



# ENGLISH HERITAGE

London Office

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ref:

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24 September 2013

Dear Mr Regan

## **CATFORD TOWN CENTRE LOCAL PLAN & SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL**

Thank you for consulting English Heritage on the London Borough of Lewisham's Draft Catford Town Centre Local Plan. As the Government's statutory adviser on the historic environment, English Heritage is keen to ensure that heritage conservation and enhancement is fully considered in all aspects of the local planning process.

Accordingly, we have reviewed this consultation in light of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF) which requires, as one of its core principles, that heritage assets be conserved in a manner appropriate to their significance, so that they can be enjoyed for their contribution to the quality of life of this and future generations.

Overall we consider the Plan to be well considered and focused on the relevant local issues. We provided comments in respect of the previous draft of the plan on 15 March 2013. We note that these comments have largely been integrated into the proposed policies and as such do not wish to comment in further detail on the Plan.

In our previous response we drew attention for realignment of the A205 having the potential to greatly improve the quality and attractiveness of the Town Centre. However, we would reiterate our advice that as the traffic and public realm works, and the redevelopment of the Civic Centre and Laurence House sites will have a direct relationship to each other they should be undertaken in a co-ordinated manner to ensure a coherent and complimentary response to the new context created, existing townscape, and heritage assets. Although this falls outside of the Plan scope we would recommend the Council considers producing an integrated masterplan or design brief for these sites in order to give clarity to the vision for the Town Centre. This would create the opportunity to develop the Council's vision to secure high design standards and appropriately scaled development which integrates with, and enhances, local character.



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## Sustainability Appraisal

We can offer the following comments:

Page 24 Key Sustainability issues. This section refers to Catford having one Grade II listed building, however, as correctly identified in Draft Local Plan, this should be two Grade II Buildings. This error is repeated in Appendix III Further options page 13. In addition on page 13 the statement *Conservation areas may be created artificially and encouraged to thrive*, is opaque and given the phrasing may relate to biodiversity or *nature conservation* rather than heritage matters.

If you wish to discuss any of the above mentioned comments please do not hesitate to contact me, and we look forward to working with the Council to progress the aims of the Plan.

Yours sincerely

Richard Parish  
Historic Places Adviser



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