



Our Reference:

BY EMAIL ONLY

22 October 2015

Dear

Request for Information

Thank you for your email dated 24 September 2015 requesting information on documents held by the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) concerning Berwick. For ease of reference we have answered each of your questions in turn, below:

1. How did the HCA come in to possession of the document entitled Walkergate 2?

The document was included within files transferred to the HCA from the former RDA (ONE North East) as part of the transfer of assets in September 2011. ONE NorthEast was a stakeholder involved in the commissioning of the document along with the former Berwick Borough Council, Northumberland County Council, Berwick Community Trust, Northumberland Strategic Partnership, and English Heritage (as named then).

2. Why is the HCA under the impression that there is a Berwick Masterplan - when no such document exists?

The local authority and stakeholders have commissioned a number strategy, regeneration, design, documents over the past 10 years to guide the regeneration of the town of Berwick-upon-Tweed. "The Future of Berwick: Vision and Development Framework" (informally referred to as the Berwick Master Plan) was produced by Gillespies and concluded in October 2006. Building on this, in 2007/8, a team led by Urban Initiatives produced a Berwick's Future Regeneration Strategy. This work included the preparation of development briefs for 10 priority sites and included the Walkergate 2 document. The Berwick's Future Action Plan followed in 2009. More recently and building on the previous work, Arch (again with stakeholders including the County Council and HCA) prepared in 2012, "The Berwick Plan 2012 - 2017", a five-year action plan for economic growth, development and regeneration in Berwick-upon-Tweed.

If you have any questions regarding this response or any further queries you can contact us at the following addresses and quote your unique reference number found at the top of this letter:

Email: mail@homesandcommunities.co.uk

Mail: Information Access Officer

Homes and Communities Agency

Fry Building

2 Marsham Street

London

SW1P 4DF

If you are unhappy with the way Homes and Communities Agency has handled your request you may ask for an internal review. You should contact

Head of Legal Services

Homes and Communities Agency

Fry Building

2 Marsham Street

London

SW1P 4DF

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at

Information Commissioner's Office

Wycliffe House

Water Lane

Wilmslow

Cheshire

SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely

Naomi McMaster

Information Access Officer

Homes and Communities Agency