

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL
EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM'S REPORT TO COUNCIL

25TH MARCH 2015

PETITION FROM RESIDENTS REGARDING LAND AT THE BUTTS

Submitted by: Chief Executive

Portfolio: Communications, Policy and Partnerships

Ward(s) affected: Thistleberry

Purpose of the Report

To inform Cabinet of the decision taken at the meeting of Full Council on 25th February 2015 in relation to a petition regarding Land at the Butts and matters relating to the Joint Local Plan and the Green Spaces Strategy.

Recommendation

- a) That Cabinet note the decision made by Full Council at the meeting held on Wednesday 25th February 2015.
- b) That Cabinet resolve to ask officers to review the matters raised by the petition and to bring a report for consideration at a future meeting.
- c) That the petition organiser be kept informed about the process to be undertaken.

Reasons

Resolution of Full Council on 25th February 2015.

1. **Background**

On 3rd February 2015, the Council received a petition from Mr Tim Cooper in relation to Land at the Butts and its inclusion in the Council's response to the Joint Local Plan Call for Sites.

The petition had been signed by 302 residents and due to the fact that it related to a local issue affecting no more than two electoral wards within the Council area it met the criteria to be considered by Full Council. The petition organiser attended the meeting of the Council held on 25th February 2015 and outlined the reasons for the petition to Councillors.

A copy of the detailed submission which was included with the petition is attached as Appendix A to this report.

Following consideration of the petition Council considered the following options:

- To take the action the petition requests
- To not to take the action requested for reasons put forward in the debate; or
- to commission further investigation into the matter (for example, by a relevant committee).

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As the actions requested by the petition were not within the remit of the Council it was resolved that the matters highlighted be referred back to the Cabinet for additional consideration.

2. **Reasons for Preferred Solution**

Resolution by Full Council on Wednesday 25th February 2015.

3. **Outcomes Linked to Sustainable Community Strategy and Corporate Priorities**

The Petition Scheme strengthens the accountability of the Council to the local community.

4. **Legal and Statutory Implications**

The Council is required by statute to have a Petition Scheme. Planning is delegated to the Planning Committee and Officers under the Council's Scheme of Delegations. The Council has various powers to own and control property rights, principally framed by provisions within the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

5. **Equality Impact Assessment**

There are no specific implications contained in this report. The Council's Petition Scheme allows all residents of the Borough to submit a petition, requiring the Council to consider and take appropriate actions on the request, whether in paper or electronic form. As paper petitions are acceptable, persons without access to the internet are not precluded from organising, signing or submitting a petition.

6. **Financial and Resource Implications**

None at this stage.

7. **Major Risks**

If the Council does not comply with its Petition Scheme and use its powers properly it may be guilty of maladministration with consequential damage to its reputation and call on its resources

8. **Key Decision Information**

This is not a key decision.

9. **Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions**

Asset Disposals: Cabinet meeting on 12th November 2014.

10. **Appendices**

Covering Letter from the petition organisers in support of the petition.

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