



Rob Mahoney:

Place matters: the Location Strategy for the United Kingdom

In 2005 Yvette Cooper MP, Minister at the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister announced the formation of a UK GI Panel whose focus would include: medium to long term issues and encourage more effective, extensive and systematic use of geographic information. In July 2007, Baroness Andrews, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and the customer Minister for Geographic Information for government, assumed Ministerial responsibility for the Panel.

In November 2008 the report "Place matters: the Location Strategy for the United Kingdom" was accepted by the UK Government as the direction of travel for location based information in the United Kingdom. The report states: "This Strategy will benefit government, the wider public sector, the private sector and the citizen when accessing, sharing or reusing 'place-based' information."

A Location Council, led by (The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) has now been established to take the recommendations forward. The full report can be downloaded at:

<http://www.gipanel.org.uk/gipanel/docs/uk-location-strategy.pdf>