



York Civic Trust

Promoting Heritage - Shaping Tomorrow

Fairfax House Castlegate York YO1 9RN

Tel: +44 (0) 1904 655 543 Fax: +44 (0) 1904 652 262

Councillor Chris Steward
City of York Council
West Offices
Station Rise
York
YO1 6GA

28th October 2014

Dear Councillor Steward,

At its Trustee meeting on 27 October, the York Civic Trust resolved to write to you in respect of the draft Local Plan.

We wish to commend the stated commitment to York's historic fabric contained in paragraphs 8.13 and 8.14, which recommend the adoption of the Baxter Report (York Central Historic Core Conservation Area Appraisal 2011) and the newly adopted Streetscape Strategy. This clear commitment to the conservation and thoughtful use of our beautiful historic buildings and their surroundings to enhance the economic vibrancy of 21st century York, is warmly welcomed.

We have made detailed comments about particular issues in our responses to consultations and we do not wish to reiterate them here. But we are anxious to make clear to you how **completely essential** to the future of the city is the completion of the Local Plan process, notwithstanding the tight timescale before the forthcoming May elections. It is of critical importance that the Plan is acceptable to all parties, so that, even if the process does extend beyond the next election, a future administration of whatever political complexion will feel able to support it through the process of examination in public.

We cannot overstate how important we feel it is that York should, after many years of prevarication and difficulty, finally be guided in its planning decisions by a well-founded Local Plan. Without one, the ability to resist opportunistic and poorly-conceived development proposals is severely compromised.

Yours sincerely

Peter Addyman

Chairman , York Civic Trust

Patron H.R.H. The Duchess of Kent

President Darrell Buttery, D.L. • *Chairman* Peter Addyman, C.B.E., F.S.A. • *Director & Company Secretary* Peter B. Brown, M.B.E.

Email: yorkcivictrust@btconnect.com www.yorkcivictrust.co.uk

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