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HAMPSHIRE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE – SOUTHAMPTON OFFICE

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT
FOR A NEW ARTS COMPLEX ON GUILDHALL SQUARE, SOUTHAMPTON
PLANNING APPLICATION 11/01074/FUL - JULY 2011

Hampshire Chamber of Commerce in Southampton is very pleased to see further progress with the implementation of the Cultural Quarter in the city. The Chamber was a key supporter of Southampton City Council's efforts last year to obtain Arts Council funding for the new arts complex and this year the Chamber's Planning & Transport Committee in Southampton welcomed the proposals in the above planning application presented to its July meeting.

The submission of planning application 11/01074/FUL for a mixed use arts and leisure scheme comes at a significant time following the recent completion of One Guildhall Square and the remodelled and refurbished Guildhall Square event space. The Chamber considers the scheme is of outstanding design, reflecting the dominant Guildhall entrance across the square, while accommodating in two modern buildings with a gateway style, all the requirements of the varied range of leisure activities that will take place inside and at ground floor fronting the Square.

Chamber members were encouraged to learn that the long awaited development will create more than 300 direct jobs. The Arts Complex itself promises to be a major element of the cityscape on a key site with the aim of ensuring that the Cultural Quarter becomes a regional attraction in its own right, bringing tens of thousands of people to the city every year. Chamber members approved of the residential provision being set back from the street line and were pleased to know it includes family sized flats with large terraces. The low carbon design features met with approval too, but it was suggested that additional green planting to that indicated in the illustration would emphasise the link up between the heritage parkland and the city centre.

The Chamber has lobbied for the regeneration of the former Tyrrell and Green site for a number of years and is pleased to support the planning proposals that are submitted and which are the result of hard work put in by the many partners involved in realising a development that will become the showcase of Southampton's Cultural Quarter with its many restaurants used by all, residents, business people and visitors.



Jimmy Chestnutt
Chief Executive
Hampshire Chamber of Commerce

Hampshire Chamber of Commerce is the Independent Voice of Local Business across the county and is one of the largest business representational groups in the UK. It brings together the combined influence, strength and expertise of the county's three former major Chambers of Commerce. This substantial business network engages businesses of all sizes and in all sectors whether throughout Hampshire, or in more focused local groupings, as and when required for the Solent LEP, Enterprise M3 LEP, South Hampshire, the New Forest, North or East Hampshire, main towns or the city regions of Southampton and Portsmouth.