### Report of the Head of Planning, Sport and Green Spaces

Address BRIDGE HOUSE, RIVERVIEW HOUSE & WATERSIDE HOUSE OXFORD ROAD UXBRIDGE

- **Development:** Prior Approval Application for the change of use of Bridge House, Riverview House and Waterside House from office accommodation (Class B1) to 237 residential units (15 x Studio and 224 x 1-Bed) together with ancillary car parking, cycle storage and waste and recycling storage.
- LBH Ref Nos: 40050/APP/2017/2438

Drawing Nos: Appraisal of Environmental Risks WDE 20735c01 26th June 2017 Flood and Drainage Assessment HLEF53752/001L 26th June 2017 6444/UX P06 B 6444/UX P01 C 6444/UX P02 A 6444/UX P02 A 6444/UX P05 C 6444/UX P05 C 6444/UX P07 D 6444/UX P08 B 6444/UX P08 B 6444/UX P09 B Noise Impact Assessment 01/06/2017 Revision 01 Technical Note Development at Oxford Road Uxbridge TN-01 29th June 2017

Date Plans Received:	06/07/2017
Date Application Valid:	11/07/2017

Date(s) of Amendment(s):

1. SUMMARY

This application seeks prior approval for the conversion of the three existing office buildings Bridge House, Riverview House and Waterside House to provide 239 individual residential units (15 x Studios and 224 x 1 Beds). A total of 359 off street car parking spaces, including 37 disabled bays, would be provided to serve future occupants. The spaces will be located within the existing multi-storey car park and hard surfaced parking areas which serve the existing office use. 17 Motorcycle parking spaces are proposed and facilities for the secure storage of 239 cycles will be provided within the buildings.

The proposal falls to be considered within Schedule 2, Part 3, Class O of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2016 which allows for such development subject to a determination by the Local Planning Authority as to whether Prior Approval will be required. The application is not seeking full planning permission and Schedule 2, Part 3, Class O of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2016 only permits the Local Planning Authority to take the following factors into consideration in the determination of such an application:

- (a) transport and highways impacts of the development;
- (b) contamination risks on site;

(c) flooding risks on site; and

(d) impacts of noise from commercial premises on the intended occupiers of the development.

In considering an application for prior approval under Class O, Paragraph 10b of Section W states that the local planning authority shall "have regard to the National Planning Policy Framework... so far as relevant to the subject matter of the prior approval, as if the application were a planning application". As such, the prior approval application must be assessed against transport and highways impact, contamination, noise and flooding risks only. The local planning authority is not directed, as a matter of law, to determine applications for prior approval under Class O with reference to the Development Plan.

The local planning authority may also grant prior approval unconditionally or subject to conditions reasonably related to the subject matter of the prior approval.

The application has been assessed against the above criteria and subject to relevant conditions and the securing of highway obligations through a Section 106 Legal Agreement, prior approval is not required.

#### 2. **RECOMMENDATION**

1.That delegated powers be given to the Head of Planning and Enforcement to confirm Prior Approval is Not Required subject to:

A) Entering into an agreement with the applicant under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) and/or S278 of the Highways Act 1980 (as amended) and/or other appropriate legislation to secure:

1. Contribution towards improvements to the local highway network with an upper limit of £500,000, plus a transport appraisal to include modelling of the local network prior to commencement of the development. 2. Public Realm Contribution of £325,000

B) That in respect of the application for planning permission, the applicant meets the Council's reasonable costs in preparation of the Section 106 and/or 278 Agreements and any abortive work as a result of the agreement not being completed.

C) That Officers be authorised to negotiate and agree the detailed terms of the proposed agreement and conditions of approval.

D) If the Legal Agreements have not been finalised by 31st August 2017 (or such other timeframe as may be agreed by the Head of Planning and Enforcement), delegated authority be given to the Head of Planning and Enforcement to refuse the application for the following reason:

'The applicant has failed to provide measures to mitigate the impacts of the development through enhancements to the environment necessary as a consequence of demands created by the proposed development (relating to highway works (including Transport Assessment) and public realm improvement contribution). The proposal therefore conflicts with the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2016, policies R17,

AM2, AM7 and AM9 of the Hillingdon Local Plan: Part Two Saved UDP Policies (November 2012), the Council's Planning Obligations SPD and the Hillingdon Local Plan: Part 1 - Strategic Policies (November 2012), the London Plan (March 2016) and the NPPF.'

E) That subject to the above, the application be deferred for determination by the Head of Planning and Enforcement under delegated powers, subject to completion of the legal agreement under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and other appropriate powers with the applicant.

F) That if the application is approved, the following conditions be imposed subject to changes negotiated by the Head of Planning and Enforcement prior to issuing the decision.

### 1 NONSC Non Standard Condition

(i) The development hereby permitted shall not commence until a scheme to deal with contamination has been submitted in accordance with the Supplementary Planning Guidance Document on Land Contamination and approved by the Local Planning Authority (LPA). The scheme shall include all of the following measures unless the LPA dispenses with any such requirement specifically and in writing:

(a) A desk-top study carried out by a competent person to characterise the site and provide information on the history of the site/surrounding area and to identify and evaluate all potential sources of contamination and impacts on land and water and all other identified receptors relevant to the site;

(b) A site investigation, including where relevant soil, soil gas, surface and groundwater sampling, together with the results of analysis and risk assessment shall be carried out by a suitably qualified and accredited consultant/contractor. The report should also clearly identify all risks, limitations and recommendations for remedial measures to make the site suitable for the proposed use; and

(c) A written method statement providing details of the remediation scheme and how the completion of the remedial works will be verified shall be agreed in writing with the LPA prior to commencement, along with details of a watching brief to address undiscovered contamination.

(ii) If during development works contamination not addressed in the submitted remediation scheme is identified, the updated watching brief shall be submitted and an addendum to the remediation scheme shall be agreed with the LPA prior to implementation; and

(iii) All works which form part of the remediation scheme shall be completed and a comprehensive verification report shall be submitted to the Council's Environmental Protection Unit before any part of the development is occupied or brought into use unless the LPA dispenses with any such requirement specifically and in writing.

(iv) No contaminated soils or other materials shall be imported to the site. All imported soils for landscaping purposes shall be clean and free of contamination. Before any part of the development is occupied, all imported soils shall be independently tested for chemical contamination, and the results of this testing shall be submitted and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. All soils used for gardens and/or landscaping purposes shall be clean and free of contamination.

REASON: To ensure that risks from land contamination to the future users of the land and

neighbouring land are minimised, together with those to controlled waters, property and ecological systems and the development can be carried out safely without unacceptable risks to workers, neighbours and other offsite receptors in accordance with policy OE11 of the Hillingdon Local Plan: Part 2 - Saved UDP Policies (November 2012).

# 2 NONSC Non Standard Condition

Development shall not begin until a sound insulation and ventilation scheme for protecting the proposed development from noise generated by commercial premises has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The scheme shall meet an acceptable internal noise design criteria against external noise as agreed with the Local Planning Authority. Thereafter, the scheme shall be implemented and maintained in full compliance with the approved measures.

REASON: To ensure that the amenity of the occupiers of the proposed development is not adversely affected by noise generated by commercial premises in accordance with policy OE5 of the Hillingdon Local Plan: Part 2 - Saved UDP Policies (November 2012).

### 3. CONSIDERATIONS

### 3.1 Site and Locality

The site fronts onto Oxford Road (A4020) and is an island site between the River Colne and the Grand Union Canal. The River Colne is the border between Hillingdon and South Buckinghamshire, which also denotes the administrative boundary of the Greater London Area.

The island site is currently occupied by 3 buildings: Bridge House, Waterside and Riverview all of which are occupied by Xerox, owned by L&G and have direct access from Oxford Road. The existing Bridge House building to the north of the site is in a prominent position on Oxford Road, considered to be a 'gateway' site into Uxbridge. The building is 6 storeys in height plus an additional storey of plant and provides office use plus a small existing ancillary cafe on the ground floor. To the south of Bridge House is a multi storey car park providing 246 car parking spaces, plus 30 surface car parking spaces (including 5 disabled spaces), which also sits within the boundary of the current application. Bridge House was constructed in 1967 and was reclad around 1998. Waterside House and Riverview House are both 3 storey office buildings and are located to the south of the site adjacent to the River Colne.

The application site also accommodates a security gatehouse and multi-storey car park together with surface level car parking. This application relates to the residential use of the three office buildings The security gatehouse, will become ancillary to the use of those building's for residential purposes. The multi-storey car park is included in the application site boundary only insofar as it will be used for car parking associated with the residential use.

The surrounding area is mixed use and contains a number of existing multi storey office buildings. The closest residential properties are located within Denham Lodge, to the north west of the site on the opposite side of Oxford Road. To the north of the site is the Swan and Bottle Public House, which is locally listed.

The site is within, but on the north western boundary of, Uxbridge Town centre and is within an Archaeological Priority Area. The majority of the site has a PTAL rating of 2, however the

north eastern corner has a PTAL rating of 3. The site is within a developed area, as designated by the Hillingdon Local Plan (November 2012).

The land on the western bank of the River Colne is within South Buckinghamshire and is designated as Green Belt and a Biodiversity Opportunity Area. There is also Uxbridge Lock Conservation Area to the north of the site.

### 3.2 Proposed Scheme

This application seeks prior approval for the conversion of the three existing office buildings Bridge House, Riverview House and Waterside House to provide 239 individual residential units (15 x Studios and 224 x 1 Beds). A total of 359 off street car parking spaces, including 37 disabled bays, would be provided to serve future occupants. The spaces will be located within the existing multi-storey car park and hard surfaced parking areas which serve the existing office use. 17 Motorcycle parking spaces are proposed and facilities for the secure storage of 239 cycles will be provided within the buildings.

### 3.3 Relevant Planning History

### Comment on Relevant Planning History

40050/APP/2016/852 - Demolition of existing office building (Use Class B1(a) and multistorey car park and redevelopment of the site to provide a new office (Use Class B1(a) building, associated multi-storey car park and ancillary cafe unit (Use Class A1/A3) - Approved 06-07-17.

### 4. Planning Policies and Standards

Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2016

### UDP / LDF Designation and London Plan

The following UDP Policies are considered relevant to the application:-

Part 1 Policies:

Part 2 Policies:

AM7	Consideration of traffic generated by proposed developments.
AM2	Development proposals - assessment of traffic generation, impact on congestion and public transport availability and capacity
AM9	Provision of cycle routes, consideration of cyclists' needs in design of highway improvement schemes, provision of cycle parking facilities
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
SPD-PO	Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document, adopted July 2008
5. Advertisement and Site Notice	

- 5.1 Advertisement Expiry Date:- Not applicable
- 5.2 Site Notice Expiry Date:- Not applicable

### 6. Consultations

### External Consultees

Consultation letters were sent to 60 local owner/occupiers and the application was also advertised

by way of site notices. No responses have been received.

### Internal Consultees

HIGHWAYS

### Highway Works

Until a transport assessment has been received and agreed by the Council, based on the findings of earlier work the following schedule of highway works are required. These are to be up to a maximum of £500,000 (Five Hundred Thousand Pounds) (to be determined in accordance with the Transport Study) to be used by the Council to carry out and complete the Additional Highway Works These include but are not limited to:-

1. works to lengthen and widen the existing right turn lane at the Site access junction off the A4020 Oxford Road; and

2. improvements to the Site frontage to improve pedestrian access from the footway along the A4020 Oxford Road.

Further works to mitigate the impact of additional development traffic along Oxford Road and at upstream junctions may include but are not limited to:-

1. new facilities, such as bus shelters and bus stops;

- 2. improvements to a bus service which passes near the site (frequency and capacity);
- 3. bus priority measures;
- 4. community transport provision;
- 5. dedicated bus service;
- 6. passenger information systems;
- 7. improvements to transport interchanges;
- 8. promotion of public transport;
- 9. provision of bus stands and driver facilities; or
- 10. provision or improvement of cycle ways and cycle parking facilities;
- 11. to include the following identified potential highway works :
- 12. Possible linking of Denham Pedestrian crossing to main signal junctions

13. Oxford Road (Eastbound) between Oakside and Willow Avenue- measures to improve flow of traffic into the town centre

- 14. Sanderson Road Traffic Light Junction
- 15. Measures to improve junction capacity at
- a. Harefield Road/ High Street Junction improvements, including if feasible signalisation.

b. Cedars and Mahjacks roundabouts : Measures to improve capacity including review and change of signal timings and CCTV cameras to aid UTC.

In the absence of any new transport assessment to show otherwise, the above list of mitigation works should also apply to the new development. This is particularly the case as in the AM Peak many cars will be leaving the development bunched within a short space of time adding further stress on an already congested local road network.

Public Realm Improvements

Bridge House is situated on the edge of Uxbridge town centre within convenient cycling and walking distance of all the transport connections, services and facilities it has to offer.

Access to the town centre is provided by the High Street connecting Oxford Road with Harefield Road. South of Harfield Road is Uxbridge town centre. The High Street has numerous high profile frontages including Fountains Mill listed building and Uxbridge Magistrates Court. The High Street is a lightly trafficked road carrying a high volume of pedestrians visiting New Bucks University and numerous other workplaces in the vicinity of Bridge House.

To improve connectivity between Bridge House and the town centre funding is required to improve the public realm and the safety and convenience of cyclists and pedestrians using this link. Using

high quality materials it is proposed to resurface the footways, review how parking is managed, provide new lighting, street trees, landscaping and public art.

The outcome of this investment will enhance connectivity between Bridge House and the town centre in turn making it safer and more convenient for the residents of Bridge House to walk and cycle to the town centre continuing any onward journey by public transport.

#### Case Officer's comments:

The required contributions have been agreed by the applicant and would be secured as set out in Section 7.20 of this report.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH (NOISE)

With reference to the above planning application I reviewed the noise impact assessment by Hoare Lea dated 01/06/2017. The report states in page 9, second paragraph that the final facade sound insulation is yet to be determined as further thorough assessment would be required. The assessment looked at road traffic noise, industrial noise and patron noise from the Swan & Bottle Public house. There is the potential for loud amplified music breakout from the pub which has not been assessed. Furthermore, noise from nearby mechanical plants/equipment has not been assessed.

I would also recommend the following conditions/informative respectively:

#### Sound insulation scheme

Development shall not begin until a sound insulation and ventilation scheme for protecting the proposed development from road traffic and other noise has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The scheme shall meet an acceptable internal noise design criteria against external noise as agreed with the Local Planning Authority. Thereafter, the scheme shall be implemented and maintained in full compliance with the approved measures.

REASON: To ensure that the amenity of the occupiers of the proposed development is not adversely affected by road traffic and other noise in accordance with policy OE5 of the Hillingdon Local Plan: Part 2 - Saved UDP Policies (November 2012).

#### Noise affecting residential property

The rating level of noise emitted from the plant and/or machinery hereby approved shall be at least 5 dB below the existing background noise level. The noise levels shall be determined at the nearest residential property. The measurements and assessment shall be made in accordance with British Standard 4142 "Method for rating industrial noise affecting mixed residential and industrial areas".

REASON: To safeguard the amenity of the surrounding area in accordance with policy OE1 of the Hillingdon Local Plan: Part 2 - Saved UDP Policies (November 2012).

Control of environmental nuisance from construction work (Informative)

Nuisance from demolition and construction work is subject to control under the Control of Pollution Act 1974, the Clean Air Act 1993 and the Environmental Protection Act 1990. You should ensure that the following are complied with:

(i) Demolition and construction works should only be carried out between the hours of 0800 and 1800 on Monday to Friday and between the hours of 0800 and 1300 on Saturday. No works should be carried out on Sundays, Public or Bank Holidays;

(ii) All noise generated during such works should be controlled in compliance with British Standard 5228, and use "best practicable means" as defined in section 72 of the Control of Pollution Act 1974;

(iii) Measures should be taken to eliminate the release of dust, odours and other emissions caused by the works that may create a public health nuisance. Guidance on control measures is given in "The control of dust and emissions from construction and demolition: best practice guidelines", Greater London Authority, November 2006; and

(iv) No bonfires that create dark smoke or cause nuisance to local residents should be allowed at any time.

You are advised to consult the Council's Environmental Protection Unit to seek prior approval under Section 61 of the Control of Pollution Act 1974 if you anticipate any difficulty in carrying out the works other than within the normal working hours set out above, and by means that would minimise disturbance to adjoining premises. For further information and advice, contact the Environmental Protection Unit, 3S/02 Civic Centre, High Street, Uxbridge, Middlesex UB8 1UW (tel. 01895 250155)

#### Case Officer's comments:

As per the Schedule 2, Part 3, Class O of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2016 the only source of noise that the Local Planning Authority can take into consideration is that produced by commercial premises. Therefore the first condition requested by the Environmental Protection Unit will be amended to cover this source only. The requested condition to limit noise generated from plant within the development is not an issue that the Local Planning Authority is permitted to consider as part of this type of application and therefore cannot be attached to any determination of the application.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH (CONTAMINATION)

The Preliminary Risk Assessment, 'PRA' by Waterman consultants has been reviewed by WDE Consultants, 'WDE' for the developer and submitted for this application under cover of WDE's letter. WDE confirm that they agree with the conclusions of the PRA by Waterman Consultants.

The PRA is sufficient to support the application and seems to have covered all the necessary potential pollutant linkages and issues for this development. The PRA brings attention to the wide number of historic industrial uses surrounding the site and a timber yard / mill on site prior to the current use. it also mentions the oil storage tank and sub stations. The PRA indicates that two buildings could be gas protected although Bridge House is not, and gas and vapour measurements are recommended at this site. I would agree that all the buildings should be checked especially Bridge House where there seems no protection at present. The report advises a site investigation with boreholes around the buildings for soil, gas and water testing and appropriate air monitoring for vapours particularly at Bridge House. I would agree with the conclusions and the PRA seems sufficient in detail with Table 8 showing a conceptual model and contaminants of concerns listed in table 5.1. I would advise our standard contaminated land condition as below.

#### Contaminated Land Condition

(i) The development hereby permitted shall not commence until a scheme to deal with contamination has been submitted in accordance with the Supplementary Planning Guidance Document on Land Contamination and approved by the Local Planning Authority (LPA). The scheme shall include all of the following measures unless the LPA dispenses with any such requirement specifically and in writing:

(a) A desk-top study carried out by a competent person to characterise the site and provide information on the history of the site/surrounding area and to identify and evaluate all potential sources of contamination and impacts on land and water and all other identified receptors relevant to the site;

(b) A site investigation, including where relevant soil, soil gas, surface and groundwater sampling, together with the results of analysis and risk assessment shall be carried out by a suitably qualified and accredited consultant/contractor. The report should also clearly identify all risks, limitations and

recommendations for remedial measures to make the site suitable for the proposed use; and (c) A written method statement providing details of the remediation scheme and how the completion of the remedial works will be verified shall be agreed in writing with the LPA prior to commencement, along with details of a watching brief to address undiscovered contamination.

(ii) If during development works contamination not addressed in the submitted remediation scheme is identified, the updated watching brief shall be submitted and an addendum to the remediation scheme shall be agreed with the LPA prior to implementation; and

(iii) All works which form part of the remediation scheme shall be completed and a comprehensive verification report shall be submitted to the Council's Environmental Protection Unit before any part of the development is occupied or brought into use unless the LPA dispenses with any such requirement specifically and in writing.

(iv) No contaminated soils or other materials shall be imported to the site. All imported soils for landscaping purposes shall be clean and free of contamination. Before any part of the development is occupied, all imported soils shall be independently tested for chemical contamination, and the results of this testing shall be submitted and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. All soils used for gardens and/or landscaping purposes shall be clean and free of contamination.

REASON: To ensure that risks from land contamination to the future users of the land and neighbouring land are minimised, together with those to controlled waters, property and ecological systems and the development can be carried out safely without unacceptable risks to workers, neighbours and other offsite receptors in accordance with policy OE11 of the Hillingdon Local Plan: Part 2 - Saved UDP Policies (November 2012).

### Case Officer's comments:

As per the Schedule 2, Part 3, Class O of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2016 contamination is one of the factors that the Local Planning Authority can take into consideration and therefore the condition requested by the Environmental Protection Unit is recommended to be attached to any positive determination of the application.

### FLOOD AND WATER MANAGEMENT OFFICER

Although surrounded by water the site lies above the indicated flood levels and lies in Flood Zone 1. Therefore there are no objections to the proposed conversion. However in order to support such residential dwellings there should be clear and careful management of the river and canal corridor in accordance with the Blue Ribbon Network Policy, in order that flood risk to the site is not increased to the proposed residents or those nearby. There should also be restrictions on any replacement hardsurfacing within the site in the future to increase the permeability of ground to reduce the risk created by this site.

Therefore the following is requested:

#### Condition - Hard Standing

Removal of permitted development rights replacing of any hard surfacing must be with a more permeable surface which controls surface water on site. The hard standing shall i) be made permeable or ii) surface water shall be directed to a permeable or porous area within the site.

#### Reason

To ensure that surface water run off is controlled to ensure the development does not increase the risk of flooding contrary to:

Policy EM6 Flood Risk Management in Hillingdon Local Plan: Part 1- Strategic Policies (Nov 2012), Policy 5.12 Flood Risk Management of the London Plan (March 2016) and

To be handled as close to its source as possible in compliance with Policy 5.13 Sustainable

Drainage of the London Plan (March 2016), National Planning Policy Framework (March 2012), and the Planning Practice Guidance (March 2014).

### Condition - Blue Ribbon Network

A River corridor landscaping plan should be submitted to and approved by the Local Authority prior to commencement. The site lies alongside a strategic waterway within the London Borough of Hillingdon, Policy EM3 Blue Ribbon Network in Hillingdon Local Plan: Part 1- Strategic Policies (Nov 2012) states: In respect of development proposals and in assessing how they can make a positive contribution to the Network as required by Policy EM3 the following considerations will apply:

1) For the rivers Colne, Pinn, Crane, Yeading Brook and some minor local tributaries to continue to play their role providing space for water.

2). To reduce flood risks to property and road, rail or other infrastructure located in proximity to water courses.

3). To make best use of river and canal corridors for active and passive recreation, increasing accessibility as part of a living corridor for people across the Borough, and in promoting its use as a link to recreational spaces.

4). To maintain and improve the river and canal corridors links as a linear feature in both town and countryside which serve as an "ecological corridors", as a habitat which enables species to migrate and colonise over wider areas.

5). To support the Rivers and Canal Trust aims and ensure that the historic structure of the canals is preserved and support for its continued use as navigable waterways is maintained.

6) To promote and develop the Grand Union Canal as a navigational waterway of national significance.

Policy DMEI Waterside Development in emerging Hillingdon Local Plan Part 2 - Development Management Policies has further detailed considerations.

### Reason

The development should make a positive contribution to the Blue Ribbon Network in accordance with:

Policy EM3 Blue Ribbon Network in Hillingdon Local Plan: Part 1- Strategic Policies (Nov 2012) Policy EM6 Flood Risk Management in Hillingdon Local Plan: Part 1- Strategic Policies (Nov 2012) National Planning Policy Framework (March 2012), and the Planning Practice Guidance (March 2014)

Case Officer's comments:

As per the Schedule 2, Part 3, Class O of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2016 flood risk is one of the factors that the Local Planning Authority can take into consideration when determining an application of this nature. However the requested condition requiring the removal of Permitted Development rights is not required as the proposal would create residential flats, which by their nature do not benefit from such Permitted Development rights.

In addition the requested condition for a River Corridor Landscape Plan would not be appropriate as the application proposes no changes to the landscaping on site and any increased flood risk resulting from landscaping issues (such as falling trees) would not be the result of the proposed development. This issue is not therefore a consideration of the current application and such a condition would not accord with Paragraph 206 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

# 7. MAIN PLANNING ISSUES

#### 7.01 The principle of the development

Under Part 3 Class O of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2016, from 30 May 2013 development consisting of the change of use of a

building to a use falling within Class C3 (dwellinghouses) from a use falling within Class B1(a) (offices) constitutes 'permitted development', subject to a number of criteria; namely permitted development rights do not apply if:

- the building is on article 1(6A land);

- the building was not used for a use falling within Class B1(a) immediately before 30th May 2013, or, if the building was not in use immediately before that date, when it was last in use;

- the site is or forms part of a military hazard area;
- the site is or forms part of a military explosives storage area;
- the building is a listed building (or within its curtilage) or a scheduled monument;
- permitted development rights have been removed.

The site and buildings do not meet any of the criteria listed above. As such the site benefits from permitted development rights.

### 7.02 Density of the proposed development

Not applicable as this is not an application for planning permission.

# 7.03 Impact on archaeology/CAs/LBs or Areas of Special Character

Not applicable as this is not an application for planning permission.

# 7.04 Airport safeguarding

Not applicable as this is not an application for planning permission.

# 7.05 Impact on the green belt

Not applicable as this is not an application for planning permission.

### 7.06 Environmental Impact

Not applicable as this is not an application for planning permission.

## 7.07 Impact on the character & appearance of the area

Not applicable as this is not an application for planning permission.

# 7.08 Impact on neighbours

Not applicable as this is not an application for planning permission.

### 7.09 Living conditions for future occupiers

Not applicable as this is not an application for planning permission.

#### 7.10 Traffic impact, Car/cycle parking, pedestrian safety

The Council's Highways Engineer has carefully reviewed the proposals and provided detailed comments on the measures required to mitigate against the detrimental impact of the development. These can be summarised as a Transport Assessment and Highways contribution of £500,000, plus a Public Realm contribution of £325,000. The Applicant has agreed to these obligations which would be secured through a S106 Legal Agreement.

Subject to the completion of the Legal Agreement the Highway's impact of the development is acceptable.

### 7.11 Urban design, access and security

Not applicable as this is not an application for planning permission.

# 7.12 Disabled access

Not applicable as this is not an application for planning permission.

## 7.13 Provision of affordable & special needs housing

Not applicable as this is not an application for planning permission.

# 7.14 Trees, landscaping and Ecology

Not applicable as this is not an application for planning permission.

### 7.15 Sustainable waste management

Not applicable as this is not an application for planning permission.

#### 7.16 Renewable energy / Sustainability

Not applicable as this is not an application for planning permission.

### 7.17 Flooding or Drainage Issues

The Council's Flood and Water Management Officer has reviewed the application and subject to a condition has raised no objections to the proposal. For the reasons set out in Section 6 of this report the suggested conditions are not relevant to this application and are not therefore recommended to be attached to any determination of the application.

### 7.18 Noise or Air Quality Issues

The Council's Environmental Protection Unit have carefully reviewed the submitted documents in terms of the risk of contamination and have have raised no objections to the proposal subject to the attachment of an appropriate condition.

The proposal is therefore acceptable in terms of contamination.

Noise from Commercial Premises

The Council's Environmental Protection Unit have carefully reviewed the proposal in terms of the potential detrimental impact from noise generated externally from the site. As set out in Section 6 of this report, subject to a condition requiring details of how future occupiers will be protected from noise generated by adjacent commercial premises no objections have been raised.

The proposal is therefore acceptable in terms of noise.

# 7.19 Comments on Public Consultations

None received

#### 7.20 Planning obligations

In order to mitigate against the impact of the proposals, the following obligations will be sought:

1. Contribution towards improvements to the local highway network with an upper limit of £500,000, plus a transport appraisal to include modelling of the local network prior to commencement of the development.

2. Public Realm Contribution of £325,000

### 7.21 Expediency of enforcement action

## Not applicable

7.22 Other Issues

None

#### 8. Observations of the Borough Solicitor

#### General

Members must determine planning applications having due regard to the provisions of the development plan so far as material to the application, any local finance considerations so far as material to the application, and to any other material considerations (including regional and national policy and guidance). Members must also determine applications in accordance with all relevant primary and secondary legislation.

Material considerations are those which are relevant to regulating the development and use of land in the public interest. The considerations must fairly and reasonably relate to the application concerned.

Members should also ensure that their involvement in the determination of planning applications adheres to the Members Code of Conduct as adopted by Full Council and also the guidance contained in Probity in Planning, 2009.

#### Planning Conditions

Members may decide to grant planning consent subject to conditions. Planning consent should not be refused where planning conditions can overcome a reason for refusal. Planning conditions should only be imposed where Members are satisfied that imposing the conditions are necessary, relevant to planning, relevant to the development to be permitted, enforceable, precise and reasonable in all other respects. Where conditions are imposed, the Council is required to provide full reasons for imposing those conditions.

#### **Planning Obligations**

Members must be satisfied that any planning obligations to be secured by way of an agreement or undertaking pursuant to Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 are necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms. The obligations must be directly related to the development and fairly and reasonably related to the scale and kind to the development (Regulation 122 of Community Infrastructure Levy 2010).

#### Equalities and Human Rights

Section 149 of the Equalities Act 2010, requires the Council, in considering planning applications to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunities and foster good relations between people who have different protected characteristics. The protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

The requirement to have due regard to the above goals means that members should consider whether persons with particular protected characteristics would be affected by a proposal when compared to persons who do not share that protected characteristic. Where equalities issues arise, members should weigh up the equalities impact of the proposals against the other material considerations relating to the planning application. Equalities impacts are not necessarily decisive, but the objective of advancing equalities must be taken into account in weighing up the merits of an application. The weight to be given to any equalities issues is a matter for the decision maker to determine in all of the circumstances.

Members should also consider whether a planning decision would affect human rights, in particular the right to a fair hearing, the right to respect for private and family life, the protection of property and the prohibition of discrimination. Any decision must be proportionate and achieve a fair balance between private interests and the public interest.

#### 9. Observations of the Director of Finance

None

#### 10. CONCLUSION

This application seeks prior approval for the conversion of the three existing office buildings Bridge House, Riverview House and Waterside House to provide 239 individual residential units (15 x Studios and 224 x 1 Beds). A total of 359 off street car parking spaces, including 37 disabled bays, would be provided to serve future occupants. The spaces will be located within the existing multi-storey car park and hard surfaced parking areas which serve the existing office use. 17 Motorcycle parking spaces are proposed and facilities for the secure storage of 239 cycles will be provided within the buildings.

The proposal falls to be considered within Schedule 2, Part 3, Class O of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2016 which allows for such development subject to a determination by the Local Planning Authority as to whether Prior Approval will be required.

The application has been assessed against the relevant criteria and subject to conditions and the securing of highway and public realm obligations through a Section 106 Legal Agreement, prior approval is not required.

### 11. Reference Documents

Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2016

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