



## INSTITUTE OF HISTORIC BUILDING CONSERVATION

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Dear Sirs

### **Creating Local Development Frameworks Consultation Draft on the process of preparing Local Development Frameworks**

I refer to the above consultation document.

The Institute of Historic Building Conservation is the professional body representing conservation specialists and practitioners in the public and private sectors in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland. It has around fourteen hundred members divided between fourteen branches. 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 IHBC broadly welcomes the guidance, and in particular the greater flexibility inherent in the new system for producing supplementary guidance (SPDs).

The Institute is especially pleased to see areas of significant natural or cultural heritage value recognised as an appropriate subject for Area Action Plans (Para. 3.6.3). The explanatory text could be strengthened by emphasising that many of the most dramatic and successful regeneration schemes around the UK are based in and around historic areas and buildings. The historic environment has been particularly instrumental in the development of new housing markets, especially city living. The transformation of many of the UK's Cities and towns has to a significant extent been based in and around historic buildings and areas (Manchester, Liverpool, Birmingham, Newcastle, etc).

The document could be strengthened by emphasising the importance of good urban design. In particular, the section on Sustainable Development (2.2) should refer to the importance of urban

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design and historic building conservation in the creation of a sustainable urban environment and sustainable communities.

The IHBC would emphasise the importance of involving local civic and heritage societies in the LDF process (2.6).

I trust that these comments are helpful.

Yours faithfully

Dave Chetwyn  
Consultations Secretary