

CC/P24-2054

30th August 2024

Sue Brooks
Kirklees Metropolitan Borough Council
Planning Services
PO Box B93
Civic Centre III
Huddersfield
HD1 2JR

Planning Portal ref: PP-13369680

Dear Sue,

**Re: Town and Country Planning Act (as amended) 1990
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Application for Listed Building Consent for alteration, refurbishment and extension to
the existing Library and Gallery to form a Museum and (retained) Gallery.**

Library and Gallery, Piazza Centre, Princess Alexandra Walk, Huddersfield, HD1 2RS

Pegasus Group have been instructed by Kirklees Council (“the Applicant”) to submit an application for Listed Building Consent for alterations to the existing Library and Gallery building to accommodate a new Museum and (the retained) Gallery (with a wider public realm works).

In principle, this Listed Building Consent application is an amendment to the previously approved Listed Building Consent application (ref: 2022/93234). This Listed Building Consent application should also be read alongside the S73 application that has been submitted in parallel to address changes to the approved plans condition and the description of development upon the full planning permission.

The proposed amendments are made following end user discussions and further feasibility work upon the previously approved works, the main outcome being the retention of the existing gallery use within the building (but not resulting in any change of use) and the creation of a space that would allow the museum use to operate alongside the gallery. Amendments are also proposed to the previously approved hard and soft landscaping in the immediate environs of the building. These set out how the scheme will integrate into the current site context and also the future development of the overall OCH masterplan.

Discussions have been held with the Local Planning Authority, including with yourself as the Council’s Conservation Officer, also with the 20th Century Society and the Huddersfield Civic Society and this has resulted in a number of amendments and clarifications to the scheme prior to this submission.

The main proposed changes are summarised as follows (further detail can be found within the DAS Addendum):

Museum and Gallery Design Changes

The principles of the refurbishment approach are largely maintained as originally approved; led by the retention of the existing gallery use and with some elements of the existing library and gallery being demolished (to facilitate the extension to the building, but positively lesser in extent), retained fabric upgraded and supported by a new build extension works.

The originally approved Environmental Statement (ES) set out that the scheme, as presently approved (for works to the existing Library and Gallery building, a Class F.1 use) would amount to around 6,000sqm (including the extension). The originally approved Design and Access Statement (DAS) advised that the amount of development was 6,404sqm, of which 2,622sqm was within the approved extension to the building. The now submitted DAS Addendum for these proposed works set out that there is an enlarged extension, now being proposed at 2,828sqm (i.e. 206sqm larger than the current consent). This represents a very modest change to the extent of development. It is noteworthy that the now approved amendments to the new library and food hall stage at the Market Hall, reduced the scale of the new library (Class F.1) development by some 470sqm from the original consent. Collectively, these amendments would amount to a reduction of 264sqm of Class F.1 use.

Key differences in the amended scheme are fully described within the submitted DAS addendum, but are summarised below:

- Retention and enhancement of access and inclusivity, maintaining the ambitions of the original scheme;
- The scale, massing and form of the extension follows that of the approved scheme, sitting in the same footprint and follows the same design and material principles established at the time of the original consent, with limited external amendments to window locations for example;
- Amendments to the basement level and to other floors to accommodate more vertical circulation;
- Changes to the lower ground level to allow for increased public use (through the provision of a flexible 'Heritage Innovation Activity Space' (HIAS), which was originally provided elsewhere within the original approval;
- The upper ground level has been amended, principally via the relocation of the entrance to the north elevation, which now permits the retention of nearly all of the existing eastern façade;
- These changes have enabled the exhibition spaces on level 1 to be amended, offering greater flexibility; and
- At level 2, the existing gallery use is being retained, with amendments to windows (within the extension) and consideration of heating and cooling ventilation systems;

Public Realm Changes

The main changes can be summarised as follows, with more detail being found within the submitted Design and Access Statement Addendum.

- More detail and amendments upon the immediate environs of the building, particularly the use/activity of associated spaces, linked to the combined Museum and Gallery (including how the building is now proposed to be accessed); and
- Amendments to the transition of changing levels across the external areas of the site, to the internal spaces.

For completeness and where appropriate, the previously approved documents within Listed Building Consent ref: 2022/93234 have been submitted. Additionally, a Planning Statement addendum and Heritage related addendums have been prepared which assess the changes.

Accordingly, the following documentation shall be submitted online via the Planning Portal for this Listed Building Consent application:

- Planning application forms and certificates duly completed and signed;
- Proposed drawings register prepared by FCBS/Re-Form (this register sets out those plans to be changed in comparison to the current Listed Building Consent).
- Design and Access Statement Addendum produced by FCBS.
- Planning Statement – Addendum (with original Planning Statement attached as an appendix);
- Heritage Impact Assessment (incorporating Setting Assessment) (Phase 1 only) – Addendum; and
- Desk Based Archaeology Assessment (Phase 1 update only),

This application is for Listed Building Consent and therefore the application fee is nil.

I trust the above and enclosed are sufficient to register the application as valid. However, should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Redacted

Chris Calvert
Executive Director

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