

<p><b>Reference:</b> 20/00616/TBC</p>	<p><b>Site:</b> Keir Hardie House Milford Road Grays Essex</p>
<p><b>Ward:</b> Little Thurrock Blackshots</p>	<p><b>Proposal:</b> Replacement of the external wall coverings, replacement of windows, replacement of communal entrance canopies, replacement of roof guardrails and installation of new external lighting at Keir Hardie House, Grays.</p>

Plan Number(s):		
Reference	Name	Received
2510505_P-BL07	Existing Elevations 1	28th May 2020
2510505_P-BL08	Existing Elevations 2	28th May 2020
2510505_P-BL09	Existing Sections 1	28th May 2020
2510505_P-BL10	Existing Sections 2	28th May 2020
2510505_P-BL101	Location Plan	28th May 2020
2510505_P-BL102	Site Layout	28th May 2020
2510505_P-BL19	Proposed Elevations 1	28th May 2020
2510505_P-BL20	Proposed Elevations 2	28th May 2020
2510505_P-BL21	Proposed Sections 1	28th May 2020
2510505_P-BL22	Proposed Sections 2	28th May 2020
2510505_P-BL27	Window Details	28th May 2020

The application is also accompanied by:

- Design and Access Statement

**Applicant:**  
Thurrock Council

**Validated:**  
2 June 2020  
**Date of expiry:**  
17 August 2020  
**(Extension of Time  
As agreed with Applicant)**

**Recommendation:** Approve

This application is scheduled as a Committee item because the Council is the applicant and landowner (in accordance with Part 3 (b) Section 2 2.1 (b) of the Council's constitution).

## **1.0 DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL**

- 1.1 The application seeks planning permission for the replacement of the external wall coverings, windows, communal entrance canopies, roof guardrails and the installation of new external lighting at Kier Hardie House on Milford Road

## **2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION**

- 2.1 The application site is a largely rectangular area of land on the north eastern corner of Milford Road, bordered to the west and south by residential properties and by the Metropolitan Green Belt to the north and east.

- 2.2 Kier Hardie House is a 12-storey tower block dating from the 1960s.

## **3.0 RELEVANT HISTORY**

None

## **4.0 CONSULTATIONS AND REPRESENTATIONS**

- 4.1 Detailed below is a summary of the consultation responses received. The full version of each consultation response can be viewed on the Council's website via public access at the following link: [www.thurrock.gov.uk/planning](http://www.thurrock.gov.uk/planning)

PUBLICITY:

- 4.2 This application has been advertised by way of individual neighbour notification letters and public site notice which has been displayed nearby. No responses have been received.

### **4.3 BUILDING CONTROL:**

No objections.

## **5.0 POLICY CONTEXT**

**National Planning Guidance**

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

- 5.1 The NPPF was published on 27 March 2012 and amended on 19 February 2019. Paragraph 10 of the Framework sets out a presumption in favour of sustainable development. Paragraph 2 of the Framework confirms the tests in s.38 (6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and s.70 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and that the Framework is a material consideration in planning decisions. Paragraph 11 states that in assessing and determining development proposals, local planning authorities should apply the presumption in favour of sustainable development.

The following headings and content of the NPPF are relevant to the consideration of the current proposals:

## 12. Achieving well-designed places

### Planning Practice Guidance

- 5.2 In March 2014 the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) launched its planning practice guidance web-based resource. This was accompanied by a Written Ministerial Statement which includes a list of the previous planning policy guidance documents cancelled when the NPPF was launched. PPG contains a number of subject areas, with each area containing several subtopics. Those of particular relevance to the determination of this planning application comprise:

- Design
- Determining a planning application

### **Local Planning Policy**

#### Thurrock Local Development Framework (as amended) 2015

- 5.3 The Council adopted the “Core Strategy and Policies for the Management of Development Plan Document” in (as amended) in January 2015. The following Core Strategy policies apply to the proposals:

#### Thematic Policies:

- CSTP22 (Thurrock Design)
- CSTP23 (Thurrock Character and Distinctiveness)

#### Policies for the Management of Development:

- PMD1 (Minimising Pollution and Impacts on Amenity)

- PMD2 (Design and Layout)

### Thurrock Local Plan

- 5.4 In February 2014 the Council embarked on the preparation of a new Local Plan for the Borough. Between February and April 2016 the Council consulted formally on an Issues and Options (Stage 1) document and simultaneously undertook a 'Call for Sites' exercise. In December 2018 the Council began consultation on an Issues and Options [Stage 2 Spatial Options and Sites] document, this consultation has now closed and the responses have been considered and reported to Council. On 23 October 2019 the Council agreed the publication of the Issues and Options 2 Report of Consultation on the Council's website and agreed the approach to preparing a new Local Plan.

### Thurrock Design Strategy

- 5.5 In March 2017 the Council launched the Thurrock Design Strategy. The Design Strategy sets out the main design principles to be used by applicants for all new development in Thurrock. The Design Strategy is a supplementary planning document (SPD) which supports policies in the adopted Core Strategy.

## **6.0 ASSESSMENT**

The planning issues to be considered in this case are:

- I. Principle of the Development
- II. Design and Layout
- III. Impact on Amenity

### **I. PRINCIPLE OF THE DEVELOPMENT**

- 6.1 The application site is currently used for residential purposes and there are no land use objections to the proposed development, subject to compliance with relevant development management policies.

### **II. DESIGN AND LAYOUT**

- 6.2 The proposed development comprises the replacement of the external wall coverings, windows, communal entrance canopies, roof guardrails and the installation of new external lighting at the three tower blocks. There would be no change to the site layout or increase in built footprint.

- 6.3 The current cladding system for these high-rise buildings is showing signs of failure due to the fixing method and is considered to be beyond economic repair. The new materials would utilise a similar palette to the existing, namely light and dark grey, but would introduce a horizontal dark grey band at ground floor level.
- 6.4 The replacement windows would not increase overlooking but would modernise the external appearance of the buildings, in a complementary fashion.
- 6.5 The change to the entrance door and canopy would allow for a more spacious and modern character, while the additional lighting would reflect this character and provide additional security for residents.
- 6.6 The proposal would improve the appearance and character of the existing properties, resulting in a more modern style and the design would be of a high quality. The appearance of the blocks would be improved and the proposal would comply with proposals in relation to the character or appearance with the wider area. The proposals therefore comply with Policies CSTP22, CSTP23 and PMD2, associated design guidance and the NPPF
- 6.7 The Council's Building Control Officer has been consulted at this stage to consider the choice of materials proposed. It has been confirmed that throughout the construction process the Council's Technical Services Delivery team will liaise with Building Control, the Fire Service and external engineer to ensure the latest regulations are met.
- III. Impact on Amenity
- 6.8 The proposed upgrades to the external wall coverings and UPVC windows would improve thermal comfort for the residents.
- 6.9 The proposals would result in no adverse impact upon neighbour amenity and would comply with Policy PMD1.

## **7.0 CONCLUSIONS AND REASON(S) FOR APPROVAL**

- 7.1 The principle of the development is acceptable. The proposed changes to the appearance and the installation of new external lighting will modernise the external appearance of the buildings, improve thermal comfort for residents, improve safety and protect the buildings into the future.
- 7.2 In relation to design, appearance, and amenity impacts the proposal would be acceptable.
- 7.3 Accordingly, the proposals are considered to comply with Policies CSTP22, CSTP23 PMD1 and PMD2 of the Core Strategy as amended (2015).

## **8.0 RECOMMENDATION**

- 8.1 Approve, subject to the following conditions:

**TIME LIMIT**

1. The development hereby permitted must be begun not later than the expiration of 3 years from the date of this permission.

Reason: In order to comply with Section 51 of the Planning and Compulsory Act 2004.

**PLANS**

2. The development hereby permitted shall be carried out in accordance with the following approved plans:

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2510505_P-BL22	Proposed Sections 2	28th May 2020
2510505_P-BL27	Window Details	28th May 2020

Reason: For the avoidance of doubt and the interest of proper planning.

**MATERIALS AND FINISHES AS DETAILED WITHIN APPLICATION**

3. The materials to be used on the external surfaces of the development hereby permitted shall be implemented as detailed within the application.

Reason: In the interests of visual amenity and to ensure that the proposed development is integrated with its surroundings in accordance with policy PMD2 of the adopted Thurrock LDF Core Strategy and Policies for the Management of Development [2015].

**Documents:**

All background documents including application forms, drawings and other supporting documentation relating to this application can be viewed online:

[www.thurrock.gov.uk/planning](http://www.thurrock.gov.uk/planning)



Application No: 20/00616/TBC

Keir Handle House

Milford Road

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