



Bristol City Council Statement of Case

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Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (Section 62A Application)

Appeal: S62A/2025/0104

Site address: 4 The Mont, St Andrew's Road, Bristol, BS6 5ED

APPLICATION:

Application for Planning permission for Change of use from a dwellinghouse used by a single person or household (Use Class C3a) to a small dwellinghouse in multiple occupation (Use Class C4), including the erection of a cycle store.

PRINCIPLE OF DEVELOPMENT:

The NPPF (2024) highlights the need to significantly boost the supply of housing and to deliver a wide choice of high quality homes, widen opportunities for home ownership and create sustainable, inclusive and mixed communities. Policy BSC18 of the adopted Core Strategy reflects this guidance and states that "all new residential development should maintain, provide or contribute to a mix of housing tenures, types and sizes to help support the creation of mixed, balanced and inclusive communities", with reference to the evidence provided by the Strategic Housing Market Assessment, also notes that 'developments should contribute to a mix of housing types and avoid excessive concentrations of one particular type'. The policy wording states that development 'should aim to contribute to the diversity of housing in the local area and help to redress any housing imbalance that exists.

Development of HMOs is covered by Bristol City Council Site Allocations and Development Management (2014) Policy DM2. The policy provides an approach to addressing the impacts and issues that may result from this form of development and aims to ensure that the residential amenity and character of an area is preserved and that harmful concentrations do not arise. This policy does not permit new HMOs or the intensification of existing HMOs where development would create or contribute to a harmful concentration within a locality. The policy identifies a harmful concentration as a worsening of existing harmful conditions or a change to the housing mix that reduces housing choice.

The Council has an adopted Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) relevant to the determination of applications concerning houses in multiple occupation (HMOs): Managing the development of houses in multiple occupation, SPD (Adopted) November 2020 - referred to hereafter as the SPD. The SPD provides guidance in applying Policy DM2 (see above), relating specifically to houses in multiple occupation.

The proposed development is considered satisfactory and would not result in a harmful concentration of HMOs at the area level, as it exceeds the 10% threshold. The current concentration of HMOs within 100m of the site is 8.38%, and no sandwiching would occur in this instance.

SATISFACTORY LIVING ENVIRONMENT FOR FUTURE OCCUPERS:

Bristol City Council Site Allocations and Development Management (2014) Policy DM2 states that houses in multiple occupation will not be permitted where:

i. The development would harm the residential amenity or character of the locality as a result of any of the following:

- Levels of activity that cause excessive noise and disturbance to residents; or
- Levels of on-street parking that cannot be reasonably accommodated or regulated through parking control measures; or
- Cumulative detrimental impact of physical alterations to buildings and structures; or
- Inadequate storage for recycling/refuse and cycles.

ii. The development would create or contribute to a harmful concentration of such uses within a locality as a result of any of the following:

- Exacerbating existing harmful conditions including those listed at (i) above; or
- Reducing the choice of homes in the area by changing the housing mix.

Where development is permitted it must provide a good standard of accommodation by meeting relevant requirements and standards set out in other development plan policies.

Adopted Bristol Core Strategy Policy (2011) BCS18 makes specific reference to residential developments providing sufficient space for everyday activities and space which should be flexible and adaptable. In addition, Policy BCS21 sets out criteria for the assessment of design quality in new development and states that development will be expected to create a high-quality environment for future occupiers, and safeguard the amenity of existing development. Policy DM29 in the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies (2014) also states that new development should be dual aspect where possible, particularly where one of the aspects is north-facing. This policy, as well as DM27, further states that new buildings will be expected to ensure that existing and proposed development achieves appropriate levels of privacy, outlook and daylight.

The number of bathrooms will meet the Council's HMO licencing standards, as well as internal living communal space i.e kitchen/living space.

Every habitable room will contain a window and the proposed arrangement would provide adequate levels of daylighting, outlook, and ventilation in order to provide for an acceptable internal living environment.

The application is therefore acceptable on this basis and the development would provide an acceptable standard of accommodation for future occupiers.

DESIGN AND CONSERVATION:

Policy BCS21 advocates that new development should deliver high-quality urban design that contributes positively to an area's character and identity, whilst safeguarding the amenity of existing development.

Policies DM26-29 of the Site Allocations & Development Management Policies require development to contribute to the character and distinctiveness of an area through its layout, form, public realm and building design.

DM26 expects developments to contribute towards local character and distinctiveness by restoring the local pattern and grain of development, responding appropriately to the height, scale, massing, shape, form, and proportion of existing buildings, building lines and setbacks from the street, as well as reflecting locally characteristic architectural styles, patterns and features.

DM27 expresses that the layout, form, pattern and arrangement of streets, buildings and landscapes should contribute towards to creation of quality urban space and that the height, scale and massing of development should be appropriate to the immediate context, site constraints, character of adjoining streets and spaces. Development should provide a coherent, interconnected and integrated built form that relates to its immediate context.

Adopted policy DM31 of the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies (SADMP) (2014) and adopted policy BCS22 of the Bristol Core Strategy (2011) sets out that development that has an impact on a heritage asset will be expected to conserve and, where appropriate, enhance the asset or its setting.

The site is located in the Montpelier Conservation Area, the bin and bike store will be on a through route; as such, a high-quality bin and bike store is needed due to it being visible from the public realm, ideally made of timber. Other than this, there are no concerns raised by design. The change of use is not considered to have any impact on the character of the conservation area or the overall appearance of the building/Non-Scheduled Monument: Montpelier Hotel.

NOISE AND DISTURBANCE:

Paragraph 96 of the National Planning Policy Framework (2024) states that planning decision should ensure developments create places that are safe, inclusive and accessible and which promote health and well-being, with a high standard of amenity for existing and future users. Paragraph 198 further states that planning policies and decisions should also ensure that new development is appropriate for its location taking into account the likely effects (including cumulative effects) of pollution on health, living conditions and the natural environment, as well as the potential sensitivity of the site or the wider area to impacts that could arise from the development.

Development should mitigate and reduce to a minimum potential adverse impacts resulting from noise from new development and avoid noise giving rise to significant adverse impacts on health and the quality of life.

Policy DM2 in the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies (2014) states that shared housing will not be permitted where it would harm the residential amenity or character of the locality as a result of levels of activity that cause excessive noise and disturbance to residents.

Policy BCS21 in the Bristol Core Strategy (2011) advocates that new development should deliver high quality urban design and safeguard the amenity of existing development. Policy DM29 in the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies states that proposals for new buildings will be expected to ensure that existing and proposed development achieves appropriate levels of privacy, outlook and daylight. This policy, as well as DM27, further states that new buildings will be expected to ensure that existing and proposed development achieves appropriate levels of privacy, outlook and daylight. Policy BCS23 in the Bristol Core Strategy and Policy DM35 in the Site Allocations and Development Management Policy also state that new development should also not lead to any detrimental increase in noise levels. DM30 expands on this commenting that alterations to existing buildings will be expected to safeguard the amenity of neighbouring occupiers.

There are no proposed alteration/extension and as such there are no concerns are raised in relation to increased overlooking, overshadowing, overbearing and loss of light on neighbours.

No objections have been raised by Pollution Control. As such, it is considered that intensification of use on the site would not give rise to unacceptable conditions in terms of noise and disturbance.

TRANSPORT:

Policy BCS10 in the Bristol Core Strategy (2011) states that developments should be designed and located to ensure the provision of safe streets and reduce as far as possible the negative impacts of vehicles such as excessive volumes, fumes and noise. Proposals should create places and streets where traffic and other activities are integrated and where buildings, spaces and the needs of people shape the area.

Policy DM23 in the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies (2014) in addition states that development should not give rise to unacceptable traffic conditions. Examples of unacceptable traffic conditions referred to in the policy include the introduction of traffic of excessive volume, size or weight on to unsuitable highways/or in to residential or other environmentally sensitive areas. This could result in high levels of transport noise and disturbance, a decrease in air quality and unsafe conditions both on the highway and for pedestrians. This policy further states that development proposals will be expected to provide an appropriate level of safe, secure, accessible and usable parking provision (including cycle parking) and that proposals for parking should make effective and efficient use of land and be integral to the design of the development. The approach to the provision of parking aims to promote sustainable transport methods, such as walking, cycling and public transport, as encouraged by Core Strategy Policy BCS10.

Policy BCS15 in the Bristol Core Strategy states that all new development will be required to provide satisfactory arrangements for the storage of refuse and recyclable materials as an integral part of its design. Policy DM32 in the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies states all new developments will be expected to provided recycling facilities and refuse bins of sufficient capacity to serve the proposed development. This policy further states that the location and design of recycling and refuse provision should be integral to the design of the proposed development. In assessing recycling and refuse provision, regard will be had to the level and type of provision, having regard to the above requirements and relevant space standards; and the location of the provision, having regard to the need to provide and maintain safe and convenient access for occupants, while also providing satisfactory access for collection vehicles and operatives. Policy DM23 also states that the provision in new development of safe, secure, well-located cycle parking can be very important in encouraging people to cycle regularly. It is important that development proposals incorporate these

facilities and parking at the outset of the design process. Applicants should refer to the council's 'Guide to Cycle Parking Provision' for guidance on this matter.

Policy DM2 in the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies states that the sub-division of dwellings into houses in multiple occupation will not be permitted where the development would harm the residential amenity or character of the locality as a result of levels of on-street parking that cannot be reasonably accommodated or regulated through parking control measures; as well as inadequate storage for recycling/refuse and cycles.

Policy DM32 states that the location and design of recycling and refuse provision should be integral to the design of the proposed development. It should have regard to the need to provide and maintain safe and convenient access for occupants, while also providing satisfactory access for collection vehicles and operatives.

The applicant is not proposing to provide any new car parking spaces in connection with this application. TDM raise no concern regarding safety and availability of parking within the area and is satisfied that the bin and bike store standard and policy.

CONCLUSION:

The LPA have no objections to the application, and would recommended the Application for approval, subject to conditions.

SUGGESTED CONDITIONS AND ADVICES LIST:

The LPA would recommend consideration of the following conditions and advices should the Inspector reach a different conclusion with regards to the merits of the case.

1. Full Planning Permission

The development hereby permitted shall begin before the expiration of three years from the date of this permission.

Reason: As required by Section 91 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, as amended by Section 51 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

2. Implementation/Installation of Refuse Storage and Recycling Facilities – Shown on Approved Plans

No building or use hereby permitted shall be occupied or use commenced until the refuse store and area/facilities allocated for storing of recyclable materials, as shown on the approved plans have been completed in accordance with the approved plans. Thereafter, all refuse and recyclable materials associated with the development shall either be stored within this dedicated store/area, as shown on the approved plans, or internally within the building(s) that form part of the application site. No refuse or recycling material shall be stored or placed for collection on the adopted highway (including the footway), except on the day of collection.

Reason: To safeguard the amenity of the occupiers of adjoining premises; protect the general environment; prevent any obstruction to pedestrian movement and to ensure that there are adequate facilities for the storage and recycling of recoverable materials.

3. Completion and Maintenance of Cycle Provision - Shown on approved plans

No building or use hereby permitted shall be occupied or the use commenced until the cycle parking provision shown on the approved plans has been completed, and thereafter, be kept free of obstruction and available for the parking of cycles only.

Reason: To ensure the provision and availability of adequate cycle parking. Post occupation management List of approved plans

4. List of approved plans and drawings

The development shall conform in all aspects with the plans and details shown in the application as listed below, unless variations are agreed by the Local Planning Authority in order to discharge other conditions attached to this decision.

4372.PL.01 SLP Rev C, 4372.PL.02 Existing_Proposed Block Plans Rev D, 4372.PL.03 Existing Floor Plans Rev C, 4372.PL.04 Proposed Floor Plans Rev C.

Reason: For the avoidance of doubt.