

Planning

Growth & Development

Delegated officer report for planning application

Application no. 136321/LE/2023

Date registered valid: 16 February 2023

Proposal: Use of property as a 7 bedroom house in multiple occupation (Sui Generis)

Address: 137 Clarendon Road, Manchester, M16 8JD

Ward(s): Whalley Range Ward

Applicant: Mrs Katie McDaid

Agent (if any):

Case officer: Robert Tyrer
Tel: 0161 234 4068
Email: robert.tyrer@manchester.gov.uk

Recommendation: GRANT

Date of recommendation: 29 March 2023

Application details

Type of application: Certificate Lawful Development Existing

Development type: Certificates of lawfulness

Date of site visit: 24 March 2023

Standard consultations:

No consultations have been printed and sent.

Neighbour notifications

Printed: 2 March 2023 Expired: 23 March 2023

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

The application site relates to a part two, part three-storey end terraced dwellinghouse. With both front and rear gardens.



Listed building: Not applicable

Conservation area: Not applicable

Tree Preservation Order: Not applicable

Description of area

The area is predominantly residential in nature and is located in close proximity to Alexandra Park.

Description of development

The applicant is seeking a certificate of existing lawful development for the use of property as a 7 bed House In Multiple Occupation (Sui Generis)

Consultations & Notification Responses

Notification letters were sent to the properties and addresses listed in appendix 1.

Two objections were received to the application, a summary of the comments received are as follows:

- The subdivision of a family home into a HMO goes against council policy in favour of family homes.

- Residents have experienced anti-social behaviour from the property including house parties, fights to regular fly tipping of items such as furniture;

Issues

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:

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

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 than 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 of 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.

Planning History

There have been one previous planning applications at this address.:

Application Reference: 037093

Proposal: Single storey rear extension to form additional bathroom and enlarge kitchen

Status: Approved 17th October 1990.

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 subsection (1) of section 192, which provides for an application to determine whether any proposed use or operations would be lawful for planning purposes.

In a case of this type, the onus is on the applicant to substantiate their case, on the balance of probability. The applicant needs to demonstrate that the use as a 7 bed House in Multiple Occupation (sui generis) commenced more than ten years prior to the date of the application (i.e. by 16th February 2013) and continued without a significant break for ten years.

Evidence – The applicant has submitted the following evidence in support of their application

- A site location plan edged in red.
- Copies of tenants' agreements from 1st July 2008 to the date of the application;
- Copies of the HMO Licence 2008, 2014 and 2019,
- Evidence to show a change to the applicant's surname
- Email correspondence requesting additional bin and lists 7 residents at the address
- Email correspondence explain tenancy agreements and occupation summary

Assessment of Evidence

A review of the submitted evidence has shown that the property has 7 bedrooms which following correspondence with the applicant are rented out on an individual basis as the property is occupied by young professionals. Tenancies are secured on a short term basis (one or two months) which then become rolling contracts.

Unlike student properties where by residents tend to be rent the house as a group for a year the submitted tenancy agreements show that between July 2012 and 2022 the number of tenants there has been consistently 7, the three previous HMO licences including the most recent which is due to expire next year (10th March 2024) shows that for licencing purposes the council is satisfied that the licensed premises are reasonably suitable for occupation by not more than 7 occupants and/or 7 households.

The notification responses do not raise any doubt about the use of the property.

Therefore, from the information that has been provided it is considered, that on the balance of probabilities, that the property has been let to 7 tenants as a house in multiple occupancy (Sui Generis) for at least 10 years and this use has subsequently continued accommodating up to 7 people. The LPA have no evidence to contradict the applicant's version of events or make them less then probable.

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 policies 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

141 Clarendon Road, Manchester, M16 8LE
139 Clarendon Road, Manchester, M16 8LE
1 Granville Avenue, Manchester, M16 8JX
135 Clarendon Road, Manchester, M16 8JD
133 Clarendon Road, Manchester, M16 8JD
78A Clarendon Road, Manchester, M16 8LA
2 Granville Avenue, Manchester, M16 8JX

Appendix 2 – Planning constraints

Article 4 Direction - Removal Of PD Rights Change Of Use From Class C3 To Class C4
Aircraft Safeguarding Zone - Aircraft Safeguarding Zone - All Exceeding 90M
Area Team Boundary - Name: SOUTH AREA