



GAZETTEERS  
@GIS DAY

# Connecting data with the UPRN

It is easy to think that address data is simply used to identify a household to where mail is delivered. Whilst true, this is just a small aspect of its role in data and information management.

The addresses created and held by councils are also a 'vessel' - a container holding information relating to the particular local authority service area. For example, information such as a social care plan, complaint about a missed bin or a request to fix a broken street light can be attributed against the address.

A common issue is that this wealth of information about a location resides locked away in software systems and used in isolation of other services. It is here where the Unique Property Reference Number contained in every address record (UPRN) breaks down the traditional data silos and links information held in one system to another.

Since the UPRN is unique, it is with 100% confidence that the property being referred to in one system is exactly the same across all others. Individually these systems can answer the following question; *"Show me what service related information you hold relating to household X"*. Joining this information together with data held in other areas is the key.



Through APIs, data exports, and database queries all of these separate 'vessels' of information can then be linked by the UPRN to create a rich intelligence picture of the household; informing how, when and why it interacts with the authority. The UPRN acts as a 'golden thread' joining and linking all the information together.

Addresses are located geographically and can be referenced by a set of co-ordinates. When combined within a GIS application and analysed with other geographic information such as; controlled parking zones, conservation areas, flood zones or even nearest libraries, attributes from these layers of information can be further joined onto the UPRN. This enrichment creates a powerful dataset capable of providing valuable insights.

Through linking multiple service areas together via the UPRN, a household's touchpoints of once disparate services can be viewed holistically. Coupled with the geographic nature of the address, questions regarding place such as; 'where is?', 'How far?' and 'Is the household within?' can be answered. All of this collectively equips the authority to devise a more proactive and efficient means of serving their residents in a data-driven, empirical way.

## London Borough of Harrow

*"We firmly believe the UPRN to be a key element in driving forward effective and targeted service delivery.*

*By placing the UPRN at the core of every service delivery system, not only can we continue to improve the services we offer, but also make savings through effective data sharing and joined-up working. The immediate benefits internally range from fraud detection to enhanced routes for waste collection, as well as a much better understanding of each and every resident who consumes our services.*

*The resident benefits from better services, as well as the convenience of being able to transact and gain access to a wealth of public information online. All of this has been facilitated by the UPRN."*

## London Borough of Harrow



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

