



2 August 2010

Dear Sir / Madam

Local enterprise partnerships – engagement of the housebuilding industry

You will be aware of the new coalition government's proposal to remove the existing Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) and to encourage local businesses and councils to work together to develop local enterprise partnerships (LEPs).

We are aware that the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills and the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government have recently invited all local authorities and business groups to submit outline proposals for partnerships between them to the government before 6th September.

While we are, of course, waiting for further details of the functions of LEPs to be published in the forthcoming White Paper on sub-national growth, it is already clear that partnerships will need to tackle a number of important issues including planning and housing. Given their contribution to the local economy in their own right, not to mention the link between economic growth and the need for associated housing growth in many areas, it would seem most appropriate to include housebuilders as business partners in any proposed LEP.

I am therefore writing to you to ask how you are proposing to move forward with LEPs in your area and, in particular how you believe that businesses in the housebuilding industry can best become involved in the creation and running of LEPs.

Our initial thought is that it would be more appropriate for housebuilders operating in your area to become directly involved in LEPs rather than an umbrella organisation such as ourselves taking a seat, but we would be interested in your thoughts on this approach. We would, of course, be happy to assist in finding housebuilder members of the HBF to represent the housebuilding industry in your area should you find that helpful.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Whitaker', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Andrew Whitaker
Planning Director