HM Land Registry Local Land Charges



Newsletter March/April 2020

Here is the latest information for local authorities about the Local Land Charges (LLC) Programme and the migration of local authorities' (LA) data to the live service.



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Coronavirus update:

Over the coming weeks we will be doing everything we can to progress local authority migration during these extraordinary times. Our priority will of course be the wellbeing of colleagues and those we work with in local authorities and we understand that many of you may be asked to undertake other work within your local authority.

Our immediate steps are to stop all of our face to face engagement and event activities in line with Government advice. We will move these to digital or telephone meetings. Our primary effort is to support local authorities that are in pre-migration or beginning migration activities.

Once we are permitted to undertake face to face meetings, we will be very carefully undertaking risk assessments with you to keep people safe across HM Land Registry and local authorities

We have made sure that our LLC Register remains available to customers with our technical team working remotely to support it. The migrated local authorities are still successfully keeping the register up to date. You can read more about the impact on other HM Land Registry services and how we will continue to deliver during the pandemic on our GOV.UK pages.

It is vital that we work together to maintain as much open dialogue as possible to support efforts in the delivery of the LLC service. We are interested to hear from any local authority that may need support to deliver their service to local customers. Please do get in contact with us at lcproject@landregistry.gov.uk.

Progress to date:

It has now been over 18 months since HM Land Registry's LLC Register launched in July 2018. Whilst we have been continuously taking stock of our progress, now feels like a good time to reflect on the successes and challenges we've encountered so far.

The programme in numbers:

- 10 LAs migrated with another 6 currently in migration
- 10 further LAs have started migration
- 34 in the pre-migration stage (getting their data ready)
- 390,883 local land charges migrated to the central LLC Register
- 11,375 official searches purchased through our business channels

Learning and improving:

This programme is one of the few to transform and migrate millions of pieces of data relating to land and property. Delivering a new service of this size and complexity was always going to be challenging, and so we are committed to learning and adapting our approach as we progress.

We are focussing on analysing local authorities' existing LLC data, so that we all understand the amount and type of work required to migrate their data to the central register at an earlier stage.

We have found that each local authority's LLC data differs greatly in terms of format, standards and quantity, so there is no "one size fits all" approach. We are currently handling microfiche in two local authorities and have purchased specialist microfiche readers to assist with digitising the information in this format. We have developed a solution for handling positional accuracy improvement, which can be replicated across any other local authorities who encounter this problem. We have developed and are using new tools: our Data Analysis Dashboard tool and a Migration Helper tool. These are already streamlining the process of analysing and improving data for future local authorities and give them a more consistent experience.

Looking ahead:

We will continue to assess the lessons learned so far and migrate local authorities to the new register, as well as helping other local authorities to prepare their data for migration. With the financial year 2020/21 now begun, the LLC Programme's focus is shifting to how we scale up our migration and pre-migration activities in order to maximise the number of LAs that we can migrate each year. All our future activity with local authorities will be reviewed in line with any future government guidance on coronavirus.

Events Roundup:

January's data analysis workshops roundup:

The start of the new year saw us run three data analysis workshops in London, Manchester and Birmingham. We'd like to thank everyone who attended and participated. We were

pleased with the lively discussions had around the topics and are glad to see that more LAs are thinking about their datasets in the pre-migration phase.

Presentation slides from our speakers are now available here in our Khub documents library.

At each event, we hosted a Sli.do channel where any attendees could send in their questions on any of the presentation topics. These have been compiled and answered and can now be found here in our Khub documents library.

Land Data local land charges training and development event 2020:

On 2 and 3 March, we attended Land Data's LLC training and development event.

With over 130 delegates, this event was a great opportunity to reach a variety of stakeholders. We are thankful to all those who visited us at our exhibition stand and attended our keynote speech and for the lively discussions. Particularly good feedback was received for our Data Analysis Dashboard and Migration Helper tools, which we're pleased to see are helping LAs in the pre-migration stage.

Latest additions to the register:

We are pleased to confirm that the following LAs have now joined the central LLC Register:

- Peterborough City Council on 31 January 2020
- Watford Borough Council on 6 February 2020
- Carlisle City Council on 21 April

Updates to the LLC Information Pack:

Pre-migration guide:

Our pre-migration guide has now been published on <u>GOV.UK</u>, This document describes the tools available to local authorities to ensure your data is in an ideal position before the transfer starts.

We recognise that for some authorities transferring the existing local land charges registers, held in a range of formats, into a digital register is a complex task. This guide sets out how we will work with each local authority to define the processes and requirements.

New Burdens:

Our new burdens information has been updated and the most recent version is now available on our GOV.UK and Khub pages.

This document details considerations for the impact of implementing the LLC Programme and providing funding to cover the costs to LAs in line with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's (MHCLG) new burdens doctrine. This update covers the arrangements we have made for the payment of burdens once a local authority is live.

Compensation Protocols:

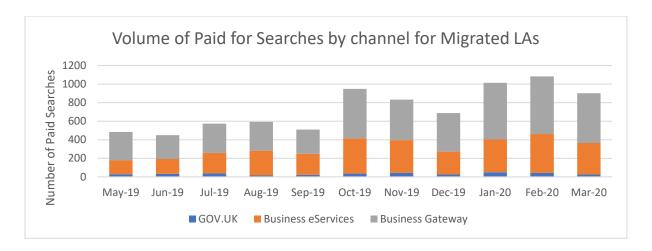
We have also updated our Compensation Protocols, which can be found our GOV.UK page.

This page details the protocol for dealing with compensation claims under section 10 Local Land Charges Act 1975 (as amended by Infrastructure Act 2015) and has been agreed between HM Land Registry and the Local Government Association.

Service Statistics

This graph illustrates the number of official searches purchased through HM Land Registry's business channels for migrated LAs. With the addition of Peterborough City Council and Watford Borough Council to the LLC Register, the graph shows the continued high volumes of official searches purchased since the service was launched in July 2018.

Despite lockdown measures coming into effect, we are pleased to report that March still saw good numbers of official searches processed through our channels with our fourth highest volume sold to date.



Feedback

As always, your feedback is important as it ensures we can make continued improvements and refinements to the service. Please do contact us with any comments on llcproject@landregistry.gov.uk.

With kind regards,

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