

Seabridge Centre Petition

Submitted by: Head of Planning and Development

Portfolio: Planning, Regeneration and Town Centres

Ward(s) affected: Westlands Ward

Purpose of the Report

To report on the actions to be taken on a petition submitted by a group of “local residents and users of Seabridge Community Centre” in relation to the inclusion of the site of the Seabridge Centre in the Council’s Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment.

Recommendations

- a) That the petition and the action taken by officers be noted
- b) That the existence of the petition be reported to both the Planning Committee and Council in the context of the results of the full public consultation exercise, which has been recently undertaken in relation to preparation of the Site Allocations and Policies Local Plan.

Reasons

To comply with the provisions of the Council’s approved Petitions Scheme

1.0 Background

1.1 The Council has recently completed a full public consultation exercise in relation to the first stage of preparing the Site Allocations and Policies Local Plan. A consultative document entitled ‘Draft Issues and Options’ formed the basis for this consultation.

1.2 During the consultation period a petition was submitted to officers on 1 October 2012, signed by 686 people, requesting that consideration be given to the removal of the Seabridge Centre Site, in Ash Way from the Council’s Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA).

1.3 The Seabridge Centre is owned by Staffordshire County Council and was nominated for inclusion in the Council’s SHLAA by the County Council. The site was subsequently included in the Council’s SHLAA following a preliminary technical assessment by your officers, and was included in the “draft long list of Strategic housing sites for potential allocation” within the ‘Draft Issues and Options’ paper.

1.4 Your officers are currently analysing the results of the full public consultation exercise.

2.0 Issues

2.1 The petition requests, we the undersigned, wish Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council, through the consultation process of seeking the community’s views, to consider

removing the Seabridge Community Centre Site in Ash Way from the Strategic Housing Land Availability List (ref 329).

2.2 Your officers are able to give consideration to this request through the process of preparing the Site Allocations and Policies Local Plan. This will then be incorporated into a report on the outcome of the full public consultation exercise together with a 'Draft Options Report,' setting out the Council's draft site allocation proposals. The process is unlikely to be completed until late spring next year. The consultation results and 'Draft Options Report' will be reported to Planning Committee prior to going forward to Council for decision. A second stage of full public consultation will then take place.

2.3 A letter was sent to the petition organiser advising that consideration will be given to their request as part of the process of considering representations received during the Site Allocations and Policies Local Plan Issues and Options consultation, and other evidence that will need to be given due consideration under the statutory town planning process. The petition organiser has written back to confirm that this is acceptable.

3.0 **Proposal**

3.1 That the petition and the action already taken by your officers be noted.

3.2 That the existence of the petition be reported to both the Planning Committee and Council in the context of the results of the full public consultation exercise, which has been recently undertaken in relation to preparation of the Site Allocations and Policies Local Plan.

4.0 **Reasons for Preferred Solution**

4.1 To comply with the provisions of the Council's approved Petitions Scheme.

4.2 To enable the request to remove the Seabridge Community Centre Site in Ash Way from the Strategic Housing Land Availability List (ref 329) to be considered in the context of both the representations received from all other consultees who responded to the Site Allocations and Policies Local Plan Issues and Options consultation, and other evidence that will need to be given due consideration under the statutory town planning process.

5.0 **Outcomes Linked to Sustainable Community Strategy and Corporate Priorities**

- Creating a cleaner, safer, and sustainable Borough
- Creating a healthy and active community

6.0 **Legal and Statutory Implications**

6.1 The Council has an approved Petitions Scheme, which sets out the procedure for consideration of petitions received from the local community.

7.0 **Equality Impact Assessment**

7.1 No adverse impact has been identified.

8.0 **Financial and Resource Implications**

8.1 There are no additional financial or resource implications arising from the recommendation.

9.0 **Major Risks**

9.1 None identified relating directly to this report.

10.0 **Sustainability and Climate Change Implications**

10.1 Not applicable.

11.0 **Key Decision Information**

11.1 Not a key decision

12.0 **List of Appendices**

12.1 Paper copies of the petition will be available in the Members' Room prior to the meeting and displayed on the website.