

PLAF BRIEFING NOTE

2 September 2013 Definitive Map Update



1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report provides the Forum with an update on matters relating to the republication of the Definitive Map as requested by Members.

2 Officers Report

- 2.1 Officers have considered the recommendation of the PLAF with regard to the accessibility and usefulness of the Definitive Map and Statement and its availability in our First Stop reception area. We agree that we could take steps to make positive changes to the way we display and present this information.
- 2.2 We are pleased to note that the allegation that the Definitive Map was not available in First Stop was discovered to be incorrect and confirm the map continues to be available for public inspection and has been continuously since August 2006.
- 2.3 In considering the advice of the forum we believe we can actually make alternative improvements that will go above and beyond those suggested by the forum. We therefore propose to:
 - Republish the Definitive Map to ensure the most up to date information is in the public domain.
 - Work with our software suppliers to put in place a quicker and more efficient way to republish to ensure future map updates can be carried out anticipating a 3 year update cycle.
 - Make digital copies of the Definitive Map available online as well as the usual paper copies available in First Stop and public libraries.

- Make all public notices for Orders available online increasing public access to them and, should the government implement their plan for greater freedom over how authorities advertise such Orders, allow us to more quickly stop placing public notices in local papers. This information could be retained online until the next republication meaning all legal notices for any issue are available for public inspection.
- Implement a public online register of Modification Order applications showing the route being claimed, details of the claimant and the stage in the process each application is currently at.
- Implement a similar public register for section 31(6) deposits.
- Should the authority implement suitable online mapping then this information will be moved onto this system.

2.4 It is impossible at this time to offer absolute timescales for the implementation of the above however we are meeting with the supplier of our software in October 2013 and their input will guide our progress.

2.5 We offer to report back to the PLAF with further details in 2 meetings time and report back at subsequent meetings as required.