

DELEGATED FILE NOTE

CASE OFFICER: ...Vicki Wood.....

APPLICATION REFERENCE	BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DEVELOPMENT	APPLICATION SITE
25/00732/FPH	First floor and single storey side extension.	16 Westfield Close Hitchin Hertfordshire SG5 2HF

Submitted Plan Nos

Location Plan Block Plan 2024072-SU-001 2024072-PL-010 -

1.0 Policies

1.0 Local and National Policy

1.1 National Planning Policy Framework 2024 (NPPF)

Section 2 – Achieving sustainable development
Section 12 – Achieving well-designed places
Section 14 - Meeting the challenges of climate change, flooding and coastal change

1.2 North Hertfordshire Local Plan 2011-2031 (NHLP)

Strategic Policies

Policy SP1 – Sustainable Development in North Hertfordshire
Policy SP2 – Settlement Hierarchy and Spatial Distribution

Policy SP9 – Design and Sustainability

Development Management Policies

Policy D1 – Sustainable design

Policy D2 – House extensions, replacement dwellings and outbuildings

Policy D3 – Protecting living conditions

2.0 **Relevant Site History**

2.1 16/02612/1HH - First floor side extension and single storey rear extension following demolition of existing rear conservatory. Conditional Permission.

2.2 05/00629/1HH - Single storey side extension. New pitch roof over existing front canopy. 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 is located on the south side of the turning head on Westfield Close and comprises of a two-storey, detached residential dwelling benefitting from previous extensions as detailed above.

4.1.2 The application site is within the settlement boundary for Hitchin where development is generally acceptable subject to policy requirements.

4.2 **Proposal**

4.2.1 First floor and single storey side extension.

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 resultant impact on the character and appearance of the area.
- The impact that the proposed development would have on the living conditions of neighbouring properties.
- The impact that the proposed development would have on car parking provision in the area.
- The impact that the proposed development would have on the environment.

Design and Appearance

4.3.2 The objectives of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) include those seeking to secure the creation of high quality, beautiful and sustainable buildings and places

(Section 12 – Achieving well-designed places). Paragraph 131 of the NPPF states that *“Good design is a key aspect of sustainable development, creates better places in which to live and work and helps make development acceptable to communities”*. In this regard, Policy D1 and D2 of the Local Plan are consistent with the objectives set out within the NPPF.

- 4.3.3 The proposed extensions would involve extending the existing frontmost part of the ground floor side extension to bring it in line with the existing rearmost part of the existing ground floor side element which is part of the extended kitchen/breakfast room. The roof form would be a hipped gable. Openings would comprise of a window to the front elevation. The extended part would be closer to the party boundary, however the design and minor scale of the development, is considered acceptable. The first-floor side extension would sit almost identically over the footprint of the existing forwardmost part of the ground floor extension. The roof form would be pitched to reflect that of the existing dwelling, and it would be set down from the ridge height of the existing roof. The only opening would be a window to the front elevation. Both proposed windows would align with existing window positions and would match the existing design. Materials would comprise of facing brickwork and concrete roof tiles to match the existing dwelling.
- 4.3.4 I am satisfied that the scale and design of the proposed extension would be a sympathetic addition to the existing dwelling and would not harm the visual amenity of the area and would be in accordance with Policies D1 and D2 of the Local Plan.

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 Local Plan.
- 4.3.6 No objections have been received and given the minor scale of the development I am satisfied that there would be no impact on existing residential amenity.
- 4.3.7 I am satisfied that the proposal is in accordance with Policy D3 of the Local Plan and Section 12 of the NPPF.

Highways and Parking:

- 4.3.8 The dwelling is served by sufficient off-street parking spaces which would not be affected by the proposed development and is therefore considered to be in accordance with Policy T2 of the Local Plan.

Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)

- 4.3.9 This is a householder application which is exempt from BNG legislation defined under article 2(1) of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015.

Environmental Implications

- 4.3.10 Section 14 of the NPPF sets out how the planning system should support the transition to a low carbon future. The principles set out in Section 14 are reflected in Policy D1 of

the Local Plan, which sets out that development proposals should take all reasonable opportunities to reduce energy consumption and waste, retain existing vegetation and propose new appropriate planting, and future proof for changes in technology and lifestyle.

- 4.3.11 In my view, the proposed development would be unlikely to have any significant implications for the local environment in terms of carbon emissions and therefore would be generally in accordance with Policy D1 of the Local Plan and Section 14 of the NPPF.

4.4 **Conclusion**

- 4.4.1 The proposed development is considered acceptable and in accordance with Policies SP1, SP9, D1, D2 and D3 of the Local Plan 2011-2031 and Sections 2, 12 and 14 of the NPPF 2024.

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.

3. The extensions hereby permitted shall be built in external materials to match the existing dwellinghouse unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: To protect the visual amenities of the locality and to comply with Policies D1 and D2 of the North Hertfordshire Local Plan 2011 to 2031.

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  Anne McDonald	Development Management North Hertfordshire District Council Council Offices Gernon Road Letchworth Herts SG6 3JF
Determining Officer Date: 6 May 2025	