

Peter Hawkrige  
Rotherham District Civic Society  
43 Scholes Lane  
Rotherham  
S61 2RG  
13 October 2010

Dear Peter

### **Rotherham Central library**

Thank you for your recent letter, dated 6th October. You raise a number of points which I shall deal with in turn:

1. The library move is not considered to be a temporary one, but we do still have an aspiration to create a new cultural centre. At this stage I cannot put a timescale on this, given the uncertain nature of local government finances.
2. No, it doesn't. With the reduction in size of the council, we are able to accommodate the facility without displacing staff. It is still the intention to vacate Doncaster Gate by April 2012, and dispose of the site.
3. A number of options are being considered and we have had 2 meetings thus far with the friends of Rotherham Archives. I anticipate a decision being made in late November.
4. The Doncaster Gate building is not considered suitable for this function. We did explore the use of the Marks and Spencers building as a library, but the costs of acquisition together with substantial refurbishment rendered it too expensive.

I don't disagree with the principle of what you suggest in terms of the use of the Westgate hillside, and indeed we did produce a design code several years ago which embodied this concept. However, the fact is that this part of the town is in multiple land ownerships and would require significant investment to acquire the land and regenerate it. Similarly the sorting office is incredibly expensive to re locate, and would probably be as, if not more, expensive than acquiring and re developing Forge island.

I do think it is important that we focus on the positives and remember that in the worst recession for decades, in Rotherham we will have, amongst other things; a new railway station and public realm, new civic quarter with library and exhibition

space, landscaped Minster yard and new public space adjacent the Imperial buildings.

Yours sincerely

**Karl Battersby / Strategic Director**  
Environment and/Development Services