

# Planning data specifications

Open data standards community group

23 July 2025



Ministry of Housing,  
Communities &  
Local Government

# **Agenda**

**Welcome & Scene Setting**

**Data Design updates**

**Community updates**

**Next Steps, Questions & AOB**



# Meeting etiquette

Please raise your hand in Teams or add questions to the chat.

We will be taking notes and sharing a summary on  
<https://design.planning.data.gov.uk/project/planning-applications>

If you do not wish to be cited specifically please let us know.



# Welcome Mike Rose



Ministry of Housing,  
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# The MHCLG open data standards community









**Not drinking  
water**

Parameters	GoB [21]	WHO [22]	USEPH [23]
pH	6.5–8.5	6.5–9.2	6.0–8.5
TDS (mg/l)	1000	500	500
SS (mg/l)	10	5.5	5.0
EC ( $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ )	1200	—	300
DO (mg/l)	6	4–6	4–6
BOD (mg/l)	2	6	5
COD (mg/l)	4	10	4
$\text{Cl}^-$ (mg/l)	150–600	500	250
$\text{Na}^+$ (mg/l)	20	6.5	10
$\text{K}^+$ (mg/l)	12	1.2	1.5
$\text{Ca}^{2+}$ (mg/l)	75	100	100
$\text{Mg}^{2+}$ (mg/l)	30–35	150	30
$\text{NH}_4^+$ (mg/l)	0.5	0.5	0.5
$\text{NO}_3^-$ (mg/l)	10	10	10
$\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ (mg/l)	400	100	100

## NUTRITION

TYPICAL MINERAL ANALYSIS	mg PER LITRE
Calcium	18.0
Magnesium	4.5
Potassium	0.8
Sodium	12.0
Bicarbonate	39.0
Sulphate	17.5
Nitrate	7.8
Fluoride	< 0.1
Chloride	26.0
Dry Residue at 180°C	110.0
pH at source	6.7

[waitrose.com/nutrition](http://waitrose.com/nutrition)

**STORAGE:** Keep out of sunlight. Once opened, keep below 5°C and within 3 days. Do not exceed best before date. For best before date see neck.

**SERVING SUGGESTION:**  
Best served chilled.

Waitrose Limited  
Bracknell Berkshire  
RG12 8YA UK  
waite...

5 litre





# Our original aim

- **Aim:** To develop a set of **open, reusable data specifications** to underpin planning applications. These will make sure the [current templates](#) are underpinned by data.
- **Scope:** The specifications will **define the structure and format of data** that is required when submitting a planning application based on the national legislation in place.



# Our revised aim

In order to make the planning system data rich and data enabled:

- **Aim:** To develop a set of **open, reusable modular data specifications** to underpin the planning applications permission process. These will make sure the current templates are underpinned by data.
- **Scope:** The specifications will **define the structure and format of data** that is required when submitting a planning application based on the national legislation in place.



# MHCLG Open data standards community

To meet our aim we want your help to:

- **co-create** effective, system agnostic planning permission data specifications, resolving issues and supporting testing.
- **discuss and prioritise** the next planning permission process data specifications to be designed
- **advise** on other planning data specifications being developed by MHCLG or members of the community



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# MHCLG Open data standards community

For anyone interested in how we standardise data in the planning system

We are communicating about this community through:

- Blogs
- Weeknotes
- Direct invitations
- Networking...

We do not know everyone who should be involved in this so please:

- Tell your friends!
- Spot where we are missing someone / a group of people **and invite them**
- Make suggestions for others who could / should be involved for us to invite



# Co-creation

We want you to give us shareable and evidence-based feedback as we develop the specifications

We want you to share what you are working on and how it relates to the specifications we are developing.



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# Setting the scene



# Our focus



Start at the start

Aim for the floor

Don't break anything



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Make  
things  
open,  
it makes  
things  
better

# Current application submission 'standards'



[Home](#) > [Housing, local and community](#) > [Planning and building](#) > [Planning system](#)

Form

## Planning application and fire statement forms: templates

This collection brings together planning application form templates for local planning authorities, and a template fire statement for use by applicants.

---

From: [Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government](#), [Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government \(2018 to 2021\)](#) and [Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities](#)

Published 23 April 2010



# Modules of current 'standards'



[Home](#) > [Housing, local and community](#) > [Planning and building](#) > [Planning system](#)

Form

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Published 23 April 2010

**1. Applicant Name and Address**

Title:  First name:   
Last name:   
Company (optional):   
Unit:  House number:  House suffix:   
House name:   
Address 1:   
Address 2:   
Address 3:   
Town:   
County:   
Country:   
Postcode:

**7. Waste Storage and Collection**

Do the plans incorporate areas to store and aid the collection of waste?

Yes  No

If Yes, please provide details:

Have arrangements been made for the separate storage and collection of recyclable waste?

Yes  No

If Yes, please provide details:

**8. Parking**

Will the proposed works affect existing car parking arrangements?

Yes  No

If Yes, please describe:

# Analysis of current 'standards' modules

section-name	section-description	total-forms-supplied
Applicant name and address	n/a	24
Agent name and address	n/a	24
Description of the proposal	Please describe the proposal	11
Site address details	Please provide the full post code	23
Pedestrian and vehicle access, roads and rights of way	n/a	9
Pre-application advice	n/a	20
Trees and hedges	n/a	9
Parking	n/a	3



# Turning modules into data specifications

section-name	section-description	total-forms-supplied
Applicant name and address	n/a	24
Agent name and address	n/a	24
Description of the proposal	Please describe the proposal	11
Site address details	Please provide the full post code	23
Pedestrian and vehicle access, roads and rights of way	n/a	9
Pre-application advice	n/a	20
Trees and hedges	n/a	9
Parking	n/a	3

The elements



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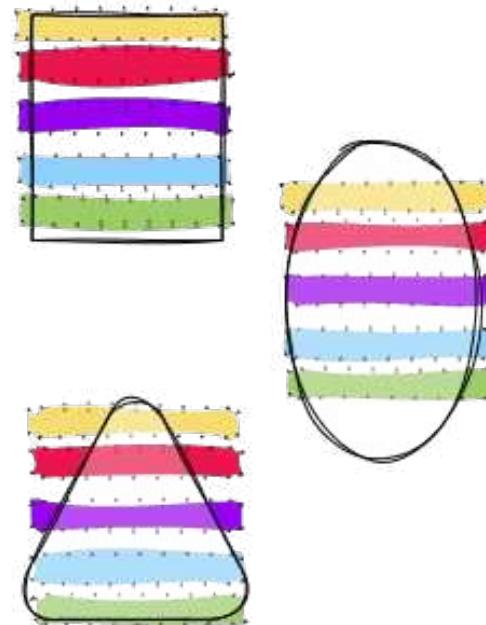
Modular or component data specifications are defined



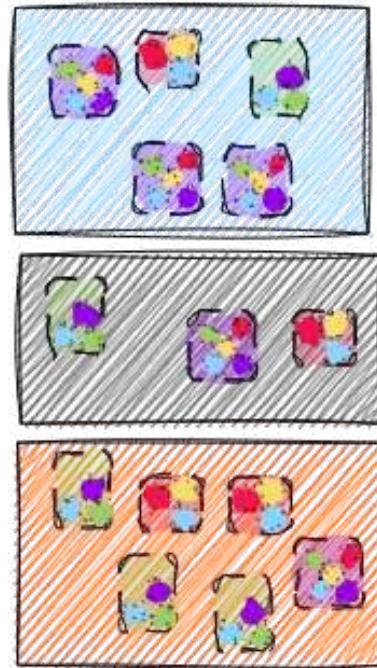
Combined specifications define the "products"



"Systems" gather together and store the data



"Systems" can produce and serve the required products to LPAs to deliver their services



The elements

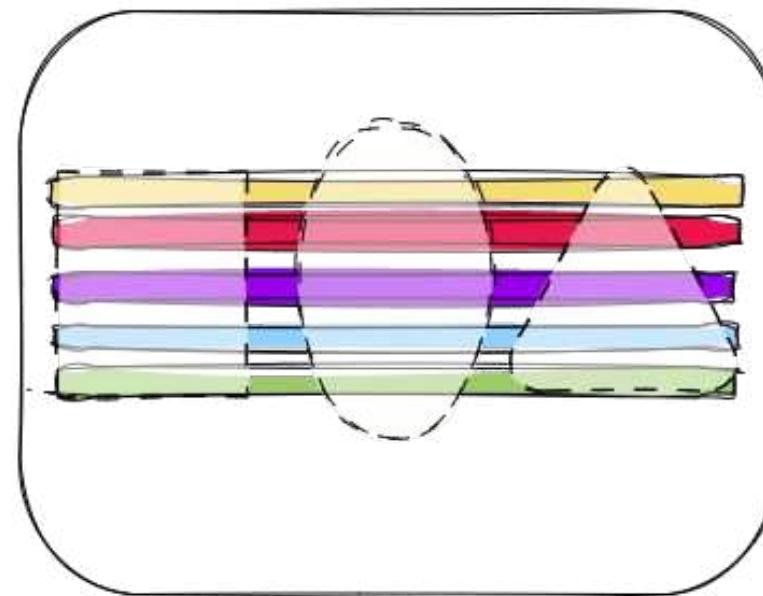


The water quality standard

The pipes, reservoir, sewerage works etc

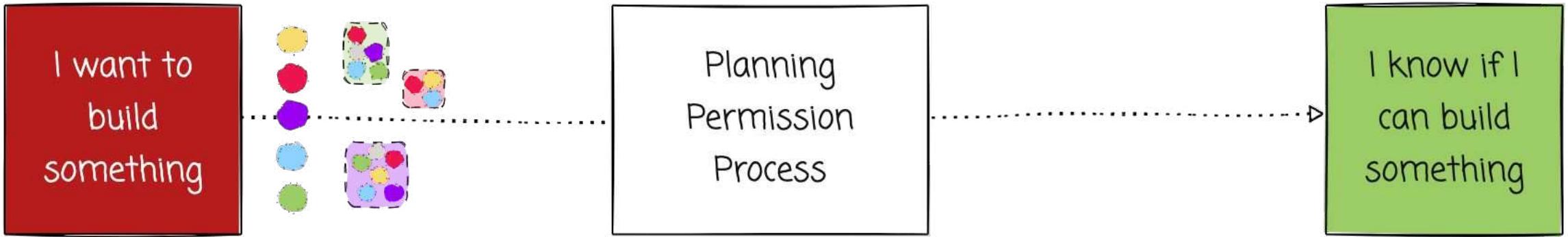
Flushing the toilet, running the washing machine or drinking the water

Data specifications mean  
that the data can be easily  
brought together



Reporting on  
compliance - such as  
bathing waters





## Component

Chat about anything and everything here

↑ 1



### Agent contact details

component codelist/enum

colmjude started on Jan 22 in Component



4

↑ 1



### Description of the proposal

component codelist/enum related-proposal

colmjude started on Jan 24 in Component



3

↑ 1



### Waste storage and collection

component

kieranwint started on Jan 31 in Component



4

↑ 1



### Authority employee / member

component

colmjude started on Jan 28 in Component



6

↑ 1



### Description of your proposal

component codelist/enum related-proposal

colmjude started on Jan 28 in Component



4

↑ 1



### Biodiversity net gain

component

colmjude started on Jan 28 in Component



5

↑ 1



### Biodiversity and geological conservation

component codelist/enum

colmjude started on Jan 28 in Component



3

↑ 1



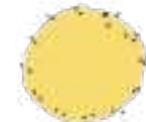
### Foul sewage

component codelist/enum

colmjude started on Jan 23 in Component



4

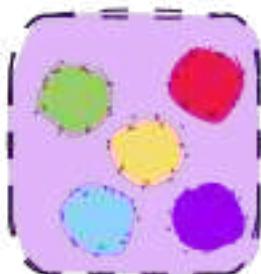
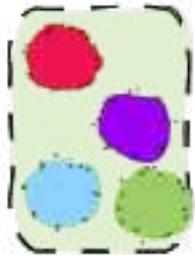


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<https://github.com/digital-land/planning-application-data-specification/discussions/categories/component>

# Planning permission for relevant demolition in a conservation area #169

colmjude started this conversation in Application type



colmjude on Mar 9 Maintainer

edited

Categ



Labels



2 parti



Name: Planning permission for relevant demolition in a conservation area

Reference: demolition-con-area

## Description

An application for proposals involving substantial demolition of any unlisted building or structure in a conservation area

## Legislation

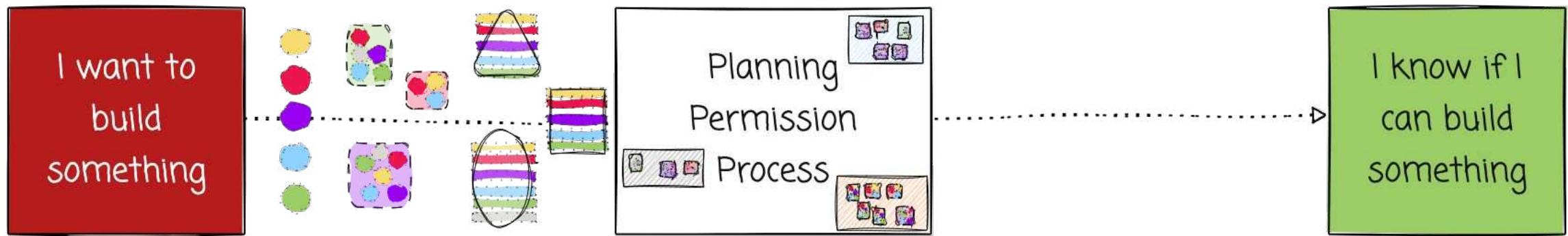
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2015/595/article/2/made>

## Modules

- [Agent contact details](#) (ref: agent-contact)
- [Agent name and address](#) (ref: agent-details)
- [Applicant contact details](#) (ref: applicant-contact)
- [Applicant name and address](#) (ref: applicant-details)
- [Authority employee / member](#) (ref: conflict-of-interest)
- [Biodiversity net gain](#) (ref: bng)
- [Checklist](#) (ref: checklist)
- [Declaration](#) (ref: declaration)
- [Description of the proposal](#) (ref: proposal-details)
- [Explanation for proposed demolition work](#) (ref: demolition-reason)
- [Materials](#) (ref: materials)
- [Neighbour and community consultation](#) (ref: community-consultation)
- [Ownership certificates and agricultural land declaration](#) (ref: ownership-certs)
- [Pre-application advice](#) (ref: pre-app-advice)
- [Related proposals](#) (ref: related-proposals)
- [Site address details](#) (ref: site-details)
- [Site visit](#) (ref: site-visit)

↑ 1

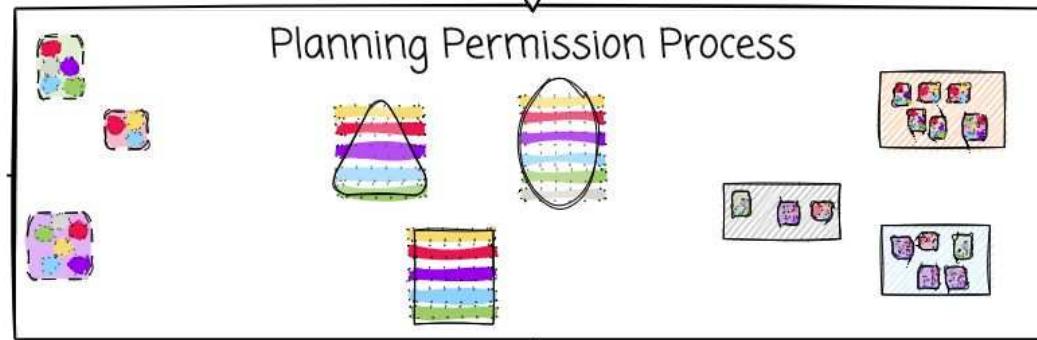




## MHCLG Data Standards

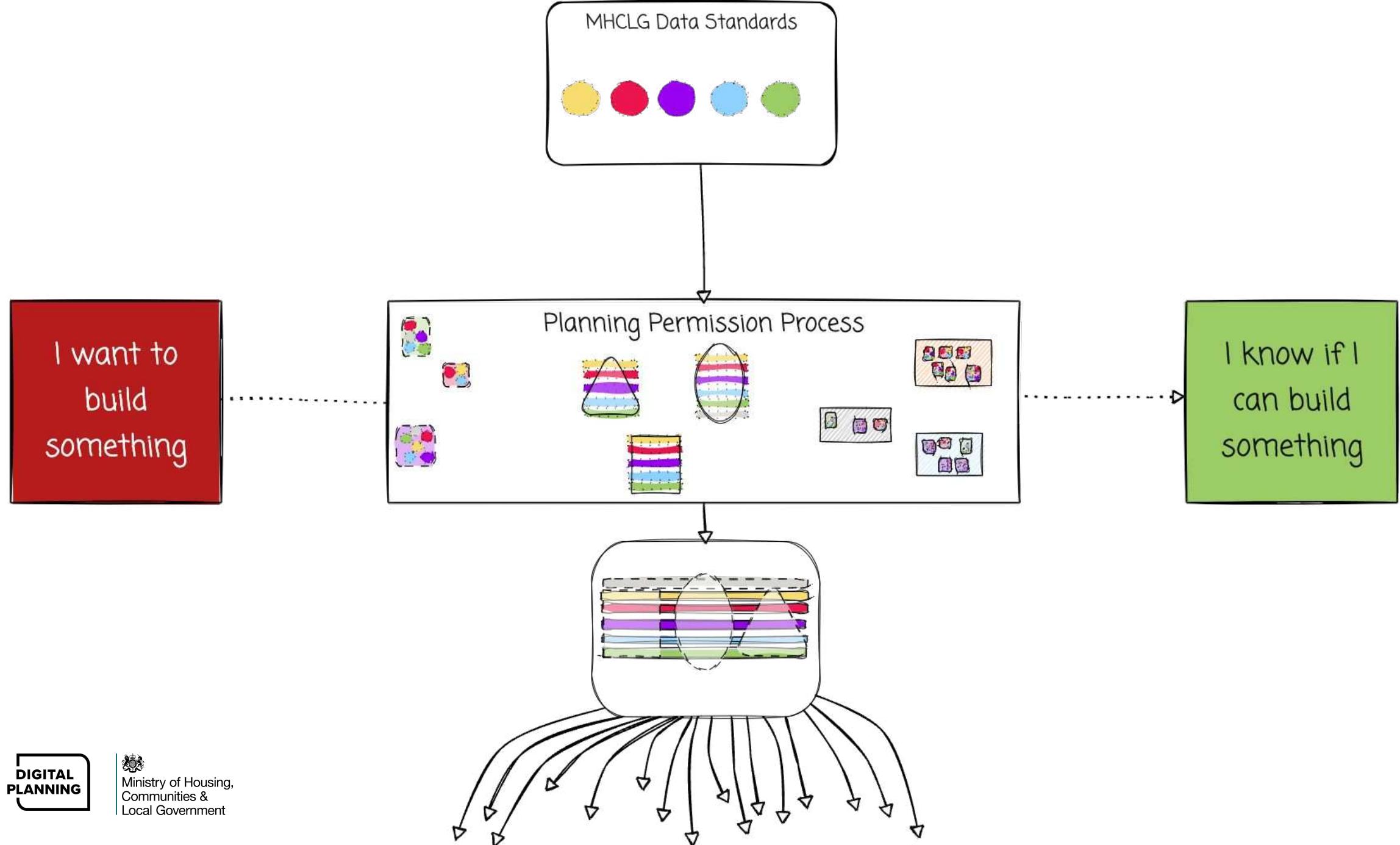


I want to  
build  
something

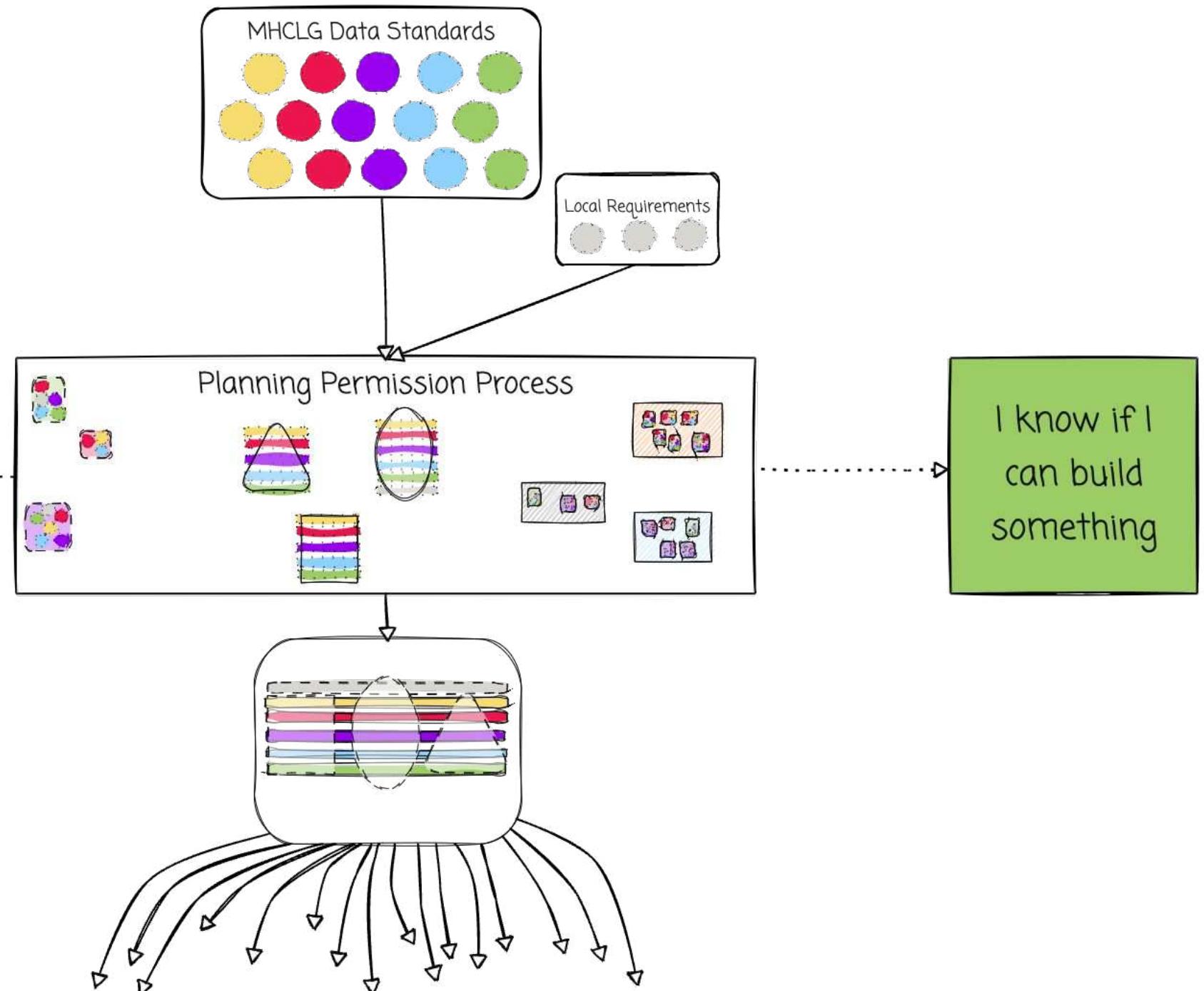


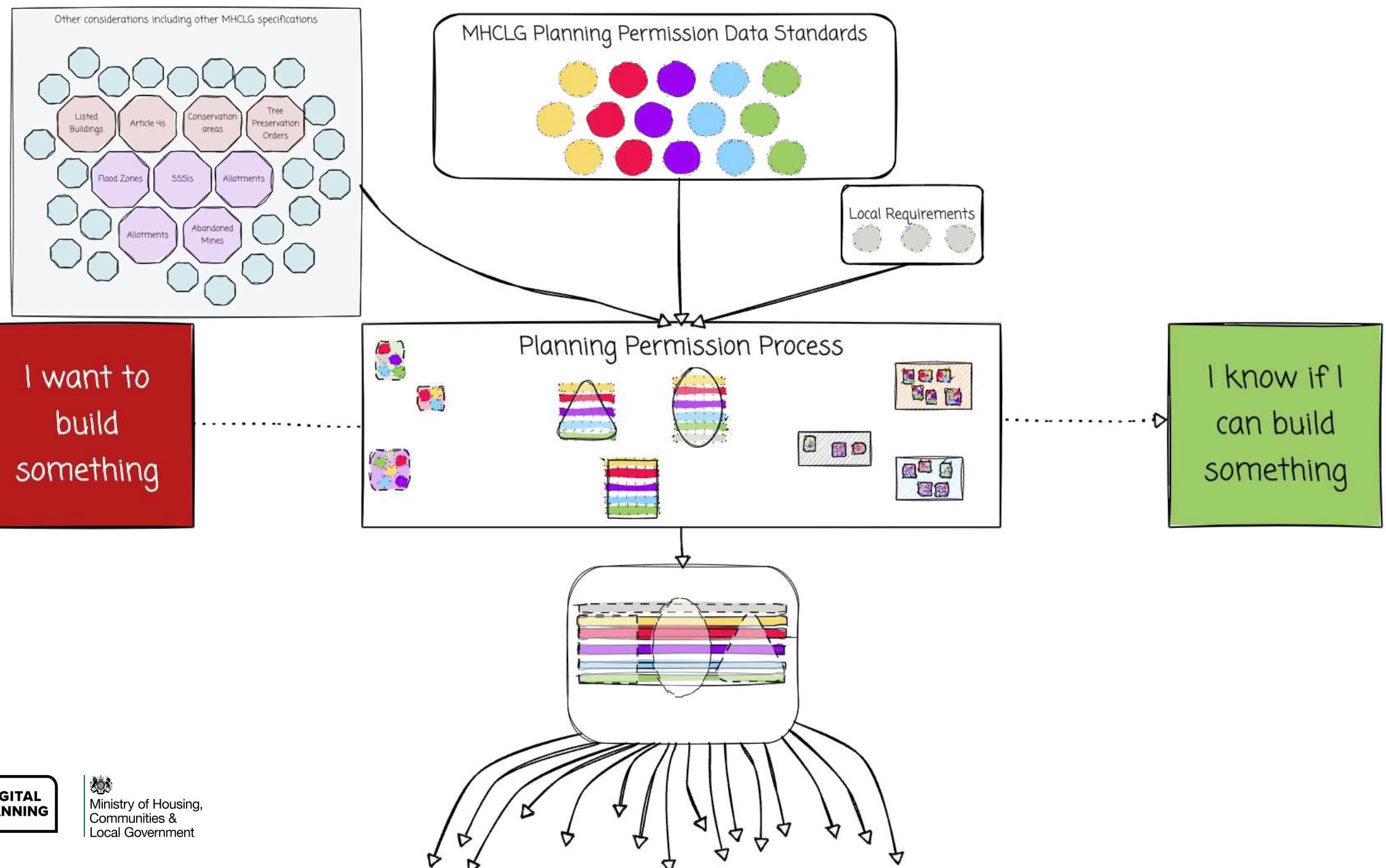
I know if I  
can build  
something



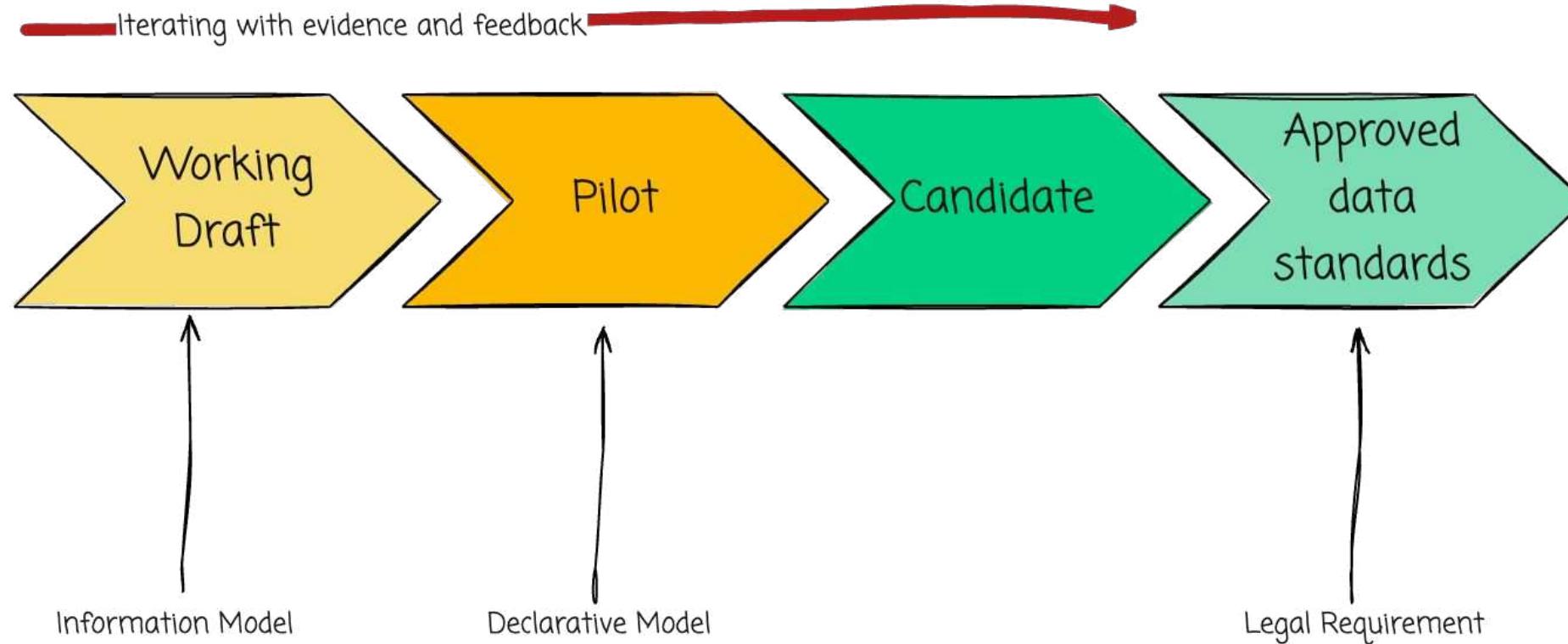


I want to  
build  
something





# Stages of developing specifications



# Specifications to become legal requirement

Indicative timeline towards mandating application submission standards





We want to know that the water is drinkable.

# Data Design updates

Colm Britton



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1. Planning application submissions data
2. Planning application and decisions data



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## PLANNING APPLICATION SUBMISSION DATA

Making the data specifications both right and usable



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# Recap

## Information model (working draft specs)

Documented the collective understanding of the data requirements for planning application submissions

- List of application types
- Modules (per app type)
- Fields (per module)
- Codelists
- Rules (text based)

Householder planning application

A simplified process for applications to alter or enlarge a single house (but not a flat), including works within the boundary/garden

### Contents

#### Modules

- [Agent contact details](#)
- [Agent name and address](#)
- [Applicant contact details](#)
- [Applicant name and address](#)
- [Authority employee / member](#)
- [Biodiversity net gain](#)
- [Checklist](#)
- [Declaration](#)
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- [Materials](#)
- [Ownership certificates and agricultural land declaration](#)
- [Parking](#)
- [Pedestrian and vehicle access, roads and rights of way](#)
- [Pre-application advice](#)
- [Site address details](#)
- [Site visit](#)
- [Trees and hedges](#)

#### Modules

These modules are all required for this application type:

##### Agent contact details (agent-contact)

Details needed for contacting the agent:

field	description	application-types	required	notes
Contact-detailsID	Details of how to contact the individual		MAY	Rule: is a MUST if application-type is ppa

##### Contact details object

field	description	required	notes
email	Email used to contact individual	MUST	
phone-number[]	1 or more telephone numbers to contact individual	MUST	see Phone number below. Only one number can be set as the primary number
fax-number	Fax number used to contact the individual	MAY	is this still necessary?

##### Phone number structure

field	description	notes
number	A phone number	see phone-numbers pattern
contact-priority	Set the priority of this number. Only one should be primary.	See contact-priority enum

Rule: one phone number provided should have contact-priority == primary

##### Agent name and address (agent-details)

Details about the agent:

field	description	application-types	required	notes
-------	-------------	-------------------	----------	-------



## We've refined the information models

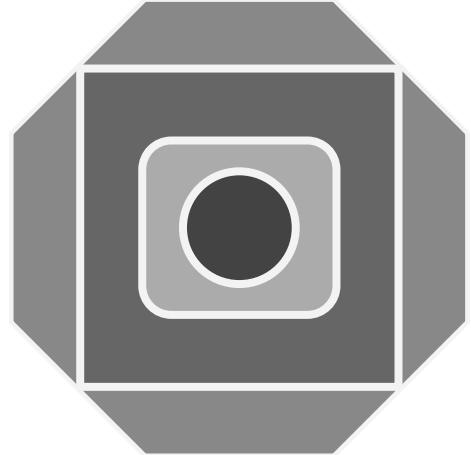
- fixed field-level issues
- adjusted module structure
- filled known gaps
- clarified meaning

Improving the specifications



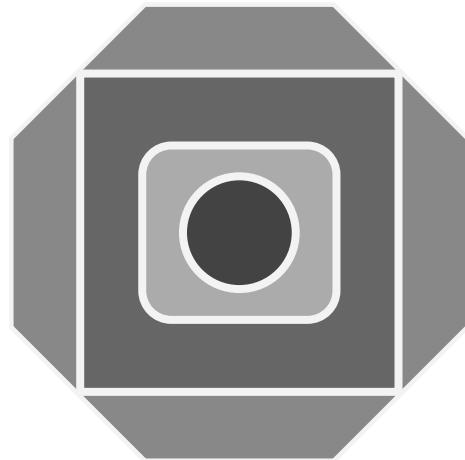
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## Information model

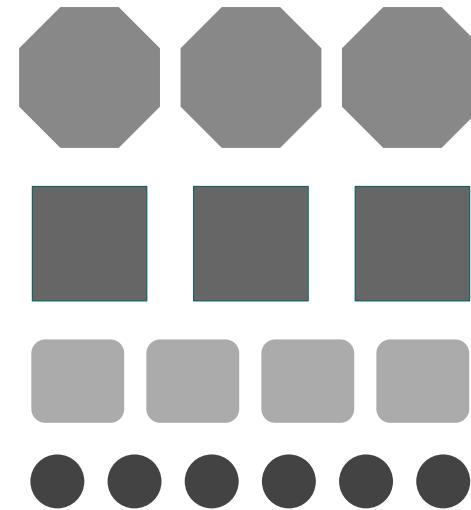


Making the specification more usable

Information model



Declarative model



Making the specification more usable

## Information model

A documented,  
human-readable model  
that captures our shared  
understanding of what data  
is needed and why.



## Declarative model

The formal, machine-readable  
version. It takes the  
understanding and makes it  
specific. Structured. Rule-based.



# Example

Information model



Declarative model



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Making the specification more usable

# Example

Information model



Declarative model

I would like you to draw a house with a red roof, 2 windows, a front door and a chimney.

Making the specification more usable



# Example

Information model



Declarative model

I would like you to draw a house with a red roof, 2 windows, a front door and a chimney.

House:

- roof, red
- windows,  $\geq 2$
- front door, 1
- chimney,  $\geq 1$



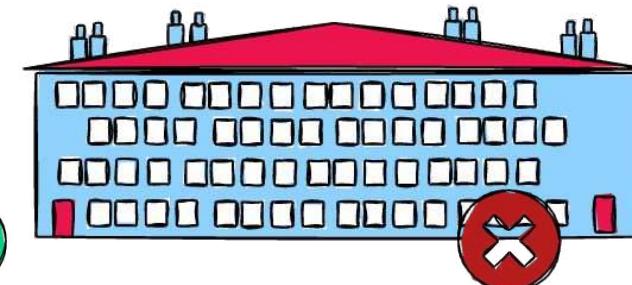
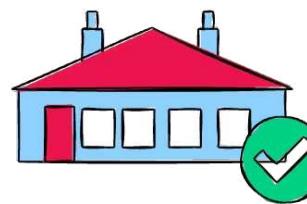
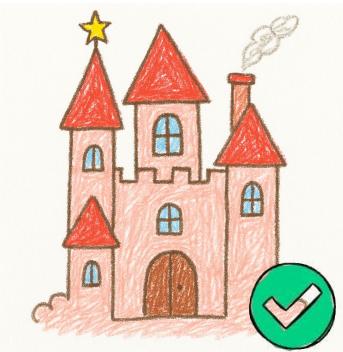
# Example

Information model



Declarative model

I would like you to draw a house with a red roof, 2 windows, a front door and a chimney.

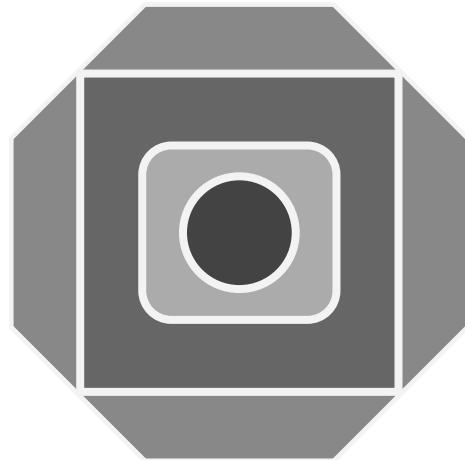


House:

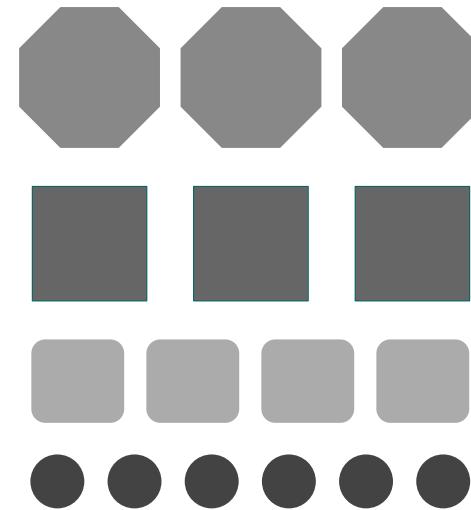
- roof, red
- windows,  $\geq 2$
- front door, 1
- chimney,  $\geq 1$



Information model



Declarative model



Making the specification more usable



## Information model (draft)



## Formalised specification (pilot)

Good for explaining  
Shared understanding  
Helps people understand modules and fields  
Useful for discussions and agreement  
Easy to review  
Documents shared understanding in human-readable way  
Lacks precision by design

Good for enforcement  
Enforced structure  
Helps machine understand and validate data  
Useful for building tools and services  
Easy to use  
Enforces structure and rules in a machine-readable way  
Must be precise

# Elements of the declarative model



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# Elements of the declarative model



FIELDS



The screenshot shows a code editor interface with a dark header bar. In the header, there are three tabs: "Preview", "Code" (which is currently selected), and "Blame". To the right of the tabs, it displays "10 lines (10 loc) · 211 Bytes". On the far right of the header are several small icons for file operations like copy, paste, and save.

```
1  ---
2  cardinality: '1'
3  datatype: date
4  description: Date when the advertisement was placed (YYYY-MM-DD format)
5  end-date: ''
6  entry-date: '2025-07-09'
7  field: advert-placed-date
8  name: Advert placed date
9  notes: ''
10 ---
```



# Elements of the declarative model



FIELDS



CODELISTS

Preview    **Code**    Blame    12 lines (12 loc) · 268 Bytes

```
1  ---
2  cardinality: n
3  codelist: lb-alteration-type
4  datatype: enum
5  description: Select from a list of listed building alteration types, select all that
6    apply
7  end-date: ''
8  entry-date: 2025-06-12
9  field: proposal-alter-lb-types
10 name: Proposal alteration types
11 notes: ''
12 ---
```

455 Bytes **w**    Code    Blame    6 lines (6 loc) · 455 Bytes

reference	name	description
interior	Interior of building	Works to the interior of the building
exterior	Exterior of building	Works to the exterior of the building
fixed	Fixed structure or object	Works to any structure or object fixed to the property (or buildings with the curtilage) internally or externally
stripping	Stripping out	Stripping out of any internal wall, ceiling or floor finishes



# Elements of the declarative model

COMPONENTS

FIELDS

CODELISTS



Preview Code Blame 17 lines (17 loc) · 413 Bytes

```
1 ---  
2 component: supporting-document  
3 name: Supporting document  
4 description: |  
5     Document to support information provided, for example, when providing further information when site  
6 fields:  
7     - field: reference  
8         required: true  
9     - field: name  
10    required: true  
11    - field: details  
12        applies-if:  
13            application-type:  
14                in: ["pip"]  
15 entry-date: 2025-06-12  
16 end-date: ''  
17 ---
```

Preview Code Blame 12 lines (12 loc) · 274 Bytes

```
1 ---  
2 cardinality: n  
3 component: supporting-document  
4 datatype: object  
5 description: Supporting documents that provide additional information about the materials  
6     to be used  
7 end-date: ''  
8 entry-date: 2025-06-13  
9 field: supporting-documents  
10 name: Supporting documents  
11 notes: ''  
12 ---
```

# Elements of the declarative model



MODULES



COMPONENTS



FIELDS



Codelists



```
Preview Code Blame 27 lines (27 loc) · 1002 Bytes
1 ---  
2 module: res-units  
3 name: Residential units  
4 description: |  
5     Information about residential units including existing and proposed unit counts,  
6     with detailed breakdowns by tenure and housing type  
7 fields:  
8     - field: will-residential-units-change  
9         required: true  
10    - field: residential-unit-summary  
11        required-if:  
12            - field: will-residential-units-change  
13            value: true  
14    - field: total-existing-units  
15        required: true  
16    - field: total-proposed-units  
17        required: true  
18    - field: net-change  
19        required: true  
20 rules:  
21     - rule: "residential-unit-summary is required when will-residential-units-change is true"  
22     - rule: "net-change is calculated as total-proposed-units minus total-existing-units"  
23     - rule: "if will-residential-units-change is true, at least one breakdown for existing and proposed  
24 entry-date: 2025-07-17  
25 end-date: ''  
26 implementation: For the paper forms, for space reasons, we need to limit the bedroom counts to 1, 2, 3  
27 ---
```

# Elements of the declarative model



APPLICATIONS



MODULES



COMPONENTS



FIELDS

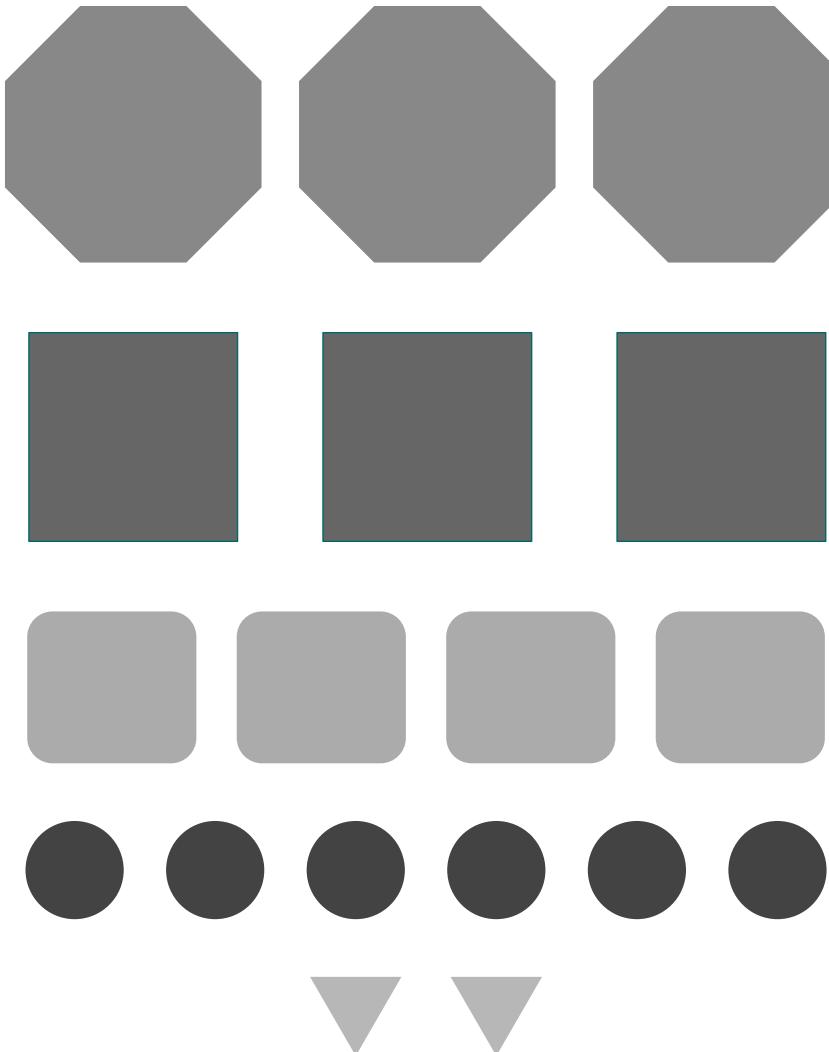


CODELISTS

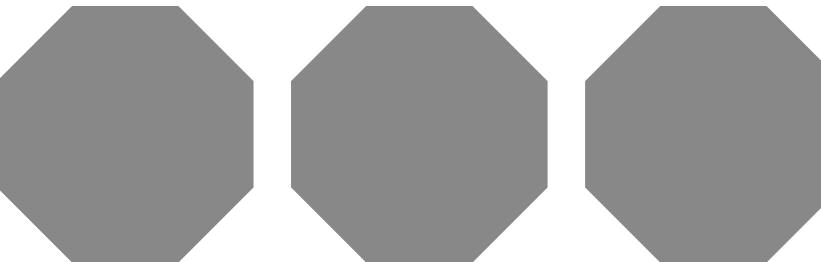


```
Preview Code Blame 33 lines (33 loc) · 854 Bytes
1  ---
2  application: hh
3  name: Householder planning application
4  description: A simplified process for applications to alter or enlarge a single house (but not a flat
5  synonyms: []
6  legislation:
7    - https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/8/section/62
8  notes: ''
9  entry-date: 2025-01-07
10 start-date: ''
11 end-date: ''
12 fields:
13   - field: application
14     required: true
15 modules:
16   - module: access-rights-of-way
17   - module: agent-contact
18   - module: agent-details
19   - module: applicant-contact
20   - module: applicant-details
21   - module: bng
22   - module: checklist
23   - module: conflict-of-interest
24   - module: declaration
25   - module: materials
26   - module: ownership-certs
27   - module: parking
28   - module: pre-app-advice
29   - module: proposal-details
30   - module: site-details
31   - module: site-visit
32   - module: trees-hedges
33 ---
```

# Elements of the declarative model



# Progress towards the declarative model



APPLICATIONS  
**6 / 21**



MODULES  
**82 / 82**



COMPONENTS  
**50 / 50**



FIELDS  
**406 / 406**



CODELISTS  
**0 / 31**



# Whats next (for us)

More to do on the declarative model

Testing

Rationalisation

More application types



# How you can help

Test to see if you can use the declarative models

Tell us what else is needed to make them usable

Test they define the right data (if they don't tell us, with evidence)

Tell us what do you want to do with specifications

Provide data test cases

```
json
{
  "applicant-details": [
    {
      "applicants": [
        {
          "reference": "APL-001",
          "person": {
            "title": "Mrs",
            "first-name": "Jane",
            "last-name": "Smith",
            "address-text": "123 Main Street, London",
            "postcode": "SW1A 1AA"
          },
          "contact-details": {
            "email": "jane.smith@example.com",
            "phone-numbers": [
              {
                "number": "020 7123 4567",
                "contact-priority": "primary"
              },
              {
                "number": "07700 900123",
                "contact-priority": "secondary"
              }
            ]
          }
        },
        {
          "reference": "APL-002",
          "person": {
            "title": "Mr",
            "first-name": "John",
            "last-name": "Doe",
            "address-text": "456 High Street, London",
            "post-code": "SW1A 2BB"
          },
          "contact-details": {
            "email": "john.doe@example.com",
            "phone-numbers": [
              {
                "number": "020 7987 6543",
                "contact-priority": "primary"
              }
            ]
          }
        }
      ]
    }
  ]
}
```

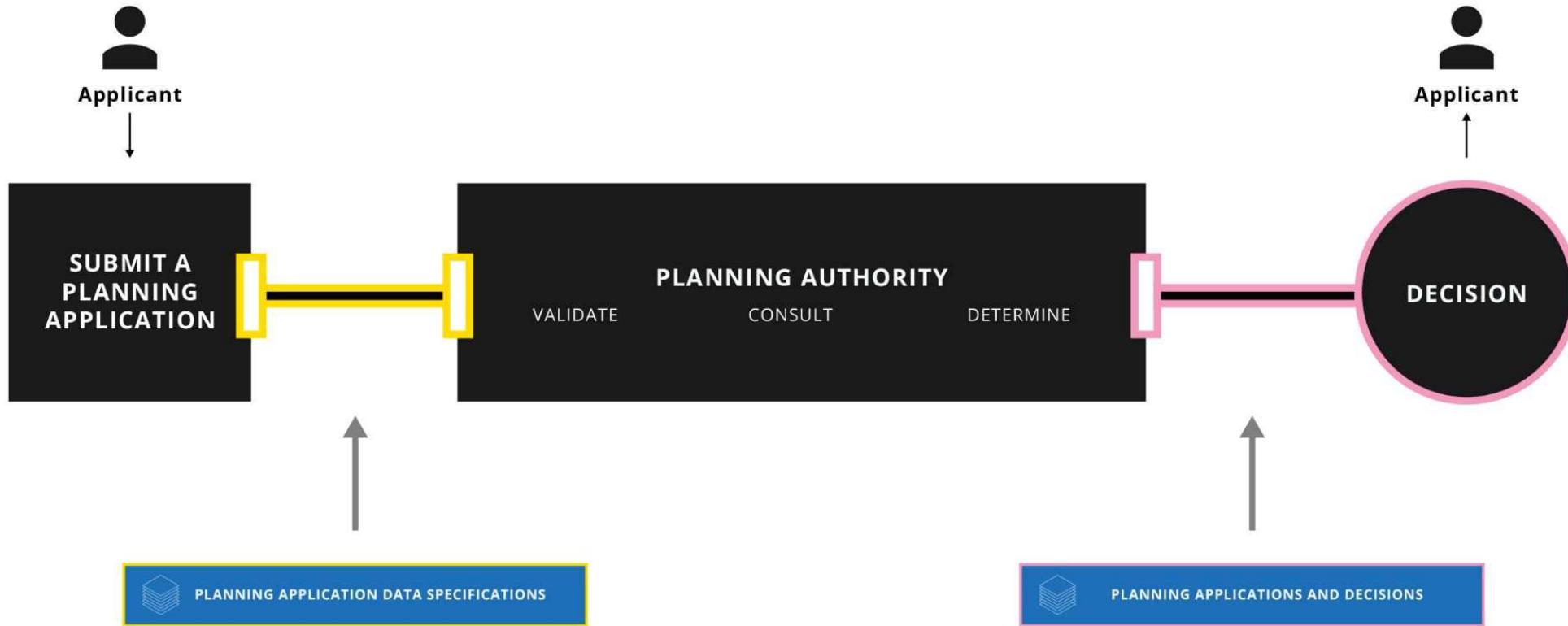


## PLANNING APPLICATION AND DECISION DATA

Reworking the spec with research and alignment



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# Submissions

Defines what is needed to validate and assess an application

Used by applicants and planning officers

Focus on inputs

# Decisions

Captures what is known after a decision is made

Used by monitoring teams, developers and policymakers

Focus on outcomes

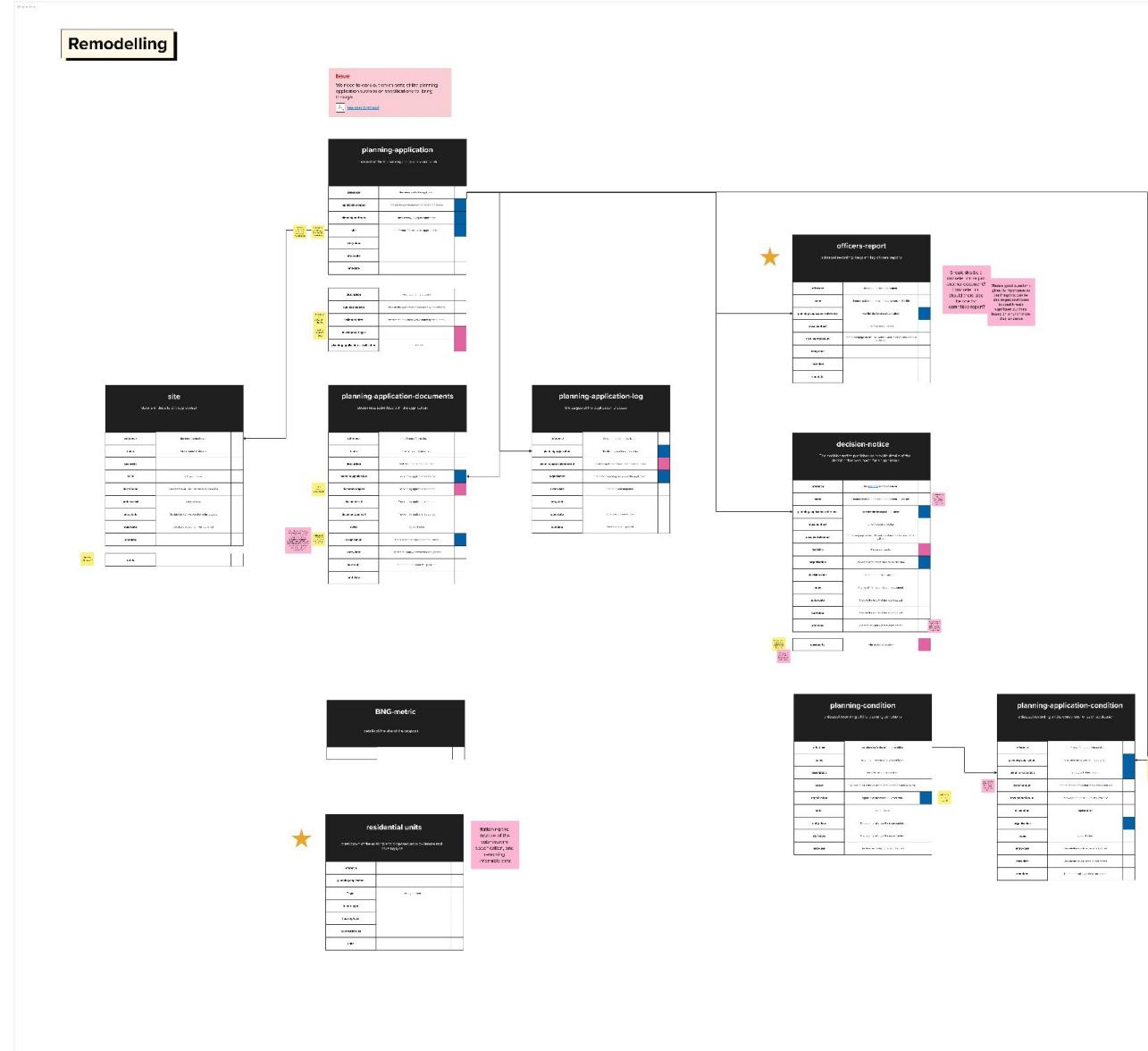


# What we've done

Revisiting the 2022 working draft specification

Aligning the decisions specifications with the work we've been doing on submissions

Kicking off a round of research



# How you can help

Volunteer for research sessions

Share real use cases

Suggest fields you rely on

Complete the survey



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# Community updates



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# GMCA & GLA Digital Planning Update

July 2025



**Delivering a MHCLG funded discovery project through collaborative working**

GMCA  
GLA

**Building on experience from Planning London Data Hub, testing applicability beyond London**



**Local Authorities**



**Planning Portal and Back Office Providers**



**Build a connector for a database**



**Strategic GM Project – Early adopters**



**Risk without co-ordination**

**Early Adopters**

- Salford
- Dorset
- Redbridge
- Leeds
- Hounslow

# Engagement

*Who*

Planning  
Portal

Back office  
providers

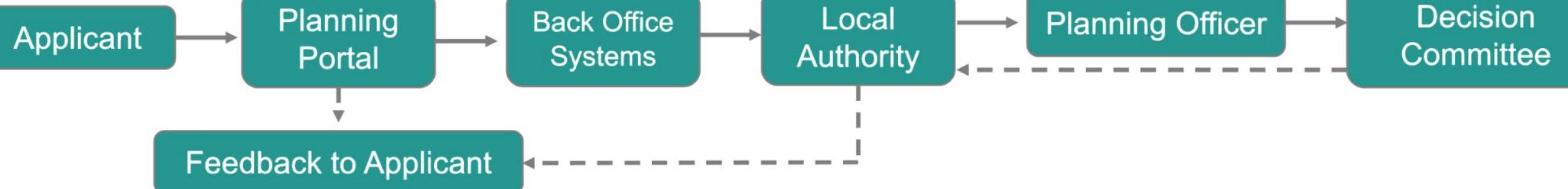
Atkins

Early  
Adopters

Local  
Authorities

GM Planning  
Officers Group

*Processes*



*End Solution*

Submission  
System

Back Office  
System

Data  
Services



# **Bobbu and Hannah (Camden DSN and DPR projects)**



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## **Any other updates related to planning permission data?**



# Any Questions

# Next Steps

Mike Rose



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# Reminder - we need your help!

## How you can help

See if you can use the declarative models

Tell us what else is needed to make them usable

Test they define the right data (if they don't tell us, with evidence)

Tell us what do you want to do with specifications

Provide data test cases

## How you can help

Volunteer for research sessions

Share real use cases

Suggest fields you rely on

Complete the survey



# Reminder - we need your help!

We do not know everyone who should be involved in this so please:

- Tell your friends!
- Spot where we are missing someone / a group of people **and invite them**
- Make suggestions for others who could / should be involved for us to invite



**Next community session 20th August we plan to:**

- Share feedback on pilot specifications
- Share initial research findings for decision specifications
- Ask for further community updates
- Any other business

# Links

[Project website](#)

[Our Glossary of terms](#)

[Repository for planning permissions](#)

[Modular submission specifications with no issues](#)

[Modular submission Specifications with outstanding issues](#)

[Composite application submission Specifications](#)

[2022 planning applications and decisions consideration \(as it stands\)](#)

[Planning decisions survey](#)



# Thank you!



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