

Table 20 – Devolution: What are the impacts for the disaggregation and merging of local authorities?

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At this session, attendees explored the practicalities and challenges of merging multiple gazetteer systems into a single, consolidated Local Land and Property Gazetteer (LLPG) within newly created or reorganised local authorities. The discussion was grounded in real-world experience and centred around three key prompts.

Understanding the current systems and contracts

Discussion Focus: Transitioning to a single gazetteer system, system compatibility, contractual considerations, procurement and training.

Key insights:

- There are often differences in systems used across merging authorities, which may require phased integration
- In some cases, a temporary approach may involve using a “master” system to feed “slave” systems while a full transition is planned
- Early consideration of lead-in times, procurement timelines, and contractual arrangements is essential
- Authorities must determine whether to modify existing contracts or negotiate early exits to avoid delays
- Factors such as system selection, continued data feed from day one, and training requirements were highlighted as critical to success
- Issues can arise with LSG splitting at boundaries and the aggregation/disaggregation of different data sets
- Technical aspects such as DTF imports and integration capabilities must also be reviewed carefully.

Options for maintaining service provision during transition

Discussion Focus: Maintaining update flows to internal systems and external partners (e.g., GeoPlace) during reorganisation.

Key insights:

- Authorities need to plan sufficient time and resources for a comprehensive resynchronisation process with GeoPlace to ensure the accuracy of legacy LLPG data

- Maintaining continuous service provision during the changeover is a key consideration
- One group reported they were already up to date with resyncs, which suggests a strong starting point and potentially smoother transition.

Governance and stakeholder engagement

Identifying the roles and individuals required for successful delivery.

Key insights:

- The process requires engagement from a broad cross-section of stakeholders, including:
 - LLPG and LSG Custodians from each authority
 - ICT
 - GIS teams
 - Procurement and Legal
 - Senior Management Champions
- The identification and active involvement of named custodians was seen as a strong positive
- There was acknowledgement of the scale of work and its implications, reinforcing the importance of early and coordinated planning
- Technical preparations such as setting up a test sync environment were also noted as useful steps.

Summary points and recommendations:

- Begin planning as early as possible – ideally as soon as merger partners are confirmed
- Recognise that this is a priority topic within the sector, with strong engagement and interest shown by attendees
- Cross-departmental collaboration and senior-level support are key success factors
- Ensure resourcing, contracts, data integrity and technical readiness are all addressed in a timely and structured way.

This roundtable provided a valuable opportunity for attendees to learn from a real-life local authority merger and to discuss the operational, technical, and strategic issues involved in achieving a single, consolidated gazetteer. The insights gathered will be helpful to other authorities planning for or undergoing similar reorganisation.