

Mrs M Carney
Chief Executive Sefton MBC
Town Hall
Lord Street
SOUTHPORT
PR8 1DA

17th November 2009

Dear Margaret Carney,

We as traders in the Southport Market can support and do not oppose the temporary accommodation of the library in the Market Hall with additional investment provided that:

- a - the council mindful of footfall through the market allows access to the market from the temporary library
- b- does not do anything that is inconsistent with the council's long-term ambitions and plans for the market and the surrounding area
- c- makes serious and prompt efforts to encourage patronage of the market during and throughout any changes, acting in a prompt and commercially sensitive way
- d- in accommodating the library recognises the council's under-investment in the Market Hall and ensures that works done, where possible, enhance the long-term viability of the building.

We are aware that what the library needs is space and what we need are customers.

We would though remind the council of the need to encourage independent traders and starter businesses and register our concern, whatever the ultimate decision of the council, that there is paramount need not to price out existing and future tenants through new rent structures and hikes. We would also put on record our concern that some rent proposals suggested by Quarterbridge may be beyond existing stallholders ability to meet, and could possibly lead to a further reduction of stall holders.

Above all we are anxious as the people whose livelihoods are on the line, that the council, in a spirit of partnership, improve consultation with us throughout any changes. We are prepared to help out the people and the council; we expect them to help us out in this difficult economic and trading climate

Yours sincerely,

Name _____

Name of Stall _____