

The Labour group of Councillors at Newcastle-Under-Lyme Borough Council notes with concern the decision to retire the Realise and Achieve training charity brand from the we are aspire group and the potential impact this will have on the loss of fantastic skills and work apprenticeships that were available through the charity trading arm of Aspire. Realise has invested over £3million into our communities and supported over 20,000 people in its 13 years.

The Labour group wishes to see the charitable funds that were held by Realise put to best use for the borough.

The recent restructuring of Aspire presents Council with an opportunity to evaluate its partnership with Aspire going forward into the future to ensure the needs of the Council and its residents are met, whilst ensuring that Aspire will be able to deliver under the aims of the Councils Emerging Newcastle-under-Lyme local plan.

Therefore;

- Full Council resolves that it recognises the acute need for the provision of affordable housing, particularly housing at a social rent, across the borough and supports initiatives to address this need to ensure the borough's housing strategy is fit for the future.
- Full Council notes the need to deliver on our climate and ecological commitment specifically to protect our local ecology and safeguard our biodiversity.
- Full Council is concerned that the "Newcastle-under-Lyme issues and options consultation" fails to place enough emphasis and planning on creating a suitable and sufficient stock of social housing.
- Council agrees that going forward, Aspire will be required to produce a quarterly performance report that will sit under the relevant scrutiny committee that details the number of complaints from tenants and the average time to remedy complaints by sub category, to be determined by the committee.
- Full Council requests that Cabinet produce detailed reports considering the issues raised by the public, matters arising from the 'Newcastle-under-Lyme issues and options consultation' and Scrutiny Committee's to full council. For clarity this should include reports regarding ecology, drainage, consultation, best value, and consideration of alternative sites.
- Full council further requests the Cabinet not to transfer or propose for development any site in the ownership of the Council which has proven ecological /habitat value and/or community benefit without the prior approval of Full Council following provision of appropriate reports and public consultation.

Proposer: Cllr Dave Jones

Seconder: Cllr Sue Moffatt