

DELEGATED FILE NOTE

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

APPLICATION REFERENCE	BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DEVELOPMENT	APPLICATION SITE
26/00677/FPH	Single storey rear orangery extension.	17 Whitechurch Gardens Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 2AU

Submitted Plan Nos

Location Plan Block Plan Page 1 of 2 Page 2 of 2

1.0 Policies

1.0 Local and National Policy

1.1 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2024)

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)

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

Policy T2 - Parking

1.3 **Supplementary Planning Design (SPD)**

NHC Sustainability (2024)

2.0 **Relevant Site History**

2.1 None.

3.0 **Representations**

3.1 **Site and Neighbour Consultation** – None received.

3.2 **LGCHF** – None received.

4.0 **Planning Considerations**

4.1 **Site and Surroundings**

4.1.1 The application site is located on the southeast side of Whitechurch Gardens and comprises a modest semi-detached, single storey residential dwellinghouse with garage to the east. The property benefits from gardens to the front and rear. An existing glazed outbuilding is positioned in the rear garden.

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

4.2 **Proposal**

4.2.1 Single storey rear orangery 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 extension would be to the rear of the dwelling separated by a narrow external space. The extension would extend from the rear elevation of the dwelling by 3.5 metres and have a width of 3.0m metres with a total height to ridge of 3.2 metres. Openings would be to the rear and east facing side elevation. Materials would be white uPVC. The minor scale, form and proportions of the extension along with its overall design is sympathetic to the existing dwelling and is acceptable. Being to the rear of the dwelling, the extension would not be visible in the street scene or from public areas. Furthermore, the extension would not be out of keeping with the general character of the area and similar extensions in the vicinity, particularly that to the attached neighbour no.18 Whitechurch Gardens and I am satisfied that the development is in accordance with Policies D1 and D2 of the Local Plan and Section 12 of the NPPF.

Impact on Neighbouring Properties:

- 4.3.4 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.
- 4.3.5 I am satisfied that the proposed extension, by virtue of its position on the property and its relationship to existing built form, would not impact existing residential amenity to any significant degree and would be in accordance with Policy D3 of the Local Plan and Section 12 of the NPPF.

Highways and Parking:

- 4.3.6 The dwelling is served by sufficient off-street parking spaces which would not be affected by the proposed development.

Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)

- 4.3.7 This development is not subject to the statutory Biodiversity Gain Plan condition because it is exempt under the statutory exemptions as set out in paragraph 17 of Schedule 7A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and the Biodiversity Gain Requirements (Exemptions) Regulations 2024.

Environmental Implications

- 4.3.8 The Council's Sustainability Supplementary Planning Document (2024) seeks to ensure that new developments are future proofed against the challenge of climate change.
- 4.3.9 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.
- 4.3.10 Based on the details submitted, the proposed development, is unlikely to have any significant implications for the local environment in terms of carbon emissions and therefore would be generally in compliance 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 extension 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: 7 May 2026	