

Planning

Growth & Development

Delegated officer report for planning application

Application no. 135226/FO/2022

Date registered valid: 18 October 2022

Proposal: Installation of step lift to front entrance of property to allow access for a wheelchair user

Address: 12 Balmfield Street, Manchester, M8 0SP

Ward(s): Cheetham Ward

Applicant: Mrs Raj Kaur, 12 Balmfield Street, Manchester, M8 0SP

Agent (if any): Mr Shaun Stephenson, Manchester Equipment and Adaptations Partnership (MCC) Unit 1 Poland Industrial Estate, 29 Poland Street, Ancoats, Manchester, M4 6AZ

Case officer: Katie Raw
Tel: 0161 234 4164
Email: katie.raw@manchester.gov.uk

Recommendation: Approve

Date of recommendation: 5 December 2022

Application details

Type of application: Full Application Consent

Development type: Minor Other

Date of site visit: 11 November 2022

Standard consultations:

Printed: 31 October 2022 Expired: 21 November 2022

Neighbour notifications

Printed: 31 October 2022 Expired: 21 November 2022

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

Listed building: Not applicable

Conservation area: No

Tree Preservation Order: No

Description of area

The application site relates to 12 Balmfield Street within the north Manchester ward of Cheetham. The application site relates to a two storey, terraced, red brick property which faces onto Balmfield Street and school grounds connected to St Chad's Primary School. Amenity space to the front of the property consists of a cream flagged courtyard and amenity space to the rear consists of a further larger, paved courtyard with the property benefitting from an existing two storey outrigger.

Description of development

The submitted application seeks planning permission for the installation of step lift to front entrance of property to allow access for a wheelchair user. The step lift would be a Wessex SP500 step lift with 280mm bridging plate. This would include a usable platform size- 12200mm x 750mm. A concrete base would be excavated within the applicant's front amenity space, this would be excavated to 1300mm wide and the concrete base would be 1300mm wide x 1570mm long x 100mm deep minimum.

The proposed step lift would be made of galvanised aluminium.

To facilitate the proposal, a section of the front boundary wall would be removed to allow the step lift to be installed.

Planning history

085295/FO/2007/N1- 11 Alleyways Area Bounded By 283-375 Cheetham Hill Road, Balmfield Street, Huxley Avenue, 1-28 Oakfield Street, 1-29 Elmfield Street, 1-32 Beechfield Street Cheetham- Installation of 2.4m high 36 single leaf alleygates, 1 double and 1.1 metre high vertical bar railings. The raising of brickwork to existing yard walls.
Approved 7 February 2008.

Consultations & Notification Responses

Local residents

Local residents were consulted and no responses were received.

Highway Services

Highway Services were consulted on the application and provided the following comments:
The proposed development falls only within the site's curtilage and therefore no amendment to the adopted highway is required.

The existing boundary treatments are to be retained which is acceptable.

Highways have no objections to the proposed development in principle, subject to the proposed step lift being DDA compliant.

Issues

POLICY

The National Planning Policy Framework (July 2021)

The document sets out the Government's Planning Policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. At the heart of the Framework is a presumption in favour of sustainable development in terms, "For plan-making" and "For decision-taking", (paragraph 11).

Paragraph 8 - Achieving sustainable development means that the planning system has three overarching objectives, which are interdependent and need to be pursued in mutually supportive ways (so that opportunities can be taken to secure net gains across each of the different objectives):

- a) an economic objective – to help build a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right types is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth, innovation and improved productivity; and by identifying and coordinating the provision of infrastructure;
- b) a social objective – to support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by fostering well-designed, beautiful and safe places, with accessible services

and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities' health, social and cultural well-being; and

c) an environmental objective – to protect and enhance our natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, improving biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy.

The following specific policies are considered to be particularly relevant to the proposed development:

- i. Chapter 8. Promoting healthy and safe communities- States that planning policies and decisions should aim to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places and policies and decisions should promote public safety and take into account wider security and defence requirements.
- ii. Chapter 12. Achieving well-designed places- Reflects upon the importance of design to the built environment and its contribution to sustainable development and making places better for people. With this in mind, the design of the substantive development has been assessed in relation to the quality and cohesion of its composite building, as well as the function and appearance of public and private spaces.

The Manchester Core Strategy Development Plan Document 2012-2027 ("the Core Strategy") was adopted by the City Council on 11th July 2012.

The Core Strategy is the key document in Manchester's Local Development Framework. It replaces significant elements of the Unitary Development Plan (UDP) as the document that sets out the long term strategic planning policies for Manchester's future development. Of relevance are:

Policy DM1 (Development Management); which states that all development should have regard to the following specific issues for which more detailed guidance may be given within a supplementary planning document. The relevant issues are the appropriate siting, layout, scale, form, massing, materials and detail. The impact; on the surrounding areas; in terms of the design, scale and appearance of the proposed development. Development should have regard to the character of the surrounding area. The effects on amenity, including privacy, light, noise, vibration, air quality and road safety and traffic generation. This could also include proposals which would be sensitive to existing environmental conditions, such as noise.

Policy SP1 (Spatial Principles); which sets out the City Council's Core Development Principles and states that development in all parts of the City should make a positive contribution to neighbourhoods of choice, amongst these include: creating well designed places that enhance or create character, making a positive contribution to the health, safety and wellbeing of residents, considering the needs of all members of the community regardless of age, gender, disability, sexuality, religion, culture, ethnicity.

Policy EN1 (Design Principles and Strategic Character Areas); states that all development in Manchester will be expected to follow the seven principles of urban design, as identified in national planning guidance and have regard to the strategic character area in which the development is located.

Unitary Development Plan Saved Policies

Large elements of the UDP have been superseded by the Core Strategy. The following saved policies are of relevance in the consideration of this application:

DC1.1 states that in determining planning applications for extensions to residential properties, the Council will have regard to:

- a. The general character of the property;
- b. The effect upon the amenity of the neighbouring occupiers;
- c. The desirability of enabling people to adapt their houses in appropriate ways to meet changing household needs;
- d. The overall appearance of the proposal in the a street scene;
- e. The effect of the loss of any on-site car parking.

DC1.2 states that extensions to residential properties will be allowed subject to compliance with other relevant policies of the Plan and the following criteria:

- a. They are not excessively large or bulky (for example resulting in structures which are not subservient to original houses or project out too far in front of original buildings);
- b. They do not create undue loss of sunlight, daylight or privacy;
- c. They are not out of character with the style of development in the area or the surrounding scene by virtue of design, use of materials or construction details.
- d. they would not result in the loss of off-street car-parking, in a situation where there is so severe an existing on-street parking problem that unacceptable additional pressures would be created.

DC1.5 The council will consider on their merits exemptions to the above policies in the case of applications from disabled people who may require particular adaptations to their homes.

Guide to Development in Manchester Supplementary Planning Document and Planning Guidance, Adopted April 2007.

The Guide aims to help to develop and enhance a unique and positive sense of place within Manchester and its neighbourhoods. The guidance is grouped under seven key principles recognised by CABI as being those urban design characteristics which create successful places. These are: character and context, continuity and enclosure, ease of movement, quality of the public realm, diversity, legibility, and adaptability. It advises that high quality design is a vital attribute of successful neighbourhoods.

Paragraph 2.7 states that development should help to sustain local neighbourhoods, encouraging the most appropriate form of development to enliven neighbourhoods and sustain local facilities.

Paragraph 2.14 goes on to say that it is important that new developments are of an appropriate height having regard to location, character of the area and specific site circumstances and local effects, such as microclimatic ones.

Paragraph 2.16 considers the impact of site boundaries, which can be significant and must be taken into account and incorporated into the design of new developments and conversions from an early stage. Original examples that contribute to the character of the area should be retained. Well designed new treatments such as walls, low walls and railings or hedges and boundary trees, can maintain the enclosure of the street, reinforce the building line and contribute to the quality of the environment.

ISSUES

Principle of development

The submitted development application is for the installation of step lift to front entrance of property to allow access for a wheelchair user. This is considered acceptable in principle as many people prefer to alter homes rather than move, to meet the changing residential needs of families, including disabled access needs. However, consideration must be given to the proposal's appearance, impact on the visual amenity of the area and impact on the neighbouring properties' residential amenity. As the property is to remain a single family dwellinghouse it is not considered that the proposed extension would give rise to any significant additional waste or car parking pressures.

Visual /Residential Amenity

The proposal would be sited in the front amenity space related to the property and as such would be sited extremely close to the shared boundary with no.14 Balmfield Road. As such, the proposal would be visible when standing in the neighbour's front amenity space. However, as the space is only used to give access to the neighbours front door, it would not create an oppressive feature to the detriment of residential amenity. The other immediate neighbour no.10 Balmfield Road would be sited 3.8 metres from the proposal. Due to the distance and the small scale of the proposal, it would not create an unduly harmful feature. In addition, the boundary treatment between the applicant property and the immediate neighbours would help reduce impact. Although the ramp would be visible within the streetscene, any adverse residential/visual amenity implications would be outweighed by the need of the disabled user, pursuant to Policy DC1.5 of the UDP.

No impacts would occur in terms of loss of light and overshadowing nor privacy or overlooking implications for any of the immediate neighbours.

Design and Appearance

The step lift would be a Wessex SP500 step lift with 280mm bridging plate. This would include a usable platform: 12200mm x 750mm. A concrete base would be excavated within the applicant's front amenity space, this would be excavated to 1300mm wide and the concrete base would be 1300mm wide x 1570mm long x 100mm deep minimum. Materials to be used are listed above. These materials are considered appropriate for the proposal and a materials condition has been attached to ensure the materials are adhered to, and the specification of the ramp is matched on site.

Considering the limited amenity space to the front of the property, a step lift is considered the most appropriate form of providing level access for the site. As confirmed by Highways, the step lift would not extend onto the highway and would be set within the context of the private amenity space. As such, the step lift is considered appropriate in its size, setting and form, pursuant to Policy DC1.2 of the UDP. The proposal is considered appropriate for its setting and follows the advice of DDA2 at the same time as considering Building Regulations Part M. DDA2 offers a practical approach to inclusive design and ensures that the adaptations proposed are accessible in nature but relates to public buildings only.

Bin storage

Bin storage would be unaffected by the proposal.

Car parking

No off street car parking is provided for the property and as such would not be impacted by the proposal.

Conclusion

Overall, the proposed development does not create any significant impact in terms of visual or residential amenity. The design and appearance is in keeping with the character of the property and local area, whilst benefitting the needs of the disabled resident.

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: Approve

Article 35 Declaration

The proposal was assessed with regards to policies outlined in the National Planning Policy Framework, Unitary Development Plan Saved Policies, Local Development Framework Core Strategy Development Plan and other material considerations. In this instance officers have worked with the applicant in a positive and proactive manner.

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

1) The development must be begun not later than the expiration of three years beginning with the date of this permission.

Reason - Required to be imposed pursuant to Section 91 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

2) The development hereby approved shall be carried out in accordance with the following drawings and documents:

- Application for Planning Permission for works or extension to a dwelling, stamped as received by the City Council as Local Planning Authority on 18 October 2022.
- Drawing- Proposed- Elevations, stamped as received by the City Council as Local Planning Authority on 18 October 2022.
- Drawing- Proposed- Layout Plan, stamped as received by the City Council as Local Planning Authority on 18 October 2022.
- Drawing- Location Plan, stamped as received by the City Council as Local Planning Authority on 18 October 2022.
- Supporting Information (Technical Specification Summary), stamped as received by the City Council as Local Planning Authority on 18 October 2022.
- Supporting Information- Additional Details, stamped as received by the City Council as Local Planning Authority on 18 October 2022.

Reason - To ensure that the development is carried out in accordance with the approved plans, pursuant to policies SP1 and DM1 of the Manchester Core Strategy.

3) The materials to be used throughout the proposal hereby permitted shall be implemented in accordance with the approved details as set out within the Application Form and within the Supporting Information- Additional Details, specified in Condition 2 of this approval.

Reason- In order to ensure a satisfactory appearance in the interests of visual amenity in accordance with saved policies DC1 of the Unitary Development Plan for the City of Manchester, SP1 and DM1 of the Manchester Core Strategy and the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework.

Appendix 1 – List of consultees & neighbours notified

Highway Services

5 Holst Avenue, Manchester, M8 0LS

14 Balmfield Street, Manchester, M8 0SP

1 Holst Avenue, Manchester, M8 0LS

10 Balmfield Street, Manchester, M8 0SP

St Chads RC Primary School, Balmfield Street, Manchester, M8 0SP

3 Holst Avenue, Manchester, M8 0LS

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 - Not Affected

Coal Authority - Development Low Risk - Name: DEVELOPMENT_LOW_RISK_AREA

Historic Landfill Site 250m Buffer -

Area Team Boundary - Name: NORTH AREA