

Bath and North East Somerset Council
The Guildhall
Bath
BA1 5AW

Dear Sirs,

Letter of Intent – Abbey Chambers

As you are aware Bath Abbey is just commencing the construction phase of a £20 million development of this iconic city centre church with the aim of making the church better able to serve the city and region for many years ahead. As part of this development the Abbey is very grateful to B&NES Council for the pro bono lease of the basement of Abbey Chambers. This will provide space for the infrastructure which will support activities in the Abbey itself and in the other new spaces being created as part of the project.

We have today completed the acquisition of the freehold of the whole of Abbey Chambers and its surrounding vaults. As has been detailed elsewhere, the Abbey have purchased the freehold interest in Abbey Chambers in order to further enable the Abbey to fulfil its mission to the city and region. Initially it is proposed that the top floor will be used as offices and meeting spaces to support activities in the Abbey and the other spaces; the remaining floors will be let out to organisations to provide an income to better able the Abbey to perform its mission. Later the Abbey may continue to use these floors to provide an income stream or may wish to use these floors to house other functions which will directly work for the local population.

Bath Abbey's intention is that it will only use Abbey Chambers to support the activities of the Abbey and for uses which are compatible with the Abbey's economy.

In addition Bath Abbey has no immediate intention of developing the car park located between Abbey Chambers and 11A York Street. Should in the future such a development be considered then clearly such development would only be as permitted by B&NES Council as local planning authority.

The Council's support in this whole process is much appreciated.

Charles Curnock
Footprint Project Director
On behalf of Bath Abbey