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Dear Chief Executive

ENGAGEMENT BETWEEN DISTRICT COUNCILS AND HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT DIVISION

You may recall I wrote to you in April about Historic Environment Division statutory interfaces with district councils, as well as a number of areas where close collaboration between the division and councils can provide opportunities to maximise the significant economic and community value of the historic environment.

In that letter I had indicated that I would write to you again about new Historic Environment Planning Consultation guidance. On 9 May, Historic Environment Division moved into the new Department for Communities, and I can now provide this guidance, as well as our Planning Services and Standards Framework.

The links to these documents are as follows, and I would be grateful if you could forward these to your Planning/Enforcement teams.

- <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/publications/guide-consulting-hed-development-management-applications>
- <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/publications/our-planning-services-and-standards-framework>

In the last two months, we have also continued to work closely with councils on a range of matters, including commenting on emerging development plan material, responding as a statutory consultee to planning applications, meeting with councils on request (recently with Derry City and Strabane, and Mid Ulster), and preparing guidance on Historic Buildings of Local Interest. The Historic Monuments Council has held a meeting at the Mid Ulster Council offices in Cookstown and, accompanied by Council and HED officials, visited key historic monuments in that area.

We welcome these opportunities to engage, in support of our work to realise the value of the historic environment.

I trust that you will find this information helpful.

Yours faithfully



IAIN GREENWAY
Director, Historic Environment Division