



Our reference: ABP031225
Your reference:
Please ask for: Aidan Thatcher
Extension:
Direct line: 07917 642777
Date: 3rd December 2025

Dear Astley Warehouse Action Group,

Thank you for your continued correspondence regarding the Astley Business Park development.

We want to reassure you that we have carefully considered and responded to the points you have raised in previous communications, and we are also compiling all the information required to respond to the FOI requests your group has submitted. At this stage, rather than revisiting these matters further, we believe it is most constructive to look ahead to the independent audit, which will provide everyone with a valuable opportunity for open discussion and scrutiny.

We have now formally instructed Planning Officers Society Enterprises (POS), as mentioned in our letter dated 20th November, to carry out the audit. We appreciate your response to our previous communication and note that no objections were raised to our choice of POS as the independent body in your response letter dated 20th November.

The purpose of the audit is to establish whether the process followed in dealing with the planning application properly complied with all relevant laws, regulations, and national guidance.

The terms of reference for the audit will include:

- Reviewing whether all statutory requirements in registering and publicising the application were met;
- Assessing the adequacy of consultation with internal and external consultees;
- Examining whether there is any inconsistency or ambiguity in the suite of plans and documents forming the planning permission.

POS will allocate an independent expert to lead the audit. This expert will examine all aspects of the processing of the planning application, from submission through to the granting of planning permission, to determine whether actual practice complied with legal requirements and national guidance. Particular attention will be paid to how residents and other interested parties were informed about the application, and the opportunities provided for comment and representation.

Importantly, the independent expert will meet with nearby residents who have made representations about the planning application, giving your group the opportunity to raise points and seek clarification directly.

The audit will be conducted as soon as possible and is expected to be completed by the end of December. Once finalised, the findings will be reported to Cabinet Members, shared with your group, and published online to ensure full transparency.

We encourage you to engage fully with the independent review, as it is designed to address any outstanding concerns in an open and transparent manner.

We will be in touch soon to provide details of the audit and to organise a suitable time and location for a meeting with your group and the independent expert.

Thank you again for your engagement and continued commitment to constructive dialogue.

Yours sincerely,



Aidan Thatcher
Director, Place



David Proctor
Assistant Director, Planning & Regeneration