



INFORMATION SHEET: Assisting with Delivery of Quality Places and Communities

Our aims and what we do

[The Homes and Communities Agency](#) (HCA), established under the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008, is the national housing and regeneration delivery agency for England. We work nationally but supports the ambitions of our local partners to provide better places that offer great homes and good jobs. We will engage all local partners through a 'single conversation' in order to secure better local outcomes and meet national targets. In this regard, our role is to:

- improve the supply and quality of housing
- secure the regeneration or development of land or infrastructure
- support in other ways the creation, regeneration or development of communities or their continued well-being
- contribute to the achievement of sustainable development and good design, with a view to meeting the needs of people

Our particular activities in the growth areas include:

- providing funding and delivery support to Growth Areas and Growth Points and specifically to Milton Keynes Partnership,
- offering advice on programme priorities and delivery, best practice sharing, capacity building and working with local stakeholders to address local barriers to housing growth.

We have a wide range of specific powers relating to the provision, facilitation and acquisition (including compulsory purchase, regeneration, development of effective use of land) of housing and infrastructure; establishing companies; providing financial assistance; providing or facilitating services for communities; and undertaking advisory, training, research and information services. And we have an annual budget of over £5 billion to help achieve our role.

HCA Academy

The [HCA Academy](#) (formerly the Academy for Sustainable Communities) is the skills arm of the HCA providing practitioners involved in sustainable communities and the built environment access to education, training and resources. For 2009-2011, its three priorities are:

- Creating a central learning and knowledge hub
- Supporting and improving places
- Leading the skills agenda

HCA-Advisory Team for Large Applications (ATLAS)

The [HCA-Advisory Team for Large Application \(ATLAS\)](#) is an independent advisory service providing practical support to local authorities in areas of significant growth and large-scale developments. HCA-ATLAS aims to:

- improve the quality of the planning process and its outcomes, helping to bring forward major housing and regeneration projects across all sectors of the planning/development community.

- act as a partner to, and as an independent reviewer of, major applications and related issues.
- increase knowledge and expertise within local authorities and their partners to handle large planning applications and to deliver high quality sustainable communities.
- help local planning authorities to build better relationships with the development industry and key stakeholders.
- contribute to the establishment of an improved planning system based on collaborative working between partners and stakeholders.

Key guidance, case studies and tools in practice

[Housing and Regeneration Act 2008](#) sets out the statutory remit of the HCA.

[Transforming Places; changing lives: a framework for regeneration](#) from the CLG sets the policy framework within which the HCA operates.

The [Single Conversation – Guidance Framework](#) sets out the way in which the HCA agrees and secures delivery at the local level in support of its national objectives.

The [HCA-ATLAS Guide](#) provides advice and guidance to all stakeholders involved in taking forward large development projects. It presents a logical process through the planning system from project inception through to the delivery of development projects.

Current HCA projects and activities within the nine English regions can be accessed on [Homes and Communities Agency In Your Area](#).

The HCA Academy runs a series of training courses for professional planners and non-planners aim to provide people with the tools to enable delivery of sustainable places and communities, placing people at the heart.

[Showcase](#), the HCA Academy's comprehensive database of case studies around the regions highlights examples of creating better communities and places.

Homes and Communities Agency - www.homesandcommunities.co.uk

HCA Academy - www.hcaacademy.co.uk

HCA-ATLAS - www.atlasplanning.com

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