



SIGNET PLANNING

VISION | STRATEGY | ACTION

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8 October 2014

SWC/LH/HG2321

Mr A Inch
Team Leader
Planning Development Management
Regeneration and Economic Development
Durham County Council
County Hall
Durham DH1 5UQ

Dear Andrew

FORMER COUNTY HOSPITAL SITE, DURHAM

Further to our meeting on 29 September 2014, I write to enclose the plans indicating the changes to the scale and massing that were discussed at that meeting that we understood officers would respond to us hopefully on a favourable basis. The plans attached are related to reductions in the scale and massing of block B/C, the block nearest to the County Hospital building. The changes made are summarised on the sketch elevations and relevant floor plans.

These show that compared to the refused scheme we have reduced the scale and massing of the upper part of block B/C:

1. Setting back the seventh floor on the upper part of the block. You will note from the floor layout plan of the seventh storey that the setback is proposed on three sides of the elevation. The setback proposed is more extensive than the solution we discussed at our meeting on 23 May 2014 and also greater than the simple setback closest to the Waddington Street elevation that we discussed at our 29 September meeting.
2. The upper storey (sixth floor) of the central part of the block has been setback from the Waddington Street elevation – this remains the position as per the 23 May meeting but you will note that the lounge area on this floor has been re-designed so it too is able to be setback further from the Waddington Street facing elevation.
3. The upper (fifth floor) storey of the lower part of the block has now been setback from the Waddington Street façade including the gable end. You will see from the Ainsley Street elevation the difference in height between the refused scheme and that now proposed.

On the basis of our discussion on 29 September 2014 we trust these elevations and the related floor plans will be able to be confirmed to be acceptable and we can move forward on that basis.

We also have considered your comments at the meeting relating to the importance of maintaining the same approach to materials and architectural treatment to the courtyard elevations of the building as well as the outward facing elements. We are happy to maintain this approach.



Whilst my client is still considering the viability issues this scheme presents, we would seek confirmation that this reduction in scale and massing is acceptable to planning officers.

Yours sincerely
for Signet Planning



SIMON CHADWICK
Managing Director