

**Cabinet – Thursday 13 January 2022**

**Written question from Cllr Matthew Price to the Leader**

In regards to what appears to be an unexpected and complete reversal of the previous decision to remove the option of housing at the entrance to Seaclose Park and re-introduce the option to now include this part of Seaclose Park within the Newport harbour Master plan, can I ask why the cabinet are willing to ignore the huge public opposition to this as highlighted by my recent campaign? Will the cabinet reconsider this tonight and remove the option entirely from the Newport harbour Master plan consultation and confirm that the wishes of the community that I represent (and the many people who across the Island opposed it) will be respected?

## ***Response***

The extensive consultation in developing the original masterplan for the harbour in 2019 resulted in significant changes to proposed housing allocations in and around Seaclose park . The further feedback the member refers to has also been reflected in the proposed masterplan put forward for potential adoption as an SPD, ie a need to carefully consider the design and scale of any specific proposals for development in this part of the harbour area, with a range of options set out for further consideration.

Since the original decision by the previous administration, the significant impact of the pandemic on the island housing market and the desperate need for affordable housing requires us to carefully reconsider all our land assets and ruling out any development in this location at this point would not support our affordable housing objectives.

The range of site allocations set out in the document seek to achieve an appropriate mix of market, affordable and social housing to meet local needs and the area at Seaclose represents an opportunity to provide affordable family housing with much needed access to greenspace, which will attract Homes England funding, compared to the primarily flatted development the proposed harbourside sites in the masterplan will provide.

Further consultation on the SPD and following that any specific proposals that might come forward will ,of course, be subject to full planning applications with their own consultation requirements. I understand the local member has also received assurance of being involved along with the local community from the outset in the development of any design, scale and mix of units should proposals come forward.