MANCHESTER CITY COUNCIL

Planning

Growth & Development

Delegated officer report for planning application

Application no.	141046/LE/2024
Date registered valid:	22 October 2024
Proposal:	Use of property as registered Children's home (Use class C2)
Address:	31 Olanyian Drive, Manchester, M8 8YU
Ward(s):	Cheetham Ward
Applicant:	Mrs Janell Wilken Manchester City Council
Agent (if any):	
Case officer:	Robert Tyrer Tel: 0161 234 4068 Email: robert.tyrer@manchester.gov.uk
Recommendation:	
Date of recommendation:	17 December 2024

Application details

Type of application: Certificate Lawful Development Existing

Development type: Certificates of lawfulness

Date of site visit: Not Required

Standard consultations:
No consultations have been printed and sent.

Neighbour notifications
Printed: 14 November 2024 Expired: 5 December 2024

Site notice
No site notice has been produced

Press advert
No press advert had been published

Departure from Development Plan: No

Environmental Statement: Not required

Description of site/building

Application site relates to a large detached two storey brick-built property located close to the junction of Olanyian Drive and Appian Way. Set within a large plot the property has a driveway and car parking spaces for 5 vehicles.

Listed building: Not applicable

Conservation area: Not applicable

Tree Preservation Order: Not applicable

Description of area

Predominantly residential in nature located to the north of the city centre, with some commercial uses found on Bury New Road.

Description of development

The certificate of lawful existing use or development (CLEUD) that is the subject of this application relates to the use of the property as a registered Children's home (Use class C2)

Consultations & Notification Responses

Publicity – Notification letters were sent to nearby residential properties (see appendix 1 for the list of properties).

Local residents/public opinion – No representations or comments were received.

Issues

Planning History

Application Reference: 076833/VO/2005/N1
Description: CITY COUNCIL DEVELOPMENT RESERVED MATTERS APPLICATION for the erection of a children's home including siting, access, landscaping, design and external elevations
Decision: Approve 21.12.2005

Application Reference: 070334/VO/2003/N1
Description: CITY COUNCIL DEVELOPMENT/OUTLINE APPLICATION for the erection of a detached dwellinghouse for use as a childrens home for six children with 24 hour supervision
Decision: Approve 19.02.2004

Legislative Issues

Sections 191 and 192 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 provide for anyone (not just a person with a legal interest in the land) to apply to the local planning authority (LPA) for a lawful development certificate (LDC). A certificate is a statutory document certifying:

(1) in the case of an application under section 191, the lawfulness, for planning purposes, of existing operations on, or use of land, or some activity being carried out in breach of a planning condition; or

(2) in the case of an application under section 192, the lawfulness of proposed operations on, or use of land.

The onus of proof in regard to (1) is firmly on the applicant and the issue of a certificate will depend on the on factual evidence provided about the history and planning status of the building or other land and the interpretation of any relevant planning law or judicial authority. The relevant test of the evidence in this matter is "the balance of probability" and the applicants own evidence does not need to be corroborated by independent evidence. If the LPA have no evidence to contradict the applicants version of events or make them less then probable, there is no good reason to refuse the issue of a certificate.

In regard to (2), this provides that, if the LPA are supplied with information satisfying them that the use or operations described in the application would be lawful, if instituted or begun at the time of the application, they shall issue a certificate to that effect; and, in any other case, they shall refuse the application.

In short, the purpose section 192 is to enable any person who wishes to find out whether any proposed use or operations would be lawful to apply to the LPA for that purpose

The application needs to describe the proposal with sufficient clarity and precision to enable the LPA to understand (from a written description and plans) exactly what is involved in the proposal; and to submit whatever supporting information or legal submission that are to be relied upon in order to satisfy the LPA that a certificate should be granted for the proposal.

In making their decision on an application under section 192, the LPA ask themselves the hypothetical question - "If this proposed change of use had already occurred, or if this proposed operation had commenced, on the application date, would it have been lawful for planning purposes?" In doing so, the LPA will not only consider whether the proposal would involve "development" requiring an application for planning permission, but whether it would involve a

breach of any existing condition or limitation imposed on a grant of planning permission which has been acted upon, and which therefore constrains what can be done on the land. The LPA will not make a proposal fit a scenario; the only question is whether the proposal made by the applicant is lawful at the time of submission.

The Application

This application is pursued under subsection (1) of section 191 which provides for an application to determine whether a specified existing use, operation, or failure to comply with a planning condition or limitation, which has already been carried out on land is lawful for planning purposes.

In a case of this type, the onus is on the applicant to substantiate his or her case, on the balance of probability. The applicant needs to demonstrate that the use of property as a registered Children's home (Class C2) commenced more than ten years prior to the date of the application (i.e. by 17th September 2014) and continued without a significant break for ten years.

The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order defines Class C2 as follows:

- Use for the provision of residential accommodation and care to people in need of care (other than a use within Class C3 (dwellinghouses)),
- Use as a hospital or nursing home,
- Use as a residential school, college or training centre.

The applicant seeks to confirm that the property can continued to be used as a children's care home.

Evidence provided by the applicant, is a letter from Planning, Licensing and Building Control which explains that the property was subject to planning approval for the use as a children's home in February 2004 under outline planning permission reference 070334/VO/2003/N1 and subsequent reserved matters planning permission reference 076833/VO/2005/N1 approved in December 2005. The letter goes on to say that the local planning authority are aware that the property has been constructed and operated in accordance with the planning approval and that there has been no intervening planning permission for other use of the property. As, such the local planning authority is satisfied that the planning permissions for the use of the above property as a children's home are still in place.

In addition, the applicant has also provided a Certificate of Registration dated 13 August 2020 signed by Ofsted Chief Inspector shows that the property was registered as a children's home with Ofsted on the 19 September 2008. A quick search on the internet provides several Ofsted Children's home inspection reports for the unique registration number ranging from November 2012 to December 2020.

The LPA have reviewed records and found no evidence to contradict the applicants version of events or make them less then probable.

Conclusion - From the information that has been provided it is considered, that on the balance of probabilities, that the premises were in use as a children's home (C2 use) for at least 10 years.

Other Legislative Requirements
Equality Act 2010
Section 149 (Public Sector Equality Duty) of the Equality Act 2010 requires due regard to the need to: Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act and; Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a

protected characteristic and persons who do not share it. The Equality Duty does not impose a legal requirement to conduct an Equality Impact Assessment. Compliance with the Equality Duty involves consciously thinking about the aims of the Equality Duty as part of the process of decision-making.

Human Rights Act 1998 considerations
This application needs to be considered against the provisions of the Human Rights Act 1998. Under Article 6, the applicants (and those third parties, including local residents, who have made representations) have a right to a fair hearing and to this end the local planning authority must give full consideration to their comments.

Protocol 1 Article 1, and Article 8 where appropriate, confer(s) a right of respect for a person's home, other land and business assets. In taking account of all material considerations, including Council policy as set out in the Core Strategy and saved polices of the Unitary Development Plan, the Director of Planning, Building Control & Licensing has concluded that some rights conferred by these articles on the applicant(s)/objector(s)/resident(s) and other occupiers and owners of nearby land that might be affected may be interfered with but that that interference is in accordance with the law and justified by being in the public interest and on the basis of the planning merits of the development proposal. She believes that any restriction on these rights posed by the recommendation given is proportionate to the wider benefits of and that such a decision falls within the margin of discretion afforded to the Council under the Town and Country Planning Acts.

Recommendation: Grant

Condition(s) to be attached to decision for approval OR Reasons for recommendation to refuse

1) From the evidence available and with reference to the relevant planning legislation, Manchester City Council is satisfied that the use is lawful by reason of the said use having been in existence for a period of 10 years up to the date of this application.

Appendix 1 – List of consultees & neighbours notified

29 Olanyian Drive, Manchester, M8 8YU
12 Sandering Drive, Manchester, M8 8YT
10 Sandering Drive, Manchester, M8 8YT
14 Sandering Drive, Manchester, M8 8YT

Appendix 2 – Planning constraints

Article 4 Direction - Removal Of PD Rights Change Of Use From Class C3 To Class C4
Coal Authority - Development Low Risk - Name: DEVELOPMENT_LOW_RISK_AREA
Historic Landfill Site 250m Buffer -
Susceptible to Surf Water Flood (Less) -
Susceptible to Surf Water Flood (Less) -
Area Team Boundary - Name: NORTH AREA