Appendix A – Climate Change Statement

Climate Change Statement for Planning Applications

Part 1: Applicant details

Name of applicant/agent	Simon Monk
Site Address	Oakwell Court, Branwell Avenue, Birstall, Batley, WF17 9DF
Description of Development	The proposed development comprises the refurbishment of the existing residential apartment buildings at Oakwell Court, serving flats 51–79 (15 residential units) together with associated communal areas. The works include: • Replacement of existing deteriorated timber windows and patio doors with high-performance energy-efficient uPVC units in a rosewood finish. • Replacement of timber bay window structures and associated cladding. • Removal of redundant roof gables above bay windows. • Replacement of existing timber curtain walling and communal entrance screens with powder-coated aluminium systems colour matched to the existing appearance. The proposal represents a refurbishment and improvement scheme designed to extend the life of the existing buildings whilst significantly improving their thermal performance, durability and long-term maintenance requirements.

Part 2: Climate Change Mitigation measures

Please respond to the following questions considering the measures set out in the Climate Change Guidance note:
Q1: What measures have been/will be taken to reduce the energy demand associated with your proposed development beyond the minimum required in Building Regulations? (See section 2)
The refurbishment has been designed to improve the thermal performance of the existing buildings through the replacement of ageing building fabric that has deteriorated over time. The principal energy efficiency measures include: • Installation of modern energy-efficient double-glazed uPVC windows and patio doors with significantly improved thermal performance compared with the existing timber units. • Replacement of deteriorated timber curtain walling with modern thermally efficient aluminium systems. • Improved weather-tightness and reduction in uncontrolled air infiltration through replacement of defective external joinery. • Elimination of areas affected by timber decay and water ingress, helping maintain the effectiveness of the building envelope. These improvements will reduce heat loss, improve occupant comfort and reduce energy consumption associated with space heating.

Q2: What measures have been/will be taken to limit the carbon consumed through the implementation and construction processes, e.g. by reusing existing on-site materials or sourcing materials locally? (See section 3)

The proposal seeks to minimise embodied carbon by retaining and refurbishing the existing buildings rather than demolishing and rebuilding them.

Additional measures include:

- Retention of the existing structural buildings and roofs.
- Removal and disposal of only those building elements that have reached the end of their serviceable life.
- Specification of durable replacement materials with long design lives, reducing future replacement cycles.
- Contractors will be encouraged, where practicable, to source materials from local or regional suppliers to reduce transportation impacts.
- Construction waste will be segregated and recycled wherever practical

Q3: What measures have been/will be taken to utilise renewable or low carbon energy sources? (See section 4)

As this proposal relates solely to external refurbishment works, no new renewable energy technologies are proposed as part of this application.

However, the significant improvements to the thermal envelope will reduce overall energy demand and carbon emissions associated with heating the buildings, thereby contributing towards lower operational carbon emissions.

The proposed works would not prevent the future installation of renewable technologies should separate proposals be brought forward.

Q4: What measures have been/will be taken to ensure the building design and layout has been optimised to energy efficiency beyond the minimum requirements in Part L of the Building Regulations ? (See section 5)

The proposal improves the performance of the existing building envelope through the replacement of inefficient external components.

Energy efficiency improvements include:

- Modern high-performance glazing.
- Improved insulated framing systems.
- Reduced air leakage through replacement windows, doors and curtain walling.
- Improved resistance to wind and rain penetration.
- Increased durability ensuring the thermal performance is maintained over the long term.

As the application involves refurbishment only, the existing building orientation and layout remain unchanged.

Q5: What measures have been/will be taken to reduce potential impacts of flooding associated with your proposed development? (See section 6)

The proposed works do not increase the building footprint or create additional impermeable surfaces.
There are no alterations to existing drainage systems or ground levels.

Consequently:

- Surface water runoff will remain unchanged.
- Existing drainage arrangements will continue to operate.

- The proposal will not increase flood risk either on or off the site.

Q6: What measures have been/will be taken to reduce water stress associated with your proposed development? (e.g. Water retention and minimisation measures) (See sections 7 and 8)

The proposed development does not involve additional residential units or increased water demand.

Although no new water-saving installations form part of this application, the refurbishment will:

- Eliminate water ingress through replacement external joinery.
- Improve the weather resistance of the buildings.
- Extend the lifespan of the building fabric by preventing moisture penetration.

Overall water consumption associated with the site will remain unchanged.

Q7: What measures have been/will be taken to provide biodiversity net gains? (See section 8)

As the proposal comprises external refurbishment works to existing buildings only, there will be no loss of existing habitat, trees or landscaped areas.

The development:

- Retains all existing gardens and landscaped spaces.
- Does not affect ecological habitats.
- Does not involve site clearance or vegetation removal.

While biodiversity enhancements are not a formal part of this refurbishment scheme, the proposals preserve the existing ecological value of the site and do not adversely affect biodiversity.

Q8: What measures have been/will be taken to reduce air pollution associated with your proposed development? (See section 9)

Construction activities will be managed to minimise temporary impacts through good site management practices, including:

- Dust suppression where required.
- Appropriate management of construction traffic.
- Avoidance of unnecessary vehicle idling.
- Proper storage and handling of construction materials.

Following completion, the improved thermal performance of the buildings will reduce energy demand for heating, contributing to lower operational carbon emissions and associated air pollutants over the lifetime of the development.