



**Oifig an
Rialaitheora Pleanála**
Office of the
Planning Regulator

Overview of OPR Reviews of Local Authorities

Background to the Review,
Process involved, and;
Reporting and Post Review.

Emma Nevin – Planning
Officer, Reviews and
Examinations

Background



Chapter IV ('Review of Planning Functions') of Part IIB of the Act, in particular section 31AS of the Act.



OPR Core Statutory functions - to review systems and procedures



OPR 'Pilot Methodology for Conducting Reviews of Local Authorities' Systems and Procedures in relation to the Performance of Planning Functions' (2020)



Review and respond to complaints

Why is a Planning Review important?



Review programme

- Selection criteria – geographical area, workloads, challenges
- Pilot Phase:
 - Tipperary County Council,
 - Louth County Council,
 - Galway City Council, and;
 - Kildare County Council.
- Learnings from the Pilot Phase
- Current work programme of reviews

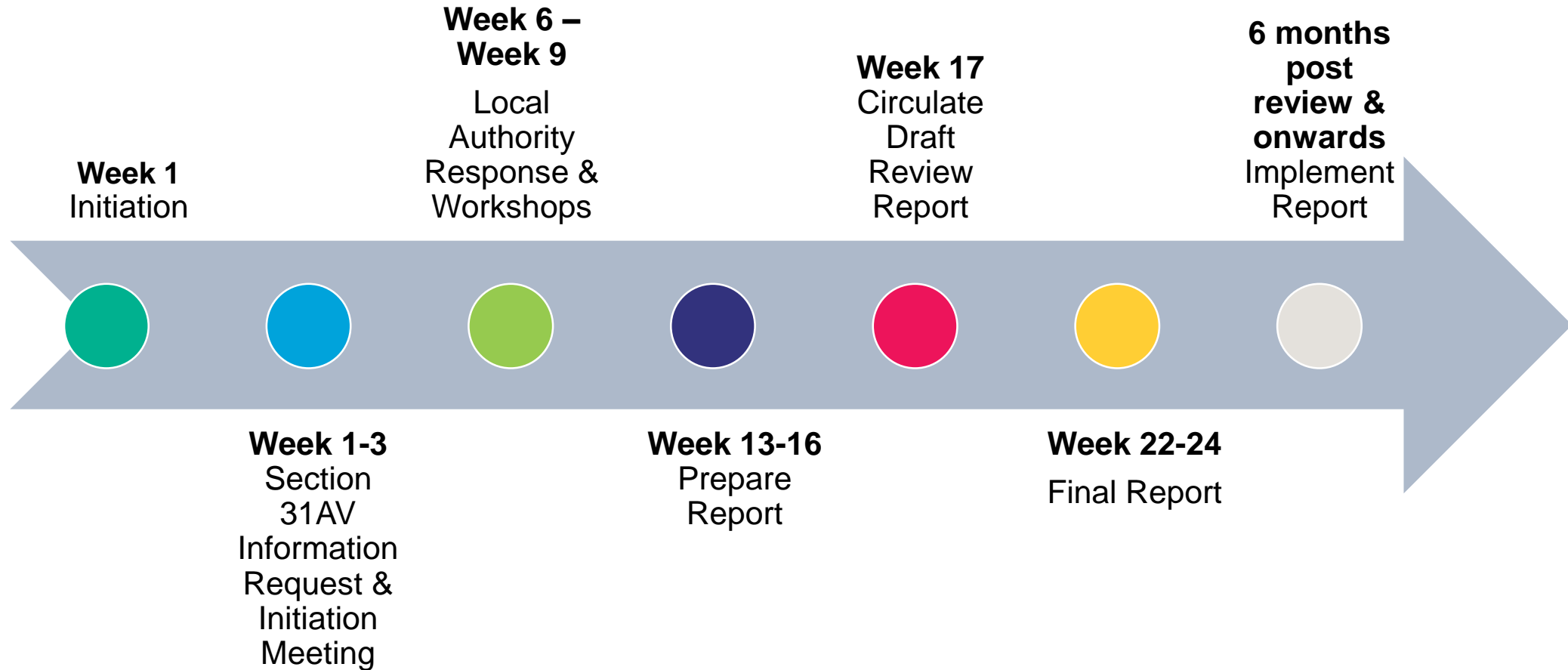


Review Process





Review Timeline





31AV Information Request

- Part A – Organisational and Management context
- Part B – Statutory planning functions
- Part C – The wider Strategic Context

- One point of contact within Planning Department

- Appendix 1 - Director of Planning Services sign off

- www.opr.ie / <https://www.opr.ie/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Info-request-plus-appendices.pdf>

Local Authority Workshops



- Preparation of workshop agenda
- Face-to-face on site engagement
- Workshop style meetings
- Subsequent clarifications

Ratings

- There are four ratings defined in the review:



Highly Effective



Effective



Some Improvement needed



Unsatisfactory

Performance rating and recommendations

The OPR acknowledges that the Council's architectural heritage responsibilities are generally being delivered **effectively**.

An enhanced emphasis on public engagement would set the Council on the way to delivering this function on a highly effective basis.

Recommendations

The key findings and recommendations are made in relation to systems and procedures, and the recommendations are also graded by level of priority:

- Critical,
- High,
- Medium,
- Low,
- Advisory.

Recommendation	Description	Grading	Responsibility
Organisation of Planning Department			
1: Resourcing and staff development	<p>The Council should prioritise the management of staff retention and recruitment challenges faced in recent years, including identifying opportunities to address these challenges, particularly within the development management and enforcement team, with a view to presenting opportunities to senior management of the Council within the next six months.</p> <p>The Council should prepare a 2022 training plan for the planning department with appropriate linkages to the Council's Annual Service Delivery Plan. PMDS should be pursued to ensure that the responsibilities associated with the department's various duties are clearly assigned to the appropriate personnel.</p> <p>It is particularly important that the PMDS process identifies training and skills development needs for all staff, but also that responsibility is taken at a senior level for progress in addressing these learning needs. Progress should be monitored and reported upon at a departmental level on a regular basis, for example in tandem with the twice-yearly PMDS reviews.</p>	High	Director of Services

Finalisation of Review Report

01

Issuing draft OPR Report to Local Authority and the Minister

02

Period for submissions and observations on draft OPR Report

03

Review of submissions and finalise OPR Report

04

Issuing final OPR Report to Local Authority and the Minister

05

Publication to OPR website

Post Review



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6 month

Initial check in with local
authority post OPR review



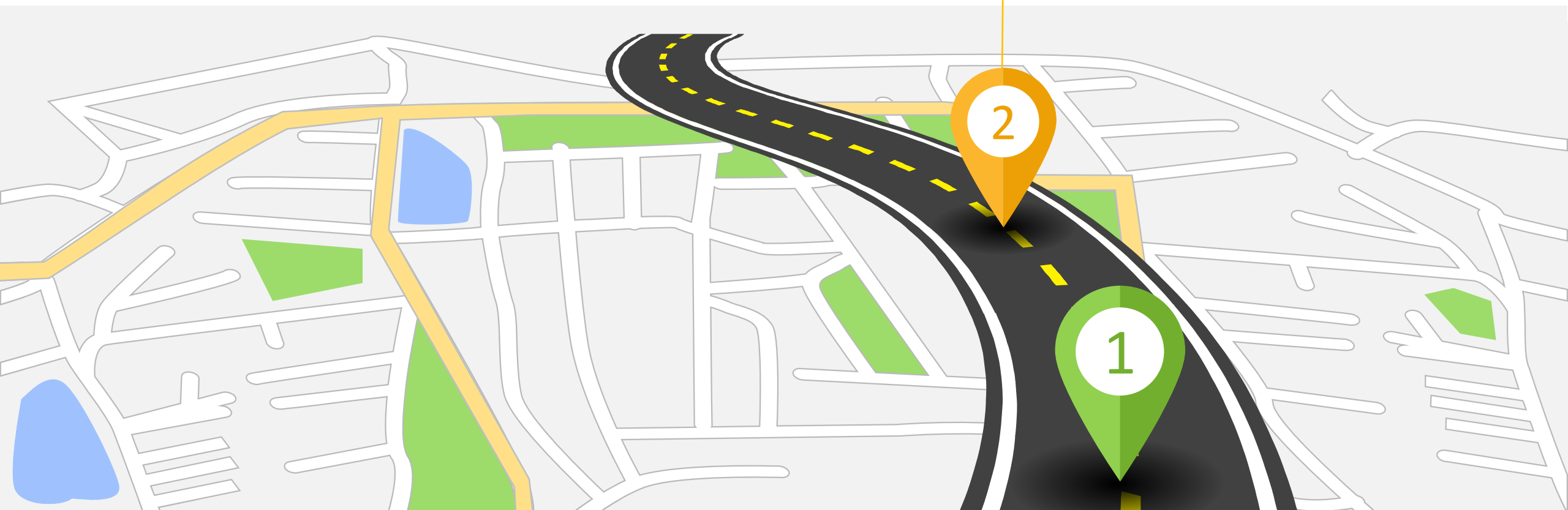
Post Review



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12 month

Next check in with local
authority



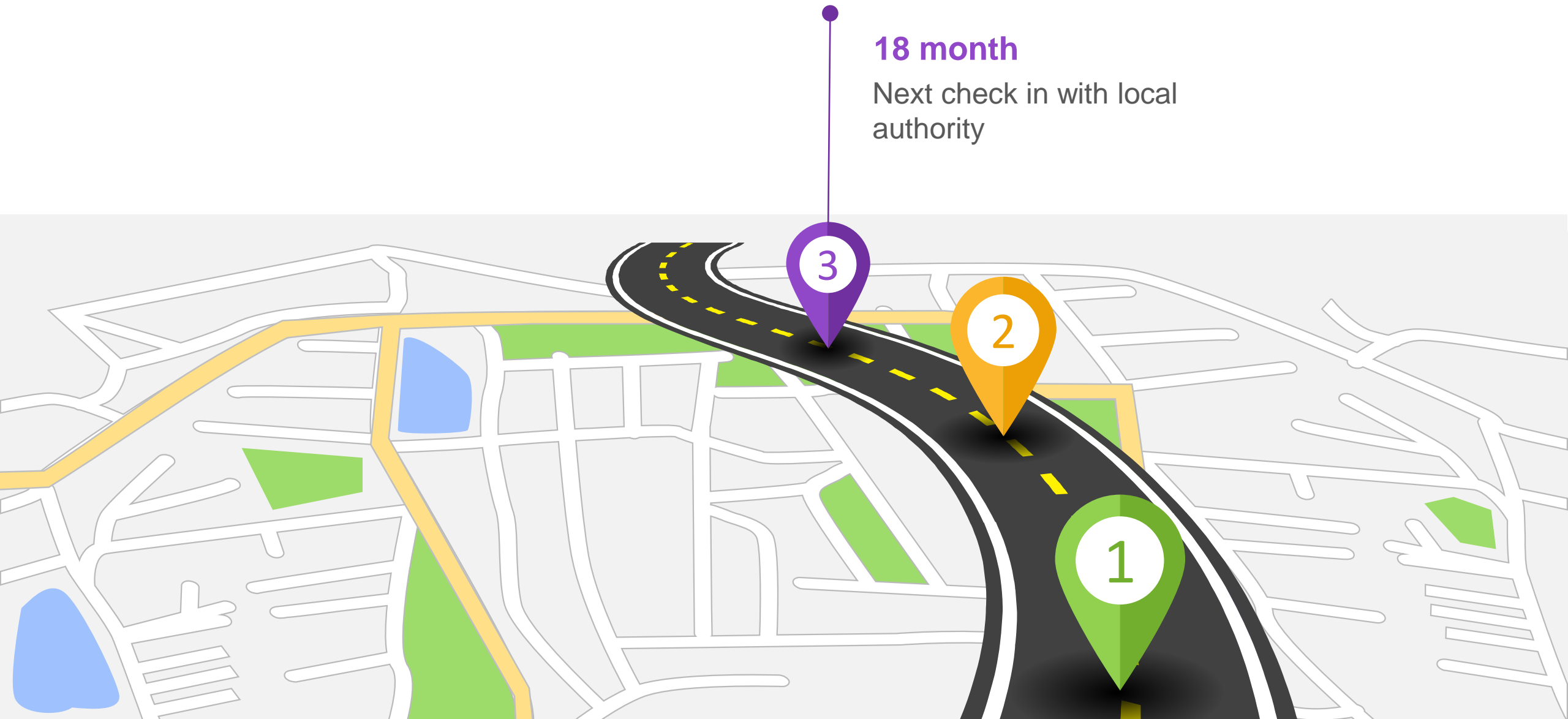
Post Review



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18 month

Next check in with local
authority



Post Review



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24 month
Final check in regarding the
review





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Thank you