

Exclusion Resolution not passed – Public Document

**From:** Les Miller [<mailto:cllrles@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** 23 February 2015 16:36  
**To:** Viv Geary  
**Subject:** Standards Board Complaint [Scanned]

Dear Mrs Geary,

Thank you for your letter dated the 6th February regarding the standards board complaint NT01/2014, asking me to complete the pre-hearing forms.

With reference to the independent investigation conducted by Bevan Brittan, I am happy to make a public apology for the incorrect phraseology used in the article linking the decision on the Local Plan to the Elected Mayor, despite incorrect assertions made by the reports author and given that historically Norma and her Councillors used the same type of phrasing regarding the previous Conservative Mayors Core Strategy.

In section 10 of the report it states "However, in my opinion, that it does not detract from the inaccuracy of ascribing to Ms Norma Redfearn an intention to force through the release of this land for housing, irrespective of the outcome of the consultation". I can confirm that this was never the case and the intention to "Force through the release of the land" was not mentioned nor intended in the article. What is apparent is that the author of the report was unaware that the majority of the land at Murton is already under the ownership of housing development companies, and adding the land into the Local Plan will undoubtedly lead to planning applications for estates - negating the need for the aforementioned "Force through the release of the land".

Furthermore, there was no reference in the report to the paragraph in the article stating "The Labour Mayor has consistently refused calls from your local Conservative Councillors to remove this huge site from her housing plan" The one power that the Mayor does have as the leader of the majority party on the Council, which has recently demonstrated with articles in the local press, is the power to remove sites prior to the formal consultation such Whitley Bay Ice Rink and the reduction of the potential homes at Murton from the plan. I don't ever recollect, nor can I find any decisions made by Full Council regarding these sites, although I would have undoubtedly been happy to support them. I can therefore only assume that the investigator was not given full access to all the relevant information.

As I have already offered to make a public apology for the incorrect phraseology used in the article relating to the one point where the independent investigator found a breach of the code, and subsequently being rejected by the Mayor for what I can only assume are party political purposes wasting further tax payers money, I will not be in attendance at the hearing as I do not believe it will be a fair judgement given the Labour majority on the panel.

Yours sincerely,

Les Miller

This email and any attachment are intended solely for the addressee. It may contain information or opinion which is strictly confidential or is legally privileged. If you are not the intended recipient you should not use, disclose, copy, print, distribute or otherwise rely upon

## Exclusion Resolution not passed – Public Document

the contents of this email. If you have received this email in error please notify the sender immediately by email and then permanently delete this email. This email has been scanned for viruses and inappropriate content by Mimecast Unified Email Management Services. North Tyneside Council does not guarantee this email to be free of any viruses. It is the responsibility of the recipient to ensure that this message and any attachments are virus free. This e-mail may be automatically logged, monitored and/or recorded for legal purposes.