

Action on Petitions

ACTION TAKEN ON PETITIONS

Council Members are asked to note the action taken in relation to the under-mentioned petition which was presented to Council:-

Petition – Pallion Shipyard Partnership**Request urging Sunderland City Council to support the reopening of the Pallion Shipbuilding Yard.**

A petition signed by 2534 signatures from Mr. Peter Middleton was presented by Councillor Mann at the Council meeting on 17 November 2021. The statement on the petition sheet stated:-

“We urge Sunderland City Council to support the reopening of the Pallion Shipbuilding Yard.”

The Pallion Shipbuilding Yard closed to commercial shipbuilding in December 1988. The current owners (Pallion Engineering) have undertaken no shipbuilding activity at this facility since this time.

The Pallion Shipyard Partnership presented a petition to the full Council meeting urging it to support and assist a new operator to reopen the site and commence offshore support services, initially repair and maintenance activity. The Partnership cited interest from a third party and general market opportunities in North Sea offshore renewable energy business as the basis for securing this support.

The City Council has repeatedly requested sight of a full and comprehensive business plan that establishes if this private sector investment is indeed feasible, both in economic and environmental terms, (including previously from the Pallion Shipyard Partnership), so that it can take advice on its content, however this has not been forthcoming. Fundamental to this is confirmation (or otherwise) of potential support by the site owner for their proposals.

Any future plans for the Pallion shipyard site, which is owned by Pallion Engineering (with no Council interest), will potentially be subject to the site owner’s own internal investment appraisals of the financial returns of any project and whether this requires their own or any third-party capital investment.

The petition is at this time declined on the basis that Sunderland City Council cannot give any indication of support or otherwise from any interest in the reopening of the Pallion Shipbuilding Yard, without sight of a full and comprehensive business plan that establishes if this private sector investment is indeed feasible, both in economic and environmental terms.

