



· INSTITUTE · OF · HISTORIC ·  
BUILDING · CONSERVATION

*Making Heritage Work*

Reforming Local Government  
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1 October 2014

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Dear Sirs

## **WHITE PAPER – REFORMING LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

The Institute of Historic Building Conservation (IHBC) is the professional body of the United Kingdom representing conservation specialists and historic environment practitioners in the public and private sectors. 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.

Thank you for inviting us to participate in this consultation. The issue we wish to raise concerns the local delivery of the historic environment service within the overall framework of the planning system. We don't think our response fits comfortably as an answer to any of the questions in the Questionnaire; question 3 is perhaps the best fit.

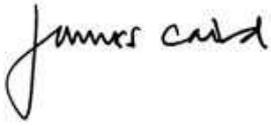
We would like to see any future model for Local Government in Wales specifically address the mode of delivery of the historic environment service. In the recent past, policy papers by the Welsh Government have been very positive about the role of the historic environment in shaping Wales's future, but the resources for delivery of a robust service are very limited in some Local Authorities.

Our favoured model for future delivery is, we believe, shared by the WLGA. This is for historic environment expertise to be delivered in coherent shared or collaborative centres of excellence, with a regional dimension, to provide a high quality of service delivery. While the proposed 12-authority structure may be capable of delivering a high quality historic environment service in some cases, in others it may not, and we would like to see a system that delivers high quality service across the whole of Wales.

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We think this model may suit other services as well and would ask that any future structure for local government be flexible enough to allow collaborative service delivery and to require it where necessary.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Caird". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

James Caird  
Consultant Consultations Co-ordinator