Consultation Response:
Kirklees Council Conservation & Design (Biodiversity)

Date	*08/02/2017*
Officer responding	*Tom Stephenson*
Application number	*2016/94120*
Purpose	*Initial consultation response*
Location	*11, Inglewood Avenue, Birkby, Huddersfield, HD2 2DS*

Assessment

I have applied the Council's standardised system for determining the need for a bat survey to this application, which has indicated that bat survey is needed in this case.

The process for determining the need for bat survey is as follows; if a property falls within a GIS layer known as the 'Bat Alert Layer' planning officers use details of the proposals to apply a flow diagram, which indicates if further assessment for bats is required. The bat alert layers for West Yorkshire and flow diagram are available on this web page: http://www.wyjs.org.uk/ecology-service/planning-issues/

The requirement to consider bats, and biodiversity in general, is a statutory requirement on the LPA and the process outlined above forms part of the means by which we discharge this duty. The intention is that it is an objective and robust approach.

Recommendation

Further bat survey is required to determine this application. Without this information I am opposed to the proposals on the basis of insufficient information.

Daytime inspections for bats can be undertaken at any time of year and in many cases are sufficient to determine if bats are likely to be affected. However, if a day time inspection (also known as a **preliminary roost assessment**) indicates that full activity survey (also known as **presence/absence survey**) is needed, then this information may also be required to determine the application. It may therefore be necessary to delay the application decision until at least May of 2017. In any case the survey should meet the minimum standards for bat survey in West Yorkshire (West Yorkshire Ecology Service, 2012).

References

DCLG. (2012). *National Planning Policy Framework.* London: Department for Communities and Local Government.

West Yorkshire Ecology Service. (2012, July 18). *Ecology Service: Planning Issues.* Retrieved January 3, 2017, from West Yorkshire Joint Services: http://www.wyjs.org.uk/media/1367/150603-minimum-standards-for-bat-surveys-version-5-draft-lp.pdf