



Newsletter November 2023

Get the latest information about the Local Land Charges (LLC) Programme and local authorities' data migration to the central LLC Register.

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New Act introduces new local land charges

The Levelling-up and Regeneration Act (the Act) received Royal Assent on 26 October 2023. The intention of the Act is to enhance the pace of the planning system, reduce bureaucracy, and to build more housing.

The key provisions of the Act have not yet come into force. It is expected that changes to the planning system will begin to take place from 2024. The new Act contains provisions that create new local land charges, we will provide more details about this shortly.

HM Land Registry will continue to monitor the Act to ensure our live service systems are updated as necessary to allow the registration of the new local land charges arising from the legislation.



Land Data LLC Awards 2024

The new year will usher in the latest Land Data Local Land Charges Awards. These national awards highlight the work and achievement of LLC teams across England and Wales. Last year, for the first time we introduced a new category (Best Performing Migrated Local Authority Award) to these prestigious awards.

Best Performing Migrated Local Authority Award

2024 marks the return of the coveted Best Performing Migrated Local Authority award. This award celebrates outstanding management of the register, by local authorities who have migrated their LLC service to the LLC Register.

To be in with a chance of winning, migrated local authorities need to maintain consistently good records. Judges will use live data from the HM Land Registry platform to rank LLC departments based on two performance criteria:

- time taken to register new charges and
- accuracy of entries.

The data of all local authorities who have been in live service for at least six months, from 1 February 2023 - 31 January 2024 will automatically be analysed and enter the competition.

The winners will be revealed in March 2024. For more information about the awards [visit the Land Data website](#).



[Sign up now](#) for the Land Data Training & Development event on 4-5 March 2024 in Derby.



Fenland District Council's first year on the register

In September 2022, we celebrated Fenland District Council joining the LLC Register. Their LLC team have now shared their reflections on their first year in live service.

Benefits of the register

Through our register, local authorities are benefiting from:

- their customers having 24/7 online access to LLC records
- the ability to reallocate resources to other areas of their organisations
- access to a complete, cleansed, digital LLC dataset when requested
- a reduction in carbon emissions from customer travel to and from local authorities' offices and
- continuity of service.

Fenland LLC team echoes these positive points stating, “the main benefit we have seen is that personal search companies now have access to the Local Land Charges Register, allowing them to save time and cost travelling to our office. The register has enabled us to focus on other business priorities and has lowered interdepartmental queries.”

Improved efficiencies

As technology rapidly evolves, more and more information is being digitised in numerous industries, enabling customers to access crucial data simply. With paper and microfiche data from migrated local authorities now presented in a digital format, operational productivity is increased. Fenland's LLC team explains that “instead of updating the paper register once a week with new planning permissions (printing and filing paper copies), it is now updated daily digitally. This change eliminates paper and the filing of planning permissions and registrations, improving efficiency”. They also shared, “the register is also now cleaner (no duplicates) than it was before. We used to find duplicate entries when we had a search on that area, and we would delete the duplicate as a result.”



Features and functionalities

We are always keen to learn of any specific features or functionalities of the LLC Register that local authorities find useful for their operations. Fenland's team shares facets that have proved valuable to them: "We use the LLC Register to compare our answers for our searches, to make sure we haven't missed anything and to keep an eye on the results from HM Land Registry to make sure they look correct. It is also interesting to view the area that HM Land Registry holds and compare it to the plan that the solicitor has submitted. It is very helpful that we can edit areas as Fenland has sparse areas of farmland which have no official address and so we can go to the nearest household and then 'clear all' and edit the search area. Our 'edit search extent' is used very frequently."

Continuous improvement

In pursuit of continuous improvement, we look for ways to improve the service, ensuring it is more user-friendly and accessible. Listening to user feedback is important to us

and we are committed to delivering excellence for our customers. If you have an area of the register you would like to discuss, please contact your dedicated Relationship Manager who will support you.



LLC shortlisted for prominent Civil Service Award

On the back of being shortlisted for the Government Project Delivery Awards, we're proud to announce that we have also been shortlisted for the Programme of the Year category in the Civil Service Awards.

The Programme of the Year category recognises exceptional achievement from programmes across government departments. In addition to judging the societal and economic impact of the programme, it also draws focuses on innovative approaches, relationship management, and results.

The Civil Service Awards are highly respected and prestigious across government, recognising and celebrating the wealth of inspirational people and innovative projects. To be shortlisted from a staggering 1,962

nominations across government is a significant achievement, which acknowledges the scale and complexity of the programme.

Also shortlisted are:

- The Home Office International Operations Programme Delivery Team and
- The Cabinet Office's Places for Growth Programme.

The winner will be announced in December 2023.



Autumn stakeholder engagement

Our customer team has been busy this season, sharing the latest LLC news with customers and stakeholders up and down the country.

Events attended include:

- Annual Residential Development Planning Conference, London
- Residential Conveyancing and Commercial Property Conference, Leeds
- For Media: A Commercial Property Update with Mark Shelton, Bristol
- LAW2023, Norwich, Gateshead, and Manchester
- Tunbridge Wells District Law Society Webinar
- Move Reports CPD annual event, Birmingham

We are committed to continuous improvement and will continue to use events to engage multiple customers, answering their questions and responding to their concerns. If you would like to speak to our teams, they

can also be contacted through the contact forms below:

- [Live service local authority contact form](#)
- [Migrating local authority contact form](#)



Jamie Winch (Senior Delivery Manager) talked about HM Land Registry at the Residential Conveyancing and Commercial Property Conference



Bristol



Donna Ridgway (Lead Delivery Manager) presented to delegates at For Media: A Commercial Property Update with Mark Shelton

London



The customer team attended the Annual Residential Development Planning Conference in London

Norwich



The team attended LAW2023, hosted by The Solicitors Group, in Norwich



Local authorities on the register by 9 November 2023

HM Land Registry Local Land Charges Register

81 live LAs

2021 16 LAs went live

07 Apr Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
23 Apr Spelthorne Borough Council
28 Apr Sevenoaks District Council
10 May Stratford-on-Avon District Council
26 May Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council
19 Jul Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
13 Oct Bromsgrove District Council
13 Oct Redditch Borough Council
18 Oct Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council
26 Oct Newark and Sherwood District Council
28 Oct Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council
28 Oct Hambleton District Council
15 Nov Pendle Borough Council
29 Nov Scarborough Borough Council
16 Dec North Kesteven District Council
20 Dec London Borough of Haringey Council

2019 3 LAs went live

17 Jan Council of the Isles of Scilly
11 Jul Norwich City Council
01 Oct London Borough of Lambeth Council

2018 4 LAs went live

11 Jul Warwick District Council
03 Sep Liverpool City Council
08 Oct City of London Corporation
20 Nov Blackpool Council

2020 5 LAs went live

31 Jan Peterborough City Council
06 Feb Watford Borough Council
21 Apr Carlisle City Council
26 Jun East Lindsey District Council
27 Aug Milton Keynes Council

2023 27 LAs went live

12 Jan Malvern Hills District Council
16 Jan Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council
18 Jan City of Wolverhampton Council
23 Jan Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
26 Jan Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council
14 Mar Selby District Council
16 Mar Halton Borough Council
27 Mar Ryedale District Council
28 Mar Craven District Council
28 Mar Chelmsford City Council
28 Mar Harrogate Borough Council
31 Mar Salford City Council
03 Apr Pembrokeshire County Council
13 Apr West Oxfordshire District Council
18 Apr West Lindsey District Council
24 Apr Kingston-upon-Hull City Council
24 Apr Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council
25 Apr High Peak Borough Council
25 Apr Epping Forest District Council
27 Apr Burnley Borough Council
10 May Torfaen County Borough Council
11 Jul Caerphilly County Borough Council
20 Jul Bristol City Council
21 Sep Bassetlaw District Council
10 Oct Mid Devon District Council
16 Oct Blaby District Council
19 Oct Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council

2022 26 LAs went live

07 Jan Plymouth City Council
07 Jan Sutton Council
20 Jan Babergh District Council
20 Jan Mid Suffolk District Council
21 Mar Mid Sussex District Council
20 Apr City of Lincoln Council
25 Apr Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
27 Apr City and County of Swansea Council
27 Apr Isle of Wight Council
28 Apr Portsmouth City Council
29 Apr Harborough District Council
02 May Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council
22 Jun South Norfolk District Council
14 Jul Bury Metropolitan Borough Council
21 Jul West Suffolk Council
26 Jul Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council
27 Jul North West Leicestershire District Council
11 Aug South Staffordshire Council
15 Aug London Borough of Enfield Council
01 Sep Cheltenham Borough Council
06 Sep Fenland District Council
12 Oct Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council
27 Oct Richmondshire District Council
15 Nov London Borough of Wandsworth Council
05 Dec East Cambridgeshire District Council
12 Dec Rutland County Council



Top tips for migrations

**Amy Adams,
Transformation
Programme Manager,
Business Transformation
Team, Tewkesbury
Borough Council**

—Make sure senior management are onboard, or at least know about the planned migration - this will help if you need resource from other departments.

—Allow plenty of time for data cleansing as this takes much longer than expected. If you can get a dedicated resource on a fixed-term contract, that will help significantly. Ask lots of questions so you understand the migration process and know what is expected of you as a local authority.



Quote of the month

“We have had a good working relationship with HM Land Registry throughout our transition from a paper-based system to a digital one. The support they have provided has been excellent. The main benefit for us is having digital data where we can access information quickly without trawling through paper records.

We benefit from having monthly meetings with our Relationship Manger as it gives us the opportunity to discuss any issues that arise from our quality assurance reports. This has helped us maintain consistently high data standards, while identifying process improvement areas.

We use the HM Land Registry API system that allows us to update charges and process new registrations with ease. The system is very user-friendly and efficient.

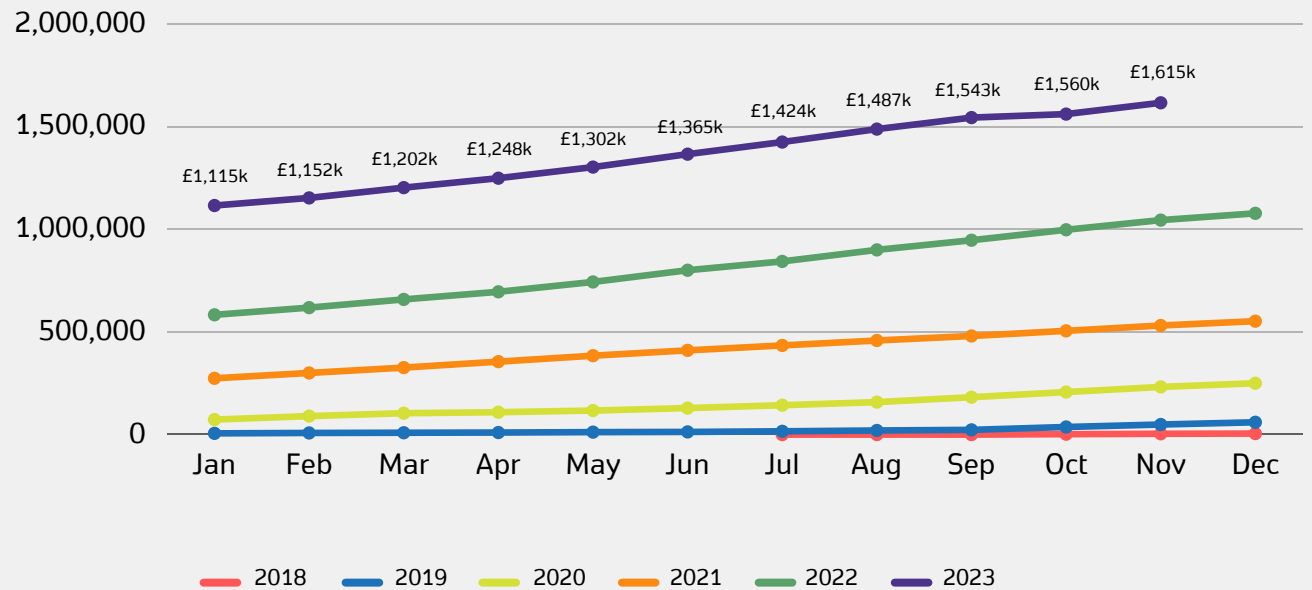
When we first held talks with HM Land Registry to migrate our data we didn't really know what to expect or how much work would be involved. However, we were pleasantly surprised with the whole process, as it was not as daunting as we first thought. The support we received when digitising our data was excellent and made the whole process a lot easier.”

Elizabeth Duxbury
Local Land Charges Officer
at Bury Council



Since its launch, the LLC Register has recorded a total cost saving of over **£1.6 million** from searches with customers in migrated areas, saving an average of **13 days** to obtain an LLC search result. There are over **four million charges** from the **81 local authorities that have been migrated to the register**.

Cost savings since service go-live



This graph illustrates the accumulative savings as more local authorities join the national LLC Register



Kind regards

Allison Bradbury

Allison Bradbury

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