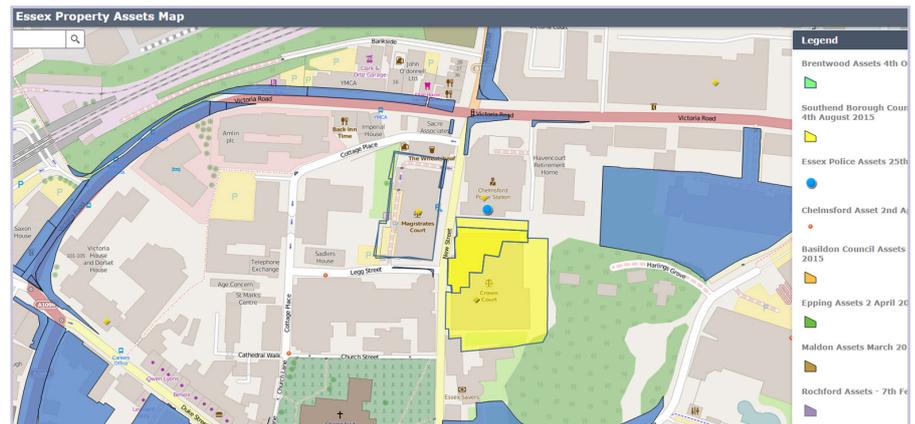


Essex Property Group goes live with EPAM

Encouraging collaboration via a map-based, property-asset service



“When we set out on this procurement exercise, we weren’t sure what to expect in response to our requirements. However from day one Idox offered a refreshingly innovative approach, facilitated an extensive pilot of the solution and have worked closely with us to deliver a live solution which is already starting to pay dividends.”

Alan Richards
Essex Property Group

Challenge: Coming together to share land and property knowledge across Essex

Essex Property Group (EPG) is a partnership of Essex public sector organisations supported by the East of England Local Government Association - EELGA comprising:

- » Essex County Council;
- » Basildon, Braintree, Brentwood, Castlepoint, Chelmsford, Colchester, Epping Forest, Harlow, Maldon, Rochford, Southend, Tendring, Thurrock and Uttlesford Councils;
- » Essex Fire & Rescue;
- » NHS Property Services;
- » Ordnance Survey;
- » Sulion Consulting;
- » Government Property Unit.

EPG came together to find a way of sharing local government property information and recognised the benefits of partnership working but required a shared, location-based, property resource to help better inform decision-making relating to land and property estates owned or leased by its members.

Solution: Creating an innovative, central platform with shared spatial data

In 2013, EPG selected Idox to create the pilot EPAM solution as a platform on which to share spatial data and support greater collaboration in the management and use of property assets between the partners.

Idox proposed a hosted, map-based service based on Esri’s ArcGIS Online technology and designed to provide extensive property-based asset information to all EPG members.

“We have been delighted to fund and support the development of the EPAM solution as part of the exciting asset management programme being promoted by the Essex Property Partnership. Having a system in place such as EPAM is an invaluable tool for all the projects being undertaken by the Partnership and is also a tribute to the hard work and dedication being shown by asset managers across Essex in bringing it to fruition.”

Andrew Rowson
Associate and Asset Management
Service Lead
East of England Government
Association (EELGA)

Idox currently uses the spatial technology in a number of its core products, used by over 250 local authorities, central government and other public sector agencies across the UK.

The solution enabled a swift implementation as it was simple for users to pick up and use and did not require any extensive training. Idox initially provided a service to load each partner's data onto EPAM, and supported this with training which allowed partners to have control over when and how they update the data.

The success of the pilot resulted in the investment needed to deliver a live, sustainable and scalable solution. Since the EPAM solution – which incorporates a publicly-searchable interactive map – went live, it has provided the following benefits at minimal cost to the partners:

- » Facilitated “One Public Estate” locality reviews to support government initiatives designed to generate over £13 billion between 2015 and 2018 from sales of land and property in public ownership
- » Created a strong professional network of property professionals and improved collaboration between like-minded organisations
- » Identified co-location opportunities and delivered resulting efficiency and direct cost savings

Outcomes: Continued data enrichment and growth for future benefits

All partners can continue to add more data sets as they become available and this enriches the content available to users on an ongoing basis, allowing additional opportunities for savings to be identified.

Since the roll out of the Pilot, EPAM has been extended so that asset data is collectively published via a searchable and interactive map. The mapping application allows users to interact with information about EPG property assets and supports the EPG partners to meet obligations under The Local Authorities (Data Transparency) Code 2014 to publish the partnership data via this joint mapping initiative.

The main use of the map is for authorities to help reduce their running costs by selling and sharing properties, or by collaborating on undeveloped sites to enable developments that would not have been possible by an individual authority.

As the data is enhanced and more information is added to the map, it will also allow partners to have a better evidence base on what is available to other departments and areas in local government such as:

- » Town Planning and Land available studies, especially affordable housing
- » Sport and Leisure – adding proximity of competing outlets can help shape future strategy
- » Service Planning – looking at other partners' assets to deliver services
- » Adult and Community Services to foster cross-border service provision

