

**KIRKLEES METROPOLITAN COUNCIL
INVESTMENT & REGENERATION SERVICE**

DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT

Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) – SECTION 70

DELEGATED DECISION TO DETERMINE PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Reference No:	2025/62/90716/E
Site Address:	Heckmondwike Grammar School, High Street, Heckmondwike, WF16 0AH
Description:	Enhancing external lighting to the main entrance and pedestrian approach to reception area
Recommending Officer:	Faiza Bano

DECISION – CONDITIONAL FULL PERMISSION

I hereby authorise the approval of this application for the reasons set out in the officer's report and recommendation annexed below in respect of the above matter.

Emma Thompson

AUTHORISED OFFICER

Date: 28-May-25

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Officer Report

Site Description

The application site includes Heckmondwike Grammar School, a large educational facility located in Heckmondwike. The premises include playing fields, a playground, and two car parks. The grounds are partially obscured from the surrounding area by fencing, walls, hedges, and several trees along the campus boundary. The broader vicinity features a mix of residential and commercial properties.

Description of Proposal

The application seeks permission to enhance the external lighting to the main entrance and the pedestrian approach to the reception area. The scheme proposes the replacement of the existing light fittings to the underside of the reception area canopy, decorative canopy strip lighting and the instillation of six LED bollards.

The proposed new ceiling luminaires fittings are to be clear toughened glass and will have a white finish to match the existing. The decorative canopy strip lighting will be anodized silver with a frosted diffuser and will be light grey to match the cladding finish. The proposed LED bollards luminaires are to be finished in brushed steel to match the existing.

Dimensions:

Ceiling Luminaires - Nikon, NI-80042 Very Wide Beam. 3000K. Mounted at 3M:

- Diameter of front ring – 120mm
- Thickness of front ring – 6mm
- Length – 118mm
- Width – 78mm

LED Bollard Luminaires:

- Height – 1000 mm
- Diameter – 89mm

Canopy Strip Light - Lightalk 13, LA-95031 Medium Optic, 3000K:

- Total length – 16092mm (TBC on site)
- Dimmed at 20%
- Mounted at 4m

Background

This planning application was submitted alongside a consent to display an advertisement application seeking consent for the erection of an illuminated sign which was previously granted consent under application reference: 2025/90717.

History of Negotiations

None

Relevant Planning History

2000/93178: Erection of Two Storey Extension - Conditional Full Permission

2001/90085: Renewal of Previous Permission for Erection of Temporary Classrooms for 6th Form Accommodation - Conditional Full Permission

2002/91585: Erection of Single Storey Courtyard Infill - Conditional Full Permission

2003/90010: Erection of Extension to Provide Art/Craft Accommodation - Conditional Full Permission

2006/91385: Erection of 3m and 4.5m High Fencing Around All-Weather Pitch - Conditional Full Permission

2008/90478: Erection of Two Storey Extension to Create Additional 6th Form Accommodation - Conditional Full Permission

2011/92069: Erection of Extension and Alterations, and Formation of Fire Escape - Conditional Full Permission

2011/92116: Erection of Flood Lights to Playing Field and Raising Height of Existing Fence – Withdrawn

2013/90359: Installation of Floodlights to Playing Field and Raising the Height of Existing 3m High Fence – Withdrawn

2014/90414: Erection of Two Storey Extension - Section 106 Full Permission

2014/92774: Removal Condition 4 (Parking) on Previous Permission

2014/90414 for Erection of Two Storey Extension - Removal or Modification of Condition(S)

2014/93004: Discharge of Condition 6 (Construction Traffic Access) on Previous Permission 2014/90414 for Erection of Two Storey Extension - Discharge of Condition(S) Approved

2025/90717: Advertisement consent Granted

90/03349: Continuation of Use of Mobile Classroom – Conditional Full Permission

90/03554: Extension to Classroom - Conditional Full Permission

90/06191: Erection of Single Storey Extension - Conditional Full Permission

91/06497: Outline Application for New Sports Hall – Refused

93/00766: Erection of Ground Floor Extension to Form Food/Textiles/C.D.T. Departments - Conditional Full Permission

93/01897: Re-Positioning of Temporary Classroom, Alterations to Entrance to Adjacent Building - Conditional Full Permission

93/02885: Erection of External Fire Escape Staircase - Conditional Full Permission

94/90412: Erection of First Floor Information Technology Extension - Conditional Full Permission

95/92658: Continuation of Use of Portable Building as Classroom - Conditional Full Permission

95/93337: Erection of Temporary Classrooms for Sixth Form Accommodation - Conditional Full Permission

96/93717: Renewal of Unimplemented Outline Permission for Erection of New Sports Hall with Associated Parking - Conditional Outline Permission

97/92013: Erection of Temporary Classroom Unit, Gates and Fencing and Temporary Formation of 36 Space Car Park - Conditional Full Permission

97/93460: Erection of Sports/Recreation Hall and Storage, 4 No. Portable Buildings, Formation of Hard Paved Area and Fencing - Conditional Full Permission

98/92539: Erection of Sports/Recreation Hall and Storage. 4 No. Portable Buildings. Formation of Hard Paved Area and Fencing - Conditional Full Permission

99/91791: Erection of First Floor Extension and Alterations to Form 6th Form Accommodation - Conditional Full Permission

99/93074: Renewal of Temporary Permission for 36 Space Car Park - Conditional Full Permission

Consultations

KC Ecology - No Comments

KC Highways Development Management – No objections and recommended the following conditions:

- *Flood lighting or general external illumination shall be appropriately baffled or suitably screened to prevent unwanted "upward light" or "light spill" onto the highway or adjacent properties or land.*

- *The consent granted shall relate solely to the lighting system that is the subject of the application. Variation of or additions to the means/mode of lighting shall not be permitted without the prior written approval of the LPA*

Representations

This application was advertised by Site notice which expired on the 23rd of May 2025. As a result of the above publicity, no representations were received.

Policy

Section 38(6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires that planning applications are determined in accordance with the Development Plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise. The statutory Development Plan for Kirklees is the Local Plan (adopted 27th February 2019).

The site is within a high-risk coal area and shows it is within an LB Airport Consult - Area 1 on the Kirklees Local Plan Proposals Map.

Kirklees Local Plan Policies

- **LP 1** - Achieving Sustainable Development
- **LP 2** - Place Shaping
- **LP 21** - Highways and Access
- **LP 22** - Parking
- **LP 24** – Design

Kirklees Council adopted supplementary planning guidance on house extensions on 29th June 2021 which now carries full weight in decision making. This guidance indicates how the Council will usually interpret its policies regarding such built development, although the general thrust of the advice is aligned with both the Kirklees Local Plan (KLP) and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), requiring development to be considerate in terms of the character of the host property and the wider street scene.

National Policies and Guidance:

National planning policy and guidance is set out in National Policy Statements, primarily the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) published December 2024, the Planning Practice Guidance Suite (PPGS) first launched 6th March 2014 together with Circulars, Ministerial Statements and associated technical guidance. The NPPF constitutes guidance for local planning authorities and is a material consideration in determining applications.

- **Chapter 2** – Achieving Sustainable Development
- **Chapter 12** – Achieving Well-Designed and Beautiful Places

Assessment

The following matters are considered in the assessment below:

1. Principle of development
 1. Impact on visual amenity
 1. Impact on residential amenity
 2. Impact on highway safety
 3. Representations
 4. Other matters
 5. Conditions
 6. Conclusion

Principal of Development

The site is without notation on the Kirklees Local plan. When considering development proposals, policy LP1 of the KLP states that, the council will take a positive approach that reflects the presumption in favour of sustainable development contained in the National Planning Policy Framework. LP1 goes on further to stating that:

The Council will always work pro-actively with applicants jointly to find solutions which mean that the proposal can be approved wherever possible, and to secure development that improves the economic, social and environmental conditions in the area.

Policy LP2 sets out that all development proposals should seek to build on the strengths, opportunities and help address challenges identified in the Local

Plan. Policy LP24 of the KLP is relevant and states that “good design should be at the core of all proposals in the district”.

The existing site incorporates large school buildings with associated signage and lighting. The introduction of further lighting can be supported in principle due to the site context and development proposed.

In this case, the principle of development is considered acceptable, and the proposal shall now be assessed against all other material planning considerations, including visual and residential amenity, as well as highway safety.

Impact on Visual Amenity

Policy LP24 (Design) of the Council's adopted Local Plan sets out that proposals should promote good design by ensuring the form, scale, layout and details of all development respects and enhances the character of the townscape, extensions are subservient to the original building, are in keeping with the existing buildings in terms of scale, materials and details and minimise impact on residential amenity of future and neighbouring occupiers. Paragraph 135 of the NPPF is also of relevance to the consideration of this application.

Assessment

The proposed external lighting to the main entrance and the pedestrian approach to the reception area are considered visually acceptable, provided that the proposed finishings match the existing materials, as specified in the application and submitted drawings.

Given the above, it would not cause any significant harm to the appearance of the local street scene. It is therefore considered that in terms of visual amenity, the proposed would comply with Policy LP24 of the Kirklees Local Plan and advice within the National Planning Policy Framework.

Impact on Residential Amenity

Policy LP24 of the Kirklees Local Plan and Chapter 12 of the National Planning Policy Framework seeks to ensure development has an acceptable impact upon the amenity of neighbouring occupiers.

Assessment

The proposed alterations will have minimal impact on the amenity of occupants of the host building or residential neighbouring occupiers. The proposed lighting will be limited to the reception and parking area of the school and will be a significant distance away from neighbouring properties thereby mitigating any impact. The works are within the school grounds and therefore acceptable in context avoiding any detrimental impact on nearby occupants.

It is therefore considered that in terms of residential amenity, the proposed would comply with Policy LP24 of the Kirklees Local Plan and advice within Chapter 12 of the National Planning Policy Framework

Impact on Highway Safety

Policies LP21 and LP22 of the Kirklees Local Plan and policies within chapter 9 of the NPPF relate to access and highway safety and are relevant to the consideration of this application.

Assessment

It is concluded that the proposed external lighting located within the grounds of the school will have no impact on the safe operation of the highway. This is subject to the imposition of conditions to prevent unwanted illumination and to avoid distraction to users of the highway.

There are no concerns regarding highway safety arise in accordance the requirements of policy LP21 in the Kirklees Local Plan. The proposal does not increase the demand for additional parking spaces and will not affect any existing parking arrangements.

In this case, it would be considered that in terms of access and highway safety and parking, the proposed would comply with Policies LP21 and LP22 of the Kirklees Local Plan and chapter 9 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

Other Matters

Carbon Budget

On the 12th November 2019, the Council adopted a target for achieving 'net zero' carbon emissions by 2038, with an accompanying carbon budget set by the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research. National Planning Policy includes a requirement to promote carbon reduction and enhance resilience to climate change through the planning system and these principles have been incorporated into the formulation of Local Plan policies. The Local Plan predates the declaration of a climate emergency and the net zero carbon target, however it includes a series of policies which are used to assess the suitability of planning applications in the context of climate change. When determining planning applications, the Council will use the relevant Local Plan policies and guidance documents to embed the climate change agenda.

Assessment

The proposal is of a small-scale. As such, no special measures were required in terms of the planning application with regards to carbon emissions.

Representations

No representation received following the statutory publicity.

Negotiations

No amendments were sought or received during the consideration of the application.

Conclusion

The NPPF has introduced a presumption in favour of sustainable development. The policies set out in the NPPF taken constitutes the Government's view of what sustainable development means in practice. This application has been assessed against relevant policies in the development plan and other material considerations. It is considered that the development would constitute sustainable development and is therefore recommended for approval.

Recommendation:

Decision Authorisation - Delegated Powers

APPROVE

Application Number: 2025/90716
Officer Recommendation: Approval
Conditions and Reasons

1. The development hereby permitted shall be begun within three years of the date of this permission.

Reason: Pursuant to the requirements of Section 91 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

1. The development hereby permitted shall be carried out in complete accordance with the plans and specifications schedule listed in this decision notice, except as may be specified in the conditions attached to this permission, which shall in all cases take precedence.

Reason: For the avoidance of doubt as to what is being permitted and to ensure the satisfactory appearance of the development on completion, and to accord with Policies LP1, LP2, LP21, LP22 and LP24 of the Kirklees Local Plan and the aims of the National Planning Policy Framework.

2. Illuminated signs shall be designed such that the maximum luminance does not exceed the values defined within the ILE Technical Report No 5 "Brightness of Illuminated Advertisements" and the values quoted in the application.

The permitted signs shall be statically illuminated only and no changes in their mode of illumination shall be permitted without the prior written consent of the Local Planning Authority.

Flood lighting or general external illumination shall be appropriately baffled or suitably screened to prevent unwanted "upward light" or "light spill" onto the highway or adjacent properties or land.

The consent granted shall relate solely to the lighting system that is the subject of the application. Variation of or additions to the means/mode of lighting shall not be permitted without the prior written approval of the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: To prevent unwanted "upward light" or "light spill" onto the highway to avoid distraction to road users and the in the interest of highway safety in accordance with Policy LP21 of the Kirklees Local Plan.

NOTE: The granting of planning permission does not override any private legal rights or consents that may be required. It is the responsibility of the applicant / developer to ensure that all appropriate consents are in place prior to any development commencing; during the period of construction existing access for neighbouring properties is maintained; and no damage is caused to the access driveway or surrounding properties.

NOTE: To minimise noise disturbance at nearby premises it is generally recommended that activities relating to the erection, construction, alteration, repair or maintenance of buildings, structures or roads shall not take place outside the hours of:

07.30 and 18.30 hours, Mondays to Fridays

08.00 and 13.00hours, Saturdays

With no working Sundays or Public Holidays

In some cases, different site-specific hours of operation may be appropriate. Under the Control of Pollution Act 1974, Section 60 Kirklees Environment and Transportation Services can control noise from construction sites by serving a notice. This notice can specify the hours during which the works may be carried out.

Plans and specifications schedule:-

Plan Type	Reference	Version	Date Received
Plan General	HWK01-E3C-05-ZZZ-DR-A-002-A3-P01		14-Mar-2025
Plan General	HWK01-E3C-XX-ZZZ-DS-A-002-A4-P01		14-Mar-2025
Proposed Elevations	HWK01-E3C-20-ELZ-DR-A-001-A3-P03 - Sign		14-Mar-2025
Plan General	HWK01-E3C-20-00G-DR-A-001-A3-P06		14-Mar-2025
Plan General	HWK01-E3C-13-ZZZ-DR-A-002-A3-P02 - Existing		14-Mar-2025
Location Plan	HWK01-E3C-04-00G-DR-A-002-A3-P02		14-Mar-2025
Plan General	HWK01-E3C-20-ZZZ-DR-A-003-A3-P03 - Proposed		14-Mar-2025
General	NI-80042-S-en		14-Mar-2025
General	Pharola-product datasheet		14-Mar-2025
General	LUC-25-007-1B - Lighting Assessment - Canopy		14-Mar-2025
General	LUC-25-007-1C - Lighting Assessment LED Bollards		14-Mar-2025

Pursuant to article 35 (2) of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) Order 2015 and guidance in the National Planning Policy Framework, the Local Planning Authority have, where possible, made a pre-application advice service available, complied with the Kirklees Development Management Charter 2024 and otherwise actively engaged with the applicant in dealing with the application. As the submitted plans were considered to be acceptable, no changes were sought.

Report Dated:

25th May 2025