

**PLANNING APPLICATION REF 4/07/2598/0
DEMOLITION OF EXISTING OFFICES/WORKSHOPS; REDEVELOPMENT OF
SITE FOR A1 RETAIL, A3 RESTAURANT/CAFÉ AND 35 MIXED DENSITY
APARTMENTS, PEARS HOUSE, QUAYSIDE, WHITEHAVEN**

Lead Officer: Tony Pomfret – Development Services Manager

To inform Members of the determination of the above planning application following the Secretary of State’s decision not to call-in the application to determine it herself

Recommendation: To note the Secretary of State’s decision

Resource Implications: Nil

1.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.1 Members considered the above planning application on 12 December 2007 and, on a 7-1 vote, were minded to approve but could not grant planning permission due to intervention by the Secretary of State via Government Office for the North West (GONW) at the request of English Heritage who were concerned about the design solution in particular.

1.2 Confirmation has now been received from GONW that the Secretary of State has decided not to call-in the application for determination by herself. The decision letter states:-

“Having carefully considered the relevant planning issues raised by this proposal, together with the representations from English Heritage, we have concluded that the Secretary of State’s intervention would not be justified. The application concerns a relatively small-scale development on a brownfield site that would be of no more than local significance. Whilst of concern to English Heritage, it does not in the Secretary of State’s view raise issues of such wider significance requiring a determination by her. The decision as to whether to grant planning permission will therefore remain with Copeland Borough Council.”

1.3 Given that Members were minded to approve the application at the 12 December 2007 meeting and in the light of the Secretary of State’s decision not to intervene, the Notice of Grant of Planning Permission was issued on 21 January 2008.

Contact Officer: Tony Pomfret – Development Services Manger

Background Papers: GONW letter dated 18 January 2008
Planning application file 4/07/2598/0