

National blockchain roadmaps

A briefing for policymakers

A practical companion to the UK National Blockchain Roadmap: Vision 2030. Prepared for teams considering a first roadmap or reviewing an existing national approach.

1. Start with a national need

A roadmap should explain which public or economic problems require coordinated action, who is affected, and what improvement would count as success. Blockchain is one possible tool. Compare it with conventional databases, institutional reform and other digital approaches before committing resources.

2. Establish a shared mandate

Bring government, industry, academia and society into a structured process. Name an accountable sponsor and delivery team; clarify decision rights, participation and how disagreements will be resolved. Include users and groups who could be excluded or adversely affected.

3. Build an evidence base

Map existing national capabilities, infrastructure, relevant policy and implemented use cases. Appraise evidence quality and distinguish demonstrated outcomes from promotional claims. Publish the basis for prioritising use cases and identify questions that need research or testing.

4. Make the roadmap deliverable

Set out the intended outcomes, responsible bodies, milestones, resources, skills and procurement needs. Record whether funding is proposed or confirmed. Address interoperability with existing systems, data stewardship, security, accessibility and the arrangements for operating or retiring services.

A minimum roadmap should contain

A clear problem and baseline; stakeholder and capability maps; evidence and options appraisal; prioritised use cases; governance and safeguards; a costed delivery plan; and an evaluation and review process.

Keep the document's status clear

An association-led proposal, government strategy, legislative initiative and operational programme have different authority and purposes. Identify the publisher, adoption status, date and scope. The BBA/CEBB UK NBR is an industry-led framework; it should not be presented as UK Government policy.

From publication to public benefit

5. Test before scaling

Use proportionate pilots to test feasibility, user needs and value. Define the baseline, comparator where feasible, measures, data sources and review period before delivery. Agree criteria for continuing, changing, scaling or stopping the intervention. A pilot is valuable when it produces credible learning, including a decision not to proceed.

6. Measure outcomes, costs and unintended effects

Track delivery milestones separately from changes in services or public benefit. Useful measures depend on the use case: processing time, total cost, error rates, access, user experience or data integrity may be relevant. Explain attribution limits and avoid treating transaction volume or publicity as proof of societal impact.

7. Maintain the roadmap

Assign responsibility for periodic review and publish material changes. Reassess priorities when evidence, risks, technology or national circumstances change. Learn from other jurisdictions while adapting approaches to local institutions and needs.

Common pitfalls to avoid

Selecting technology before defining the problem; treating publication as implementation; announcing unfunded commitments; excluding affected users; overlooking interoperability or operational costs; and reporting activity as demonstrated impact.

How BBA can contribute

Contact the BBA to discuss national roadmap development, evidence review, international learning or a policy workshop. Describe your country, institution, existing strategy, development stage and priorities so that the scope of a possible contribution can be discussed.

Discuss your national roadmap with the BBA
info@britishblockchainassociation.org

Use the companion tools

The readiness checklist helps identify gaps before commissioning work. The implementation scorecard helps record evidence and decisions during delivery. Both are practical BBA website companions, not the original 2021 recommendations, an accreditation scheme or a validated national scoring standard.

Sources and further reading

BBA / CEBB: UK NBR, Vision 2030 (2021), including recommendations 1-3, 7-9, 13, 15-18.
OECD Recommendation on Blockchain and Other DLT (2022).
ITU: DLT focus-group deliverables (2019).