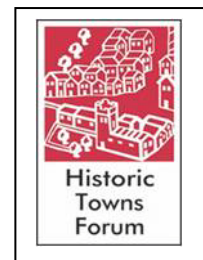


CLG: The Red Tape Challenge



Response from the Historic Towns Forum

1.1 The Historic Towns Forum (HTF) welcomes this consultation and the opportunity to contribute its views.

1.2 The Historic Towns Forum facilitates dialogue and co-operation between local authorities, developers, amenity societies and professional advisers to secure the long term prosperity and conservation of historic settlements. It supports and encourages measures aimed at promoting and supporting effective and efficient planning.

1.3 In common with other bodies such as the Heritage Alliance, the HTF welcomes the efforts of the Government to clarify and simplify government regulations. It has already responded to a number of consultations on planning matters, e.g. changes to planning practice guidance and the National Planning Policy Framework.

1.4 The aim to remove 'unnecessary' regulations relating to planning is a laudable one, however, the Forum is concerned that the same level of positive planning continues to support the prosperity of historic towns and villages and that protection for heritage assets is maintained. The HTF believes there is scope for retaining the heritage elements of the regulations in particular, whilst acknowledging opportunities to consolidate regulations on the same subject, especially where the original regulation has been subject to several amendments. Indeed, as a general principle much effort on the part of Local Authorities, developers and property interests could be saved by simply consolidating regulations into a single document or suite of documents.

1.5 The HTF supports the Heritage Alliance in opposing strongly the abolition of the following regulations. All of these orders and regulations contribute materially to the protection of the historic environment and heritage assets and should be either retained, or consolidated into composite regulations, or integrated into other secondary legislation.

- Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990: unique numbers AR08, AR13, AR15, AR26, 399, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 415, 417, 418, 472, 488.
- The Town & Country (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 – both the Order itself and subsequent amendments with the unique numbers AR08, AR26, 510, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 565, 566, 567 should be retained.
- Proposed changes to Town & County Planning (Enforcement) Rules and Regulations, which deal with procedures to be followed on Listed

Building and Conservation Area enforcement notices (unique numbers 514, 518, 520, 522, 524) and those around appeals procedure (unique numbers 469, 503, 506, 568, 571, 574, 634).

- Under the umbrella of 'local planning' regulations 031, 672 and 767, as well as unique numbers 374, 376, 377 and 380 governing planning infrastructure and major projects, should be retained

1.6 Also under consideration is the removal of the Electronics Communication Code (Conditions and Restrictions) Regulations 2003 (unique number AR18), under which communications providers of broadband operate and which contains restrictions on the placement of equipment around Listed Buildings. In the light of proposals from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport on removing prior approval notices from broadband hardware installation (on which the Forum will be commenting separately), regulations governing broadband apparatus should be retained.

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