

From: TheMayor
Sent: 06 March 2013 16:33
To: Cllr Sue Waddington
Subject: Re: Indoor Market Proposals consultation

Dear Sue

Thank you very much for your detailed comments on the Market proposal. It is heartening and encouraging to see such a positive response to the scheme from the Commission. I am delighted to say that has also been the response of the great majority of individuals and stakeholders we have been speaking to as they can see the scope both to strengthen our existing Market offer and create a wonderful new space at the heart of the city that will be of benefit for both residents and visitors.

To respond to some of your more specific comments and issues. While the design moving forward has altered slightly from that proposed during the consultation I am pleased to say that the scheme in its essentials has remained. In fact the line of the building you refer to has shifted back towards the angle of the original design and therefore the final version being proposed for planning is very similar to the original illustrations. This was partly for aesthetic reasons and partly to do with ensuring we had adequate floorspace in the building to accommodate all the food hall traders.

We are of course talking with English Heritage and officers report that we have made good progress in articulating the benefits of the scheme to the wider conservation area which are of course considerable. As you note they are an important consultee but shouldn't be directing the project.

We now have appointed a contractor for the scheme (Kier) and have a full design team in place. I can assure you that contracts will not be let until we have properly pinned down the cost. Although I agree that the design for the new Food Hall is 'bold', it is a relatively straightforward and simple building and therefore close cost control should be achievable.

We will summarise and shortly post a more detailed summary of the consultation process on the website and we continue to talk to traders in the Market Hall itself and have recently completed a full consultation exercise of one to one discussions with all traders at the Market Hall and are actively working with them to explore their options either for space in one or other of the new units we will create or indeed in alternative accommodation adjacent the Market area.

I look forward to being able to present progress reports on the scheme to the commission as we now move forward into the key delivery stages.

Yours sincerely

Peter Soulsby
City Mayor