

Maintenance of Historic Buildings

The annual register of those listed buildings in the city that are considered to be 'at risk' – through neglect and/or vacancy – has been updated to reflect the work that has been undertaken over the past year to secure the re-use and/or repair of these buildings, as well as noting those buildings that have been added to the register. This is based upon the criteria used by English Heritage but, unlike the English Heritage register, covers all grades of listed building. It should be noted that there has been a welcome net reduction in buildings at risk and positive progress on other buildings. The report further provides an update on the successful action taken to secure the significant repair and redecoration of other historic buildings in the city.

I am also pleased to note that, included in this year's report, is reference to a recent survey undertaken by English Heritage which shows that over the last five years this council is in the top 20% of local authorities nationally in terms of taking pro-active action by serving notices to secure repair works on historic buildings. As an example of this the council has recently been successful on appeal in being permitted to reclaim almost 90% of the cost incurred in carrying out urgent works in default, to preserve a long-vacant listed building.

