



Greenwich Millennium Village is already demonstrating new forms of city living

The Compendium was developed following the work of the Urban Task Force, which was established by the Government to consider how we can use a projected 20% increase in the number of households in England over the next 20 years as a basis for regenerating our towns and cities. In its 1999 final report: *Towards an Urban Renaissance* – the task force called for design-led regeneration. This led to wider support for improving design quality, particularly through the planning process.

The Compendium was developed to complement the DETR/ Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment design guide *'By Design: Urban Design in the Planning System: Towards better practice*. This document was published to promote higher standards in urban design and provide sound, practical advice to help implement the Government's commitment to good design, as set out in Planning Policy Guidance Note 3: Housing (2000).

In the years since these documents were published there has been increasing government commitment to the improvement of design quality. Planning Policy Statement 1 (2005) clearly states that 'high quality and inclusive design should be the aim of all those involved in the development process'.

Despite this growing understanding of the importance of good urban design CABE's housing audit have highlighted there are few high quality schemes actually being delivered on the ground. This edition of the Compendium is therefore accompanied by *Urban Design Compendium 2: Delivering Quality Places*, which provides detailed guidance on how to overcome key barriers in the design process which currently impede delivery of quality places.

Why English Partnerships and the Housing Corporation?

For over a decade English Partnerships and the Housing Corporation have led the way on behalf of the public sector in promoting innovation in the design of projects they are involved in.

English Partnerships has always emphasised the importance of design and quality and has put the latest thinking into practice in its projects and those of its partners. It has pioneered new techniques such as Enquiry by Design and Design Coding on its projects and promoted innovation through competitions such as Design for Manufacture and the Carbon Challenge. It was also the first body to set compliance with Building for Life assessment criteria as a standard requirement on all projects. This emphasis on design has resulted in projects of exceptional design quality being delivered.