

2019

2020

Annual statement



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Excellent addressing and accurate street data has the power to transform people's lives.

In Great Britain, GeoPlace is the guardian and champion of that information on a national scale.



Introduction from the Managing Director

We act as a co-ordinator, supporting the nation's street and addressing data creators, making that information widely available through Ordnance Survey and our statutory partners.

Working together with our partners, we maintain one of the nation's largest, most valuable shared assets – standardised address and street indexes that are trusted by the whole of the public sector, the private sector and beyond.

Without exception, Britain runs more efficiently and effectively when service providers use UPRNs and USRNs – from next-day deliveries of online shopping, to planning street works, collecting meter readings, or directing the emergency services to the right address in a high-rise block of flats. Our data keeps Britain running smoothly.

We do this through a series of long-term strategic objectives, as set by the GeoPlace Board and a number of aims and activities to support these objectives.

Our three objectives are:

- To deliver national benefit from the use of spatial addressing and streets data
- To create efficiencies and improvements in the Public Sector
- To strengthen the business to provide an operational surplus supporting investment.

Our business planning is defined by these objectives and our remit to build, develop and expand national address and street data infrastructure to meet the needs of the public sector and the wider commercial market working closely with Ordnance Survey and the Local Government Association (LGA) joint venture partners.

An analysis of our markets points to on-going growth in volume and diversity of use of our data across public and private sectors and with it demand for quality and timeliness. This fits directly with our mission

to excel in delivering street and addressing data that inspires innovation and transforms people's lives.

Our development and investment projects for 2019/20 are a response to these challenges with a focus on strengthening our data input and management processes, systems and relationships with data providers.

The new Geospatial Commission and the National Geospatial Strategy will further broaden market interest in what we do, our data and unique identifiers. This is positive given our vision of a world in which everyone benefits from the power of geospatial data. We will capitalise on this and our reputation as a centre of excellence of street and address data to build knowledge across the market and help organisations embed data into their systems and processes. We will place additional emphasis on our expert knowledge of streets to improve data, provide new solutions and explore new upstream data sources.

We will undertake a portfolio of work to maintain and develop what we do and how we do it on day to day basis. This builds on what is already in place and will be applicable for all functions under the headings of people, consultancy, data, systems and technology.

GeoPlace is a financially successful business. Our approach to meeting budgets agreed by the Board will be to reduce business as usual costs wherever possible, deliver efficiencies from investments and to support an increase in revenues by continuing to improve the quality of our data.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nick Chapallaz', with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

Nick Chapallaz | Managing Director



Our work involves balancing our stakeholders' needs for a common purpose: maintaining the definitive geospatial databases for Great Britain, Northern Ireland, the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands.

We manage established data exchange and management processes to maintain the National Address Gazetteer and the National Street Gazetteer and support our partners creating and maintaining that data. We deliver data to the market – either through OS as the AddressBase products or, in the case of the NSG, directly to statutory users.

GeoPlace is recognised world-wide as an established expert in managing addressing and street data and its associated infrastructure. We do this to a standard, at the heart of which are two powerful identifiers: Unique Property Reference Numbers (UPRNs) and Unique Street Reference Numbers (USRNs). These enable many different data sources to be connected with ease and with confidence, avoiding duplication and ambiguity.

We deliver geospatial information that underpins the UK's digital economy and the transformation of public services. The use of our data leads to lower risks and costs; higher productivity and profitability, and it brings down many of the practical barriers to transformation and innovation across both the public and private sector.

We believe everyone can benefit from the power of location data, and we are bringing location to life.

We lead a series of work programmes to build, develop and expand national address and street information infrastructure to meet the needs of the public sector and wider commercial market.

We manage the National Address Data and National Street Gazetteer databases. The maintenance of this data is dependent on local authority Custodians, who provide data under the Data Cooperation Agreement (DCA) – a legally binding agreement between all local authorities in England and Wales. Separate agreements exist for other data providers including Scottish Local Authorities (through the Improvement Service), Royal Mail, the Valuation Office Agency and others.

We manage all the activities relating to the National Address Gazetteer infrastructure which enables Ordnance Survey to fulfil its role as the sole distributor for the sales, marketing, distribution and product management of the AddressBase Products both directly and through its partners. Access by the whole of the public sector to definitive spatial information, including the AddressBase Products and the Highways Product is delivered through the Public Sector Mapping Agreement (PSMA).

In addition, GeoPlace seeks to capitalise on its knowledge of street and address data to help organisations embed data into their systems and processes. We offer consultancy as advice and support in the development, planning and implementation of address and street data projects. Our sponsorship of the Joint Authorities Group (JAG) UK further extends our support and advisory work to local highway authorities in helping them in their vital role of coordination and improvement of street and road works with utility companies.

GeoPlace LLP is owned equally by the Local Government Association (LGA) and Ordnance Survey (OS).

Our vision and mission

Meeting our strategic objectives

We have four key activities designed to meet our strategic objectives including:

1

Driving data quality to support the end-user and market take-up

- Improvements in data quality lead directly to increased product take-up and use. We strive for perfection in our data by continuously monitoring and integrating changes and enhancing quality. We work in partnership with OS, end users and data providers to achieve this.
- We will research new technologies and methods to continuously identify issues and process change
- We will collaborate with OS product teams to agree and deliver short, medium and long-term data quality improvement plan for street and address data.

2

Investing to strengthen and support data management and exchange

- We will continue to invest in our technology and processes by completing the implementation of our GeoPlace Enterprise Transformation (GET) programme, and our technology strategy including increased resilience from migration to the cloud
- We will support local authorities and other data providers in maximising their efficiency and opportunity for transformation through the maintenance and use of address and street data
- We will improve our interactions with local authorities by integrating a local authority dashboard for Custodians
- We will continue to enhance our relationship with data providers such as Royal Mail and the Valuation Office Agency to improve processes and data quality and exchange
- We will develop opportunities to increase the richness of our data through the addition of new definitive sources of data from originating sources.

Our vision is a world in which everyone benefits from the power of location data and our mission is to excel in delivering street and addressing data that inspires innovation and transforms people's lives.

3

Applying our expertise to enable the adoption of street and address data

- We will prepare for and respond to potential new demands to embed our data across the public sector resulting from any mandate for the adoption of the UPRN and USRN
- We will provide services to support the use of our data including developing our position as a centre of excellence for knowledge of address and street data and appropriate look-up and validation services
- We will capitalise on our street and address data expertise and data matching capabilities by offering a range of services to grow revenues and support increased adoption of our data in public and private sector organisations
- We will develop our vision and focus on our expertise in street data and related activities, supporting central and local government and exploring the potential to explore new upstream data sources such as Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs)
- We will migrate our website to a new platform to meet the increased levels of interest in our data, the changing needs of our data providers and wider market take-up.

4

Managing costs and operational efficiency within our agreed budget

- We will focus on reducing business as usual costs and driving efficiency in the business
- We will deliver efficiencies resulting from improvements to our technology infrastructure including a specific focus on migrating away from proprietary software to open source solutions where appropriate
- Investments, over and above the agreed business-as-usual budgets, will be based on strong business cases.

Standards

Standards are at the heart of our business. BS 7666: 2006 Spatial datasets for geographical referencing for example is the foundation of the NAG and NSG and the day to day interactions with data providers. In addition, we also apply ISO 19160-1 Addressing: Conceptual model.

Standards are also a key part of our governance strategy is the use of internationally recognised standards.

GeoPlace operates a Quality Management System (QMS) which has been certified since 2008 certified and regularly audited to meet the requirements of ISO 9001. In addition, GeoPlace also operates an Information Security Management System (ISMS) certified since October 2009 which meets the requirements of ISO 27001.

GeoPlace's approach has been to take the key aspects of these standards and apply them intelligently to get the maximum benefit for our business.

LGA: Engagement with local government

Vital to the success of GeoPlace and the building of the National Address Gazetteer infrastructure and National Street Gazetteer (NSG) is engagement with the local authorities that produce address and street data.

There are 339 local authorities in England and Wales providing address updates and 173 authorities providing street updates to GeoPlace. These updates form the bulk of the National Address Gazetteer, AddressBase products and the NSG. The Data Co-operation Agreement (DCA) provides a contractual commitment between each authority (known as a Participating Authority) and GeoPlace.

Shared ownership of the DCA (including technical documentation, the continuous improvement programme and the performance management framework) with Participating Authorities is critical to ensure commitment by local government to GeoPlace's work. GeoPlace balances Participating Authority requirements against requirements from other stakeholders - PSMA members in particular.

Through this shared ownership, GeoPlace has worked extremely successfully in building a Participating Authority community, committed to the success of the National Address Gazetteer and the NSG.

The DCA provides local government's operational contribution to the GeoPlace partnership. Contract management and governance arrangements have been put in place to reflect the need to manage a standard agreement across a large number of Participating Authorities. The DCA sets out a variation procedure whereby variation may be made to the DCA in writing between the Participating Authority and GeoPlace, where such amendment has the unanimous agreement of the Authority Contacts Executive (ACE) - the body formed from representatives of Participating Authorities, elected by their peers and representatives of GeoPlace.

The DCA specifically highlights areas where change may be expected, to reflect existing strategic thinking and discussion, operational development over time and to enable the utilisation of newer technologies. It also puts in place processes for the agreement, management and evolution of the improvement targets and performance measures.

It is extremely important that the sector is engaged through communication and consultation to build consensus before any change is implemented. To this end GeoPlace manages a network of officer contacts which, as detailed in the DCA governance, elect peers to represent them at regional level. These regional representatives elect the Participating Authority representatives on ACE who ultimately manage communication and consultation with Participating Authorities prior to any formal contract change process being implemented.

Local authorities gain benefit through efficiencies; savings; and a platform for transformation through this joint work. The central collation of data by GeoPlace is at no direct cost to authorities and adds value through standardisation and quality assurance, and GeoPlace acts as focus and leadership to ensure return on local investment. The wider public-sector benefits as a result and this opens the door for service transformation and efficiency between councils and other bodies they work with.

We will work more closely with the LGA to form a closer strategic relationship that showcases the success of GeoPlace and the benefits this brings to the local government sector and develop closer collaboration in geospatial/place-based projects.



Ordnance Survey: Markets, sales channels and business development

Our production of AddressBase products for both public sector and commercial use continues to be taken to market by Ordnance Survey who are seeing year on year growth in uptake of the product portfolio. GeoPlace is now producing daily updates of AddressBase Premium and Ordnance Survey is working to exploit this capability.

Whilst GeoPlace continues to compile and publish the National Street Gazetteer directly to the street works community we will look at potential new ways for this data to be utilised in new outputs and services including enhancements to the OS Highways product. The depth of information that GeoPlace collates from local authorities and in particular the legal status of streets, rights of way and speed information is increasingly in demand from customers to support innovation in the smart city, autonomous vehicle and integrated transport system agendas. Working with OS we will further assess customer requirements and gain more insight into commercial markets for this data.

Through our partnership with OSGB and OS International we will continue to invest in supporting opportunities both domestically and internationally that provide mutual benefit to our business strategies. The pipeline of advisory services looking

at utilising GeoPlace's know-how around address and street data management is growing. Using our own existing business relationships, we will also look to further promote and benefit from other advisory service opportunities directly as GeoPlace in order to meet customer requirements.

Our work with sector leads at OS has seen us increase awareness of the capability at GeoPlace and during the coming year we will look to capitalise further on this with new opportunities for data matching and service innovation. In this space, we are working on proposals and services to further AddressBase adoption, customer systems integration with AddressBase as well as constantly improving and adding data content.

We will explore the market for other nationally compiled local authority data and during the year, our work will continue with TRO 'Traffic Regulation Orders' information in maturing the offering we can make to local authorities in collection and maintenance activities as well as possible outlets for accessing this data. This will test our business case and abilities to collect other data and take it to market.

GeoPlace LLP Board

The GeoPlace LLP Board consists of four non-executive members each of which have one vote. Two are appointed by Local Government (Local Government Association - LGA) one of whom will be nominated as Chair (who will not have a casting vote) and two are appointed by Ordnance Survey:



Claire Holloway (Chair)

Head of
Corporate Services
LGA



Juliet Whitworth

Research and
Information Manager
LGA



Paul Bragg

Chief Financial Officer
Ordnance Survey



John Kimmance

Director of Government
and Partner Engagement
Ordnance Survey

The Managing Director, Nick Chapallaz reports to the GeoPlace LLP Board. He attends board meetings but does not have a vote.

Management of GeoPlace

GeoPlace is managed by the Managing Director and the Executive Management Team which consists of the Managing Director and five senior GeoPlace employees as listed below:



Nick Chapallaz

Managing Director



Simon Barlow

Executive Director
of Consultancy



Steve Brandwood

Executive Director
of Engagement



Radha Chandrasekaran

Executive Director
of IS Development



Nick Griffiths

Executive Director
of Informatics



James Rodger

Executive Director
of IT Services



Our staff

The content of this business plan has been developed with input from staff, and it is the role of all staff to help GeoPlace deliver our objectives.

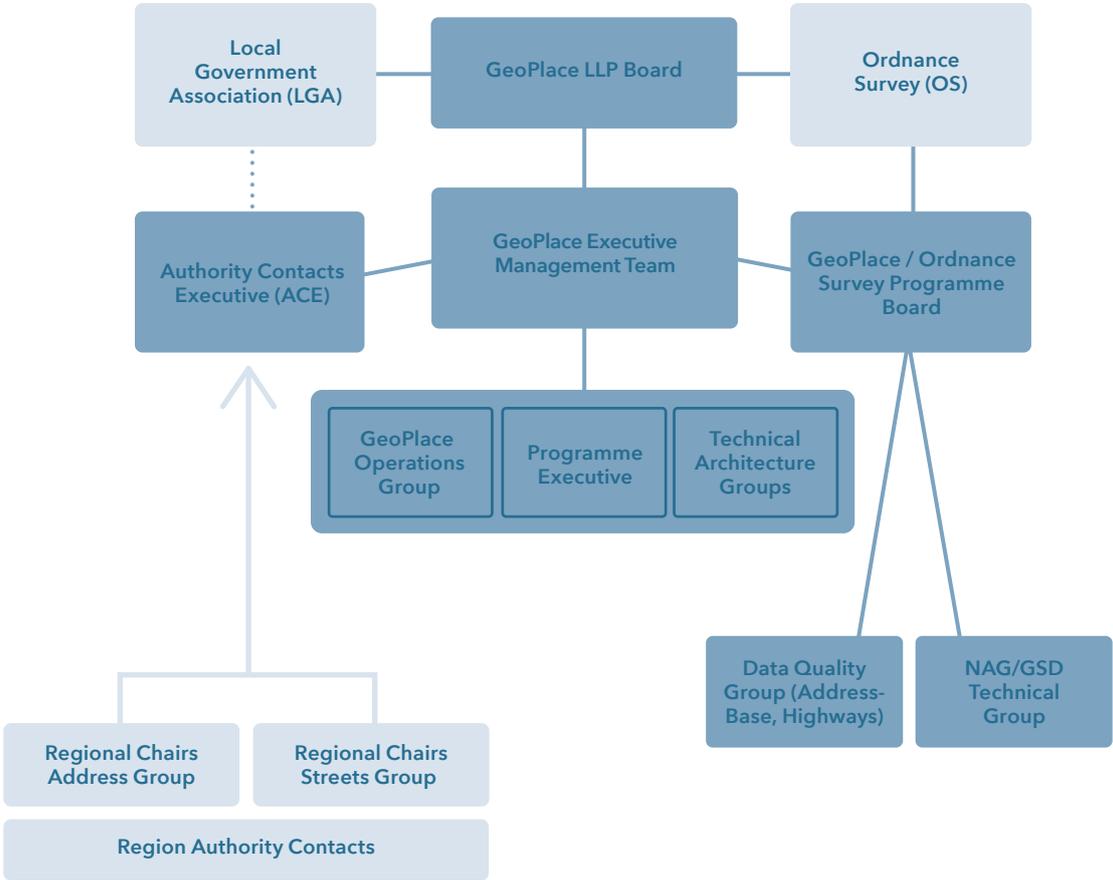
We are committed to employee engagement through fostering a culture where staff are valued and supported. We work to ensure that our actions are consistent with our values.

We aim to provide a culture of openness and mutual respect in which a healthy work life balance can be achieved. We will provide an environment where all staff can develop to their full potential, whilst also providing a professional, efficient service to stakeholders. GeoPlace will seek to build on our existing Investors in People accreditation which is valid until 2020.

Governance and other representative groups

Further to the GeoPlace LLP Board, close links are maintained with Ordnance Survey through the GeoPlace / Ordnance Survey Programme Board, and with local government through the Authority Contacts Executive (ACE). The governance model for GeoPlace consists of a number of internal and external groups whose members are chosen to appropriately represent the various work items.

An overview of our governance model and groups involved is set out in the figure below:





The economic, sociological and technological environment in which GeoPlace operates today is one of rapid change, offering opportunities and risks to which appropriate responses are required.

While Ordnance Survey is currently in discussions for a new model for the supply of its data to the public sector, it is safe to assume that they will continue to be publicly owned and that their revenue generation model (for addresses and streets in particular) will continue.

It is also safe to assume that local government budget reductions will continue for the foreseeable future. Local government is already working to transform services by working with partners, assuming a procurement and commissioning role, outsourcing and shared services. We will continue to work in partnership with local authorities to ensure they are able to contribute and derive efficiency gains from their own use of data.

Greater emphasis in central as well as local government on efficiency, service transformation, cross organisational working and the wider digital agenda will require reliable base data and we expect the use of our data to continue to grow within this context. This has been acknowledged and is a key strand of the work of the Geospatial Commission with whom we are working closely to investigate the potential for open data including potential impacts on our data licencing model and greater competition in the market. Interest in our data is only expected to increase further with the release of the forthcoming National Geospatial Strategy.

As diversity of usage of the data extends across commercial markets and organisations so the emphasis on the quality and timeliness of data is raised further. Within the IT market, the wide scale migration to the pervasive technology and content including mobile, social media, cloud and big data provides opportunities for efficiency and transformation and new opportunities for businesses to provide services

including hosted location-based data solutions, software as a service and data as a service. The 'Internet of Things', automated vehicles and the growing location services market will undoubtedly bring opportunities for use of our data.

In response to these market factors it is essential that we continue to invest in our systems, processes and relationships in order that they are even more robust and fit-for-purpose to meet future demands. We will complete and capitalise on our investment in a new IT architecture and systems. We will further invest to secure the systems, processes and relationships that comprise our data management and exchange. This is the basis of the primary investments set out within this plan.

Our engagement strategy to manage these relationships is always linked to our business plan and ties into the business plans of the Authority Contacts Executive (ACE) and the Regional Chairs Groups. We work directly with Ordnance Survey to ensure that our communications and wider engagement is dovetailed with their activities and priorities.

As the UK undergoes perhaps one of the biggest socio-economic changes in decades, it would be remiss to not consider the possible impact of Brexit on GeoPlace. Brexit could provide opportunities in a growing market for efficiencies through data or could potentially reduce market size if there is a general economic downturn. We do consider the strength of our business and our Business Plan to be resilient to possible negative impact of leaving the EU.

GeoPlace is a financially successful business.

Through 2019-20 we will continue to manage costs and operational efficiency within our budgets as agreed with the GeoPlace Board. Our approach to meeting these budgets will be to focus on:

1

Reducing business as usual costs wherever possible

2

Delivering efficiencies resulting from improvements in our processes including to our technology infrastructure such as capitalising on our enterprise transformation project (GET), adopting open source solutions where appropriate

3

Supporting an increase in revenues by continuing to improve the quality of our data based on the premise that improvements in data quality have a direct relationship to increased product take-up and use.

GeoPlace revenues

GeoPlace revenues are from two primary sources, these are:

1. Public sector

- An allocation from the Ordnance Survey PSMA contract
- Existing and new customers of GeoPlace for example for data matching, training and data migration.

Although the PSMA is currently under negotiation, it is expected that public sector revenues will be maintained for at least the next 5 years.

2. Commercial sector

- Existing and new Ordnance Survey direct and partner contracts for AddressBase and other address related products across a wide range of industry sectors
- Existing and new customers of GeoPlace for example for data matching, data analysis and advisory services.

Commercial market sales are dependent on the success of the product and OS partners in the market but are expected to increase over the same period. A number 2019/20 sales have a heavy dependency on 3rd party data reducing profitability of those sales. A modest growth in GeoPlace revenues is expected with an increasing emphasis on capitalising on our street and address data expertise and data matching capabilities to support increased adoption of our data across central government.





For 2019/20 GeoPlace has identified a portfolio of work to maintain and grow our business.

This work both builds on what is already in place, and takes advantage of changes in, or responds to challenges in, the marketplace. This work is split into:

- 1**
Core activities to maintain our operations and meet contractual requirements
- 2**
Development projects to continually improve our business from existing funds and resources
- 3**
Investment projects to meet specific aims and requiring additional funding.

All these themes relate to one or more of our strategic objectives or activities.

Core activities

GeoPlace's core activities are undertaken by all functions of the business, these fall under five themes: People, Consultancy, Data, Systems, and Technology.

People

Our staff are our greatest asset and commitment to their well-being is paramount to our success as a business. Our culture and values are strong, and we are working hard to support this by building transparency and insight in everything we do across the business.

The HR team has responsibility for the management and provision of skills and experience we need including HR Support and Advice to help our staff. HR help ensure regulatory compliance and maintain our Investors in People accreditation. We will produce an HR Strategy in the first quarter of 2019/20 that includes areas such as management development, training for key projects and succession planning.

Our staff have a 'stake' in what we do and their individual engagement is vital. We will continue to engage with our staff and develop ownership of our business plan through Team Plans and individual objectives.

We will continue to invest in our staff. We conduct regular staff surveys to help identify our strengths and weaknesses. We work with this feedback to make continuous improvements to the quality of working life for our staff. Flexible working is an important focus as is adoption of new ideas for example for staff to bring forward and take time out to research ideas of benefit to GeoPlace.

We will focus on opportunities for staff to develop in their roles or move between roles to gain experience. We will enable our managers to develop further. We will make changes to the governance structures to allow teams to have a more direct say in how their parts, and hence the whole, business is run.

We run a wide range of projects that are governed through our Programme Executive. Given our emphasis on projects we will focus further on improving our Project Management skills and experience through the first half of 2019-20.



Consultancy

We are experts in street and address data and can be regarded as a centre of excellence for development and management of this data. This provides the basis of knowledge, skills and resources to support users and commercial opportunities. The Consultancy team explore and develop potential new areas for GeoPlace to extend our market reach by using these existing capabilities and seeking new opportunities to increase the adoption of the UPRN and USRN and grow revenue.

Particular areas of focus through 2019/20 will be supporting central and local government organisations to embed and improve use of our data within the UK market. Permit Schemes advisory projects are good example of projects that fit this model and are repeatable propositions. This is one of several street related opportunities. Our developing relationship with the Geospatial Commission and investigations for open data also create potential to work with many more central government organisations looking to make use of address data.

Our work often draws on the experience and knowledge of all teams within GeoPlace and beyond, such as joint work with the OS and other international partners. It also often combines with one off research and analysis work on all aspects of street and property address data undertaken by Informatics.

We place high-levels of importance on collaboration with all members of our community, fostering and developing relationships with key stakeholders. We have a focus on local authorities, but also liaise with software and applications providers to understand the market and what data users require. We conduct communications and research and marketing activities to strengthen our position in the marketplace.

Data

GeoPlace's Informatics Team ensures that the data that flows into, around and out of GeoPlace is as complete, accurate and up to date as possible. They deliver the data processing and quality capability of the business, covering address and street information and the AddressBase and Highways products derived from those.

We strive for perfection in the quality of our data and so carry out research and analysis work in response to requests from other teams within GeoPlace. This can be for internal purposes or on behalf of current and prospective AddressBase users working with OS teams.

We set and adhere to rigorous data standards within which the National Address Gazetteer and National Street Gazetteer and their derivative AddressBase, street and highway products are created.

Our dedicated teams including Informatics, Engagement and ISD ensure these standards are met or exceeded. This is a fundamental of our business and we will continue to maintain these standards through 2019-20 and going forward supported by a number of the key investments identified in this plan.

We continue to build relationships with our trusted data providers to ensure the smooth operation of the agreed processes and compliance with the agreed standards.



Systems

Information Systems Development (ISD) manage and maintain our data production environment while IT Services and Operations (ITSO) develop and maintain our underpinning technology infrastructure.

We increasingly seek to build resilience into our systems to support this. Automation of our business as usual tasks also reduces the reliance and availability of specific experts. Our investment in GET will enable a further reduction of code development time through the provision of re-usable and flexible application components. This represents a move away from programming at a database level and opens the opportunity to consider alternatives to the current database software approach.

With a growing emphasis on application components there will be increasing rigor in end to end testing and as part of the 2019-20 plan we will introduce responsible ownership of the development and release path for applications.

Technology

Through operational activities and project work the ITSO team plan and strategy, will deliver and support secure and effective IT infrastructure to ensure the delivery of IT services to support all GeoPlace's operational objectives and work packages.

As demands on GeoPlace increase, requirements on security, resiliency, and business continuity are continually reviewed to protect the business and provide a scalable environment for future growth.

Working closely with developers and users, we aim to introduce efficiencies and cost savings by modernising and implementing new solutions whilst making better use of existing resources where possible.

Staff productivity and collaboration will be improved through the introduction of new and improved tools and services, by increasing communication through the MS Teams platform, and providing a unified service desk to deal with all IT issues.



DANGER
Site entrance
lorries turning

As with all projects, proposals will be submitted via the Programme Executive. Those identified to date are listed below for completeness, including a number already in progress. Additional projects can be submitted at any time and scheduled according to priority and availability of resources.

- **Search and Report** – completion and launch of a map-based web service to enable public sector users to provide feedback on street and address records.
- **LA dashboard** – to capitalise on the new user interface being established within GET to produce a new dashboard view for local custodians
- **Combined Service Desk** – the completion of development of a combined service desk to coordinate issues and requests for multiple internal service desks including ISD, ITSO
- **Infrastructure off-site migration** – continuation of migration to the cloud for resilience and security
- **National List of Streets** – completion and launch of website to support local authorities with legislative requirement of Highways Act
- **LAOS replacement** – Replacement of the server providing the interface between OS and GeoPlace production systems is critical. This is a long overdue replacement and the failure of the server represents a significant business risk.
- **Census** – To deliver data in accordance with our Memorandum of Understanding with ONS to meet the needs of the 2021 census. Significant work to do on capture of communal establishments through 2019/20.
- **Data Quality Plan** – The OS/ GeoPlace Programme Board will during Q1 2019/20 agree a data quality improvement plan for 2019/20 that prioritises specific issues to be resolved in the short, medium and long-term.
- **Data provider relationship review** – this project will scope and map data provider processes, contracts and relationships to identify opportunities for resilience.
- **Street Naming and Numbering** – to deliver against the five-year action plan agreed with local authority officers to support the SNN officer network and investigate the centralisation of Street Naming and Numbering notifications.
- **Street DTF specification** – new versions of BS7666 parts 1 and 2 due in summer 2019.
- **Additional street data** – Portal for local highway authorities and/or Statutory Undertakers to convert their additional street data to our defined format. Should reduce burden on local authorities.
- **Street data strategy** – user needs-based study into the coordination, collection and product vision for UK street related data. This project will aim to develop a coordinated vision for how to meet public and private sector requirements for street and highway related data.
- **Address Data matching tool** – Development of standalone tool to acquire, validate, analyse and match non-PAF and VOA address-based data sets.

Based on the strategic context and the current and anticipated demands on the business several distinct development projects have been identified. These will largely be delivered with existing resources and business as usual funding.

Investment Projects

GeoPlace Enterprise Transformation Project

GET is the most significant technological change for GeoPlace since the business was formed in 2011. The project is due to complete during Q1 2019/20.

Technology infrastructure improvements

This investment encompasses a range of improvements to data security, and resilience as we move into the cloud. The activities range from replacement of firewalls to replacement of the virtual private network.

The GET infrastructure is based on the use of cloud services and automation. In parallel with GET, other IT systems will also be moving to this new infrastructure, with almost everything moved away from GeoPlace's offices by mid-2019. This will improve reliability, resiliency, flexibility, and provide a high-performance foundation for the future.

Building on this, further improvements will be made to accelerate the in-house development / deployment pipelines and to increase automation of business processes. Exploiting newer technologies, such as Containerisation will reduce costs and offer new opportunities and capabilities.



New website

This project is to launch a new external website using a new platform built by an external supplier with content maintained internally by GeoPlace. This will provide a single access point to all external contact information for the business. Considerably higher levels of interest in what we do and the support we can provide are anticipated as a result of the Geospatial Commission and growing levels of use of our data across all markets.

It will also help position GeoPlace as we look to establish a centre of excellence; as we engage with data providers and vendors; as we build knowledge in the market and as we promote our street and address capabilities and specific propositions. The benefits also include improvements to customer perception and brand; efficiencies for website administration and providing a platform for future website functionality.

The current site is maintained on an in-flexible and costly platform. Moving to a new website is focused on selecting a more user-friendly Customer Management System, updating functionality and improving usability for the GeoPlace team and website users.

A number of investments are included in the budget that focus on securing our data management and exchange chain in terms of processes, systems and relationships. This section sets those out in more details.



Geospatial Commission responses

The Geospatial Commission has been set up to look at how “location information, or geospatial data, is changing the way we see the world and live our lives.” It is being considered whether to make some of this data, including data managed by GeoPlace, freely available in order to unlock its potential as a valuable tool for businesses and public-sector organisations.

GeoPlace maintains a strong working relationship with the Geospatial Commission team on many aspects of their remit. This work provides opportunities for GeoPlace to deliver our mission and the UPRN and USRN being more widely understood and adopted. Investment is required in response to anticipated changes introduced by the Commission. If open data investigations and proposals are successful, GeoPlace will need to invest to mitigate risks and take advantage of opportunities as they

emerge. Without setting funding aside for these activities there is a risk that investment is taken from business as usual budgets which are negatively impacted and target member dividends for the year are not met.

We will work closely with OS colleagues to position ourselves as a geospatial centre of excellence, becoming the destination for all addressing and street knowledge and enquiries, and providing guidance, information, training and other services to the market.

Database migration

A long-term strategy has been to reduce reliance on proprietary software solutions to reduce costs, technical restrictions imposed through licensing and reliance on specific technical expertise. Research during 2018/19 and presented to the Board in December 2019 recommended the move to PostgreSQL for GeoPlace’s database technology.

This also opens the potential for greater automation of repeat tasks, the ability to retire older servers, greater integration with other systems, and more flexibility to take on new projects.

An outline project has been drafted and will be refined at the start of this project, post the completion of GET with the final deadline being driven by the end date for renewal of current database licenses at the end of Q4 2019. There is an established and practical migration path that minimises staff re-skilling, and a large body of knowledge and external expertise to draw upon. Scheduling and resourcing the physical migration and training programme will be required to avoid disrupting other Investment Projects.

Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs)

TRO data is a potential new data source for GeoPlace in 2019/20. If this is the case it will need to be subject to a separate business case.

Through 2018/19 GeoPlace has been working in partnership with the Department of Transport, the British Parking Association and Ordnance Survey to identify use cases for TROs from across the transport sector. Recommendations are due with DfT in June 2019 and the current expectation are that data development will be taken forward.

GeoPlace is well placed to coordinate and capitalise on this opportunity including liaison with all stakeholders including the Board, Geospatial Commission, DfT and local highway authorities as well as the automotive and transport sectors to develop solutions.



GeoPlace is a public sector limited liability partnership between the Local Government Association and Ordnance Survey

GeoPlace 157-197 Buckingham Palace Road · London · SW1W 9SP
T. 020 7630 4600 [@GeoPlaceLLP](https://twitter.com/GeoPlaceLLP) [s.geo.place/linkedin](https://www.linkedin.com/company/s.geo.place/)
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