



24 September 2010

Mr Adam Wilkinson
Chief Executive
Derby City Council
(by email)

Dear Mr Wilkinson,

Derwent New Deal for Communities

We are writing to you in response to your proposal to redevelop the Revive Healthy Living Centre, and also to discuss the Recovery Plan for Derwent NDC.

We have been clear with all NDC partnerships that there is no end year flexibility, and that money cannot be carried forward into 2011/12. Originally we had appraised your proposal on the assumption that the project could be completed within these timescales, and we were hoping to clarify some issues around viability and risk with you on 19 August. At this meeting we were informed that your proposals required a change of planning use, which meant that the majority of build time and cost would fall into 2011/12, and required a £1.6m carry forward. We made clear how difficult this was and that it was unlikely to be possible, but we agreed to explore it further. Unfortunately, we can now confirm that it will not be possible to provide funds into 2011/12 and, therefore, we cannot give approval for this proposal.

We understand that this will be disappointing to you. There were two elements to your proposal; to convert the Centre to allow the local Children and Young Peoples service to lease vacant space, and the repair of faults with the building. We understand that the change of planning use only applies to the first of these two elements; therefore we would be able to authorise spend to undertake remedial building work within this financial year if it can help to make the Revive Centre viable going forward.

If you wish to pursue this, we are prepared to urgently discuss how you can take this work forward. We would expect this to be done within the wider context of the NDC and need to maximise benefits for the community, for example by maximising community use of the Gateway Centre. This includes resolving the lease issues on the Revive Centre.

We understand that the position on Revive will have an impact on your proposed succession plans and part of the discussion should be whether these are still viable

Department for Communities and Local Government
Zone 3/G10
Eland House
Bressenden Place
London
SW1E 5DU

Tel 0303 444 3575
Email: sam.lucas@communities.gsi.gov.uk

or whether other ways forward will need to be found. As part of this, it will be important that outstanding issues on the NDC are clarified, such as the future ownership and plans for all assets owned by the NDC. It will also be important to understand the commitment to the Derwent NDC area, through your services and neighbourhood management working arrangements.

We are ready to meet with you to consider next steps. Steve Battlemuch from GOEM will be in touch to arrange a meeting to discuss the way forward.

I am copying this letter to Peter Ballard, Chair of the NDC and Jo Andrew, NDC Chief Executive.

Yours sincerely,

pp 

Sam Lucas - NDC Programme Manager
Steve Battlemuch – Derbyshire Locality Manager