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The Planning Policy Team
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18th December 2023

BY EMAIL

To Whom it May Concern,

SANDWELL LOCAL PLAN REGULATION 18 CONSULTATION: CHANCE GLASSWORKS SITE

On behalf of Chance Heritage Trust (CHT), we welcome the opportunity to submit representations to the Draft Regulation 18 Sandwell Local Plan Consultation in respect of the Chance Brothers Glassworks, Smethwick ('the Site').

CHT aims to enrich the community of Sandwell through the restoration and protection of buildings and assets of cultural and heritage importance and aims to provide the advancement of education concerning the social, economic and architectural history and heritage of the buildings in the area. The overarching vision of the Trust is to regenerate two significant sites within Sandwell, the Soho Foundry and Mint, and the Chance Glassworks, which are subject of two separate representations. Their aim is to protect and celebrate the highly significant industrial heritage of the area and to act as a beacon of hope and create a new vibrant, urban community generating employment, training, learning and leisure opportunities for all. Because CHT is a community-owned and led organisation, the community is at the heart of these large scale urban regeneration schemes

The Chance and Soho Foundry and Mint sites are key regeneration sites within Sandwell, identified within the Sandwell Regeneration Strategy 2022-2027 as priority projects to become places to be "revived for modern uses", with an expected delivery date of 2027. The Site supports significant heritage assets that are in a state of disrepair and their maintenance and up-keep can only be delivered by a comprehensive redevelopment of the Site.

The CHT have previously signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Council, to support the regeneration of the Chance Glassworks and Soho Foundry sites. This demonstrates the commitment at a senior Council level to the regeneration of these important sites and CHT are pleased to see this reflected in the emerging policy position for the Chance Glassworks site.

It is clear that the existing adopted policy has not worked in bringing about the regeneration of these assets, therefore CHT are grateful that the Council have recognised that a shift in policy is imperative to prevent the ongoing decay and safeguard this unique site for future generations, and have provided the site with a bespoke allocation that reflects the aspirations of the Vision Document shared with the Council as part of the previous Issues and Options consultation.

CHT considers that the emerging policy in this regard accords with Paragraph 122 and 190 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) by adapting the policy position to reallocate land and setting a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the heritage assets on the Chance Glassworks site, and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation.

The Chance Heritage Trust wish to see the sensitive, heritage-led regeneration of the Chance Glassworks Site remain a priority for Sandwell Council throughout the Local Plan process. The

proposals will continue to be shaped by extensive engagement with the Local Planning Authority and other key stakeholders.

I trust that these comments are of assistance and that these representations will be taken into account in consideration of the current consultation. We also confirm that we would like to be involved in future stages of the plan-making process. However, should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me on [redacted] or [redacted] or my colleague Lydia Frimley on [redacted]

Yours sincerely,

Katie Inglis
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR