

DELEGATED FILE NOTE

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

APPLICATION REFERENCE	BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DEVELOPMENT	APPLICATION SITE
25/01559/FPH	Erection of garden room. (Amended plan received 04/08/25).	23 Harkness Way Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 0QJ

Submitted Plan Nos

0 - Site and Location Plan 1- Existing and Proposed Site Plan 2 - Proposed Plans and Elevations

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 18/03108/LDCP - Installation of a rear facing dormer window with rendered finish to match existing and front rooflight window.

Granted

18/03107/FPH - Single storey front and rear extension

Conditional Permission

3.0 **Representations**

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

4.0 **Planning Considerations**

4.1 **Site and Surroundings**

4.1.1 The property is a semi-detached, two-storey dwelling located on the west side of Harkness Way, Hitchin. The site benefits from a driveway, garage and rear garden. Numerous properties in the locality benefit from outbuildings in the rear garden.

4.2 **Proposal**

4.2.1 Erection of garden room.

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 be rectangular in shape and measure 6.5m in width, 3.0m in depth and have a slightly pitched roof with a maximum height of 3.0m. The proposed outbuilding would be offset from all boundary lines by a minimum 1.0m.

4.3.4 The proposed external materials are Hardy Backer Board Cement Board in 'Heathered Moss' for the front and side walls, Metal profile cladding for the rear wall, EDPM roof, frosted uPVC windows and uPVC doors.

4.3.5 In my view, the proposal is considered to be acceptable in terms of the massing, material palette and roof design. As such, the proposed development complies with Policy D1 and D2 of the NHLP and Section 12 of the NPPF.

Impact on Neighbouring Properties:

4.3.6 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.

4.3.7 As the proposed outbuilding would be offset from each boundary line by a minimum of 1.0m and have a maximum height of 3.0m, it is not considered that the proposal would result in unacceptable harm upon neighbour amenity in terms of over dominance, shading or overlooking.

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

Highways and Parking:

- 4.3.9 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

- 4.3.10 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:

- 4.3.11 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 The proposed development is considered unacceptable by virtue of Policies D1, D2 and D3 of the NHLP 2011-2031 and Section 12 of the NPPF.

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  Anne McDonald Determining Officer	Development Management North Hertfordshire District Council Council Offices Gernon Road Letchworth Herts SG6 3JF
Date: 5 August 2025	