggets of knowledge to help design and develop help and advice we can provide their community. But this also plays into the much wider picture of helping us to engage, connect and help the even wider public sector community and software suppliers.

‘Data integration’ slide (local authority analysis infographic)

GeoPlace engage with Local Authorities each year to gather information on improvements and commitments on address as street data.

<https://www.geoplace.co.uk/news-events/events/gazetteer-gis-day/your-data>

Part of this captures how the UPRN and USRN is being used across 11 key local authority. These are represented by the 11 department ring around the outside. On address data it looks at:

1. **Reliance on the UPRN (inner circle)**

- Fully integrated.
- Partially and allowing some manual addresses.
- No use of UPRN with manual addresses.

2. **Address data currency (middle circle)**

- The frequency at which the systems are updated.

- This can vary depending what you are using the systems for and whether you are reliant on daily, weekly, monthly or a longer term.
3. **Method of update (outer circle)**
- Through a direct API from the source.
 - Via download and importing via custom process.
 - Manual data entry with UPRN.
 - Free manual entry and no checks or inclusion of the UPRN.

The colouration (based on traffic lights) on each ring represents the optimum preference each.

Each local authority will be a different level and stage in terms of integration, but the key is focusing on these to improve and make them as best as possible. It is a key opportunity for Local Authorities to review and plan, but a great opportunity for suppliers to engage with them.

Data integration tool

We also have developed an interactive assessment tool which asks a series of questions on the use and integration of address data specifically for each service area. Each report is designed as a guide and an opportunity combined with the LA data integration questionnaire to start conversations and connections to improve those data connections.

<https://www.geoplace.co.uk/uprnassessment>

This analogy wasn't included in the live presentation but may help think about having the right connector to make things work is always key.

I recently took my teenage daughter to France for a short break, a second trip in a year to mop up sightseeing we had not managed to complete before. When we arrived at our hotel, we both had forgotten a vital element...Means to charge our phones and in my daughter's case the plethora of devices she had brought with her.

Previously, we have taken travel plugs but were not needed as the local hotel has installed USB plugs. So being at a larger global branded hotel this time.... But it was not the case. So, we spent the first afternoon searching for the right connectors so we could charge the devices.

Okay, it is not entirely the same as data connectors, but the point is that without the right plugs to connect the devices to power supply they were not going to be effective. The same is integrating the UPRN/USRN into different systems effectively means the data in the different datasets in different systems can realise the potential of the data in all these systems.)

'Developing the plan' slide

So, how can you we all work together to realise the possibilities by connecting with the UPRN & USRN?

This can be for those in local authorities and the public sector, but also there are some keep points here to think about (if you are not already doing so) as software suppliers.

1. Define your goal of what you want to achieve.
 - What is your vision?
 - What is your reason for doing this?
2. Perform your analysis of where you are now.

3. What are your possibilities to achieve these. This ties into where you are now and what the research on what you can achieve
 - Who, What, When, How, opportunities and barriers
 - How does it tie into a corporate strategy and beyond
 - What are the requirements?
4. Develop a road map taking all the above into consideration
5. Connect & Engage
 - Talk to everyone that can help
 - Ask those questions
 - Communicate the vision and the reason why to gain the crucial buy in and help
 - With your IT Team as they can provide with insight on IT strategy, vision and what could be possible now and in the future
 - With peers in other organisations
 - Local authorities, public sector organisations and suppliers talk to each other
 - Talk to Ens with GeoPlace as between us we can help build those possibilities and breakdown any barriers.

I will end with a challenge to you all, and the question is this ...

“What are your opportunities?”