Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government
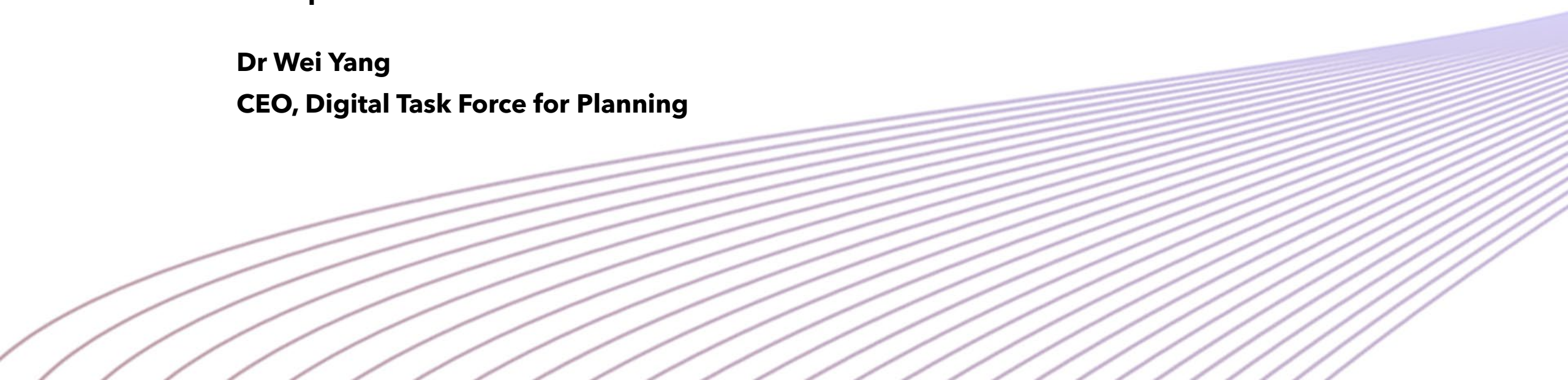
Digital Task Force for **Planning**

Digital Planning Directory

Service Provider Open Engagement Event
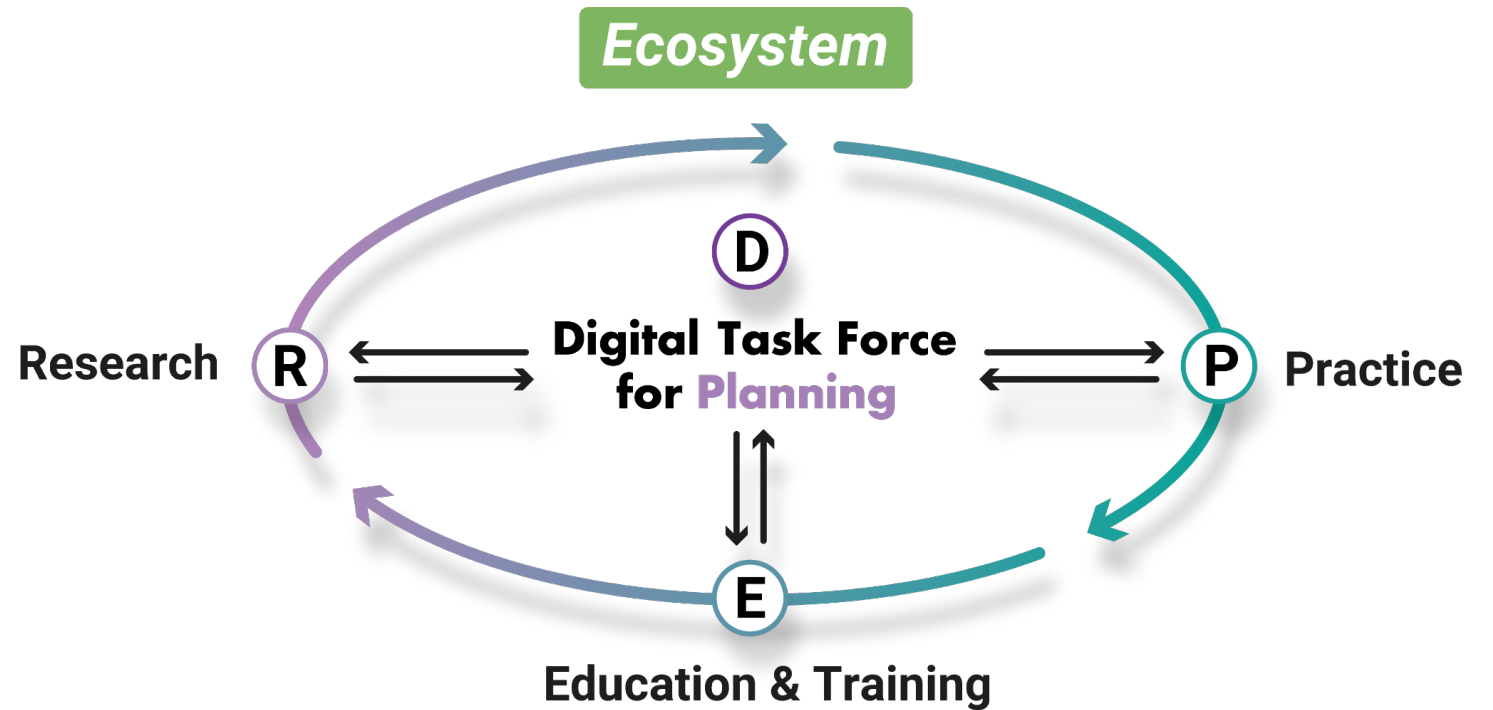
26 September 2024

Dr Wei Yang
CEO, Digital Task Force for Planning

A Digital 'National Trust'

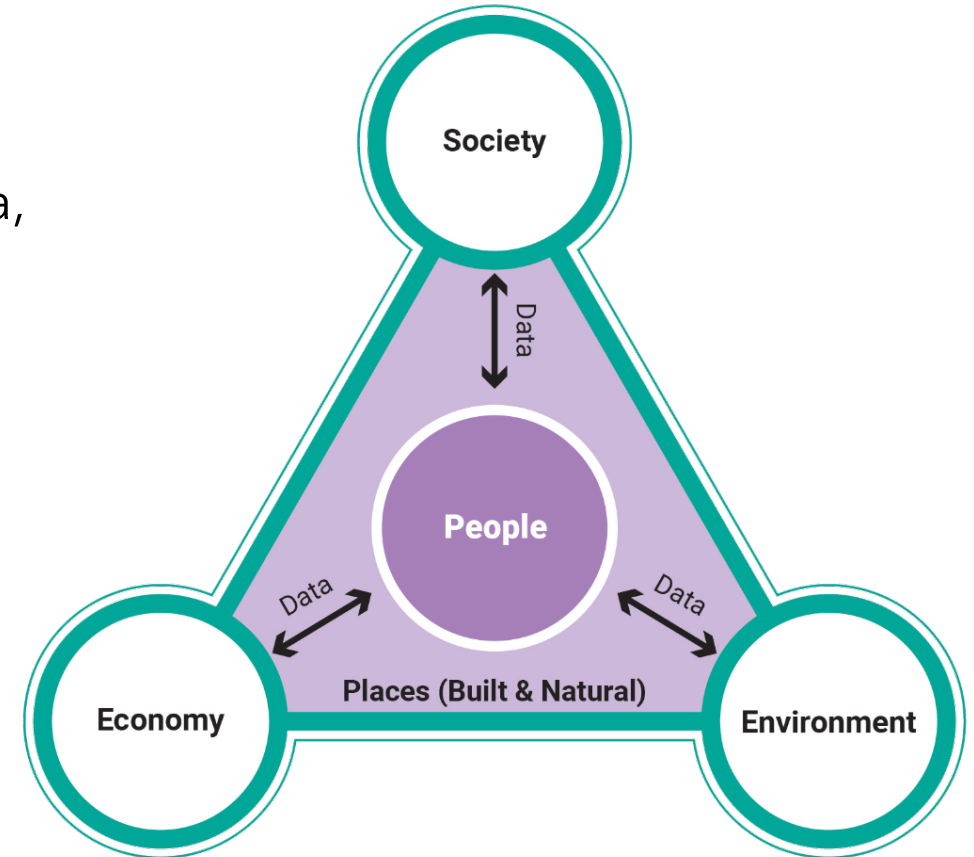**The First-of-Its-Kind Innovation-Led Not-for-Profit Organisation in the World**

www.digital4planning.com

Our Mission

- **Consolidating** fragmented research, knowledge, data, methods, and tools in Digital Planning

- **Identifying** gaps

- **Developing** practical solutions to systemically transform spatial planning practice

Unlocking the full potential of spatial planning in the digital era

Digital Planning Directory

Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Digital Task Force
for Planning

What it is?

A comprehensive online resource for state-of-the-art digital planning services - tailored to meet the diverse needs of stakeholders in both public and private sectors.

It is seed-funded by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), it is delivered and managed by the Digital Task Force for Planning, an innovation-led not-for-profit organisation.

What it's for?

▪ Consolidating fragmented sector

▪ Creating an innovation ecosystem

▪ Showcasing best practice and the art of the possible

▪ Supporting start-ups and scale-ups in the planning sector

One Stop Shop for State-of-the-Art Digital Planning Solutions

Our Key Milestones

Mar-April 2024 – Project preparation

May 2024 – Project announcement at UKREiiF

June 2024 – UX (User Experience) research

July 2024 – UX design, including wireframe user testing

Aug-Sep 2024 – Website development

Oct-Nov 2024 – Open for entry from digital planning service providers

Dec 2024 – Directory validation and preparation

Mid-Jan 2025 – Directory official launch

March 2025 – Review

Post-April 2025 – Ongoing maintenance, engagement events, and further development

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What types of services are included?

Digital Task Force
for Planning

A range of UK digital planning service providers:

1. **Community Engagement**

2. **Visualisation,3D Modelling, and Animations**

3. **Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and Mapping**

4. **Environmental and Sustainability Services**

5. **Planning and Urban Design Services**

6. **Land Search and Assessment**

7. **Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Software Solutions**

8. **Plan-making, Planning Application and Data Management Systems**

9. **Organisational Digital Transformation**

10. **Digital Twins**

Each service provider listed in the Directory should demonstrate expertise in at least one of these defined categories.

A maximum of five of the most relevant categories can be selected by each provider.

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Who can be listed in the Directory?

Legal status required:

- A legal entity (such as a private limited company or LLP) legally registered with Companies House in England, Northern Ireland, Wales, or Scotland.

- Or a legal entity registered in another country and operating in the UK with at least one UK office and a minimum of three completed or ongoing digital planning projects in the UK.

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How can I submit my company for listing in the Directory?

Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government

Digital Task Force for Planning

Create your account

Full name *

Company name *

Work email *

Password *

Passwords must be at least 6 letters, and contain at least one letter and one number. Passwords are case sensitive.

☐ I agree to the provider terms and conditions and privacy policy.

Create account

Already have an account? Log in

Welcome
Digital Planning 1

Dashboard

Company details ⓘ

Subscription ⓘ

Public profile ⓘ

Account settings

Dashboard

Welcome to your directory dashboard. Please complete your subscription information, company details, public profile and to get started.

What's the process?

Step 1

Initial review

Our team conducts an initial review to ensure that the company meets the listing criteria.

Step 2

Full account setup

Approved companies can access the full company profiles setup page.

Step 3

Full content and compliance check

Once all checks are completed satisfactorily, the listing is approved and ready to be published in the Directory.

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Is there a cost associated with being listed in the Directory?

Listing in the Directory requires an annual subscription fee. The Digital Task Force for Planning is a not-for-profit organisation, and the fees will be used to run the Directory and enhance its functions and activities, engaging Digital Planning service providers with the wider sector.

Since the Directory is seed-funded by the UK Government, the first 150 qualified UK-registered companies by 11:50pm on 30th November 2024 will receive a one-year free entry from the date the Directory is launched (expected in January 2025). The first annual charge of £850 + VAT will be automatically applied on the anniversary (expected in January 2026) of the launch.

Qualified non-UK companies will be charged a standard fee of £850 + VAT when the Directory is launched in January 2025, with an annual charge occurring at each anniversary.

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Who is qualified for the initial 1-year (2025) free listing period?

Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government

Digital Task Force for Planning

The initial 1-year free listing period (starting from the expected launch date in January 2025) is available to the first 150 qualified companies registered at UK Companies House (including qualified registered legal entities registered in England, Wales, Scotland, or Northern Ireland but excluding companies registered in the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, or British Overseas Territories, such as Bermuda and the Cayman Islands) **that complete all three validation steps and are fully registered in the Directory by 11:59pm on 30th November 2024.**

In addition, to foster innovation, in the future, the Directory will always provide new UK digital planning startups with complimentary entry for their first year of operation if they are registered with the Directory within 365 days of their incorporation date. An annual charge will be applied on the first anniversary of their registration with the Directory.

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What is the process and timeline for submission before the Directory launch in Jan 2025?

Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government

Digital Task Force for Planning

Stage 1: The Directory will open for first group of entries soon and remain open until 11:59 PM on 30 November 2024. Registered companies will need to complete their full registration by this deadline for validation. Early submissions will be prioritised for validation.

Stage 2: On 1st December 2024, the Directory will temporarily close to new entries to finalise validations and prepare for the official launch in January 2025. A holding page will be displayed during this period.

Stage 3: Following the official launch in January 2025, the Directory will reopen for entries, following the standard registration and validation process.

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What information is included in your company public profile?

Your company's public profile will include essential information such as **the company name, logo, services offered, company description, location, and website link, as well as contact information**.

Additionally, it may include optional information such as **products, industry recognition, videos or images, pricing information, case studies and testimonials**.

Permission should be obtained from the relevant parties, whether they are organisations or individuals, before being included in case studies or testimonials.

Based on the Task Force's comprehensive User Experience (UX) research, tips will be provided on how to write introductions and case studies to effectively communicate with Directory users.

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What information is included in your case studies and how are they displayed?

The case studies template includes key information of the project, **an overview of the project, the challenges faced, the solutions provided, and the results achieved**.

You may include **any relevant metrics or client testimonials**. This information helps illustrate your expertise and the impact of your work.

To ensure fairness, each company can display **up to three case studies on your public profile**. However, you can create as many case studies as you like in your company dashboard and select different ones to be displayed based on your needs.

Case studies should not include personal data unless approval is obtained from the relevant parties.

There is a dedicated case study page in the Directory that collects all case studies. The Task Force will regularly promote a cluster of themed case studies through our social media channels to highlight best practices in the sector.

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Why join the Digital Planning Directory?

Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government

Digital Task Force for Planning

- ✓ Enhanced visibility & credibility
- ✓ Support for innovation and digital advancement
- ✓ Networking with stakeholders and partners

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Future development of the Directory

▪ Once your company is fully registered, you can update your entry as often as needed.

▪ Please share your public profile and case studies on social media and link it from your website to raise awareness.

▪ We will organise themed showcase events in 2025 to introduce digital innovation to both the public and private sectors.

▪ We will conduct regular reviews and update the Directory to improve its functionality.

▪ MHCLG and the Task Force will collaborate further to add more features to the Directory, strengthening the Digital Planning Ecosystem.

▪ We always welcome your suggestions and feedback.

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Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
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We warmly invite you to join the Digital Planning Directory and help modernise planning practices together!

For questions, please get in touch:

info@digital4planning.com