

Purpose of Consultation

The Market re-development scheme is progressing on site with the construction of the new food hall well underway and due to complete by the end of the year. Planning permission has also been secured to demolish the current Market Hall and to create the new toilet block and Market offices at 2-4 Market Sq South.

Now we need to firm up proposals for using the space created when the Market Hall building is removed. The views of the public and key stakeholders will be sought on the new proposals which are attached.

What has changed since last time?

The attached proposals have developed and changed since the last consultation started just before Christmas 2012. In particular

- Access to the basement storage areas under the Indoor Market is shifted to allow an uninterrupted view of the old fish market across the square
- Fewer lock up units will now be built than previously envisaged
- Preferred materials for the new public square and surrounding highways are identified which tie in to other 'Connecting Leicester' projects
- Informal play equipment, benches and trees are suggested in locations that offer shade and that screen the least attractive buildings that surround the new square
- A new 'Changing Places' facility is proposed for those with multiple needs and their carers
- A fully levelled area is proposed for the new square running from the building edge on Market Place north (i.e. no kerb at all) across the square
- A prominent location is proposed for a statue of the suffragette Alice Hawkins close to the entrance of the new food hall

Another key change is the strategy to bring forward new commercial development once the old Market Hall has been demolished. Previously the intention was to offer land for sale for future development. Now the intention is for the Council to develop the shell and core of a new building to the rear of the corn exchange. It is felt this will more likely attract commercial operators and work is starting now to identify such operators so that the development can be completed comprehensively in one phase.

- The new building proposed to be built to the rear of the corn exchange features a white render finish to complement the current corn exchange and to offer contrast to the porphyry stone that will be used in the square
- The proportions of the new building reflect the corn exchange but don't compete with it and also allow views of the upper floor for the first time
- A funding bid for European money has been made that would cover off the additional costs of this new building as well as the costs of providing access to and improving the upper floor of the corn exchange. A decision is expected on this very shortly.
- Access to the upper floor of the corn exchange from the new square side is via a stairwell and lift. That links the interior space on that upper floor to a new outdoor terrace over-looking the square. Once occupied, the venetian steps to the other side of the corn exchange could also be used to gain access to the upper floor
- The upper floor and the terrace are designed to be capable of being operated independently from the ground and mezzanine levels that directly face the square. It is very likely that the ground floor and mezzanine levels would support a restaurant / bar type operator. The upper floor and terrace could support a variety of uses.

What we would like you to do

Consider the revised scheme and then offer your comments on the following

- 1. Do you think the proposals will attract private sector investment to operate businesses in and around the new square?

Yes No Don't Know

- 2. Do you think the proposals will improve the environment in the city centre for residents and visitors?

Yes No Don't Know

- 3. What elements do you like?

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- 4. What elements do you not like?

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- 5. Please detail any suggestions you have for improvements

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