

A Geographic Information Strategy for England

Consultation document

**Association for Geographic Information GI strategy for
England Working Group**

London, April 2004

Contents

- **Scope**
 - **Consultation questions: your input, please**
 - **Executive Summary**
- 1. Introduction**
 - 1.1 What is GI and why is it important?
 - 1.2 Why does England need a strategy for GI?
 - 1.3 What will the rewards be?
 - 2. The GI vision**
 - 2.1 How far away from that vision are we?
 - 2.2 The mission
 - 3. What are the prerequisites for success?**
 - 4. What are the objectives in formulating a GI strategy for England?**
 - 5. Who stands to gain?**
 - 6. What are the next steps?**
 - 7. References**
 - 7.1 National projects and private initiatives
 - 8. Appendix: :**
Terms of reference of GI strategy for England AGI working group

Scope

This consultative paper sets out the vision for a geographic information (GI) strategy for England and outlines the rationale for developing a strategy, the prerequisites for success, the objectives and benefits for implementing a strategy. The scope of the document is to attract comments and suggestions prior to the preparation of a strategy and action plan.

Following the successful seminar held in summer 2003 by the Association for Geographic Information (AGI) Local Government Special Interest Group (LGSIG) in collaboration with the Intra-governmental Group on Geographic Information (IGGI) and the Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA), the AGI set up an Action Working Group to take forward the recommendations from that seminar to develop a GI strategy for England (see [appendix for terms of reference](#)).

The GI Strategy Working Group prepared this document with the intention to seek comments and input from as wide a cross-section of stakeholder groups as possible about the approach for a strategy for England. The document is designed to promote discussion on how best to establish an effective GI strategy for England, what a strategy should look like and how it might best be achieved. The result of the consultation will contribute to the preparation of a strategy statement and action plan later in the year.

Input to the consultation is sought from everyone with an interest in GI - from those already involved in managing geographic data, those who would like better access and those whose policy and service provision depends upon the effective sharing of information.

Feedback to the questions as listed in the next section and comments on any aspect of the strategy are welcomed. Input can be provided electronically on the AGI website (www.agi.org.uk) by 2 July 2004.

Gesche Schmid (Chair AGI working group, AGI LGSIG, Medway Council)

The following members have contributed to the GI Strategy working group:

Mark Linehan (Director, AGI)

John Alderson (Chair AGI, Informed solutions)

Peter Capell (Senior Vic Chair AGI, ODPM, Chair IGGI)

Andrew Larner (IDeA)

Michael Jennings (LGA, Surrey County Council)

Hugh Buchanan (Ordnance Survey, AGI Council)

David Askew (Defra, IGGI)

Alistair Calder (ONS)

Nick Chapallaz (ESRI, AGI Council)

David Ellis (Cadcorp)

March 2004

Consultation questions: your input, now, please

The GI strategy working group seeks comments and input from as wide a cross-section of stakeholder groups as possible about the approach for a GI strategy for England as presented in the consultative document (www.agi.org.uk). Whether you represent central or local government, industry or community services or speak for yourself as an individual citizen, please take a few moments to complete this short questionnaire electronically on <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=6145449271> by **2 July 2004**.

1. Do you agree with the mission statement as defined in [section 2.2](#)?
 yes no, explain why and provide suggested changes

2. Do you agree with **the vision** for GI in England set out in this consultation document ([see section 2](#))? yes no, please, explain why and list any alternative business drivers that should comprise part of the vision

3. Have the **key objectives** for formulating a strategy been identified ([see section 4](#))? yes no. If no, please suggest additional objectives.

4. What, in your view, are the **key priorities and drivers** for a GI strategy for England (see [section 3](#))? Please rank in order of importance stating 1 for top priority. Specify any additional priorities.
 - Shared Vision
 - Cost benefit case
 - Strategic framework
 - Proactive motivators
 - Alignment with other nation and global GI initiatives
 - Overcome organisational silos
 - Compatible data formats and processes
 - Overcome legal restrictions
 - Effective governance
 - Understanding of GI issues
 - Consistent approach to licensing and other commercial restrictions
 - Other, (please specify)

5. What do you see as the **principal opportunities and benefits** offered by a GI strategy for England (see [section 1.3](#)) ? Please, only select a maximum of three and specify any other.

6. What do you suggest would move the **implementation** of a GI strategy forward (see next steps in [section 6](#))?

7. If you remain unconvinced, is there **one single change** we could make which could change your mind in favour of the strategy?

8. Do you have any other **comments** about a GI strategy for England?

Executive Summary

Geographic Information (GI) is any information that has a location-based component, mostly used as address or map data in private enterprises and government organisations. Huge volumes of GI are today routinely generated and stored in the course of business transactions. Most is never reused in other transactions or joined up with other applications. However, there is the prospect that GI could turn into usable knowledge by developing a common 'language' by which GI can be exchanged, cross-referenced and joined up with other information.

Businesses and governmental organisations are increasingly embracing GI as a prerequisite of effective, consistent and connected service delivery, better informed decision making and enhanced performance management. There are already many examples of the use of GI. If the success of these initiatives is limited it is simply because the ability to connect geographic information is dependent on more commonly agreed standards, processes and frameworks for integration.

The principle of collecting data just once, managing and maintaining it to consistent quality standards and then using and sharing it in a multitude of citizen-focused applications is essential if we are to enjoy the efficiency benefits of fully connected, electronic service delivery. GI is, therefore, a contributor to modernisation. But to reap the full benefits of GI requires a strategy to provide a more consistent and systematic approach to the integrated use of GI.

The momentum towards integrated GI is gathering pace with several pan-national (European), national, regional and local initiatives already established. England is the last region in the UK to consult on a strategy.

The mission for an English GI strategy as identified by the working group is:

to make possible the ability to access and share up-to-date, accurate and seamless geographic information to enable enhanced citizen engagement, public service delivery, policy development and private enterprise.

This documents sets out five main objectives for implementing a GI strategy:

1. **Define needs** by identifying key geographic information requirements, datasets, processes, standards and information sharing protocols
2. **Create a schema** for standardising processes and protocols, for sharing information and for coordinating legal and commercial compliance
3. **Communicate GI** to generate wider awareness and understanding of GI and to provide practical advice and guidance on how best to implement a GI strategy
4. **Facilitate access to GI** by promoting the use of GIgateway and fostering the pooling of data to be used vertically from local to global and horizontally across different sectors.
5. **Seek commitment** and governance for the implementation of the strategy from government and private-sector stakeholder groups

The rewards for implementing a strategy for England will be improved service delivery, improved efficiency, better informed decision making, better partnership working, transformed levels of efficiency, economic growth, healthier business environment and a revitalised knowledge economy.

However, one of the main prerequisites for implementing the strategy is to attract government and industry backing and to identify leadership and ownership for driving the strategy forward. Only by providing clear leadership and government commitment and governance will the GI community and the country be able to reap the full benefits of the GI strategy implementation.

The scope of the document is to promote the discussion on how best to establish an effective Geographic Information Strategy for England, what a strategy should look like and how this might best be achieved. The consultation is designed to attract comments and suggestions prior to the preparation of a GI strategy statement and an action plan later in the year.

1. Introduction

1.1 What is GI and why is it important?

Geographic Information (GI) is neither more nor less than what it says: it is any information that has a location-based component. In effect, that means most of the datasets which public and private enterprises use to perform their work. Naturally, GI includes the more obviously map-based information, such as that used by planners, engineers, military and other mapping agencies. It also includes address and location-based information such as that maintained by the Post Office, local authorities, utilities and so on. But GI forms an equally vital component of many other less obvious services regarded as prerequisites of civilised modern life: energy, environmental protection, agriculture, marketing, healthcare services, financial services, insurance, the formulation of policy and the rest.

So what is special about 'GI'? And why do we need a national strategy for something already so pervasive?

At a superficial level, GI makes it possible to display spatial information as colourful maps which are more persuasive to, and better understood by decision makers. But, at a more profound level, it is about providing the sort of geographic *knowledge* that is beyond the scope of maps alone. GIS and GI can provide answers to questions like: "Where is the nearest (station) (pub) (electricity sub-station)?", "What is the fastest route from here to there?", "How many people live within two miles of a service?", "What utility services are buried in the vicinity of this proposed road excavation?" and so on.

GI is an acronym which has become specifically associated with the processes and systems (GIS) for *integrating* and analysing spatial data to provide much richer geographic knowledge than any single dataset can provide. Huge volumes of GI are today routinely generated and stored in the course of business transactions. Most is never reused in other transactions or joined up with other applications. However, there is the prospect that GI could turn into usable knowledge by developing a common 'language' by which GI can be exchanged, cross-referenced and joined up with other information.

A common language for GI is not just a futuristic concept. Businesses and governmental organisations are increasingly embracing it as a prerequisite of effective, consistent and connected service delivery, better informed decision making and enhanced performance management. There are already many examples of the use of GI. If the success of these initiatives is limited it is simply because the ability to **connect** geographic information is dependent on more commonly agreed standards, processes and frameworks for integration.

Before GI can be fully integrated, four major obstacles need to be overcome:

- For the most part, geographic datasets still exist in forms which allow them to be used only within the organisations which own them. Data formats are often mutually incompatible; besides which, any attempt at data exchange is constantly frustrated by imperfect cross-referencing and legal barriers. Consequently, data-capturing and data-owning organisations are discouraged from adopting the common standards which would open the way to the sharing and integration of information.
- No group or organisation has yet possessed the authority empowered by government which is capable of providing the leadership and overall framework to give GI the required regional and national momentum.
- In most organisations, the integration of GI into mainstream applications has been limited, principally because senior management have not yet become aware of its potential or persuaded of its benefits.
- There continues to be an inconsistent approach to the way geographic data is priced and licensed for use and this fact tends to discourage the wider take up of GI especially by the private sectors and the public.

A GI strategy is at the heart of the concept and practice of a modernising government. The principle of collecting data just once, managing it and maintaining to consistent quality standards and then using and sharing it in a multitude of citizen-focused applications is essential if we are to enjoy the efficiency benefits of fully connected, electronic service delivery. GI is, therefore, a contributor to modernisation which needs and deserves the highest level of government commitment and governance.

1.2 Why does England need a strategy for GI?

England needs a GI strategy because, only by adopting a consistent and systematic approach can we hope to achieve a common sense of purpose and motivation among geographic data owners and users, ensuring general consensus on the value and benefits of GI and, thus, rapid, widespread implementation. The momentum towards integrated GI is already gathering pace with several pan-national, national, regional and local initiatives already established.

Pan-national

At the pan-national level, **INSPIRE (Infrastructure for Spatial Information in Europe)** (www.e-gis.org/inspire) is a recent project launched by the EC and developed in collaboration with Member States and those soon to accede to membership. Its aim is to make available quality, harmonised geographic information to facilitate all EU policies with a territorial dimension. Ultimately, the goal of INSPIRE is a Europe-wide spatial information infrastructure for use by policy-makers, planners and managers at European, national, regional and local level (GINIE, 2003). In the shorter term, however, it is concentrating on the spatial information needed for managing environmental policies, later expanding its use to agriculture and transport.

National

The impetus for the wider acceptance of GIS and GI in the UK began 17 years ago with the publication of the Chorley Report (DoE, 1987) which first proposed the development of an over-arching GI framework for the UK. Eight years later, in 1995, the National Geospatial Data Framework (NGDF) was, indeed, launched, spearheaded by the Ordnance Survey with the collaboration of public and private-sector stakeholder organisations (Rhind, 1997).

NGDF has already achieved a significant 'landmark' at a UK level: the implementation of a web-based GI portal originally branded 'askGiraffe'. This portal is currently operated by the Association for Geographic Information (AGI) who redeveloped and rebranded it as 'GIgateway' (www.GIgateway.org.uk) providing access to geospatial metadata owned by a variety of organisations in the United Kingdom.

In addition to the NGDF, the **Intra-Governmental Group on Geographic Information (IGGI)** (www.iggi.gov.uk) was established in response to the Chorley Report. Its remit is to facilitate the exchange of GI information and best practice between central government departments and regional and local government.

The **Association for Geographic Information (AGI)** (www.agi.org.uk) represents not only the interests of government but of the entire geographic information industry, including users in the public and private sectors, suppliers of software, hardware, data and services, consultants, academics and interested individuals. Its mission is to “maximize the use of geographic information for the benefit of the citizen, good governance and commerce.”

Regional

It has become generally acknowledged that, if a workable, integrated GI strategy is to be established, the requirement is for strong national and European leadership on framework and standards, coupled with committed strategies for implementation at a devolved, regional level. This regionalised approach provides the most manageable and productive environment in which stakeholders themselves can collaborate in solving the practical, grass-roots problems of integrated GI.

So far, Wales (AGI Cymru, 2003) and Northern Ireland (OSNI, 2003) have published national strategies and Scotland (AGI Scotland, 2003) has published a consultation document as a first stage. All three initiatives are being driven by strong partnerships between governmental and stakeholder groups supported by regional branches of the Association for Geographic Information (AGI).

England is the final UK region to embark on a GI strategy and this consultation paper is the preliminary stage in the formulation of that strategy.

Local

At local level, projects have evolved to provide joined up service delivery between public, voluntary and private sector. Common standards are developed at local

level to facilitate the sharing of information to offer citizens a seamless access to services. However, these projects would benefit from more national and regional guidance to be able to join information across local boundaries.

1.3 What will the rewards be?

The implementation of a GI strategy will benefit government, business and citizens in England by offering

- ***Improved efficiency***

Integrated geographic datasets will play a valuable role in reducing duplication of effort and inconsistencies of data and will be a major tool of efficiency improvement and cost reduction in all public services.

- ***Better informed decision-making***

Integrated GI will provide the reliable, multi-dimensional geographic knowledge that is essential for fully informed, evidence-based policy evaluation leading to sound long-term planning in areas such as housing, job creation and transport.

- ***Better partnership working***

Information sharing protocols and the availability of consistent, location-based datasets, shared by all parties in public-private partnerships, should ensure more accurate, evidence-based budgeting and improved risk management of public projects.

- ***More transparent government***

By sharing and connecting core information, central and regional government departments will be better able to collaborate to realise their goal of transparency.

- ***Improved service delivery***

A more open and responsive culture will create wider accessibility to data which will improve service delivery to the customer.

- ***Transformed levels of responsiveness in the emergency and community services***

Emergency services, such as police, ambulance and fire, rely on access to a consistent, definitive source of up-to-date address and location-based data. A coherent regional approach to GI would help to save lives, improve public

order and deliver services to the citizen in a more holistic and timely manner and would contribute to a more open and responsive culture

- ***Enhanced conditions for economic growth***

With connected geographic information, the region's core wealth-creators will be able to exploit the data more efficiently which drive economic growth.

- ***A revitalised 'knowledge economy'***

Dismantling the barriers between existing, isolated knowledge reservoirs will open the way to levels of data analysis hitherto unknown, with consequent impact on many fields of research and innovation.

- ***Healthier business environment***

Integration of GI will benefit many aspects of business efficiency, not least those concerned with marketing, logistics, and supply chain management. Apart from the gains in internal efficiencies, GI standardization and data sharing will open up new partnership opportunities and new business structures.

2. The GI vision

Why do we need an integrated, connected approach to geographic information? How will life be better once it is achieved? The most telling way of articulating the GI vision is through some imaginary scenarios.

- **Planning** – To develop planning policies, public authorities use GI to identify the areas in greatest need, map out existing services, target resources accordingly and monitor the impact in detail. In return, citizens can interact directly with the planning authority via the web to find out and comment about planning applications in their neighbourhood. (www.planningportal.gov.uk)
- **Moving home** – The day you move into your new home, you contact a website to notify your local authority of your move (www.iammoving.com) which also registers you on the electoral roll, arrange your council tax payments, gives the opportunity to join the local gym, locate your nearest GP (www.nhs.org.uk) or find the nearest recycling point. This is possible as all services are linked via your unique address.
- **Empowering the citizen** - It is not just recycling... GI empowers citizens to take control of their immediate environment in many ways. Using addresses as spatial reference, they can report abandoned vehicles, fly tipping, graffiti, uneven paving stones, suspicious activities ... via contact centres or websites and the information, when consolidated and analysed gives local authorities, service providers and decision makers a comprehensive picture of where to target their limited resources.
- **Improving emergency logistics** – More crime is prevented, more fires brought under control sooner, more lives saved because emergency vehicles always take the fastest route and always arrive at the right place first time.
- **Optimising the work of utilities** – Integrated GI lets all the utilities share geographic information on cables, water mains, gas mains and telecoms lines and map this onto highways data. Now, planned road works can be synchronised, resulting in more efficient use of labour and resources and minimised disruption to the public.
- **Planning your route** – You will be able plan your route to go from A to B via an integrated transport planner, which shows train, bus and other transport interchanges. The website will tell you when the bus, train, ship leaves and arrives. Furthermore, you will be able to find your nearest tourist

attractions and entertainment facilities with opening times and book your integrated transport and theatre ticket online. (Transport Direct http://www.dft.gov.uk/stellent/groups/dft_control/documents/contentservertemplate/dft_index.hcst?n=7960&l=1)

2.1 How far away from that vision are we?

During the last decade, GI has been identified as one of the key potential enablers of local e-government as identified in the national strategy :

“Geographical information systems (GIS) present service delivery information in map format. This can enable sophisticated spatial analyses to be made based on matching data from different services. When combined with a corporate land, street and property database, GIS can enhance intelligence-led decision-making within councils by giving officers and members networked access to the same data, maps, aerial photography and graphical overlays.” (ODPM 2002 <http://www.localgov.gov.uk/page.cfm?pageid=268>)

This recognition underpins a number of national and regional, and public and private initiatives now in varying stages of maturity (see list in [section 7.1](#)). These initiatives exhibit important advances in the standardisation and interoperability of location-based datasets. They are very encouraging developments and form valuable building blocks for a national GI strategy. For example, several aspects of interest to a national strategy are reflected in the current work of the Office for National Statistics (www.statistics.gov.uk), in its development of a geographic referencing infrastructure for National Statistics. This includes an interest in a national framework for an address register, but also involvement in such topics as a national postcode referencing framework, official names and codes for standard areas and a formal hierarchy of geographic units.

Many of the initiatives, individually and together, still fall well short of the vision of fully connected GI. For example, only a handful are compliant with BS7666, the British Standard for geographical referencing. For that to be realised, the impetus, funding and standards management needs to be driven from a higher level.

2.2 The mission

The mission for an English GI strategy as identified by the working group is:

to make possible the ability to access and share up-to-date, accurate and seamless geographic information to enable enhanced citizen engagement, public service delivery, policy development and private enterprise.

The Geographic Information Strategy for England will establish a viable and user-acceptable GI framework based on nationally – and ultimately internationally – recognised standards. It will permit the accurate and simple linking of people, organisations and services to specific geographic locations. It will do this in the interests of delivering better quality information, better use of available information, improved services, improved access to those services, increased service efficiency and improved interoperability, to the benefit of citizens, government and business organisations.

3. What are the prerequisites for success?

The prerequisites for a successful GI strategy are:

- ***A shared vision***

A vision embodied in a cohesive, comprehensible message which inspires confidence in the strategy and a will to fulfil it

- ***Convincing cost/benefit case***

A watertight, coherent argument setting out a return-on-investment case for the GI strategy and its potential value for England PLC. A key component of this cost/benefit case would be to highlight the levels of current expenditure on geographic information and the potential savings to be made

- ***A robust strategic framework***

A practical framework in which organisations can feel sufficiently confident to adopt it as a basis for building their own data structures, processes and strategies within their own organisation. The framework must be designed with a view to removing the obstacles and resistance to participation. It should include a clearly defined process facilitating the adoption of standards throughout the public and private sectors and should be backed up by the provision of support and practical guidance for owners and users of GI. The framework should support interoperability by connecting stakeholders vertically, from local to global and horizontally across different sectors.

- ***Pro-active motivators***

Appropriate incentives and sanctions to encourage participation supported by government and commercial leadership

- ***Alignment with other national and global GI initiatives***

These include integration at European level such as INSPIRE, frameworks at national level such as OS Mastermap and standards at regional level for example to adopt common address standards.

- ***Compliance with legal and commercial restrictions***

Notably the Freedom of Information Act, the Data Protection Act, the need of commercial confidentiality and protection of intellectual property rights, European legislation such as the Public Sector Information (PSI) Directive and future legislation that may arise from INSPIRE. All of which could

constitute possible barriers or drivers to the successful implementation of the strategy

- ***Wholehearted government and industry backing ...***

for the strategic goals and clearly defined, committed leadership to drive the strategy forward

4. What are the objectives in formulating a GI strategy for England?

Keeping in mind the prerequisites for success outlined in 3, the following objectives for a GI strategy are proposed for England:

4.1 Define needs

- Identify the key geographic information requirements of 'England PLC'
- Identify the core existing datasets and processes which should initially be targeted for inclusion
- Identify existing standards and information sharing protocols

4.2 Create a schema

- Develop a 'road map' charting the steps that need to be taken to put GI standards in place
- Standardise the processes by which these geographic datasets will be created, implemented, maintained and managed
- Adopt a co-ordinated approach to legal and commercial compliance
- Define processes and protocols by which to share information

4.3 Communicate GI

- Generate wide awareness and understanding of GI and of its potential benefits by 'story-telling', citing vivid, specific application scenarios rather than spelling out the technicalities involved
- Communicate the English GI strategy to public-sector, private-sector and citizen stakeholder groups
- Provide practical advice and guidance to public- and private-sector organisations on how best to implement the strategy to achieve maximum benefit to themselves

4.4 Facilitate access to GI

- To promote and maximise the use of GI portals such as the GIgateway.
- To promote guidelines for information and records management

- To foster the pooling of data to facilitate vertical access from local to global and horizontal access across different sectors.

4.5 Seek commitment

- Seek buy-in for the implementation of the strategy from government and private-sector stakeholder groups
- Formulate the best means of motivating and/or offering incentives to these groups for implementing the strategy. (For example: provide financial incentives for early adoption? Inaugurate award scheme for exceptional GI achievement?)
- Identify and achieve 'buy-in' from the most appropriate and effective government leadership groups – for example, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM), the Treasury, the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), the Department for Transport (DfT), the Office for National Statistics (ONS)
- Identify sources of funding for implementing the strategy
- Establish ongoing governance for the implementation of the strategy

5. Who stands to gain?

Potential beneficiaries of the GI strategy for England span government organisations, businesses, citizens and the UK economy as a whole. In particular:

- Central Government departments
- Regional and Local government
- “England PLC”
- Public-Private Partnerships
- Utilities
- Transport industry
- Housing
- Planning
- Voluntary organisations
- Emergency services
- Environmental planning and management
- Educational organisations
- System vendors
- Value-added resellers
- Retailers
- Data providers
- The insurance industry
- The Media
- Marketing
- Social care
- Citizens
- Health
- Education and research

6. What are the next steps?

This document provides the rationale, prerequisites and objectives for developing a GI strategy. The scope of the document is to promote the discussion on how best to establish an effective Geographic Information Strategy for England, what a strategy should look like and how this might best be achieved. The consultation is designed to attract comments and suggestions prior to the preparation of a GI strategy statement and an action plan later in the year. The strategy intends to provide a guide for improving the sharing of information amongst the GI community.

However, without meeting the pre-requisites and getting buy-in from the user community, senior management and government, a strategy cannot be implemented. Further next steps will be to identify lead individuals and set-up a group that will take responsibility for the implementation of a strategy and to get the support from government and senior management to identify funding and to provide ongoing governance for the strategy.

7. References

- AGI, 2002: GI gateway report. www.GIgateway.org.uk
- AGI Cymru, 2003: Geographical information strategy action plan for Wales: <http://www.cymruarlein.wales.gov.uk/pdf/GIS.pdf>
- AGI Scotland, 2003: Towards a GI strategy for Scotland http://www.e-consultation.net/agiscot/agiscot_consultation.pdf
- DoE, 1987: Handling Geographic Information: Report of the government Committee of Enquiry, Her Majesty's Stationary Office, London.
- GINIE, 2003: Geographic Information in the Wider Europe. GINIE deliverable 6.5.1.
- INSPIRE: Infrastructure for Spatial Information in Europe www.e-gis.org/inspire
- Intra-governmental group for geographical information: www.iggi.gov.uk
- ODPM, 2002: National strategy for local e-government. www.localgov.gov.uk/
- Office for National Statistics (www.statistics.gov.uk)
- Ordnance Survey Northern Ireland (OSNI), 2003: Geographic information strategy for Northern Ireland: www.osni.gov.uk/technical/gistrategy.html
- Rhind, 1997. Overview of the National Geospatial data framework: AGI conference procedures, 1997. www.agi.org.uk/moreinformation/archive.asp
- Schmid, G. and G. Keith, 2003: Towards a GI framework for England. Proc. GeoSolutions 2003, London, Association for Geographic Information.

7.1 National projects and private initiatives

- Environment's Agency's "Whats in your Backyard" (www.environment-agency.gov.uk),
- Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (www.MAGIC.gov.uk),
- Multimap (www.multimap.com)
- National Land and Property Gazetteer (<http://www.nlpg.org.uk>),
- Neighbourhood statistics (neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk),
- OS Mastermap (www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk),
- Planning Portal (www.planningportal.gov.uk),
- Streetmap (www.streetmap.com)
- Transport Direct
http://www.dft.gov.uk/stellent/groups/dft_control/documents/contents_ervertemplate/dft_index.hcst?n=7960&l=1),

8. Appendix: Terms of reference of the GI strategy for England AGI working group

Aim of the working group:

To develop a geographic information strategy for England and establish ownership for its implementation

Objectives of the working group

1. To define the main objectives of a GI strategy for England
2. To define the success criteria for the GI strategy
3. To determine which representative groups should be consulted developing the strategy
4. To produce an action plan for developing a strategy
5. To develop the GI strategy
6. To develop a communication plan to promote and raise awareness of the GI strategy
7. To develop a case for implementing a GI strategy
8. To determine ownership of the strategy with responsibility for implementation
9. To scope an action plan for implementing the strategy
10. To determine ownership for the strategy implementation

Reporting

The working group reports to the AGI Council, the IGGI Steering group, the Local Government Association (LGA) and the Central-Local Information Partnership (CLIP) and the Improvement and Development Agency (I&DeA).

Membership

The group may, from time to time, co-opt additional members on specific issues

Termination

The working group will cease to exist when a GI strategy has been developed and the responsibility for implementing the GI strategy has been passed on.

Gesche Schmid/Mark Linehan 19.01.04