

DELEGATED FILE NOTE

CASE OFFICER: ...William Thompson.....

APPLICATION
REFERENCE

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DEVELOPMENT

APPLICATION SITE

26/00828/FPH

Erection of rear outbuilding.

4 Alexandra Road

Hitchin

Hertfordshire

SG5 1RB

Submitted Plan Nos

A101B A102B A103

1.0 Policies

D1

Sustainable design

D2

House exts, replcmnt dwellings outbuild

D3	Protecting living conditions
T2	Parking
SECN12	Achieving well-designed places
SECN14	Meeting climate change,coastal,flooding

2.0 **Relevant Site History**

- 2.1 25/01388/FPH - Single storey rear and side extension following demolition of existing garage. Insertion of first floor rear balcony doors with glazed balustrade. Installation of rear raised patio and replacement side boundary fence. (as variation of permission approved under 24/01192/FPH granted 12.07.2024) (Development already carried out).

Conditional Permission

- 2.2 24/01687/LDCP - Insertion of rear L-shaped box dormer with French doors and Juliet balcony to facilitate conversion of loft into habitable accommodation

Granted

- 2.3 24/01193/LDCP - Single storey side and rear extensions.

Refused

- 2.4 24/01192/FPH - Single storey rear and side extension

Conditional Permission

3.0 **Representations**

- 3.1 **Neighbour Consultation** – None received

4.0 **Planning Considerations**

4.1 **Site and Surroundings**

- 4.1.1 The application site accommodates a detached two-storey dwelling situated on Alexandra Road, Hitchin. The application site benefits from a driveway and front and rear gardens.

4.2 **Proposal**

- 4.2.1 Erection of rear outbuilding.

4.3 **Key Issues**

4.3.1 The key issues for consideration are as follows:

- The acceptability of the design of the proposed development and its impact on the character and appearance of the area.
- The impact of the proposed development on the living conditions of neighbouring properties.
- Access and parking matters.
- The impact of the proposed development on the environment.

Design and Appearance:

4.3.2 Policy D1 of the Local Plan requires that development proposals respond positively to the site's local context. Policy D2 of the Local Plan requires extensions to houses and outbuildings to incorporate a design that is sympathetic to the main dwelling in terms of its scale, form and orientation and does not harm the character and appearance of the locality around the site. These policies are broadly consistent with Section 12 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

4.3.3 The proposed outbuilding would have a width of 4.5m, a depth of 3.5m and have a slightly pitched roof with a maximum height of 2.73m. The proposed outbuilding would be sited 500mm from the rear and eastern boundary lines and sufficiently set away from the western boundary line. The proposed external materials are vertical cedar slats for the walls and EPDM black roofing.

4.3.4 In my view, the proposal is considered to be acceptable in terms of the material palette, massing, siting and roof design and would, therefore, not cause harm to the character and appearance of the dwelling. As such, the proposed development complies with Policy D1 and D2 of the NHLP and Section 12 of the NPPF.

Impact on Neighbouring Properties:

4.3.5 A core planning principle set out in the NPPF is to always seek to secure a good standard of amenity for all existing and future occupants of land and buildings. This principle is reflected in the provisions of Policy D3 of the NHLP.

4.3.6 Regarding neighbour amenity, given the acceptable siting and scale, it is not considered that the proposed outbuilding would cause unacceptable harm to neighbour living conditions, as to be objectionable, in terms of over-dominance, shading or loss of privacy.

4.3.7 This development is therefore considered to be in accordance with Policy D3 of the NHLP and Section 12 of the NPPF.

Highways and Parking:

4.3.8 The development does not include an increase in the number of bedrooms; therefore, regarding policy T2 of the NHLP, there would be no car parking issues arising from the development.

Environmental Implications

- 4.3.9 The proposed development is not large enough in scale to cause significant implications for the local environment in terms of carbon emissions and therefore would be generally in compliance with Section 14 of the NPPF.

Biodiversity Net Gain:

- 4.3.10 This is a form of development which is exempt from BNG Legislation, defined under article 2(1) of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 due it falling under the scope of the 'de minimis' exemption.

4.4 **Conclusion**

- 4.4.1 In the absence of material planning reasons to the contrary it is my view that planning permission is **GRANTED**.

4.5 **Alternative Options**

- 4.5.1 N/A

4.6 **Pre-Commencement Conditions**

- 4.6.1 N/A

5.0 **Recommendation**

- 5.1 That planning permission be **GRANTED** subject to the following conditions:

1. The development hereby permitted shall be begun before the expiration of 3 years from the date of this permission.

Reason: To comply with the provisions of Section 91 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended by Section 51 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

2. The development hereby permitted shall be carried out wholly in accordance with the details specified in the application and supporting approved documents and plans listed above.

Reason: To ensure the development is carried out in accordance with details which form the basis of this grant of permission.

Proactive Statement:

Planning permission has been granted for this proposal. Discussion with the applicant to seek an acceptable solution was not necessary in this instance. The Council has therefore acted proactively in line with the requirements of the Framework (paragraph 38) and in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015.

Signed  Shaun Greaves Determining Officer	Development Management North Hertfordshire District Council Council Offices Gernon Road Letchworth Herts SG6 3JF
Date: 26 May 2026	