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## CIRCULAR 16 / 2018

**FROM : CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**  
**TO : MUNICIPAL MANAGERS**  
**DATE : 19 APRIL 2018**

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### INVITATION TO PROVIDE COMMENTS ON DRAFT REVISED GUIDELINES FOR HUMAN SETTLEMENT PLANNING AND DESIGN

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The purpose of this Circular is to inform municipalities of the project being undertaken by the National Department of Human Settlements to revise the *Guidelines for Human Settlement Planning and Design*, commonly known as the “Red Book”, and to invite written comments on the draft document prior to its finalisation.

#### Background

Originally published in 2000, the Red Book outlines the qualities that should be sought in South African human settlements and provides practical guidance and options to built environment practitioners on how these qualities can be achieved. The need for a complete update and revision of the Guidelines became evident in recent years. In February 2015 the Department appointed the CSIR to take responsibility for the project to revise the Guidelines. The project is expected to be completed by June 2018.

The key reasons for revising the Red Book are summarised as follows:

- The principles and guidelines contained in the Red Book need to be aligned with current thinking as reflected in a range of policies and strategies developed by government since 2000.
- There is a need to move away from a “housing only approach” towards the creation of integrated, functional and sustainable human settlements.
- The revised Guidelines should reflect society’s altering values and acknowledge the increasing importance placed on global challenges, such as climate change and its relation to the built environment.

- The revised Guidelines should respond to the societal challenges of inequality, social exclusion and the marginalisation of the poor.

The new Guidelines will provide neighbourhood planning and design guidance to support the creation of settlements that are liveable, equitable, sustainable, resilient and efficient, and that support economic opportunities and social cohesion.

The process to revise the Guidelines has involved two phases:

- Phase 1 entailed research and stakeholder consultation resulting in a conceptual framework for the Guidelines. The stakeholders consulted include the human settlements sector, municipalities, Community-Based Organisations, tertiary institutions, traditional leaders and political decision-makers.
- Phase 2 focused on the detailed development of the revised set of Guidelines.

### Invitation to comment

The final draft version of the Red Book has been uploaded to the SALGA website. Municipalities may download the files (Intro Pages and SECTIONS A to O) by using the following URL:

<http://www.salga.org.za/Municipalities%20HSPnD.html>

Municipalities are hereby invited to review the draft document and provide comments on the technical content. Comments should be submitted to Jean de la Harpe at the following email address: [idelaharpe@salga.org.za](mailto:idelaharpe@salga.org.za) by **15 May 2018**.

Yours faithfully,



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**XOLILE GEORGE**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**