



· INSTITUTE · OF · HISTORIC ·  
BUILDING · CONSERVATION

*Making Heritage Work*

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Dear Madam

### **CONSULTATION ON THE NEW PLACE SURVEY**

The Institute of Historic Building Conservation (IHBC) is the professional body of the United Kingdom representing conservation specialists and historic environment practitioners in the public and private sectors. The Institute exists to establish the highest standards of conservation practice, to support the effective protection and enhancement of the historic environment, and to promote heritage-led regeneration and access to the historic environment for all.

The Institute welcomes the opportunity to comment on the consultation.

Whilst the Institute supports the general reduction of indicators that have to be collected and reported by Local Authorities, it is concerned that many important aspects of Government policy may no longer be supported by coherent information and statistics.

Local Authority performance on heritage and quality of place seem destined not to be subject to adequate data capture. While this is largely the result of the narrowing of the scope of the indicators, the New Place Survey questionnaire itself does not appear to address these aspects, beyond the very general question 2.

The Institute appreciates the need for the Survey to be kept simple. However there are a lot of questions about crime and behaviour and none about quality of place. We think this is a shortcoming of the survey which could be rectified with a question on the following lines:

*Q How do you rate the quality of your local environment and the buildings, heritage and open spaces in it? Very good/fairly good/fairly poor/very poor.*

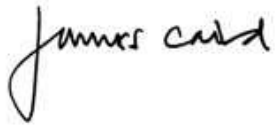
The Institute thinks this should give an indication of how the public sees the quality of the public realm.

It might also be possible to introduce in the notes to the form a description of the components (including physical ones) that might contribute to satisfaction with the

local area in Question 2.

The Institute would be grateful if you could consider these points.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Caird". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J' and a long, sweeping underline.

James Caird  
Consultant Consultations Co-ordinator