

PLANNING COMMITTEE Regulatory Committee Agenda

Date Wednesday 8 March 2023

Time 6.00 pm

Venue Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Oldham, West Street, Oldham, OL1 1NL

- Notes
1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST- If a Member requires any advice on any item involving a possible declaration of interest which could affect his/her ability to speak and/or vote he/she is advised to contact Paul Entwistle or Constitutional Services in advance of the meeting.
 2. CONTACT OFFICER for this Agenda is Constitutional Services Tel. 0161 770 5151 or email Constitutional.Services@oldham.gov.uk
 3. PUBLIC QUESTIONS – Any member of the public wishing to ask a question at the above meeting can do so only if a written copy of the question is submitted to the Contact officer by 12 Noon on Friday, 3 March 2023.
 4. FILMING – This meeting will be recorded for live and/or subsequent broadcast on the Council’s website. The whole of the meeting will be recorded, except where there are confidential or exempt items and the footage will be on our website. This activity promotes democratic engagement in accordance with section 100A(9) of the Local Government Act 1972. The cameras will focus on the proceedings of the meeting. As far as possible, this will avoid areas specifically designated for members of the public who prefer not to be filmed. Disruptive and anti social behaviour will always be filmed.

Any member of the public who attends a meeting and objects to being filmed for the Council’s broadcast should advise the Constitutional Services Officer who will instruct that they are not included in the filming.

Members of the public and the press may also record / film / photograph or broadcast this meeting when the public and the press are not lawfully excluded. Please note that anyone using recording equipment both audio and visual will not be permitted to leave the equipment in the room where a private meeting is held.

Recording and reporting the Council’s meetings is subject to the law including the law of defamation, the Human Rights Act, the Data Protection Act and the law on public order offences.

Please also note the Public attendance Protocol on the Council’s Website

https://www.oldham.gov.uk/homepage/1449/attending_council_meetings

MEMBERSHIP OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE IS AS FOLLOWS:

Councillors Al-Hamdani, Cosgrove, Dean (Chair), H. Gloster, Hobin, A Hussain, F Hussain, S Hussain, Islam, Lancaster, Nasheen, C. Phythian, Surjan and Woodvine

Item No

- 1 Apologies For Absence
- 2 Urgent Business
Urgent business, if any, introduced by the Chair
- 3 Declarations of Interest
To Receive Declarations of Interest in any Contract or matter to be discussed at the meeting.
- 4 Public Question Time
To receive Questions from the Public, in accordance with the Council's Constitution.
- 5 Minutes of Previous Meeting (Pages 1 - 4)
The Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 15 February 2023 are attached for Members' approval.
- 6 FUL/350248/22 - The Prudential Assurance Building, 79 Union Street, Oldham (Pages 5 - 16)
Alteration and repair to facilitate new workspace use.
- 7 LBC/350249/22 - The Prudential Assurance Building, 79 Union Street, Oldham (Pages 17 - 26)
Alteration and repair to facilitate new workspace use.
- 8 FUL/350363/23 - 25 Queen Street, Oldham (Pages 27 - 32)
Change of use from a residential dwelling (Use Class C3) to a family assessment unit (Sui Generis) offering parenting assessments by a registered social worker.
- 9 Appeals Update Report (Pages 33 - 36)



Present: Councillor Dean (Chair)
Councillors Cosgrove, H. Gloster, Harrison (Substitute),
A Hussain, F Hussain, S Hussain, Islam, Lancaster, Marland
(Substitute), Nasheen, C. Phythian and Woodvine

Also in Attendance:

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Emma Breheny | Senior Planning Officer |
| Graham Dickman | Development Management Team Leader |
| Alan Evans | Group Solicitor |
| Martyn Leigh | Interim Development Management Team Leader |
| Graeme Moore | Planning Officer |
| Wendy Moorhouse | Principal Transport Officer |
| Peter Richards | Head of Planning |
| Paul Rogers | Constitutional Services |

1 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Al-Hamdani, Hobin and Surjan.

2 **URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of urgent business received.

3 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest received.

4 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no public questions received.

5 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Meeting held on 18 January 2023 be approved as a correct record.

6 **FUL/350209/22 298 MOSTON LANE EAST, MANCHESTER, M40 3HZ**

APPLICATION NUMBER: FUL/350209/22 298

APPLICANT: MR M NAHEEM

PROPOSAL: Change of use from dwelling (use class C3) to transitional social care (use class C2). Erection of single storey side and rear extensions and first-floor rear extension

LOCATION: 298 Moston Lane East, Manchester, M40 3HZ

It was **MOVED** by Councillor Dean and **SECONDED** by Councillor F Hussain that the application be **APPROVED**.

On being put to the vote 8 VOTES were cast IN FAVOUR and 2 VOTES were cast AGAINST with 3 ABSTENTIONS.

DECISION: That the application be GRANTED subject the conditions as outlined in the report.



NOTES:

1. That two Ward Councillors attended the meeting and addressed the Committee on the application.
2. In reaching its decision, the Committee took into consideration the information as set out in the Late List attached at Item 11.

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RES/350225/22 LAND OFF KNOWLS LANE, LEES

APPLICATION NUMBER: RES/350225/22

APPLICANT: Russell Homes UK Ltd

PROPOSAL: Reserved Matters application for the erection of 234 dwellings, with associated vehicular access and parking, private amenity space, and landscaping, pursuant to hybrid planning permission MMA/344723/20 (Revised scheme to previous approval of Reserved Matters RES/347759/21)

LOCATIOM: Land off Knowls Lane, Lees

It was MOVED by Councillor Woodvine and SECONDED by Councillor Lancaster that the application be REFUSED.

On being put to the vote 4 VOTES were cast IN FAVOUR OF REFUSAL and 9 VOTES were cast AGAINST with 0 ABSTENTIONS.

It was MOVED by Councillor Woodvine and SECONDED by Councillor Lancaster that the application be DEFERRED.

On being put to the vote 4 VOTES were cast IN FAVOUR of DEFERRAL and 9 VOTES were cast AGAINST with 0 ABSTENTIONS.

It was MOVED by Councillor Dean and SECONDED by Councillor F Hussain that the application be APPROVED.

On being put to the vote 9 VOTES were cast IN FAVOUR OF APPROVAL and 4 VOTES were cast AGAINST with 0 ABSENTIONS.

DECISION: That the application be GRANTED subject to the conditions as outlined in the report.

NOTES:

1. That an objector, applicant and Ward Councillor attended the meeting and addressed the Committee on this application.
2. In reaching its decision, the Committee took into consideration the information as set out in the Late List attached at item 11.

8 FUL/349445/22 PARK BRIDGE, MEDLOCK VALLEY, OLDHAM

APPLICATION NUMBER: FUL/349445/22

APPLICANT: Oldham Council

PROPOSAL: Construction of a new 127.5m long pedestrian and cyclist bridge across the Medlock Valley at Park Bridge, including upgrading and creation of foot and cycle links from bridge landing points to NCN Route 626.

LOCATION: Park Bridge, Medlock Valley, Oldham

It was MOVED by Councillor Dean and SECONDED by Councillor Islam that the application be APPROVED.

On being put to the vote it was UNANIMOUSLY cast in FAVOUR OF APPROVAL.

DECISION: That the application be approved subject to conditions outlined in the report. **NOTE:**

A representative of the applicant attended the meeting and addressed the Committee on this application.

9 FUL/349317/22 POLICE STATION, BROADGATE, CHADDERTON, OLDHAM.

APPLICATION NUMBER: FUL/349317/22

APPLICANT: Mr Jeremy Fryer

PROPOSAL: Retrospective application for design changes to the car park layout and external areas plus minor additions to planning consent PA/340926/17, including non-material amendment NMA/343706/19.

LOCATION: Police Station, Broadgate, Chadderton, Oldham.

It was MOVED by Councillor Dean and SECONDED by Councillor F Hussain that the application be APPROVED.

On being put to the vote it was UNANIMOUSLY cast in FAVOUR OF APPROVAL.

DECISION: That the application be approved subject to the conditions as outlined in the report.



Oldham
Council

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APPEALS UPDATE

RESOLVED: that the Appeals update be noted.

11

LATE LIST

RESOLVED: that the information contained in the Late List be noted.

The meeting started at 6.00 pm and ended at 8.25 pm

APPLICATION REPORT - FUL/350248/22 Planning Committee 8 March 2023

Registration Date: 14 December 2022
Ward: Coldhurst

Application Reference: FUL/350248/22
Type of Application: Full Application

Proposal: Alteration and repair to facilitate new workspace use

Location: The Prudential Assurance Building, 79 Union Street, Oldham, Manchester, OL1 1JZ,

Case Officer: Paula Stebbings
Applicant: Mr Nawaz Khan (Oldham Borough Council)
Agent: Miss Shaadi Karimi

THE SITE

This application relates to the Prudential Building, which is located on Union Street, Oldham. The principal façade faces Union Street, with alleyways to the east and west of the building, commonly used for access to Spindles Shopping Centre.

The Prudential building is grade II listed and sits within Oldham Town Centre Conservation Area. Dating back to 1889 the building was designed by Alfred Waterhouse for the Prudential Assurance Company. Currently vacant, the red brick and terracotta dressed heritage asset sits in a declining state of disrepair. The existing use class is Class E (offices) and Sui Generis (nightclub). Whilst the building appears relatively unaltered from its original design externally, internally it has changed uses several times. However, it is important to note that the buildings were designed to be in several uses with sections leased off e.g. the Basement was originally run as a restaurant.

The front elevation is the most decorative, with terracotta shown in various forms. The elevation consists of a 3-bay range, with recessed polygonal towers either side, rounded arches at ground floor, three light mullioned windows with transom windows above and three dormer windows located on the roof slope. The further elevations carry some of this detail to a much lesser extent. Whilst the internal courtyard is characterised by white glazed brick.

Internally, much of the original interior has been lost. However, the main banking hall still maintains elements of the Victorian character, through its ornate plaster panelled ceiling and Burmantoft glazed tiled walls.

THE PROPOSAL

Planning permission and the associated listed building consent have been sought in relation to proposed alterations and repairs to facilitate a new workspace use.

Specifically, the proposed works to be assessed as part of this application and the associated listed building consent application consist of the following:

Roof alterations

- Insertion of new dormers, with a linear form, aligning with window positions and proportions below.
- Creation of lanterns on top of the existing turrets to provide a contemporary impact and emphasis at street level. These will contain meeting rooms and proposals include the use of lighting installations and features to add greater prominence.

Atrium

- New roof enclosing the central atrium.
- Creation of pop out spaces in existing window openings in the atrium, such as a stage area and a phone booth at different levels at a cantilever to overlook the atrium space.
- Window seats inside the existing openings.
- Tiling to be made good and restored.

External windows

- Removal and replacement of damaged windows with new aluminium double glazed units to match existing, and repair or reinstatement of wood panelling.

Works to the Banking Hall

- Cleaning and repair to interior tiles.
- Reinstatement of plastered ceiling and restoration of parquet floor.
- Removal of screen partitions.
- New opening through arched niche, removal of some historic tiling.
- Insertion of new contemporary fittings for public use.
- Restoration of original timber screens from the Banking Hall and reinstatement of smashed glass.
- Restoration and repair of two historic Banking Hall Counters including removal and replacement of nonoriginal countertop, and incorporation of these fittings into the café/lounge.

Other Internals

- Creation of a number of new internal walls to create new usable spaces.
- Repair and reinstatement of cornices and skirtings.
- Removal of plastered ceilings.
- Retention and repair of existing fireplaces.
- Stripping back of the lift enclosures and fixing of the historic lift on the third floor.
- Internal wall linings.

RELEVANT PLANNING HISTORY

PA/019124/85- Change of use to Office- Granted- 15.01.1986

RELEVANT PLANNING POLICIES AND GUIDANCE

Section 66(1) of the Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 states that in considering whether to grant planning permission for development that affects a listed building or its setting, the local planning authority shall have special regard to the desirability

of preserving the building or its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses.

Section 72(1) of the Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 states that with respect to conservation areas special attention should be paid to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of the area.

Section 38(6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires that, to the extent that development plan policies are material, planning decisions must be taken in accordance with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

In this case the 'Development Plan' is the Joint Development Plan Document (DPD) which forms part of the Local Development Framework for Oldham. The application site is located in the town centre boundary by the Proposals Map associated with this document and is part included in Oldham Town Centre Conservation Area.

The following DPD Policies are relevant:

Policy 20- Design
Policy 24 – Historic Environment

Relevant SPD:

Oldham Town Centre Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan (Adopted August 2019)

CONSULTATIONS

| | |
|--|--|
| Historic England: | No objections. |
| Drainage: | No objections, subject to condition. |
| Environmental Health: | No objections. |
| Highways: | No objections, subject to condition. |
| Planning Policy: | No objections. |
| Transport for Greater Manchester: | No objections, subject to conditions. |
| Joint Committee of The National Amenity Society: | No comments received. |
| Greater Manchester Ecology Unit: | Requested submission of dusk and dawn surveys. |
| Coal Authority: | No objections, subject to informative. |

REPRESENTATIONS

The proposed development has been advertised by means of individual consultation letters sent to the occupiers of the neighbouring properties, a Press Notice, and a Site Notice being erected adjacent to the site. As a result of the publicity, no representations have been received.

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

This application does not propose a change of use but alterations, identified through surveys and investigations, that are required to redevelop the building. Therefore, the main issue to consider is the impact of the proposals on the listed building and conservation area.

In respect to Sections 16 and 66 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, the Governance and Legal Director of English Heritage ('Legal Developments' Conservation Bulletin Issue 71: Winter 2013) states that the courts have said that these statutory requirements operate as 'a paramount consideration' and 'the first consideration for a decision maker'.

Any decisions relating to listed buildings and their settings and conservation areas must address the statutory considerations of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 (see above) as well as satisfying the relevant policies within the National Planning Policy Framework and the Local Plan.

The NPPF puts 'a presumption in favour of sustainable development' at its heart and identifies sustaining and enhancing the historic environment as a key element. It sets out a requirement within paragraph 199 to apply 'great weight' to the assets conservation when considering the impact of a proposed development on the significance of a designated heritage asset. In paragraph 190(a) it also advises that Local Planning Authorities should take account of the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation.

The NPPF at paragraph 194 states:

'...In determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance...'

Level of Significance

The Prudential Assurance Building in Oldham is one of 27 branch buildings built across England. All were designed by renowned Victorian Architect Alfred Waterhouse and share a common appearance. Waterhouse favoured the use of terracotta which is evident in the Prudential Building. Built of brick, sitting on a polished granite plinth, with extensive terracotta dressings to openings, banding and high-level decoration, under a red tiled roof.

The Prudential Building is identified in the Oldham Town Centre Conservation Area Appraisal as a detracting element due to its vacancy and poor condition which is in urgent need of restoration and reuse. The wider street scene has changed dramatically since the buildings erection in the late 19th century and it now stands alone as one of the few buildings of that era left. The building has incredible potential to improve the identity and by extension the significance of the conservation area as well as its own significance through sensitive restoration and reuse.

A significant building to the local area and conservation area which provides evidential value of how this part of Oldham has developed. It has known historical associations with leading Architects of the period and has an unarguably high designed aesthetic value. For these reasons the importance of this building has been recognised in its designation as a Grade II listed building, highlighting it as being of national significance.

Historic England Response

Whilst the works proposed are extensive, Historic England have stated that this is a reflection of the state of the building. The designated heritage asset has suffered an extended period of unuse, lack of maintenance and failing of the roof coverings leading to widespread water ingress. Historic England consider that the proposal would be of benefit to the building and

the wider conservation area through repairing and restoring historic fabric and details, both internally and externally, and giving the building an important community use once more.

Ecology

The submitted Preliminary Bat Survey identified a moderate bat roosting potential for the Prudential building. Therefore, Greater Manchester Ecology Unit (GMEU) have requested the submission of two dusk/dawn surveys to be undertaken on the building, to be submitted in advance of any decision. However, these surveys can only be carried out between May and September, and there is a concern that delaying any decision on this application whilst waiting for the results of those surveys would ultimately delay the overall programme for procuring the building and then making the necessary repairs and improvements to the building. This would mean that the dilapidated state of the grade II listed building, located within Oldham Town Centre Conservation Area, would continue to worsen and more historic fabric could be lost beyond repair. Therefore, to ensure the protection of the designated heritage assets, along with the protection of potential bats, it is recommended that a pre-commencement condition is added to the decision that ensures that, prior to the commencement of development, the required dusk and dawn surveys are submitted to and signed off by the LPA. It is considered that this approach will result in the same outcome with regards to the protection of the bats but shall also allow the protection of the listed building at a quicker pace.

Alteration and Impact to the Listed Building

Modern external interventions include the insertion of new dormers, roof lanterns and the atrium. Due to water ingress the existing dormers are in a bad state of repair, however they provide a precedent to enhance the use of the top floors whilst creating a new elevation treatment visible from the street. The new dormers have been designed in a linear form and are to be clad in coated aluminium, providing a contemporary distinction between the historic fabric of the building, whilst aligning with the existing fenestration in terms of positioning and proportions.

Historically, spires were located on the top of the existing corner turrets and contributed to the further prominence of the building. The proposal creates a modern interpretation of the previous form, integrating light diffusing glazing, to allow for the lanterns to glow at night, highlighting the landmark building.

The proposed atrium includes a series of modern interventions such as platform perches and cantilevered areas which overlook the atrium space, creating a hub of activity at the heart of the building. The new sloped, steel beamed, glazed roof will enclose the space and further protect the existing tiled finish of the atrium space, which is currently subject to extensive vegetation growth, water damage disrepair.

With regards to the window scheme, it is intended to remove and replace damaged windows with new aluminium double glazed units. However, the extent of damage to the windows is currently unknown until a survey is done to determine the amount of damp and rot to the existing timber windows. It is explained in the submitted Design and Access Statement that the reasoning for the aluminium double-glazed units replacing the existing timber single glazed units is to incorporate an environmental strategy and to allow new openings so the windows can be cleaned from the inside. The Conservation Officer has concerns with this approach at this stage as being a council owned building an exemplar should be set for others. Windows should be replaced like for like, including materials, proportions and openings. Where replacements are needed, Accoya timber can offer a similar longevity to aluminium windows and thermal efficiency can be increased through the repair of existing timber windows and use of secondary glazing. Therefore, a condition shall be added to ensure a window condition survey is submitted to the Local Planning Authority and further justification is provided that

demonstrates why this is the only option and how the applicant has gone about minimising the impact on the significance of the original elements.

The main public banking halls are undoubtedly the most significant interiors within the Prudential. Incorporating ornate glazed tiling/faïence, colonnades, grand fireplaces, historic timber screens with stained glass and large arched windows on the Union Street elevation. The proposal includes the preservation of the space in its current configuration, whilst cleaning and repairing the interior tiles, reinstating and restoring the plastered ceiling and parquet flooring, removing the later screen partitions, restoring the original timber screens and reinstating the smashed glass and restoring and repairing two historic Banking Hall Counters including the removal and replacement of the nonoriginal countertop, and incorporating these fittings into the café/lounge. Additionally, it is proposed to create an opening through an existing arched niche in order to provide level access to and from the main entrance lobby adjacent, which would include the removal of some historic fabric and the insertion of new contemporary fittings for public use.

The approach to the Banking Hall is supported by officers subject to the submission of condition surveys, method statements, samples and specifications, to be conditioned. Additionally, the approach to add new modern ventilation totems, integrating with the existing architecture, is justified due to sensitive nature of the existing historic fabric.

With regards to further proposed internal alterations, further condition surveys will also be required through condition, including that for existing cills, surrounds and frames for windows, fireplaces, skirtings, cornices, architraves, dado and picture rails, plastered ceilings, flooring and doors. This will allow for a conservation approach to be agreed for each.

Finally, it is proposed that as part of the refurbishment, internal wall lining that utilising natural wood fibres as opposed to traditional insulation will be included to improve the thermal performance of the external walls. This approach will not be applied to the banking hall. Further information would need to be provided with regards to the environmental strategy to justify this, however, it is considered that the further information required can be requested and satisfied through the discharge of conditions.

CONCLUSION

The building is disused, in a severe state of deterioration and needs a use which will secure its long-term conservation.

Officers have considered the requirement for clear and convincing justification for any harm or loss to the significance of the heritage assets and carefully considered the alterations proposed to the building and its setting. In this instance, it is considered that the cumulative impact of the works has been explored within the application and individual elements can be further assess through the discharge of conditions.

As concluded in the submitted Heritage Impact Assessment, the proposals will result in less than substantial harm to the significance of the Prudential Building. Paragraph 202 of the NPPF states that 'where a development proposal will lead to less than substantial harm to the significance of a designated heritage asset, this harm should be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal, including securing its optimum viable use.'

The identified harm is justified by the public benefits which include the retention, restoration, viable active use and public accessibility of the grade II listed building which is located within the Town Centre Conservation Area. Ensuring its long-term conservation, reducing the risk

currently placed upon the conservation area, its wider potential socio-economic benefits, and sustainability benefits of the proposals.

It is considered that the level of intervention and loss has been justified and the design of the new interventions will have an overall positive impact on the building and the conservation area. Therefore, subject to the imposition of planning conditions, to allow the further assessment of the detailed information unavailable at this time, the development is considered acceptable in this respect.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Planning Committee resolves to grant permission, subject to the following conditions:

1. The development must be begun not later than the expiry of THREE years beginning with the date of this permission.

Reason - To comply with the provisions of Section 51 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

2. The development hereby approved shall be fully implemented in accordance with the Approved Details Schedule list on this decision notice.

Reason - For the avoidance of doubt and to ensure that the development is carried out in accordance with the approved plans and specifications.

3. No works to those individual elements stated in A – O in the below list, for the grade II listed building shall be carried out unless and until existing condition surveys and method statements, where applicable, and specifications and samples, for that item have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority:

- A. Staircases, balustrades and handrails;
- B. Windows including cills, surrounds, frames and glass
- C. Timber panels;
- D. Timber lobby;
- E. Plastered ceilings;
- F. Walls, plastering, panelling and finishes, including skirtings, cornices, architraves, dado and picture rails;
- G. Doors;
- H. Floors;
- I. Fireplaces
- J. Tiling;
- K. Internal wall linings and provision of insulation;
- L. Leadwork;
- M. Rainwater goods;
- N. New internal lift;
- O. New glazed roof and lanterns;

Thereafter the development shall not be brought into use until the works have been completed in accordance with the approved scheme.

Reason - The Local Planning Authority considers it expedient in order to protect the historic fabric of the listed building and to protect amenity, having regard to Policies 20 and 24 of the Oldham Local Plan.

4. Notwithstanding the plans hereby approved, no site clearance or development shall take place until dusk/dawn surveys in relation to establishing bat activity have been undertaken by an appropriately qualified person between May and September, and in accordance with the recommendations within the submitted Bat Scoping Assessment (ref. PC22101/BSA/1.1). The surveys shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority and if any bat roosts are found in the building any protection/mitigation measures, or other recommendations of the reports, shall be undertaken in full and in accordance with a timetable to be first agreed in writing by the local planning authority.

Reason- Prior approval of such details is necessary to ensure the protection and enhancement of features and species of ecological interest having regard to Policy 21 of the Oldham Local Plan, and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

5. The development hereby permitted shall not be occupied unless and until full plans and a detailed specification of a comprehensive lighting scheme within the curtilage of the proposed development have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The lighting scheme shall not be brought into use unless and until the Local Planning Authority has approved the scheme in writing. The lighting shall be operated in full accordance with the approved scheme and maintained thereafter.

Reason - To ensure the appearance of the development is acceptable in the interests of the visual amenity of the area within which the site is located and to protect the historic fabric of the listed building. Having regard to Policies 20 and 24 of the Oldham Local Plan.

6. The use of the development hereby approved shall not commence until a scheme for the provision of secure cycle parking has been implemented in accordance with details which shall have previously been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The approved facility shall remain available for users of the development thereafter.

Reason – In order to promote sustainable means of travel having regard to Policies 5 and 9 of the Oldham Local Plan.

7. No development shall take place, including any works of demolition, until a Construction Management Plan (CMP) with detailed method statements of construction and risk assessments, has been submitted to, and approved in writing by Oldham Council (approval to be in consultation with Transport for Greater Manchester). The approved CMP shall include agreed safe methods of working adjacent to the Metrolink Hazard Zone and the Overhead Line Equipment and shall be adhered to throughout the construction period. The CMP shall, as a minimum, provide for: -

- protection of Metrolink equipment;
- the retention of 24hr unhindered access to the Overhead Line Equipment, trackside equipment cabinets and chambers for the low voltage power, signalling and communications cables for Metrolink both during construction and once operational;
- pedestrian management proposals to ensure that a suitable footway width is retained and that pedestrians are not forced into the tramway path;
- loading and unloading of plant and materials;

- construction and demolition methods to be used; including the use of cranes (which must not oversail the tramway);
- the design, erection, maintenance and dismantling of scaffolding, having due regard to climbing risk and also the provisions of BS EN 50122-1; please note the installation and dismantling is likely to require an electrical isolation of the Metrolink overhead wires;
- the erection, maintenance and removal of security hoarding, if used. This should be at a minimum distance of 1.5m from the kerb which demarcates the tramway path, unless otherwise agreed with Transport for Greater Manchester, please note that any hoarding along the footway would be within the Metrolink drop zone for the overhead wires and will therefore need to be made of non-conductive material or earthed, bonded or designed such that they do not become live should a failure of the overhead lines occur; and
- measures to control the emission of dust and dirt during construction;

Reason- In the interests of health and safety, to safeguard the amenities of the locality and to ensure that the developer complies with all the necessary system clearances and agrees safe methods of working to meet the safety requirements of working above and adjacent to the Metrolink system. Having regard to Policies 5 and 9 of the Oldham Local Plan and paragraphs 183 and 184 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

8. Prior to the commencement of the development a scheme for acoustically insulating the proposed development against noise and vibration from the adjacent Metrolink line shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The approved noise insulation scheme shall be completed before the development is occupied.

Reason: To secure a reduction in noise having regards to policy 9 of the Oldham Local Plan.

9. No development shall commence unless and until a site investigation and assessment in relation to the landfill gas risk has been carried out and the consultant's report and recommendations have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. Written approval from the Local Planning Authority will be required for any necessary programmed remedial measures and, on receipt of a satisfactory completion report, to discharge the condition.

Reason - In order to protect public safety, because the site is located within 250m of a former landfill site, having regard to paragraphs 183 and 184 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

10. No development shall commence until full details of a scheme for a sustainable drainage system to serve the site, and method of implementation, including maintenance for the lifetime of the development, have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The approved scheme shall be implemented in accordance with the approved details and timetable subject to a condition survey of the existing drainage network. Thereafter the sustainable drainage system shall be managed and maintained in accordance with the approved scheme.

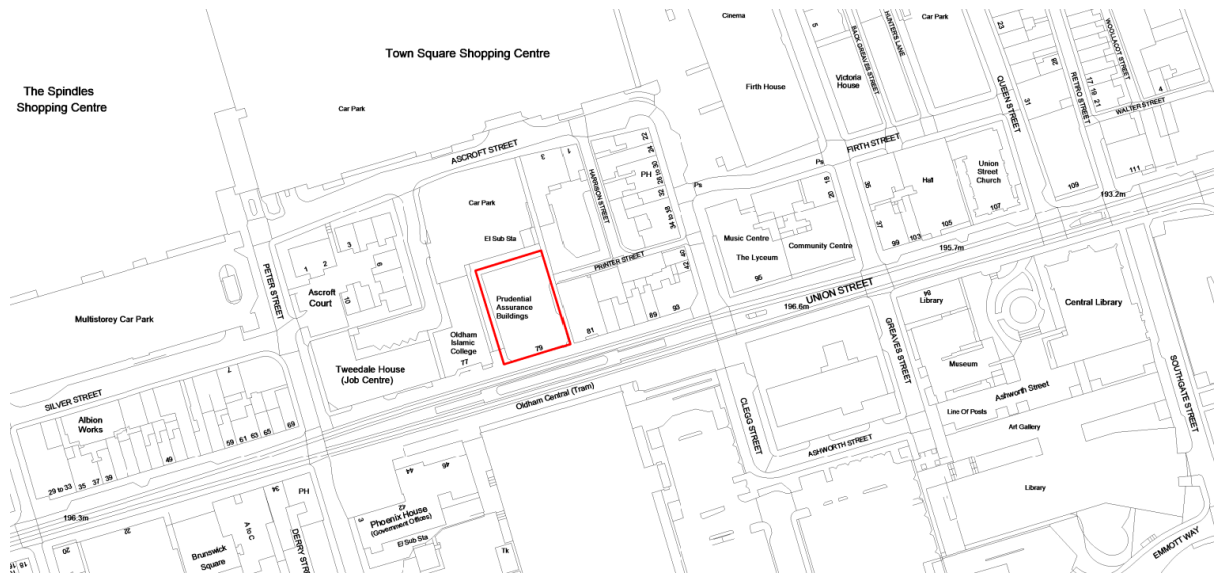
Reason: To prevent the increased risk of flooding both on and off site and ensure satisfactory drainage facilities are provided to serve the site, having regard to Policy 19 of the Oldham Local Plan.'

11. Prior to the erection of the external stairlifts to the front entrances of the building, details including elevations and specifications should be submitted to and approved in writing

by the local planning authority and thereafter be built in accordance with the approved scheme.

Reason- To protect the historic fabric of the listed building and to protect amenity, having regard to Policies 20 and 24 of the Oldham Local Plan.

SITE LOCATION PLAN (NOT TO SCALE):



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APPLICATION REPORT - LBC/350249/22 Planning Committee 8 March 2023

Registration Date: 14 December 2022
Ward: Coldhurst

Application Reference: LBC/350249/22
Type of Application: Listed Building Consent

Proposal: Alteration and repair to facilitate new workspace use

Location: The Prudential Assurance Building, 79 Union Street, Oldham, Manchester, OL1 1JZ,

Case Officer: Paula Stebbings
Applicant: Mr Nawaz Khan (Oldham Borough Council)
Agent: Miss Shaadi Karimi

THE SITE

This application relates to the Prudential Building, which is located on Union Street, Oldham. The principal façade faces Union Street, with alleyways to the east and west of the building, commonly used for access to Spindles Shopping Centre.

The Prudential building is grade II listed and sits within Oldham Town Centre Conservation Area. Dating back to 1889 the building was designed by Alfred Waterhouse for the Prudential Assurance Company. Currently vacant, the red brick and terracotta dressed heritage asset sits in a declining state of disrepair. The existing use class is Class E (offices) and Sui Generis (nightclub). Whilst the building appears relatively unaltered from its original design externally, internally it has changed uses several times. However, it is important to note that the buildings were designed to be in several uses with sections leased off e.g. the Basement was originally run as a restaurant.

The front elevation is the most decorative, with terracotta shown in various forms. The elevation consists of a 3-bay range, with recessed polygonal towers either side, rounded arches at ground floor, three light mullioned windows with transom windows above and three dormer windows located on the roof slope. The further elevations carry some of this detail to a much lesser extent. Whilst the internal courtyard is characterised by white glazed brick.

Internally, much of the original interior has been lost. However, the main banking hall still maintains elements of the Victorian character, through its ornate plaster panelled ceiling and Burmantoft glazed tiled walls.

THE PROPOSAL

Listed building consent and the associated planning permission have been sought in relation to proposed alterations and repairs to facilitate a new workspace use.

Specifically, the proposed works to be assessed as part of this application and the associated listed building consent application consist of the following:

Roof alterations

- Insertion of new dormers, with a linear form, aligning with window positions and proportions below.
- Creation of lanterns on top of the existing turrets to provide a contemporary impact and emphasis at street level. These will contain meeting rooms and proposals include the use of lighting installations and features to add greater prominence.

Atrium

- New roof enclosing the central atrium.
- Creation of pop out spaces in existing window openings in the atrium, such as a stage area and a phone booth at different levels at a cantilever to overlook the atrium space.
- Window seats inside the existing openings.
- Tiling to be made good and restored.

External windows

- Removal and replacement of damaged windows with new aluminium double glazed units to match existing, and repair or reinstatement of wood panelling.

Works to the Banking Hall

- Cleaning and repair to interior tiles.
- Reinstatement of plastered ceiling and restoration of parquet floor.
- Removal of screen partitions.
- New opening through arched niche, removal of some historic tiling.
- Insertion of new contemporary fittings for public use.
- Restoration of original timber screens from the Banking Hall and reinstatement of smashed glass.
- Restoration and repair of two historic Banking Hall Counters including removal and replacement of nonoriginal countertop, and incorporation of these fittings into the café/lounge.

Other Internals

- Creation of a number of new internal walls to create new usable spaces.
- Repair and reinstatement of cornices and skirtings.
- Removal of plastered ceilings.
- Retention and repair of existing fireplaces.
- Stripping back of the lift enclosures and fixing of the historic lift on the third floor.
- Internal wall linings.

RELEVANT PLANNING HISTORY

PA/019124/85- Change of use to Office- Granted- 15.01.1986

RELEVANT PLANNING POLICIES AND GUIDANCE

Section 66(1) of the Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 states that in considering whether to grant planning permission for development that affects a listed building or its setting, the local planning authority shall have special regard to the desirability of preserving the building or its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses.

Section 72(1) of the Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 states that with respect to conservation areas special attention should be paid to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of the area.

Section 38(6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires that, to the extent that development plan policies are material, planning decisions must be taken in accordance with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

In this case the 'Development Plan' is the Joint Development Plan Document (DPD) which forms part of the Local Development Framework for Oldham. The application site is located in the town centre boundary by the Proposals Map associated with this document and is part included in Oldham Town Centre Conservation Area.

The following DPD Policies are relevant:

Policy 20- Design
Policy 24 – Historic Environment

Relevant SPD:

Oldham Town Centre Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan (Adopted August 2019)

CONSULTATIONS

| | |
|--|---|
| Historic England: | No objections. |
| Drainage: | No objections, subject to condition. |
| Environmental Health: | No objections. |
| Highways: | No objections, subject to condition. |
| Planning Policy: | No objections. |
| Transport for Greater Manchester: Joint Committee of The National Amenity Society: | No objections, subject to conditions. |
| Greater Manchester Ecology Unit: | No comments received. Requested submission of dusk and dawn surveys. |
| Coal Authority: | No objections, subject to informative. |

REPRESENTATIONS

The proposed development has been advertised by means of individual consultation letters sent to the occupiers of the neighbouring properties, a Press Notice, and a Site Notice being erected adjacent to the site. As a result of the publicity, no representations have been received.

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

This application does not propose a change of use but alterations, identified through surveys and investigations, that are required to redevelop the building. Therefore, the main issue to consider is the impact of the proposals on the listed building and conservation area.

In respect to Sections 16 and 66 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, the Governance and Legal Director of English Heritage ('Legal Developments'

Conservation Bulletin Issue 71: Winter 2013) states that the courts have said that these statutory requirements operate as 'a paramount consideration' and 'the first consideration for a decision maker'.

Any decisions relating to listed buildings and their settings and conservation areas must address the statutory considerations of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 (see above) as well as satisfying the relevant policies within the National Planning Policy Framework and the Local Plan.

The NPPF puts 'a presumption in favour of sustainable development' at its heart and identifies sustaining and enhancing the historic environment as a key element. It sets out a requirement within paragraph 199 to apply 'great weight' to the assets conservation when considering the impact of a proposed development on the significance of a designated heritage asset. In paragraph 190(a) it also advises that Local Planning Authorities should take account of the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation.

The NPPF at paragraph 194 states:

'...In determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance...'

Level of Significance

The Prudential Assurance Building in Oldham is one of 27 branch buildings built across England. All were designed by renowned Victorian Architect Alfred Waterhouse and share a common appearance. Waterhouse favoured the use of terracotta which is evident in the Prudential Building. Built of brick, sitting on a polished granite plinth, with extensive terracotta dressings to openings, banding and high-level decoration, under a red tiled roof.

The Prudential Building is identified in the Oldham Town Centre Conservation Area Appraisal as a detracting element due to its vacancy and poor condition which is in urgent need of restoration and reuse. The wider street scene has changed dramatically since the buildings erection in the late 19th century and it now stands alone as one of the few buildings of that era left. The building has incredible potential to improve the identity and by extension the significance of the conservation area as well as its own significance through sensitive restoration and reuse.

A significant building to the local area and conservation area which provides evidential value of how this part of Oldham has developed. It has known historical associations with leading Architects of the period and has an unarguably high designed aesthetic value. For these reasons the importance of this building has been recognised in its designation as a Grade II listed building, highlighting it as being of national significance.

Historic England Response

Whilst the works proposed are extensive, Historic England have stated that this is a reflection of the state of the building. The designated heritage asset has suffered an extended period of unuse, lack of maintenance and failing of the roof coverings leading to widespread water ingress. Historic England consider that the proposal would be of benefit to the building and the wider conservation area through repairing and restoring historic fabric and details, both internally and externally, and giving the building an important community use once more.

Ecology

The submitted Preliminary Bat Survey identified a moderate bat roosting potential for the Prudential building. Therefore, Greater Manchester Ecology Unit (GMEU) have requested the submission of two dusk/dawn surveys to be undertaken on the building, to be submitted in advance of any decision. However, these surveys can only be carried out between May and September, and there is a concern that delaying any decision on this application whilst waiting for the results of those surveys would ultimately delay the overall programme for procuring the building and then making the necessary repairs and improvements to the building. This would mean that the dilapidated state of the grade II listed building, located within Oldham Town Centre Conservation Area, would continue to worsen and more historic fabric could be lost beyond repair. Therefore, to ensure the protection of the designated heritage assets, along with the protection of potential bats, it is recommended that a pre commencement condition is added to the decision that ensures that, prior to the commencement of development, the required dusk and dawn surveys are submitted to and signed off by the LPA. It is considered that this approach will result in the same outcome with regards to the protection of the bats but shall also allow the protection of the listed building at a quicker pace.

Alteration and Impact

Modern external interventions include the insertion of new dormers, roof lanterns and the atrium. Due to water ingress the existing dormers are in a bad state of repair, however they provide a precedent to enhance the use of the top floors whilst creating a new elevation treatment visible from the street. The new dormers have been designed in a linear form and are to be clad in coated aluminium, providing a contemporary distinction between the historic fabric of the building, whilst aligning with the existing fenestration in terms of positioning and proportions.

Historically, spires were located on the top of the existing corner turrets and contributed to the further prominence of the building. The proposal creates a modern interpretation of the previous form, integrating light diffusing glazing, to allow for the lanterns to glow at night, highlighting the landmark building.

The proposed atrium includes a series of modern interventions such as platform perches and cantilevered areas which overlook the atrium space, creating a hub of activity at the heart of the building. The new sloped, steel beamed, glazed roof will enclose the space and further protect the existing tiled finish of the atrium space, which is currently subject to extensive vegetation growth, water damage disrepair.

With regards to the window scheme, it is intended to remove and replace damaged windows with new aluminium double glazed units. However, the extent of damage to the windows is currently unknown until a survey is done to determine the amount of damp and rot to the existing timber windows. It is explained in the submitted Design and Access Statement that the reasoning for the aluminium double-glazed units replacing the existing timber single glazed units is to incorporate an environmental strategy and to allow new openings so the windows can be cleaned from the inside. The Conservation Officer has concerns with this approach at this stage as being a council owned building an exemplar should be set for others. Windows should be replaced like for like, including materials, proportions and openings. Where replacements are needed, Accoya timber can offer a similar longevity to aluminium windows and thermal efficiency can be increased through the repair of existing timber windows and use of secondary glazing. Therefore, a condition shall be added to ensure a window condition survey is submitted to the Local Planning Authority and further justification is provided that demonstrates why this is the only option and how the applicant has gone about minimising the impact on the significance of the original elements.

The main public banking halls are undoubtedly the most significant interiors within the Prudential. Incorporating ornate glazed tiling/faïence, colonnades, grand fireplaces, historic timber screens with stained glass and large arched windows on the Union Street elevation. The proposal includes the preservation of the space in its current configuration, whilst cleaning and repairing the interior tiles, reinstating and restoring the plastered ceiling and parquet flooring, removing the later screen partitions, restoring the original timber screens and reinstating the smashed glass and restoring and repairing two historic Banking Hall Counters including the removal and replacement of the nonoriginal countertop, and incorporating these fittings into the café/lounge. Additionally, it is proposed to create an opening through an existing arched niche in order to provide level access to and from the main entrance lobby adjacent, which would include the removal of some historic fabric and the insertion of new contemporary fittings for public use.

The approach to the Banking Hall is supported by officers subject to the submission of condition surveys, method statements, samples and specifications, to be conditioned. Additionally, the approach to add new modern ventilation totems, integrating with the existing architecture, is justified due to sensitive nature of the existing historic fabric.

With regards to further proposed internal alterations, further condition surveys will also be required through condition, including that for existing cills, surrounds and frames for windows, fireplaces, skirtings, cornices, architraves, dado and picture rails, plastered ceilings, flooring and doors. This will allow for a conservation approach to be agreed for each.

Finally, it is proposed that as part of the refurbishment, internal wall lining that utilising natural wood fibres as opposed to traditional insulation will be included to improve the thermal performance of the external walls. This approach will not be applied to the banking hall. Further information would need to be provided with regards to the environmental strategy to justify this, however, it is considered that the further information required can be requested and satisfied through the discharge of conditions.

CONCLUSION

The building is disused, in a severe state of deterioration and needs a use which will secure its long-term conservation.

Officers have considered the requirement for clear and convincing justification for any harm or loss to the significance of the heritage assets and carefully considered the alterations proposed to the building and its setting. In this instance, it is considered that the cumulative impact of the works has been explored within the application and individual elements can be further assess through the discharge of conditions.

As concluded in the submitted Heritage Impact Assessment, the proposals will result in less than substantial harm to the significance of the Prudential Building. Paragraph 202 of the NPPF states that 'where a development proposal will lead to less than substantial harm to the significance of a designated heritage asset, this harm should be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal, including securing its optimum viable use.'

The identified harm is justified by the public benefits which include the retention, restoration, viable active use and public accessibility of the grade II listed building which is located within the Town Centre Conservation Area. Ensuring its long-term conservation, reducing the risk currently placed upon the conservation area, its wider potential socio-economic benefits, and sustainability benefits of the proposals.

It is considered that the level of intervention and loss has been justified and the design of the new interventions will have an overall positive impact on the building and the conservation area. Therefore, subject to the imposition of planning conditions, to allow the further assessment of the detailed information unavailable at this time, the development is considered acceptable in this respect.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Planning Committee resolves to grant permission, subject to the following conditions:

1. The development must be begun not later than the expiry of THREE years beginning with the date of this permission.

Reason - To comply with the provisions of Section 18 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.

2. The development hereby approved shall be fully implemented in accordance with the Approved Details Schedule list on this decision notice.

Reason - For the avoidance of doubt and to ensure that the development is carried out in accordance with the approved plans and specifications.

3. No works to those individual elements stated in A – O in the below list, for the grade II listed building shall be carried out unless and until existing condition surveys and method statements, where applicable, and specifications and samples, for that item have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority:

- A. Staircases, balustrades and handrails;
- B. Windows including cills, surrounds, frames and glass
- C. Timber panels;
- D. Timber lobby;
- E. Plastered ceilings;
- F. Walls, plastering, panelling and finishes, including skirtings, cornices, architraves, dado and picture rails;
- G. Doors;
- H. Floors;
- I. Fireplaces
- J. Tiling;
- K. Internal wall linings and provision of insulation;
- L. Leadwork;
- M. Rainwater goods;
- N. New internal lift;
- O. New glazed roof and lanterns;

Thereafter the development shall not be brought into use until the works have been completed in accordance with the approved scheme.

Reason - The Local Planning Authority considers it expedient in order to protect the historic fabric of the listed building and to protect amenity, having regard to Policies 20 and 24 of the Oldham Local Plan.

4. Notwithstanding the plans hereby approved, no site clearance or development shall take place until dusk/dawn surveys in relation to establishing bat activity have been

undertaken by an appropriately qualified person between May and September, and in accordance with the recommendations within the submitted Bat Scoping Assessment (ref. PC22101/BSA/1.1). The surveys shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority and if any bat roosts are found in the building any protection/mitigation measures, or other recommendations of the reports, shall be undertaken in full and in accordance with a timetable to be first agreed in writing by the local planning authority.

Reason- Prior approval of such details is necessary to ensure the protection and enhancement of features and species of ecological interest having regard to Policy 21 of the Oldham Local Plan, and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

5. The development hereby permitted shall not be occupied unless and until full plans and a detailed specification of a comprehensive lighting scheme within the curtilage of the proposed development have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The lighting scheme shall not be brought into use unless and until the Local Planning Authority has approved the scheme in writing. The lighting shall be operated in full accordance with the approved scheme and maintained thereafter.

Reason - To ensure the appearance of the development is acceptable in the interests of the visual amenity of the area within which the site is located and to protect the historic fabric of the listed building. Having regard to Policies 20 and 24 of the Oldham Local Plan.

6. The use of the development hereby approved shall not commence until a scheme for the provision of secure cycle parking has been implemented in accordance with details which shall have previously been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The approved facility shall remain available for users of the development thereafter.

Reason – In order to promote sustainable means of travel having regard to Policies 5 and 9 of the Oldham Local Plan.

7. No development shall take place, including any works of demolition, until a Construction Management Plan (CMP) with detailed method statements of construction and risk assessments, has been submitted to, and approved in writing by Oldham Council (approval to be in consultation with Transport for Greater Manchester). The approved CMP shall include agreed safe methods of working adjacent to the Metrolink Hazard Zone and the Overhead Line Equipment and shall be adhered to throughout the construction period. The CMP shall, as a minimum, provide for: -

- protection of Metrolink equipment;
- the retention of 24hr unhindered access to the Overhead Line Equipment, trackside equipment cabinets and chambers for the low voltage power, signalling and communications cables for Metrolink both during construction and once operational;
- pedestrian management proposals to ensure that a suitable footway width is retained and that pedestrians are not forced into the tramway path;
- loading and unloading of plant and materials;
- construction and demolition methods to be used; including the use of cranes (which must not oversail the tramway);
- the design, erection, maintenance and dismantling of scaffolding, having due regard to climbing risk and also the provisions of BS EN 50122-1; please note the installation and dismantling is likely to require an electrical isolation of the Metrolink overhead wires;

- the erection, maintenance and removal of security hoarding, if used. This should be at a minimum distance of 1.5m from the kerb which demarcates the tramway path, unless otherwise agreed with Transport for Greater Manchester, please note that any hoarding along the footway would be within the Metrolink drop zone for the overhead wires and will therefore need to be made of non-conductive material or earthed, bonded or designed such that they do not become live should a failure of the overhead lines occur; and
- measures to control the emission of dust and dirt during construction;

Reason- In the interests of health and safety, to safeguard the amenities of the locality and to ensure that the developer complies with all the necessary system clearances and agrees safe methods of working to meet the safety requirements of working above and adjacent to the Metrolink system. Having regard to Policies 5 and 9 of the Oldham Local Plan and paragraphs 183 and 184 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

8. Prior to the commencement of the development a scheme for acoustically insulating the proposed development against noise and vibration from the adjacent Metrolink line shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The approved noise insulation scheme shall be completed before the development is occupied.

Reason: To secure a reduction in noise having regards to policy 9 of the Oldham Local Plan.

9. No development shall commence unless and until a site investigation and assessment in relation to the landfill gas risk has been carried out and the consultant's report and recommendations have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. Written approval from the Local Planning Authority will be required for any necessary programmed remedial measures and, on receipt of a satisfactory completion report, to discharge the condition.

Reason - In order to protect public safety, because the site is located within 250m of a former landfill site, having regard to paragraphs 183 and 184 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

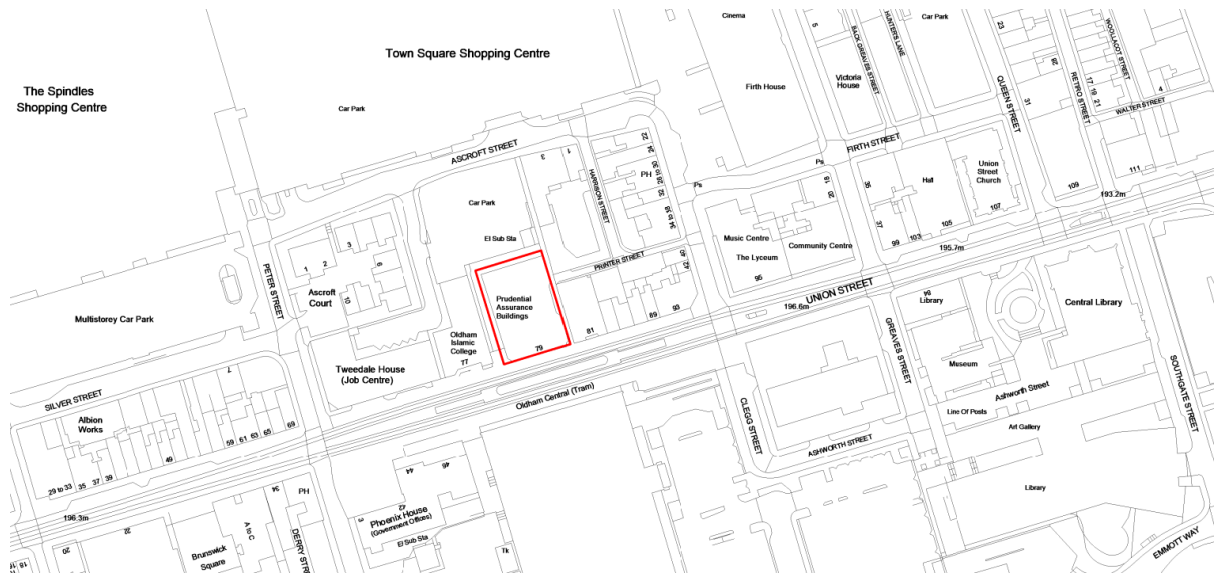
10. No development shall commence until full details of a scheme for a sustainable drainage system to serve the site, and method of implementation, including maintenance for the lifetime of the development, have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The approved scheme shall be implemented in accordance with the approved details and timetable subject to a condition survey of the existing drainage network. Thereafter the sustainable drainage system shall be managed and maintained in accordance with the approved scheme.

Reason: To prevent the increased risk of flooding both on and off site and ensure satisfactory drainage facilities are provided to serve the site, having regard to Policy 19 of the Oldham Local Plan.'

11. Prior to the erection of the external stairlifts to the front entrances of the building, details including elevations and specifications should be submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority and thereafter be built in accordance with the approved scheme.

Reason- To protect the historic fabric of the listed building and to protect amenity, having regard to Policies 20 and 24 of the Oldham Local Plan.

SITE LOCATION PLAN (NOT TO SCALE):



APPLICATION REPORT – FUL/350363/22 Planning Committee 8th March 2023

Registration Date: 9th January 2023
Ward: Royton North

Application Reference: FUL/350363/23
Type of Application: Full

Proposal: Change of use from a residential dwelling (Use Class C3) to a family assessment unit (Sui Generis) offering parenting assessments by a registered social worker.

Location: 25 Queen Street, Royton, OL2 5JY

Case Officer: Emma Breheny
Applicant: Aontacht Ltd
Agent: Ms K Healey Pegasus Group

INTRODUCTION

The application is a minor development for a change of use of a dwelling to a family assessment unit. The application has been referred to Planning Committee for determination by Councillors Phythian and Quigg on the basis that there is high level of community interest in the application, concerns over additional traffic and demand for on-street parking and concerns regarding how the proposal would change the character and amenity of the area.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the application be approved subject to the conditions set out in this report and that the Head of Planning shall be authorised to issue the decision.

THE SITE

The application site comprises a two-storey end-terraced dwelling within a row of similar residential premises. The property has been previously extended by means of a single storey rear extension and a rear dormer.

The current layout of the dwelling comprises two reception rooms, a kitchen and utility room at ground floor, 4 bedrooms and a bathroom at first floor, and two bedrooms and an ensuite at second floor.

THE PROPOSAL

The applicant seeks to change the use of the premises from a single dwelling to a family assessment unit.

The proposed use of the premises will offer temporary accommodation for parents and their children supported by professionals to ensure that they develop parenting skills to a standard which allows them to safely care for their children.

Families will be accommodated for a period of 12 weeks to allow their parenting skills to be assessed and developed.

RELEVANT PLANNING POLICIES

The 'Development Plan' is the Joint Development Plan Document (Local Plan) which forms part of the Local Development Framework for Oldham. The site is allocated in the Proposals Map associated with this document as within Saint Paul's Conservation Area

As such, the following policies are relevant to the determination of this application:

Policy 1 - Climate Change and Sustainable Development;
Policy 2 – Communities;
Policy 9 - Local Environment;

CONSULTATIONS

Highways Engineer: No objections subject to a condition requiring provision of secure cycle storage.

Environmental Health: [No Objections

REPRESENTATIONS

The application has been publicised by means of neighbour notification letters, site notice and press notice. In response, 43 letters of objection have been received, and 49 letters of support.

The objections relate to:

- Number of properties notified
- Impact on Conservation Area
- Noise
- Drug and alcohol use
- Parking
- Insufficient external space
- Devaluation of property
- Demands on health services
- Alternative sites should be considered
- Safeguarding of neighbours

The support letters relate to:

- Benefit to families in Oldham
- Allowing families to remain together
- Preventing children being put into care
- Utilising a dwelling would create a familiar setting for a family

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

Principle

Policy 2 states that the Council will support proposals for new and improved community facilities that meet an identified need by working with partners. Policy 2 defines a community facility to include special needs housing involving communal living and/or supported living accommodation.

Policy 9 seeks to ensure developments do not cause an unacceptable level of disturbance to neighbouring properties in terms of noise, smells, traffic and other disturbances, Policy 9 also seeks to ensure that occupiers of the development are not impacted upon unnecessarily.

The proposed use would provide temporary residential accommodation for families in need of additional support to enable parenting skills to be observed and developed to allow, wherever possible, children to remain in the care of their parents. The application site is located within a residential street and as the proposed use would be predominately for residential purposes, albeit temporary, it would be acceptable within an existing residential area.

Given the above, it is considered that the principle of development is acceptable in this instance, subject to other material planning considerations.

Residential Amenity

The existing property is a large dwellinghouse with six bedrooms which could accommodate a large single family. Such use of a large family home is likely to be associated with numerous comings and goings including those made by vehicle. The proposed use of the property as temporary accommodation for up to four parents, four children, and two staff members, would not have a significantly greater impact on residential amenity in terms of noise, disturbance or traffic generation.

Design and Integration with Local Character

The proposal does not seek to impose any external alterations to the premises. As such, the property would retain its appearance as a dwellinghouse, and would not appear out of character within the residential street.

Although the site is located within a Saint Paul's conservation area, given that no alterations are proposed to the exterior of the premises, the proposal has no impact on the conservation area.

Highways

There is no off road parking serving the dwelling and none would be provided for the proposed development. Given the site constraints, it was evident from the site visit that the properties along Queen Street and surrounding streets utilise on street parking, and there are no parking restrictions in place.

The proposed development is in a sustainable location with good links to public transport opportunities for walking and cycling and access to a wide range of amenities. It is considered unlikely that there would be any significant additional traffic generation or demand for parking generated by the proposed use.

The Council's Highways Engineer has been consulted on the proposal and has raised no objections.

Response to Representations

- Number of properties notified

The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure Order) (2015) requires local authorities to either write to properties sharing a boundary with the application site or post a site notice close to the premises. In this case, all adjoining neighbours were notified by letter, and a site notice was also posted at the front of the property and an advertisement published in the local press. The Local Planning Authority has therefore exceeded the minimum publicity requirements for the proposal.

- Impact on Conservation Area

As discussed in the main body of the report, there are no external alterations proposed to the property and as such, there will be no impact on the character of the Conservation Area.

- Noise

The proposed use of the property as a residential setting would not be dissimilar to its use as a family home. Therefore, it is considered that the proposal would not give rise to significant noise disturbance above that which is already experienced.

- Drug and alcohol use

The applicant has advised that no families will be permitted to reside in the accommodation if they are using illegal substances. There is no evidence to suggest otherwise, nor is there any evidence to suggest that the proposal would give rise to anti-social behaviour. Any future illegal behaviour would be a matter for the Police in the same way it would be for occupiers of a dwellinghouse

- Parking

This is covered in the main body of the report.

- Insufficient external space

As discussed above, the proposal is not dissimilar to the use of the building as a family dwelling. Although the external amenity space is limited it is similar to neighbouring properties within the immediate vicinity and would not be a reason to refuse the application.

- Devaluation of property

This is not a material planning consideration that can be afforded any weight in the determination of the application.

- Demands on health services

The proposal would be for temporary accommodation only. The families occupying the premises would be registered with their own GP practice and the proposed use would not give rise to any significant impact on the existing health services within the area.

- Alternative sites should be considered

The Local Planning Authority is required to consider all applications as submitted. There is no planning policy requirement for alternative sites to be considered. The proposal which has been submitted must be fully assessed for its compliant with local and national policies.

- Safeguarding of neighbours

As the premises would continue to be used for residential purposes there is no reason to suggest that additional safeguarding for neighbouring properties is required. As discussed in the main body of the report, should the proposal be for permanent residential use for families, then planning permission would not be required. There would be staff present at all times to help care for the families' needs within the property.

CONCLUSION

The proposal is considered compliant with Development Management Policies 2, 9 and 20 of the Oldham Local Plan, and guidance within the revised National Planning Policy Framework. It is therefore recommended that the application be approved, subject to the imposition of the conditions provided below.

RECOMMENDED CONDITIONS

Grant planning permission, subject to the following conditions:

1. The development must be begun not later than the expiry of THREE years beginning with the date of this permission. REASON - To comply with the provisions of Section 51 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.
2. The development hereby approved shall be fully implemented in accordance with the Approved Details Schedule list on this decision notice. REASON - For the avoidance of doubt and to ensure that the development is carried out in accordance with the approved plans and specifications.
3. The use of the building hereby approved shall not commence until a scheme for the provision of secure cycle parking has been implemented in accordance with details which shall have previously been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The approved facility shall remain available for users of the development thereafter. REASON - In order to promote sustainable means of travel having regard to Policies 5 and 9 of the Oldham Local Plan

SITE LOCATION PLAN (NOT TO SCALE):



Planning Appeals Update

Planning Committee

Report of Head of Planning and Infrastructure

DATE OF COMMITTEE

8 March 2023

An update on Planning Appeals was last provided to the Planning Committee at the meeting on 15 February 2023. The table below provides a comprehensive list of appeals submitted and decisions taken on appeals since 6 February 2023 (until 24 February 2023) which is to be noted by the Committee.

| Application No. | Site Address | Appeal Decision | Appeal Lodged Date | Description |
|-----------------|---|-----------------------|--------------------|---|
| ADV/348447/22 | Land At 17/19 Huddersfield Road (A62) Oldham OL1 3LG | Dismissed, 07/02/2023 | 20/10/2022 | Conversion of two existing advertising displays to a single digital advertising display |
| CEA/348450/22 | Land At Station Road/ Harrop Green Lane Diggle Oldham | Ongoing | 27/04/2022 | Certificate of lawfulness for Erection of 1 no. dwelling. |
| LBC/347521/21 | 1A Lower Tunstead, Greenfield | Ongoing | 12/08/2022 | Single and two storey rear extensions |
| PIP/348651/22 | Land Off Stockport Road Lydgate | Ongoing | 21/09/2022 | Proposed development for 3No. dwellings and associated works. |
| ADV/348554/22 | Middleton Road Mills Hill Bridge M24 2EH | Ongoing | 19/12/2022 | Replacement of an existing 96 panel static display with a smaller 48 panel "D-poster". |
| HOU/349345/22 | 1 Sefton Close Oldham OL1 4PG | Dismissed, 15/02/2023 | 06/12/2022 | Two storey side extension. |

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| HOU/349475/22 | 6 Poplar Avenue Oldham | Dismissed, 14/02/2023 | 05/01/2023 | Front porch and canopy |
| HOU/349583/22 | 9 Honey Hill Lees Oldham OL4 5DP | Dismissed, 16/02/2023 | 19/12/2022 | Erection of a first floor rear extension. |
| FUL/348900/22 | 119 Broadbent Road, Oldham, OL1 4HY | Ongoing | 27/01/2023 | Change of use from C3 dwelling to C2 residential institution |
| HOU/349861/22 | 8 Fernlea Avenue, Chadderton, Oldham, OL1 2QH | Ongoing | 03/02/2023 | Raising of roof to accommodate a new rear dormer. |
| HOU/349862/22 | 6 Fernlea Avenue, Chadderton, Oldham, OL1 2QH | Ongoing | 03/02/2023 | Raising roof to accommodate rear dormer extension |
| FUL/347294/21 | Land adjacent to Maltby Court, Lees, Oldham | NEW | 09/02/2023 | Construction of 40 residential properties with associated access, landscaping and ancillary works |
| FUL/348637/22 | Land Off Middleton Road (rear of 867-877 Middleton Road) Oldham | NEW | 21/02/2023 | Retention of storage containers, boundary fencing and landscaping. Amended application relating to FUL/347337/21 |
| HOU/349508/22 | 74 Wellington Road, Greenfield, Oldham, OL3 7AQ | NEW | 08/02/2023 | Retrospective application to raise wall at the front of property with integrated decking area, sliding electric gate for drive-way with brick pillars and a separate hinged access gate. |

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|---------------|---------------------------------------|-----|------------|--|
| HOU/349758/22 | 97 Belgrave Road Oldham OL8 1LU | NEW | 10/02/2023 | Erection of a two storey rear extension, rear dormer (with Juliette balcony), and side dormer. |
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RECOMMENDATION - That the report be noted.

The following is a list of background papers on which this report is based in accordance with the requirements of Section 100D (1) of the Local Government Act 1972. It does not include documents, which would disclose exempt or confidential information as defined by that Act.

If any person has any questions regarding these appeals and decisions, they can request further information from the Planning Service by contacting Martyn Leigh (Development Management Team Leader) via planning@oldham.gov.uk

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