



The Guinness Trust and Knightstone Housing Association have combined in Frome, Somerset, to create 'The Piggeries' – a mix of high density housing that responds sensitively to local context

Good design is one of the key elements which help the Housing Corporation achieve their aim to invest in homes that create sustainable environments. This means creating areas that are desirable, healthy, safe and better places for people of all ages to live and flourish. The Corporation understands that good design can create attractive sustainable communities for residents and justify their sense of pride in their environment.

Over the past decade the Housing Corporation have used both their Scheme Development Standards and competitive bidding process to improve standards and the quality of design. In addition the Corporation and the Local Government Association have agreed a national protocol which sets out how they will work together in ensuring that high quality affordable housing is built and managed.

The bringing together of the Housing Corporation, English Partnerships and significant parts of Communities and Local Government into a single agency will provide a one-stop shop for local authorities and their partners. With a substantial budget for housing and regeneration activities this agency will have significantly greater critical mass than any of the existing organisations acting on their own. Innovation in design will remain a fundamental tenet of the new agency in maximising the delivery of regeneration and new homes.

Who should use the Compendium?

The Compendium was developed to guide policy development and practical application in new development and regeneration for both English Partnerships and the Housing Corporation. It was also hoped to have wider relevance so it would inform and assist all those involved in new development and regeneration and contribute to the improvement of housing-led regeneration projects and the promotion of sustainable new development.

Since publication over 25,000 copies of the compendium have been distributed worldwide and it has become a standard text for those studying urban design worldwide. It is also being translated into Chinese, Korean and Serbian with interest from several other countries.

The principles in the Compendium remain constant and we hope they continue to inform and assist those involved in creating and delivering places.

For those requiring further guidance on the practical delivery of quality places the Compendium should be read in conjunction with 'Urban Design Compendium 2: Delivering Quality Places'.