Together not alone: how UK councils succeed with LGD

77
UK and Irish live sites

Will Callaghan
Product Lead

Funded by LOCAL DIGITAL

LocalGov Drupal


DJANGO
calGov
Drupal
work differently.

Today

- ➔ What is LocalGov Drupal?
- ➔ How we got started
- ➔ How we work as a community
- ➔ What we've learned
- ➔ Our view on sovereignty and AI
- ➔ How to grow LGD in Austria

About me



19 years in central and local government

3 contracts at the UK Government Digital Service

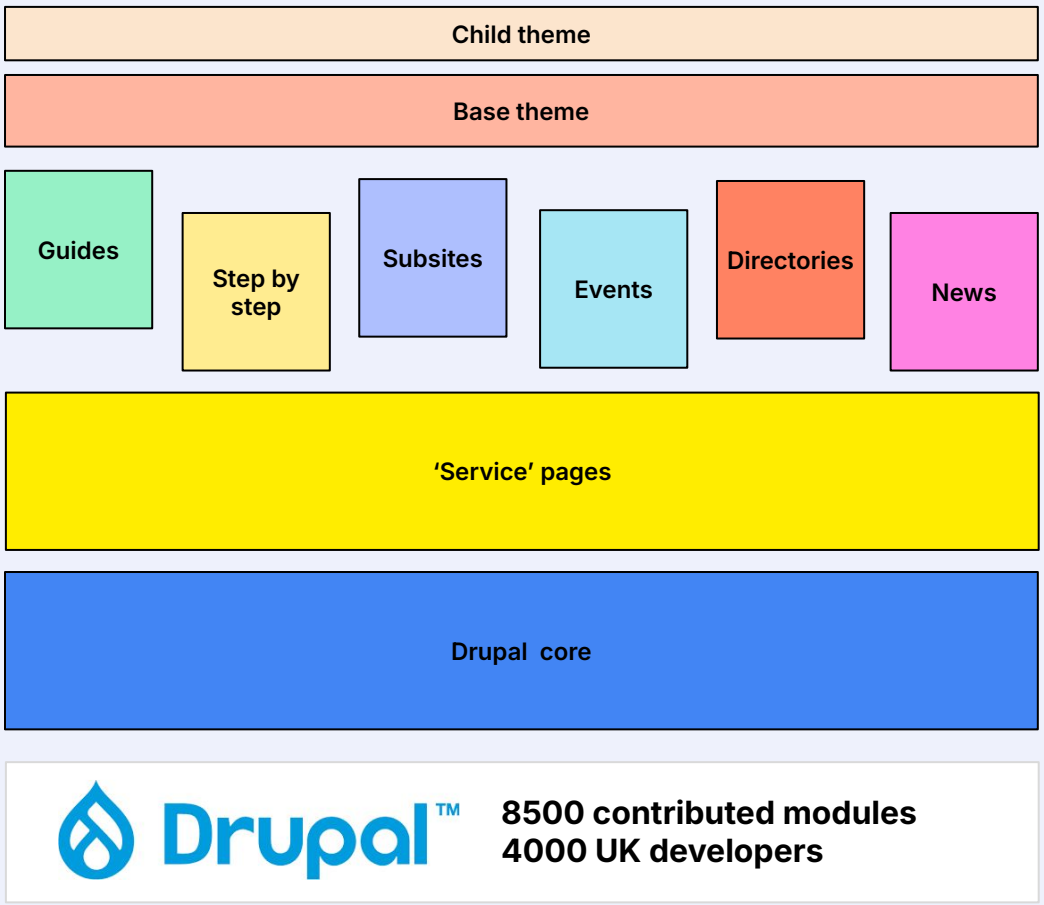
Worked in product, delivery and programmes for 8 UK councils

LGD explained


60
Councils

LocalGov Drupal

Modular self hosted open source publishing platform created by councils for councils



Optional features

Forms (Croydon)

Search (Waltham Forest)

Publications (Hammersmith & Fulham)

Elections (Cumberland)

City of Westminster

Residents | Businesses | MyWestminster accounts

Welcome to

Westminster City Council

Search our site



Pride 2022

Find out how you can join us as we celebrate Pride in Westminster.

Report it | Council Tax | Parking | Planning

Recycling and rubbish | Councillors and meetings | COVID-19 help and information | Local election results

Latest from Westminster City Council

What's happening in your community



Join us to celebrate National Windrush Day

22 June 2021



Statement on TfL bus consultation

1 June 2022



Advice and financial help for residents

16 June 2022

See more local highlights

Council services

How can we help you?

Council Tax
- Register for Council Tax
- Pay your Council Tax online
- Pay your Council Tax by Direct Debit

Parking
- Pay a parking ticket
- Manage your parking account and permits
- Challenge a Penalty Charge Notice

Planning, building and environmental regulations
- Apply for planning permission
- Search and comment on planning applications
- Building control

Licensing
- Alcohol, entertainment and late night refreshment licenses
- Licensing policy and strategy
- City promotions, events and filming

Leisure, libraries and the community
- Libraries
- Leisure and sport - ActiveWestminster
- Volunteering

Jobs
- Search council job vacancies
- School jobs

Recycling and rubbish
- Rubbish and recycling collections
- Recycling and reusing
- Street cleaning and cleansing

Birth and death certificates, marriages and citizenship
- Order a copy of a certificate
- How to amend a birth, death or marriage certificate

Children and education
- Family Information Service
- Childcare and nurseries
- School admissions

Cumberland Council

Services | News | Jobs | About | Search

Home > Parking, roads and transport > Streets, roads and pavements > Street licences and permits > Apply for a dropped kerb - step by step

Part of
Apply for a dropped kerb - step by step

Find out if you need planning permission

Find out whether you will also need planning permission.

Before you apply, you must check if you need planning permission.

You may need planning permission if:

- your access point is to be constructed on an A, B or C class road
- your property is a new build
- you are changing the use of your garden to a driveway
- you are surfacing over an area greater than five metres squared (unless you are using permeable material)
- the access point passes over land which is registered as common land or a village green
- you are removing the grass strip in front of your property

There are specific rules apply for householders wanting to pave over their front gardens

Planning permission for hard surfaces (footpath or driveway) and vehicle access

Please complete the enquiry form in full and return to us so we can determine whether planning permission is required for your proposal. If any information is missing, we may not be able to process your enquiry.

Householder enquiry form: hard surface and vehicle access (PDF, 420.97KB)

If you need help completing the form

Contact Customer Services and ask for Development Control.

Contact Customer Services
Telephone: 0300 373 3730
Email: development.control3@cumberland.gov.uk

Show summaries

1. Find out if you need planning permission
   Hide step summary
   Find out whether you will also need planning permission.
2. Driveway construction and paving over front gardens
   Show step summary
3. Find a contractor
   Show step summary
4. Submit an application form
   Show step summary
5. After you apply
   Show step summary

Next

NEW Help improve this site by giving feedback. Show

Accessibility | Cookies | Disclaimer

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CROYDON
www.croydon.gov.uk

Services | In your area | News | Jobs | My Account | Search

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Latest government guidelines | Service updates | Vaccination walk-in clinics Hide

Home > Schools and education > Schools > Find a school near you > Secondary schools directory

Secondary schools directory

Search

Search

Type of school
- Academy
- Voluntary aided

Age
- 11 to 16 years
- 11 to 18 years

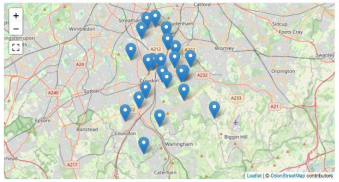
Gender
- Boys
- Girls
- All genders

Religion
- Catholic
- Church of England

Enhanced learning (special educational needs)
- Yes

Location
- North Croydon
- Central Croydon
- West Croydon
- East Croydon
- South Croydon

Secondary schools in Croydon.



Archbishop Tenison's Church of England School
A voluntary aided Church of England school for boys and girls aged 11 to 18

Ark Blake Academy
Ark Blake Academy is a brand new academy for 11 to 18 year olds.

Coloma Convent Girls' School
A voluntary aided Catholic school for girls aged 11 to 18.

Coombe Wood School
An academy for boys and girls aged 11 to 18.

Harris Academy Purley
An academy for boys and girls aged 11 to 18.

Harris Academy South Norwood
An academy for boys and girls aged 11 to 18.

Harris City Academy Crystal Palace
An academy for boys and girls aged 11 to 18.

Harris Invictus Academy Croydon
An academy for boys and girls aged 11 to 18.

Meridian High School
An academy for boys and girls aged 11 to 16.

Norbury High School for Girls
An academy for girls aged 11 to 19.

1 | 2 | 3 | » | Last »

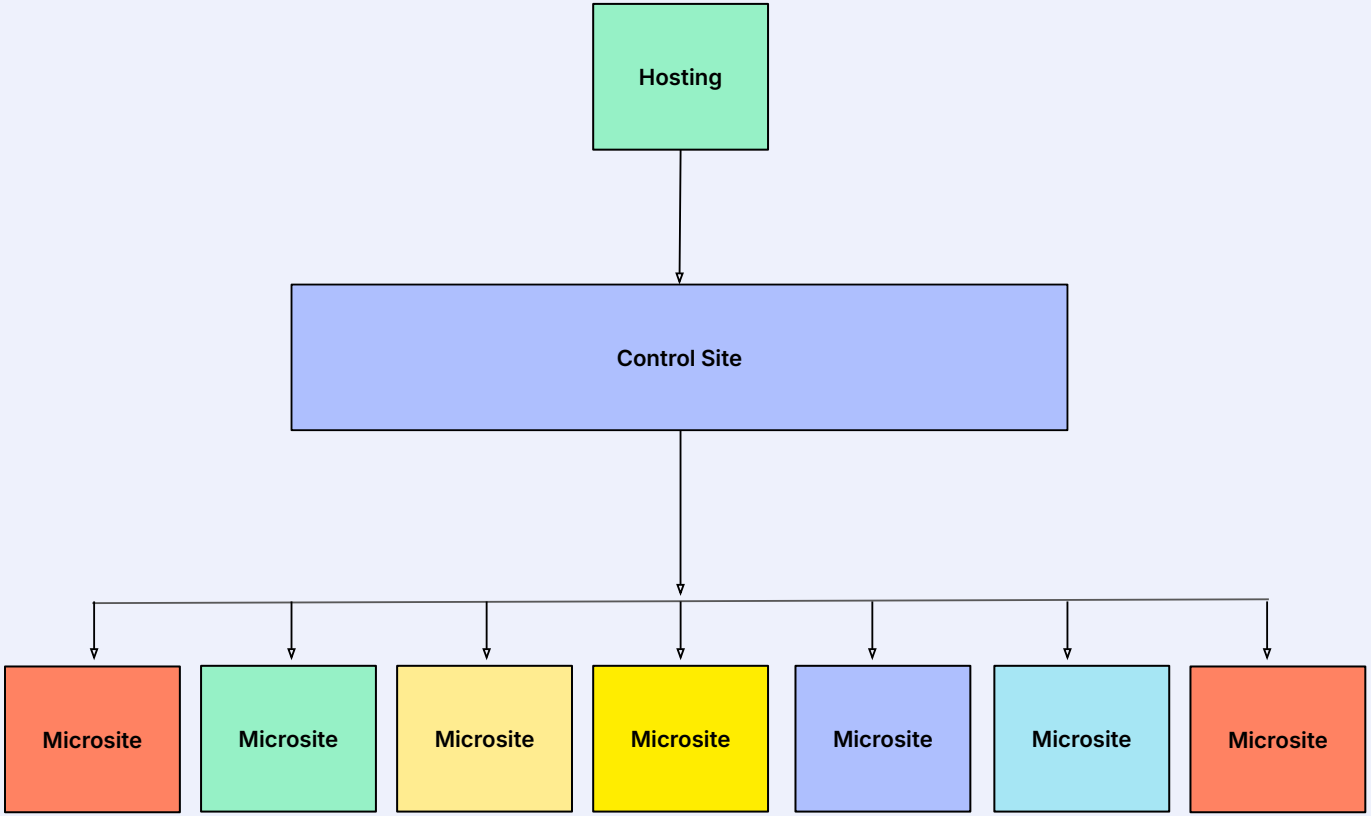
NEW Help improve this site by giving feedback Show

Contact us | Our address | Accessibility

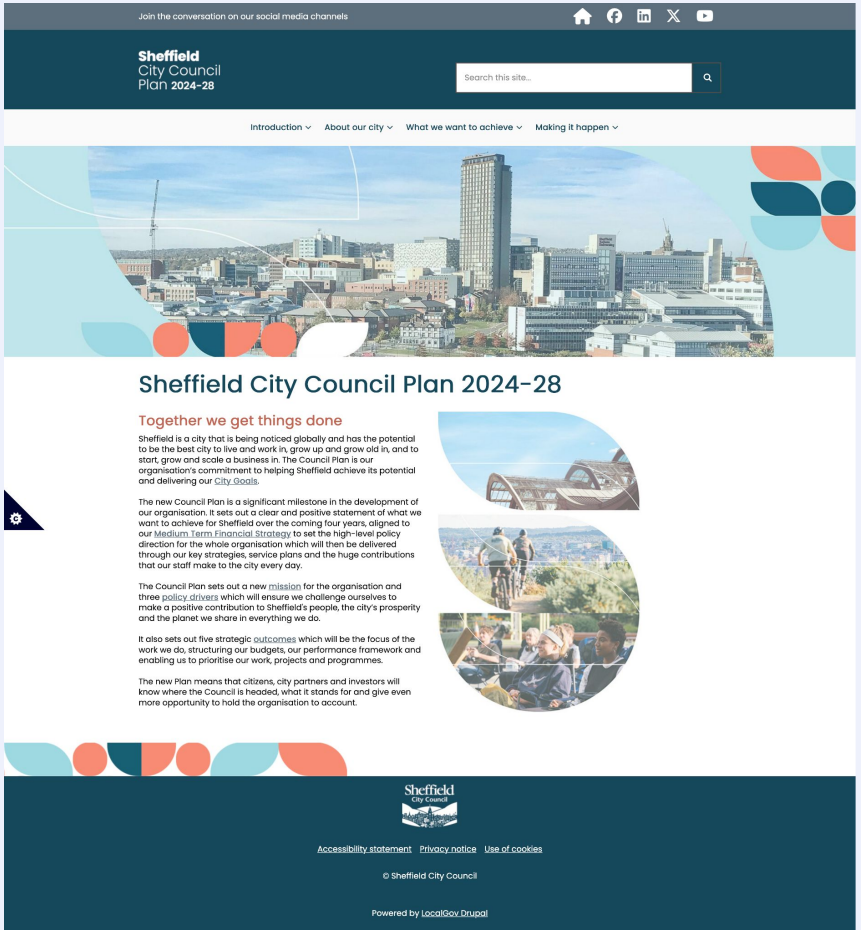
LocalGov Drupal Microsites

Each microsite has its own users, content, files and domain

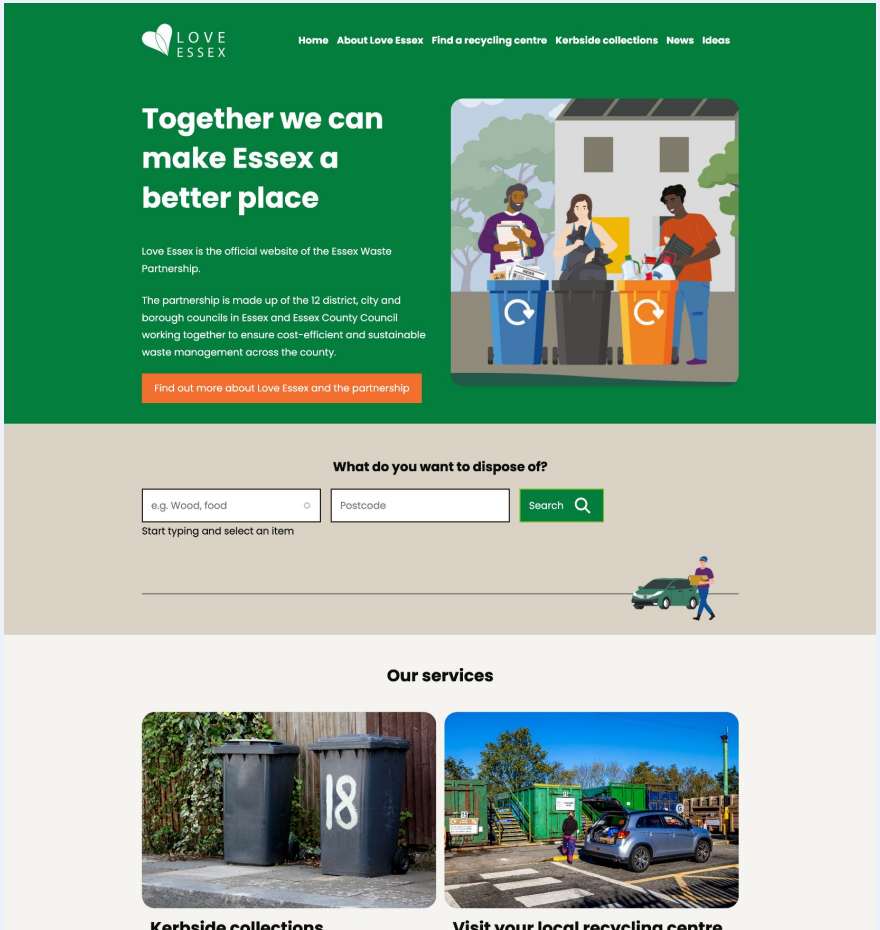
A microsite admin can set up the site's appearance through the UI, and a site editor can create multi-column content rich pages, blogs, news articles, events and directories



Sheffield City Council Plan



Love Essex



Subscription model

Base fee	Population fee	Budget fee
£750	0.65%	0.002%
	£1,500	**£7,500**

Open Digital cooperative

We founded the Open Digital Cooperative to maintain the code and grow the community

It charges annual voluntary subscriptions to councils and using a tiered fee structure pioneered by the Co-operative Councils Innovation Network

Everyone pays a base fee of £750, then % based on population and budget. Min is £1200, max £9750. Suppliers pay mandatory fees based on number of staff and turnover

Drupal now the #1 platform for UK councils

Content management system	Number of councils
Drupal	100 (+5 since December 2024)
Jadu	68 (-2 since December 2024)
Umbraco	58 (+1 since December 2024)
GOSS iCM	33 (-2 since December 2024)
Contensis	28 (+1 since December 2025)

“Drupal now leads the pack... due mainly to the growing popularity of LocalGov Drupal.”

Digital Health Check

How we got started


REC


2017
Brighton & Hove
Coastal city, population 284k
Mature Drupal in-house team




DIE BART!!
TOSKA11

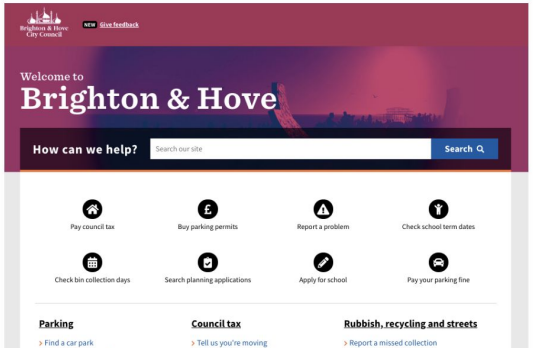

BLOG
IDEAS


2019
Croydon
London borough, population 410k
Old Drupal site, pricey contract
2017
Brighton & Hove
Coastal city, population 284k
Mature Drupal in-house team

Time for Local Gov Website as a Service?

By **Will**

The Local Digital Declaration promotes sharing across local government and 45 councils have signed it. Could a few of them team up to build a common publishing platform?



CROYDON DIGITAL

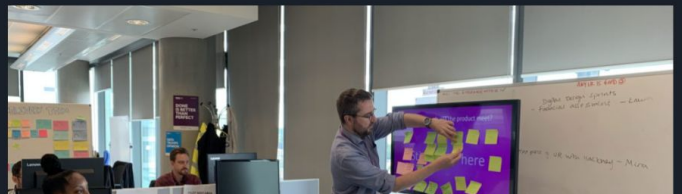
DARK THEME

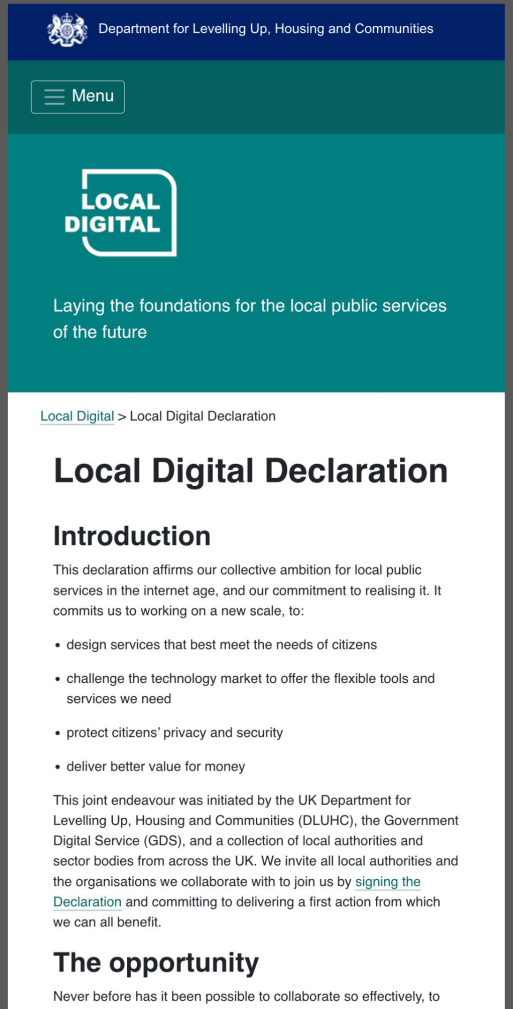
15 July 2019 Croydon digital community, Croydon tech sector Code sharing, Croydon council, Croydon.gov

Croydon Council is sharing a publishing platform with Brighton & Hove

Rather than reinventing the wheel, Croydon Council has agreed with Brighton & Hove City Council to re-use its web publishing platform and work on updates together

Will Callaghan - Croydon Council





The Declaration was co-published with 45 organisations on 4 July 2018.

This is our ambition for local public services, and our commitment to making it happen.

We are a collective of:

- local authorities and sector bodies in the UK
- the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG)
- the Government Digital Service (GDS)

We will 'fix our plumbing' to break our dependence on inflexible and expensive technology that doesn't join up effectively. This means insisting on modular building blocks for the IT we rely on, and open standards to give a common structure to the data we create.

where appropriate, every new IT solution procured must operate according to the technology code of practice, putting us in control of our service data, using open standards where they exist and contributing to their creation where they don't.

research how to reuse existing user research, service design, common components, and data and technology standards before starting to design or procure something new.

Signatories (306)

Local Digital Fund



Discovery
£75k
Do councils want to share Drupal code? YES



Alpha
£100k
Refactoring code, establishing governance



Beta
£350k
Adding more features, scaling, business model



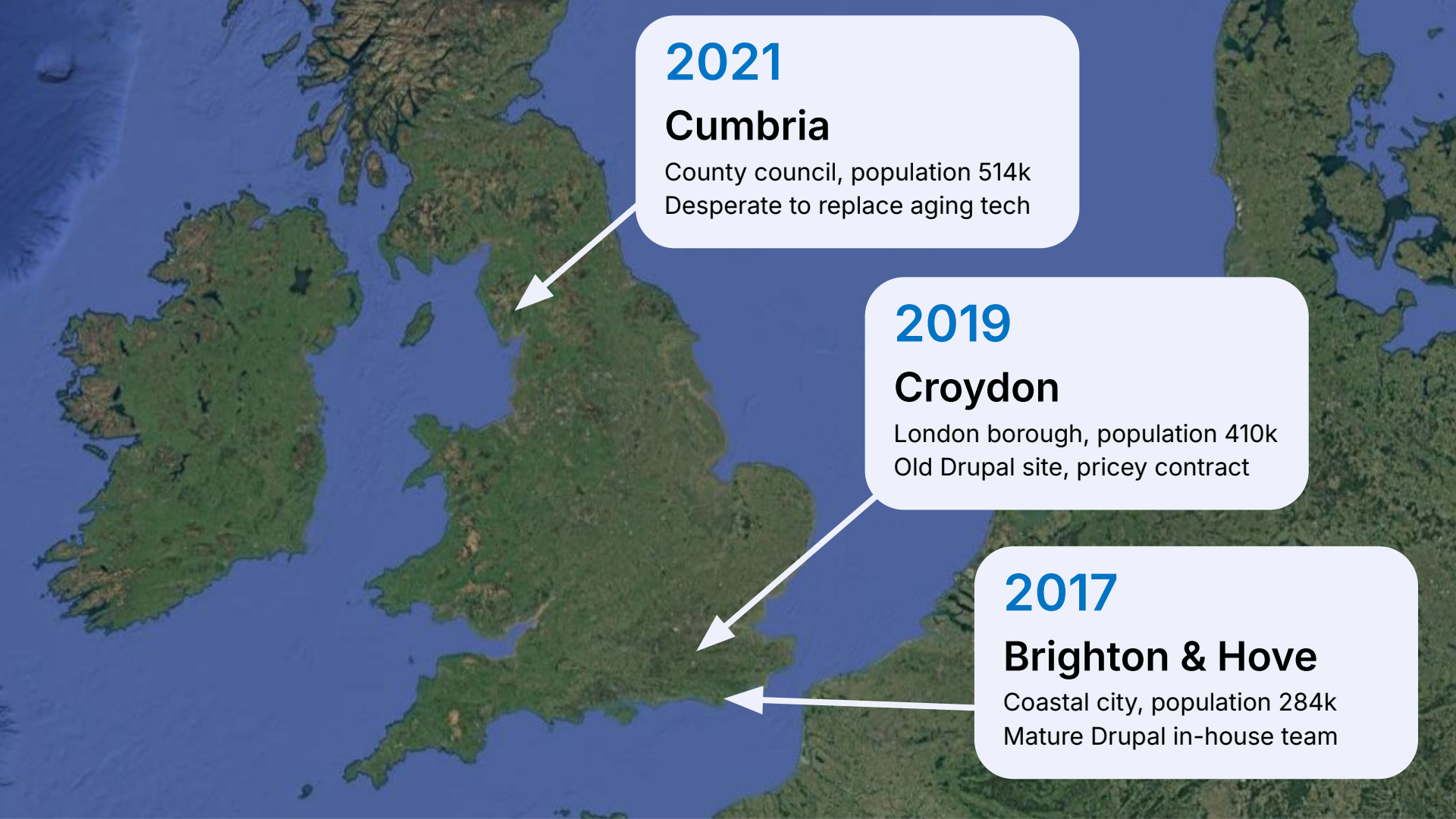
Microsites
£200k
Tools for creating and maintaining a long tail of websites



Explore sustainability
£200k
Business model and governance discovery

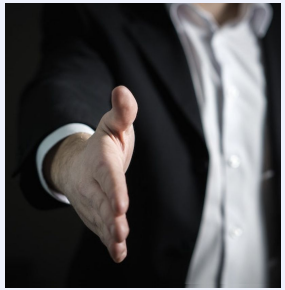


Self funded cooperative
Open Digital Cooperative safeguards code and collaboration


2021
Cumbria
County council, population 514k
Desperate to replace aging tech
2019
Croydon
London borough, population 410k
Old Drupal site, pricey contract
2017
Brighton & Hove
Coastal city, population 284k
Mature Drupal in-house team

Start small and grow

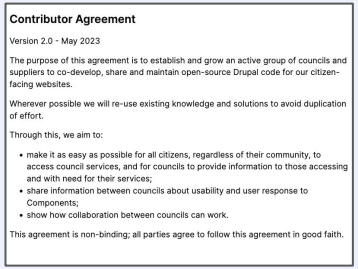
2 councils



Handshake agreement

Occasional meetings and emails

8 councils



Contributor Agreement

Version 2.0 - May 2023

The purpose of this agreement is to establish and grow an active group of councils and suppliers to co-develop, share and maintain open-source Drupal code for our citizen-facing websites.

Wherever possible we will re-use existing knowledge and solutions to avoid duplication of effort.

Through this, we aim to:

- make it as easy as possible for all citizens, regardless of their community, to access council services, and for councils to provide information to those accessing and with need for their services;
- share information between councils about usability and user response to Components;
- show how collaboration between councils can work.

This agreement is non-binding; all parties agree to follow this agreement in good faith.

Light touch Contrib Agreement

Groups meet regularly

70+ councils

Open Digital cooperative

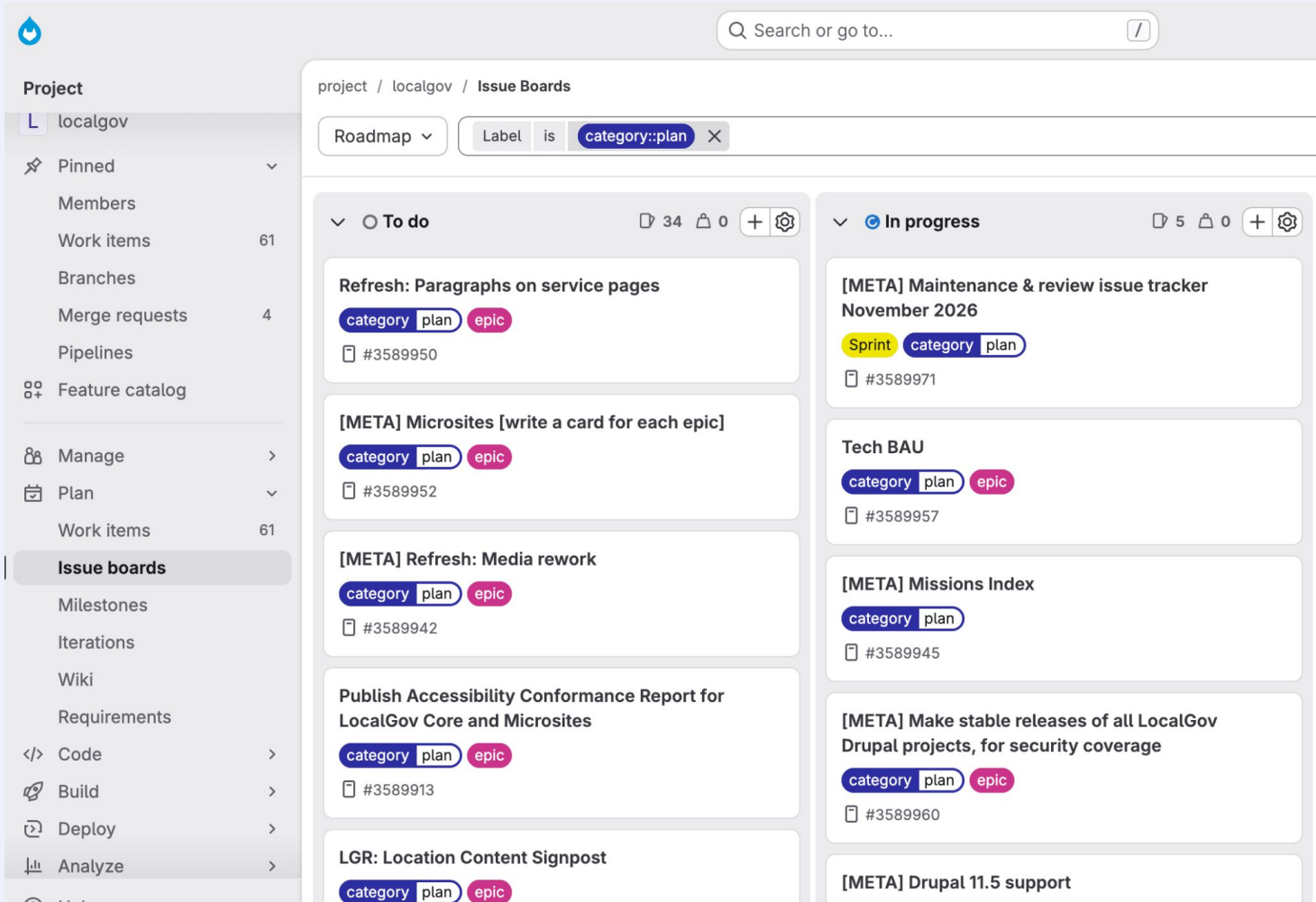
Multi-stakeholder coop,varying engagement

Groups and asynchronous collaboration

How we work as a community

Public backlog for all shared work

We work in the open encouraging councils, suppliers and the wider Drupal community to get involved



Crowdfunding for common needs



New features co-funded by our councils:

Publications (Hammersmith & Fulham, Chicken)

PDF importer (Southwark, Chicken)

Elections (Cumberland & Walsall, Rohallion)

Consultations (Walsall, Webcurl)

Case management (Walsall, Agile Collective)

Events open to all



Product, Technical and Microsites drop-ins

Content and Accessibility working groups

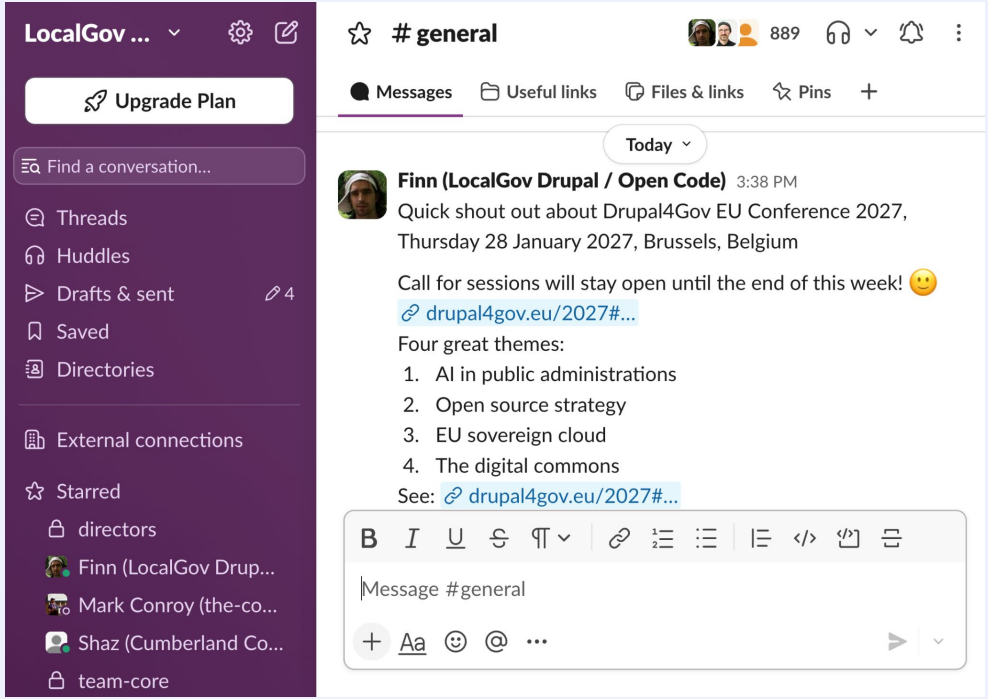
Merge Mondays

Monthly community meets

LGD Week & Camp


LOCALGOV DRUPAL CAMP 2026
SHEFFIELD
Exit to Hallam Square
AWARDED GOLD IN THE TEACHING EXCELLENCE FRAMEWORK
LocalGov Drupal

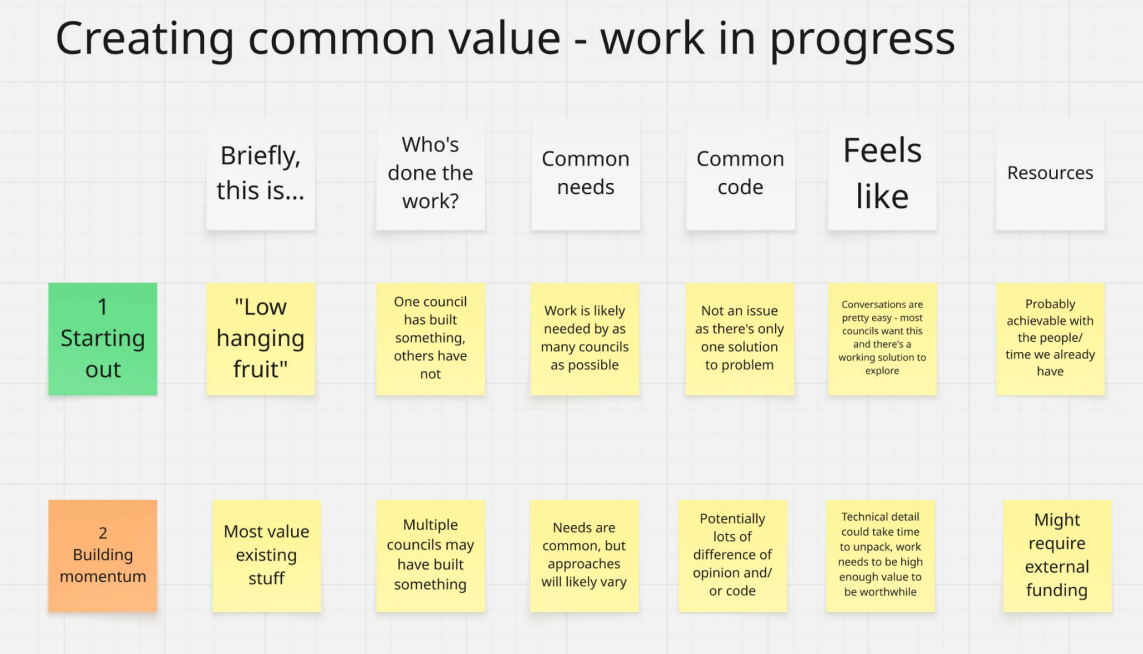
Slack for ongoing conversations



Slack is free for councils to join and includes channels for countries, specific product features and working groups

Also regular free newsletters and a user guide to LGD written by content designers in councils

Always iterating our collaboration model



What we've learned

What we've learned

- ➔ It's not like "herding cats", councils and suppliers focus on specific interests
- ➔ They have very similar needs, and are often happy to 'divide and rule' on long lists of work
- ➔ Most UK councils use agencies for dev and other skills, some use as a stepping stone to in house teams
- ➔ Lower price band for council subs is too low, top band is about right

What we've learned

- ➔ Over half of councils pay annual voluntary subs, working hard to encourage others to pay
- ➔ Need to take extra care not to provide services for free that councils would ordinarily pay for
- ➔ Having many 'shovel ready' Community Fund projects really helps when councils have an underspend
- ➔ We need a different and ongoing funding model for larger strategic projects - working on it

Our view on sovereignty and AI

Sovereignty and AI

- ➔ Open source, councils can verify code and test sites as they like
- ➔ Self hosted not SaaS (although many use Azure)
- ➔ Ample vendor choice, straightforward to migrate
- ➔ Content designers are very wary of AI
  - drains budget, used as an excuse for cost savings
  - search engine summaries mangle results

How to grow LGD in Austria

How to grow LGD in Austria

Happy to chat today, a few ideas...

- ➔ Events like this!
- ➔ Approach Drupal councils looking to upgrade
- ➔ Start with microsites and build over time
- ➔ Government or EU open source/ collaboration funding
- ➔ First 2 councils are hardest, gets easier with case studies and advocates



Thanks for listening!

- ➔ LinkedIn [localgovdrupal]
- ➔ Email [will@localgovdrupal.org]
- ➔ Slack [@willcallaghan] on Drupal Slack