Submission to Inspector from Save Our Greenspace

We are a local campaigning organisation set up to protect greenspace in Keele and Silverdale. We would like the following to be taken into consideration in the examination of the Newcastle under Lyme Borough's Local Plan.

Matter 3 Green Belt

(Policy PSD5)

Issue 3 Whether the approach to the alteration of the Green Belt and development within it is justified and consistent with national policy.

3.2 Paragraph 141 of the NPPF identifies that before exceptional circumstances exist to justify changes to Green Belt boundaries a strategic policy making authority should be able to demonstrate that it has fully examined all other reasonable options for meeting its identified need for housing. Taking into account the answers to question 1.2 have all opportunities to maximise the capacity on non-Green Belt land been taken? How has this been assessed and is this robust?

3.3 Are there exceptional circumstances to alter the Green Belt in the Borough in principle? If so what are they? If not, how do you consider housing and employment needs could be met?

With regard to our remarks (above) in relation to 2.4, we do not believe that the proposals in relation to SP11 and 23 are justified nor consistent with national policy. We would propose that the Borough has a large rural area with good road links and effective rural centres. We would propose a more dispersed approach to development using greenfield sites together with a better use of brownfield sites in the urban centre. Equally, more consideration should have been given to working with Stoke on Trent, which Newcastle borough is continuous with. We regret the Boroughs decision to abandon joint planning with this authority and 'go it alone' with a Borough Plan. This has become particularly pertinent in the light of the proposed reorganisation of local government which may well result in Newcastle and Stoke be included in a combined, unitary authority.

Diane Smith,

Administrator,

Save Our Green Space.

30th April 2025.