Area Committee

CALL FOR BROWNFIELD SITES 2021

1. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 Over the past year the Council, local businesses, voluntary and community organisations, public services and local people have been shaping our long-term ambitions for the future of Stockport, these are captured within our One Stockport Borough Plan. We want to continue to work together to make this change happen by shaping our approach to identifying sites where new homes and new commercial buildings could be located supported by all types of local infrastructure. An important part of our future is finding sites to provide new homes including new affordable homes as well as identifying sites where existing businesses can expand or new businesses can come into the borough.

1.2 Our proposed approach to the development of the Stockport Local Plan is to ensure that we put our 'Brownfield First' approach at the centre of all we do and we want to engage locally with communities to help us find the right solutions for their area.

1.3 In light of the above, the Council has launched a "call for brownfield sites" to support work on our new Local Plan. This briefing note provides more information on the activities taking place to promote the current call for brownfield sites exercise.

2. BACKGROUND AND INFORMATION

2.1 The Local Plan is Stockport's plan for our land and is important in helping us achieve our shared One Stockport Borough Plan priorities and ambitions. The Local Plan will cover a wide range of development needs for the borough which local people have told us are really important, including new homes, transport and infrastructure – ensuring local places facilitate thriving communities and economic prosperity for all. It will also reinforce our commitment to protecting the environment and working together to address climate change.

2.2 An important element of producing a Local Plan is to undertake a "call for sites" exercise. A "call for sites" is a period where we actively ask people to get in touch and tell us about land they might know about. We have already undertaken two call for sites exercises in Stockport since we began working on the Local Plan in 2017. We've already been told largely by developers about lots of Greenbelt and

greenfield sites across the borough, but over these last 12 months we have all be reminded how valuable green spaces are to our health and wellbeing. As a continuation of this ongoing work, we are now doing a targeted exercise to ask people to put forward brownfield sites that they consider could be brought forward for development in their local communities and the wider borough.

2.3 We are asking people to come forward with suggestions to assist in focusing the development to the most appropriate locations. To do this we are:

- Seeking to encourage everyone to participate in helping shape the future of their local areas;
- We are highlighting this exercise by taking this report to our Area Committees;
- A press release will in the local press and relevant professional publications;
- Using social media to promote and encourage engagement;
- Hosting a dedicated webpage which will be promoted on the Council's website together with a digital questionnaire to complete - the website address is https://www.stockport.gov.uk/get-involved-slp/call-for-sites
- Finally, we will directly engage with around 2500 individuals or companies who have previously expressed an interest in being involved in the local plan process.

2.4 To ensure accessibility for those who might not have access to a computer or only have a smart phone, the planning policy team phone number (0161 474 4395) will be routed to the mobile number of a policy officer who is able to deal with any queries and post paper copies of the questionnaire upon request.

2.5 The call for brownfield sites will run for around 5 weeks, **closing on 23th May 2021**. There is no defined period for how long this exercise should run for, but this deadline has been set to encourage people to submit information in a timely manner to enable us to press on with work on the Local Plan. There will however be lots of other opportunities to engage in the plan making process as we progress the plan, so we want to take this opportunity to continue to encourage residents to sign up to be kept informed.

2.6 All sites, including those that we have previously been told about, will be assessed against a range of criteria to make sure that they deliver the aims and objectives of the Local Plan, and consequently help deliver the One Stockport Borough Plan. Following this assessment, selected sites will be included in a draft of the Local Plan document (known as the "Preferred Options") for consultation which is likely to take place in Autumn 2021.

3. RECOMMENDATION

3.1 Area committee is therefore requested to:

- Note that this exercise is taking place and encourage local residents to get involved.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

There are none.

Anyone wishing to inspect the above background papers or requiring further information should contact Emma Curle on 0161 474 3542, or by email to emma.curle@stockport.gov.uk