



Hartlepool United Supporters Trust
c/o 40 Belmont Gardens
Hartlepool
TS26 9LS

23/03/2023

Ben Houchen

mayor@teesvalley-ca.gov.uk

Dear Mr Houchen,

Re: Hartlepool Mayoral Development Corporation

It was noted with interest the recent vote amongst Hartlepool Councillors to approve the proposed Mayoral Development Corporation in Hartlepool. Whilst HUST are a non-politically aligned Organisation, part of our role is to support the safeguarding of Hartlepool United Football Club. Hartlepool Borough Council have always supported this view and we appreciate the dialogue and support the council have previously offered which has always provided reassurance that the council ensure that Hartlepool United, including Victoria Park (currently known as the Suit Direct Stadium) protected and the club continue to be at the heart of the community. We note that you have also referenced this in the past, particularly as your uncle had two spells with the club.

The recent vote we refer to does raise some questions that we hope you can provide reassurance to HUST and the wider HUFC fan-base. We would be therefore grateful if you could provide some answers to the following:

- Is Victoria Park currently, or potentially, on the 'list of assets' that could transfer into the new Mayoral Development Corporation?
- If this is the case, then can you confirm that the MDC will respect the Asset of Community Value that is currently in place if the land the ground sits on is subsequently bought by any private companies, including the football club itself?
- It is noted that the land behind the Neale Cooper stand appears to be on the list of assets that may transfer to the MDC. Are there any plans afoot for this to be developed/sold by the MDC that may have an impact on the football club and/or Victoria Park including current or future owners of HUFC?
- If there are any plans from the MDC that may impact on the football club, then can the MDC commit to consulting with HUST/wider supporters regarding this before any plans are finalised?



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We are sure you will agree that HUFC remains a massively big part of the community and supporters are ultimately the lifeblood of the football club. We feel it is yourself and the wider MDC duty to help ensure this remains the case and supporters are fully considered if any proposals are made that impact on the football club. We look forward to your response.

Kind regards,

The HUST Board



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