

**Cllr Kevin Davis**  
**Leader of the Opposition**

Conservative Group Office  
Guildhall  
High Street  
Kingston upon Thames  
KT1 1EU



18 August 2021

Cllr Caroline Kerr - Leader of the Council  
Mr Ian Thomas - Chief Executive Officer

Dear Leader and Chief Executive,

As you will be aware, the Conservative Group has grave concerns about the regeneration plans being developed for the Guildhall site. We remain to be convinced that the plans will enable good quality services to be delivered while providing value for money in both the short and long term.

Despite our concerns, we await with interest to see what plans emerge for the buildings known as Guildhall 1 and Guildhall 2. We are generally supportive of seeking to repurpose land that is underutilised by its current council usage.

However, we must make it clear that we do not support the proposal to dispose of (whether by sale or long lease) the listed Guildhall building which sits at the heart of the Guildhall complex. I do not intend to rehearse the many reasons why we take that view as that is not the purpose of this letter.

The reason for writing is that we believe it is important that, with an election approaching in May 2022, officers are made aware (and make clear to any potential purchaser of the freehold or lease), that an incoming Conservative administration would seek to reverse any decision made to sell the Guildhall building. Given this statement, we would expect officers, negotiating with the potential purchasers, to make our position clear to those purchasers and to ensure that whatever is agreed does not financially fetter the Council from what would be its new ambition to give fresh civic life to this listed building. Any

abortive costs would need, by contract, to lie with the contractor and not with the Council. The contract negotiated should ensure there is a clause that allows the new administration in May 2022 to reverse the sale of the Guildhall building.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Davis', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Cllr Kevin Davis

cc Nazeya Hussain - Executive Director of Place