

## Statement to Bath&NES Cabinet

Keynsham 09.09.2015

From

Mr Jay Risbridger, Director The Green Stationery Co,

Studio one, 114 Walcot Street, Bath BA1 5BG.

Re: Asset Transfer for Genesis development project at 97/101 Walcot Street.

I have run a business directly opposite the proposed development for the past twenty six years. During that time the property has always been in a poor state of repair, which has had a negative impact on footfall in the immediate vicinity. So I have been very pleased that the property is to be redeveloped to a high standard. I have been even more encouraged that, rather than selling the property to a commercial developer, the council has entered into an arrangement with a social enterprise. Walcot street has always had an alternative social outlook and this project is very suited to our community, especially as it also aims to teach craft skills. I would like to add that the negative comments about the project made by the self-styled "Walcot Street Arts Quarter Business and Residents Association" do not represent the views of many of the residents and traders I have spoken to in the street. In fact this "association" has never consulted the local community about this issue or even about its own formation and has never been given any mandate to represent Walcot street, traders or residents. I believe the regeneration of the property and the proposed social enterprise will be something the community will be very proud of in the future. Can I ask the cabinet to ensure this project proceeds as planned without any further delay.