

“The Trustees of the Netherton Park Trust, who own the site subject to this application and are the lessors of Kyloe House to the Council wish to make the following observations to the Committee:

- The Netherton Park Trust is the Charity that has worked amicably with Northumberland County Council over many years in the management of the children’s homes at Netherton Park. The Trustees share some responsibility for the management of the homes through the Instrument of Management; two Trustees are ‘Foundation Managers’ on the Board of Governors, the other ‘Local Authority Mangers’ being County Councillors and, since the closure of the open units, the Board’s focus now relates to Kyloe House. The proposed redevelopment will realise funds for the creation of new children’ homes and/or ‘moving on’ accommodation for young people in Northumberland - agreement has already been reached with the Council about this through a Contribution Agreement dated 7 July 2017 and, out of the remaining proceeds, the Trustees will be in an even better position to consider providing further funds for the benefit of disadvantaged children and young people in Northumberland. This is fully consistent with the Charity’s Objects. Accordingly, the sums raised for the Charity from this redevelopment should provide additional means for financial and other support for the Council in its provision of benefits for disadvantaged youngsters in Northumberland, for many years to come.
- A proportion of the land owned by the Charity is located amongst the existing houses and, whilst it is not suitable for development, it is of considerable amenity value to many of the residents, often being referred to as 'The Green'. The Trustees have agreed to transfer freehold ownership of this land, free of cost, to the Residents' Association simultaneously with the sale of the site for the proposed redevelopment that is subject to this application. Discussions with the Residents’ Association about the transfer of freehold ownership are well in hand, through solicitors. The Trustees believe that this considerable advantage to the residents will be facilitated through the approval of the reserved matters application and sale of the redevelopment site.

The Trustees are grateful to the Committee for considering these observations.”