

COMMITTEE DATE: 19/12/2017

Application Reference: 17/0466

WARD: Norbreck
DATE REGISTERED: 14/07/17
LOCAL PLAN ALLOCATION: Industrial / Business Development Land
Urban Green Space

APPLICATION TYPE: Full Planning Permission
APPLICANT: Lovell Partnerships Limited

PROPOSAL: Erection of 86 dwellings with associated open space and landscaping and formation of new access to Warren Drive.

LOCATION: LAND AT WARREN DRIVE, BLACKPOOL, FY5 3TG

Summary of Recommendation: Grant Permission

CASE OFFICER

Mr G Johnston

BLACKPOOL COUNCIL PLAN 2015 -2020

This application accords with **Priority one of the Plan** - The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool and **Priority two of the Plan** - Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATION

Whilst it is recognised that the site is allocated as Urban Greenspace in the 2001-2016 Local Plan it is clear from the justification to Policy NE8 that this was in part because the site was not needed to meet the development needs of the town up to 2016. In addition it needs to be borne in mind that the site has an extant permission for office development.

The housing requirement for the town for the 2001-2016 plan period was 3,230 dwellings. For the 2012-2027 plan period the requirement is 4,200 dwellings. Whilst it is acknowledged that there is some overlap in the plan periods and that there is a drive to meet the supply through the re-use of brownfield sites and the conversion of redundant hotels and guesthouses there is still a need to identify sites for development.

This site has been part of the Council's Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) since 2011 and hence has formed part of the evidence base to the Blackpool Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy 2012-2027 which was adopted in January 2016. The SHLAA is important in demonstrating that the Council has a five year supply of housing land to meet

the town's needs and also the Government's objective of delivering more housing. If a five year supply of housing land cannot be demonstrated the Council leaves itself vulnerable to development in less sustainable locations and on sites not identified in the SHLAA. By including the site in the SHLAA officers have recognised that this is a sustainable location for development consistent with Policy CS2 of the Core Strategy.

Paragraph 14 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) establishes a presumption in favour of sustainable development unless the adverse effects would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the disbenefits. Sustainable development has three dimensions and the benefits of the development are as follows:

Economic

- construction jobs
- increased local spending power

Social

- new houses at the northern end of town
- range of house sizes/types
- some affordable housing
- contributing to the Council's five year housing land supply
- on site open space and access to wider area of open space
- access to local facilities

Environmental

- the development would not involve the loss of environmentally sensitive land
- houses would not be at risk of flooding and would not cause flooding elsewhere
- each house would have an electrical vehicle charging point
- an existing area of scrub vegetation and a hedgerow would be retained
- bat and bird boxes would be provided as part of the development
- additional tree planting would be provided as part of the development
- bus stop upgrades would be provided as part of the development
- the development would not cause severe off site highway issues

The disbenefits of the development are as follows:

Economic

- None

Social

- the development would not provide 30% affordable housing although this is justified in the viability assessment which accompanies the application
- the development cannot fund school improvements or health improvements (explained by the viability assessment)

Environmental

- loss of open land (although there is nothing to stop the previously approved office development from being developed)

Given the consistency with the NPPF, policies in the Blackpool Local Plan and Blackpool Local Plan Part1: Core Strategy the development is recommended for approval subject to conditions.

INTRODUCTION

The Blackpool Local Plan 2001-2016 has the site identified as Urban Greenspace (Policy NE8) as it abuts other open space to the south which extends to Fleetwood Road in the west and All Saints Road in the south. The designation reflected the fact that during the plan period there was no requirement to develop the land because the town's needs could be satisfied through the development of other sites.

The application has followed on from pre-application advice regarding residential development on the site. Notwithstanding the designation under Policy NE8, the site has planning permission for offices and a start was made on that development effectively keeping the planning permission alive. As a result of the existence of the planning permission, but recognising that the development may not now proceed, the site has been included in the Council's Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) since 2011 on the basis that it would contribute to the Council's five year housing land supply.

SITE DESCRIPTION

The application relates to a 3.12 hectares site on the southern side of Warren Drive. The site has a frontage of some 220 metres and a depth of some 140 metres and is roughly rectangular in shape. It is bounded to the west by houses fronting Warren Drive and Wingate Avenue (they back onto the site), open land to the south, a hedgerow and open land to the east with properties fronting Deerpark Road beyond and to the north on the opposite side of Warren Drive is the Golden Eagle Public House, Warren Grove (a small residential development) and a Church with Warren Manor beyond. Extending eastwards along Warren Drive are two elongated grassed areas separated by Ashfield Road. The site has the appearance of a small dome with a small rise in Warren Drive from its junction with North Drive to approximately the middle of the site frontage and then a drop to the east. The land is currently overgrown and there are informal paths across the land to the areas of open space to the south and south west of the site.

DETAILS OF PROPOSAL

This is a full application for residential development on the site. The application proposes 86 houses (12 two bed houses, 41 three bed houses and 33 four bed houses). The scheme would comprise 77 market houses and 9 affordable houses (2 and 3 bed).

There would be a central area of open space and a wedge shaped open corridor on the western side of the site to allow for public access to the open space to the south which extends to Fleetwood Road in the west and All Saints Road in the south. The hedgerow on the eastern boundary of the site would be retained. There would be one point of vehicular access to the site and this would be close to the eastern boundary of the site, midway between the accesses to the Church and Warren Manor on the northern side of Warren Drive. This would involve the construction of a new mini roundabout in Warren Drive and the provision of a pedestrian refuge in Warren Drive to the west of the site access. The layout has been designed to have houses facing Warren Drive, Deerhurst Road, the rear gardens of houses on Wingate Avenue and the open space to the south. The houses fronting Warren Drive would be set behind a grass verge and service road with no direct vehicular access to Warren Drive.

Because the perimeter of the site is within a flood zone the intention is to create a plateau on which the houses would be erected. The site would as a result sit higher than surrounding land. In response to concerns regarding the harshness of this transition, parts of the difference in land level would be graded to the eastern and southern boundaries of the site and part would retained by a feature retaining wall which would be partly clad in timber and part planted as a 'green wall'. The scheme would incorporate nine affordable houses - approximately 10% of the total number. The viability assessment which accompanies the application demonstrates that in addition to the affordable housing provision the scheme would support a financial contribution of £70,000.

The application is accompanied by:

- Design and Access Statement
- Planning Statement
- Transport Assessment
- Flood Risk Assessment
- Sequential Test Assessment
- Ecological Study Report
- Tree Study Report
- Viability Report
- Geotechnical Study Report

The application site is within Norbreck ward but the application involves a mini roundabout in Warren Drive which would be partially within Norbreck ward and partially within Anchorsholme ward.

MAIN PLANNING ISSUES

The main planning issues are considered to be:

- Principle of development
- Design
- Amenity
- Highway Safety

- Parking and Servicing Arrangements
- Other Issues - Drainage, Levels

These issues will be discussed in the assessment section of this report.

CONSULTATIONS

Environment Agency - No objections in principle. Wish to see the development proceed in accordance with the submitted Flood Risk Assessment and providing it does this would mean that the development would not be at risk of flooding or cause flooding elsewhere. Suggest a condition to cover this. Refers to the requirement for a sequential test to be carried out - this has been done. Refers to flood proofing measures which could be incorporated in the development e.g. location of plug sockets. Suggests that the site may be within 250 metres of a former landfill site and hence recommends suitable precautionary measures e.g. landfill gas membrane to the foundations of the properties.

United Utilities - No objections in principle to the development. It is proposed to split the surface water from the development to discharge by gravity to Warren Drive and to a watercourse at the rear of the site. On site surface water attenuation is proposed. Foul drainage will go to the sewer in Warren Drive. Recommends a condition to cover the means of disposal of surface water.

Head of Highways and Traffic Management - Access is proposed from Warren Drive, a B class road (B5268) which is subject to a 30mph speed limit. Warren Drive is a key link to the wider Wyre area, located to the east and north of the application site and given its good connectivity with the A585 Amounderness Way, the road carries a significant amount of traffic throughout the day.

Highways' officers at Blackpool are aware that existing traffic conditions, in peak periods, on the surrounding highway network have deteriorated in recent years. It is Blackpool Borough Council Highways' view that changes that have occurred on the local network, along with increase in traffic levels and potential of additional traffic increase from developments, currently being considered (Norcross site) means that the cumulative impact of this and committed development in this area, and on this part of the network, needs to be fully understood and assessed.

The scenario where a new access is proposed on an often heavily congested road with all movements is not considered suitable due to the fact that no off-site highway improvements are proposed. Provision of a new junction on Warren Drive would result in greater potential conflict, resulting in safety concerns due to the increased number of opposing vehicular movements (linked with the new junction provision) and in close proximity of the two roundabouts either side. Conflict and safety concerns for non-car modes would also be increased.

Independent temporary traffic counts undertaken by the Council at two locations within the area, one on Warren Drive and the other on North Drive during the period between the 4th

October 2017 and 8th October 2017 has identified the use of the road by a substantial number of vehicles e.g. Warren Drive had 878 private vehicles recorded during 16.30 hours and 17.30 hours and North Drive had 1061 private vehicles recorded. So clearly the roundabout is congested and the highway network is at or close to saturation point, and when the highway network reaches this point, every additional vehicle will add to delay at the junction.

Blackpool Borough Council consider that delivery of a safe form of access from this proposed site for all modes, private car, pedestrians and cyclists has not been demonstrated or assessed adequately within the Transport Assessment.

Assumptions within the Applicant's Transport Assessment are considered flawed, a lack of capacity on the road network to accommodate this development and the limited access to public transport meaning that the proposal does not amount to sustainable development. Due to this, the reliance on the private car will be greater resulting in existing issues on the highway network being exacerbated with little or no improvements.

On this basis I would like to object and recommend refusal.

Comments on Transport Assessment

1. Paragraph 5.4 – The accessibility of the site is classed as low and as such the need to improve access to public transport is a must.
2. Paragraph 5.6.1 – States “The site is accessible on foot and these provisions will be improved as part of the works on the development site” - It is not clear how these improvements will be achieved.
3. Paragraph 6.1.1 – An independent accessibility questionnaire has been completed and the site is given a low accessibility score. This is not in agreement with paragraph 6.1.1.
4. Paragraph 6.3 – Traffic surveys have been carried out at the junction of Warren Drive/North Drive. I would also have expected surveys to have been carried out at the junction of Warren Drive/Fleetwood Road. The scope of the Transport Assessment has not been agreed.
5. Paragraph 6.3 – Traffic surveys have been carried out on a Thursday – why? I would have expected surveys to have been carried out on a Friday and Saturday – Cleveleys attracts a lot of car borne visitors over the weekend.
6. Paragraph 7.2.1 – A check of accidents in the last five years shows eight accidents (two serious). These were generally caused by vehicles pulling onto Warren Drive and not seeing/judging speed correctly. The new development will add another entry onto Warren Drive, leading to further conflict between different users.
7. Paragraph 8.1.3 suggests the provision of a pedestrian refuge but again this is not clearly shown on the plans.
8. Paragraph 8.1.5 – The conclusion discusses an arrangement that caters for right turning traffic, however this is not shown on any of the plans. This needs clarifying.

Layout

9. Access radius appears to be less than 10m.
10. Clarification required for the area fronting plots 78-79, 57-58, 38-40. Odd layout proposed and further details required how this area will operate/be managed and how different road users will interact.
11. How will the turning head between plots 62 and 77 be segregated from the edge of the existing public highway?
12. Tracking plans provided with Traffic Assessment which are not very clear. Extracts of the tracking plans have been provided separately but do not detail how the complete site can be accessed by large vehicles.
13. A medium size vehicle has been used for tracking. Waste collection operators in Blackpool operate 11m x 3m vehicle – what discussions have taken place with Waste Operators?
14. Clarification required on how the turning heads will be segregated from existing highway areas.
15. Traffic calming measures proposed within the development – why is none proposed adjacent to the public open space on the main road?

Mitigating measures should the scheme be supported

16. The limits of adoption, construction (possibly due to poor ground conditions) and palette of materials for new highway areas to be agreed with Head of Highways and Traffic Management, all contained within a S38 Agreement.
17. A Street Lighting scheme to be conditioned for the new development, the developer to contact the Councils PFI contractor via the Head of Coastal and Environmental Partnership Investments. The developer to be made aware that as well as the cost for the lighting infrastructure, this scheme must also pay for ongoing maintenance for the remainder of the PFI contract, circa 18 years.
18. A condition required to ensure garages are used for their purpose.
19. The installation of electric charge points to be conditioned for each unit.
20. The refuse collection and strategy to be discussed with the Head of Waste Services, Layton Depot, Depot Road, Blackpool FY3 7HW. Telephone Number: 01253 477477
21. A Construction Management Plan to be conditioned.
22. A separate condition to be included for wheel washing measures during construction, ensuring 15m of sterile hardstanding area (tarmac) is provided for wheel washing purpose.
23. A joint dilapidation survey to be carried out with Blackpool Council prior to commencement of the any works connected with this development.
24. The development will require formal postal addresses, applicant to contact the Head of Highways and Traffic Management, Blackpool Council, Bickerstaff House, Talbot Road, Blackpool, FY1 3AH Telephone Number: 01253 477477
25. A residential Travel Plan to be conditioned.
26. A scheme for off-site highways to be undertaken via a S278 Agreement. This to include:

- Changes to the existing highway to create the new access point into the site, with the installation of a new mini-roundabout. Egressing the site will be problematic due to the existing use of Warren Drive (likely to be intensified as a result of this development).
- Improvements to the existing roundabouts on Warren Drive to include the provision of additional capacity.
- The creation of right-turn pocket into the site from Warren Drive (with carriageway widening).
- The provision of a pedestrian crossing on Warren Drive.
- Street lighting review on Warren Drive.

A meeting has been held with the applicants and their highway consultants and a number of issues have been resolved:

- the site access is now shown with 10 metre radii curves to ease access into/egress from the site and a mini roundabout is proposed on Warren Drive.
- a pedestrian refuge is proposed on Warren Drive as part of the mini roundabout provision.
- the central square within the proposed development is considered appropriate in highway design terms.
- 1.5 metres separates the turning head from Warren Drive.
- traffic calming within the development is considered acceptable.
- electrical charging points are proposed in all of the properties on the development.
- there is a commitment to produce a residential travel plan for the development.
- a joint dilapidation survey will be undertaken prior to the commencement of development.
- the existing pavement on the southern side of Warren Drive has been confirmed at 1.5 metres wide - there is some evidence of encroachment of vegetation from the site and hence the actual width is more likely to be 2 metres wide.
- 2 bus stops on Fleetwood Road would be improved.
- a Construction Management Plan would be produced.
- a review of street lighting in the vicinity of the site access would be undertaken.

The applicant's transport consultant has looked at the capacity of the Warren Drive and North Drive junction and has provided information which demonstrates that the development would not severely compromise the capacity and operation of the junction.

The revised details have been forwarded to the Head of Highways and Traffic Management and any further comments will be presented in the update note.

Service Manager Public Protection: No comments

Electricity North West Ltd: We have considered the above planning application and find it could have an impact on our infrastructure. The development is shown to be adjacent to or affect Electricity North West operational land or electricity distribution assets. Where the development is adjacent to operational land the applicant must ensure that the development

does not encroach over either the land or any ancillary rights of access or cable easements. If planning permission is granted the applicant should verify such details by contacting Electricity North West, Estates and Wayleaves, Frederick Road, Salford, Manchester M6 6QH. The applicant should be advised that great care should be taken at all times to protect both the electrical apparatus and any personnel working in its vicinity.

There are HV and LV cables in the footway and road on Warren Drive. Depending on the works required these cables may have to be diverted or placed at an increased depth. The proposed development is in close proximity to Wingate Avenue secondary substation. Consideration should be given to noise from this substation. The applicant should also be advised that, should there be a requirement to divert the apparatus because of the proposed works, the cost of such a diversion would usually be borne by the applicant. The applicant should be aware of our requirements for access to inspect, maintain, adjust, repair, or alter any of our distribution equipment. This includes carrying out works incidental to any of these purposes and this could require works at any time of day or night. Our Electricity Services Desk (Tel No. 0800 195 4141) will advise on any issues regarding diversions or modifications.

Waste Services Manager: No comments have been received at the time of preparing this report. Any comments that are received before the Committee meeting will be reported in the update note.

County Archaeologist: Acknowledges that the site has been disturbed by works undertaken as part of the approved office development but suggests a condition to cover the other areas of the site.

Lancashire Wildlife Trust: No comments have been received at the time of preparing this report. Any comments that are received before the Committee meeting will be reported in the update note.

Sustainability Manager: The detailed Ecological Appraisal by Ecus Ltd gives useful recommendations although it should be noted that the reduction in 'wild spaces' is a main driver of the decline of many common species both locally and nationally.

Paragraph 5.3.2 Grassland - Low growing wildflowers and fine grass mixes should be chosen to provide opportunities for pollinators and reduced maintenance requirements for areas away from e.g. heavy use play areas.

Paragraph 5.3.3 Scrub - Loss of scrub should be compensated for by patches of shrubs, of native and suitable ornamental species, around the development. Tree planting around and within the estate should include suitable species with attractive flowers and/or fruits to attract birds, pollinators, bats etc.

Paragraph 5.3.4 Hedgerow - This should be retained and gaps replanted. It should also be extended to increase its connectivity with other habitats outside the site boundary. There is no landscaping planting schedule at the current time but suitable native species should be

chosen and for the hedgerow and any shrub areas Alder Buckthorn (*Frangula alnus*) should be included.

Paragraph 5.4.1 Amphibians - Does the pond have to be lost? Can it be retained/enlarged as part of the water storage infra-structure for the site and its connectivity with new SuDS swales and the habitats to the south maintained or enhanced. Given that it has a good HIS score for Great Crested Newts, even though these are not present, the absence of fish and other factors indicate it is probably important for a wide range of aquatic invertebrates as well as the amphibians. However if it can be kept as part of a revised drainage scheme then it should be securely fenced to ensure its biodiversity and water quality is protected from deterioration (by e.g. dogs being encouraged to swim making the water very turbid) as has happened to many quality ponds locally in recent years which seriously reduces its attractiveness to amphibians and other aquatic wildlife.

Paragraph 5.4.12 Bats - Artificial roosting structures (e.g. Shwegler 1FR bat tubes) are recommended but the developer should also note that similar products are manufactured by a local supplier. <http://www.greenwoodsecohabitats.co.uk/ecostyrocete-products>

Paragraph 5.4.17 Birds - Although not recorded on the day of the survey, swifts do use the airspace locally and are also likely to nest nearby. The provision of suitable nest boxes and/or integral building cavities should include Swift boxes. Again in addition to the better known products these are manufactured locally

<http://www.greenwoodsecohabitats.co.uk/ecostyrocete-products/>

Bird and bat boxes should be sited away from doors and windows and any other area where they could cause a nuisance.

Paragraph 6.1.4 Hedgehogs - As well as providing 75mm x 75mm gaps in any fence bases habitat improvements and connectivity into and out of the development should also be considered particularly along the southern and western boundaries. Hedgehogs make more use of boundary features than open spaces so those areas likely to be used should not include anything that could pose a hazard to the movement of hedgehogs around the area.

Flood Risk - The ground is low-lying and frequently waterlogged but the risk of flooding into the new dwellings is low and has been mitigated against. However with the poor drainage locally and the increased area of impermeability there must be no risk of increased water flow into existing nearby properties curtilage. It would be preferable to retain the existing pond and increase the area of SuDS swales than to have an underground storage facility for excess water if practicable. The use of porous surfacing would not be beneficial as the ground has little facility to absorb excess water.

Renewable Energy - The dwelling plans show no commitment to the provision of renewable energy either to individual homes or the estate as a whole. The developer should be offering the option of renewable technologies as part of sale package. The facility to charge one or more electric cars should also be included as a standard feature (NPPF paragraph 35). There is a presumption for developments to include renewable energy technologies (Core Strategy Goal 1; Objective 6)

Traffic - 86 new homes probably means a minimum of 120 more cars joining/leaving Warren Drive most during peak times even though the Traffic Survey suggests there will not be that many vehicle movements. From personal experience at peak times the roads around the nearby mini-roundabout and junction with Fleetwood Road are already heavily congested.

Head of Coastal and Environmental Partnership Investment: I do not have any comments on the sequential test as I think this is a planning matter. It seems that the only potential alternative site would be Regency Gardens so I would say it is up to you whether they have satisfied you that this is not actually comparable. In terms of the exception test I would question whether the layout could be altered with the open space being situated more within the flood risk area and less properties in the flood risk area. However they are in an area benefiting from defences so this is a residual risk. I would also say that the mitigation measures seem sensible.

Blackpool Services Contaminated Land: The land has remained undeveloped, there is a former landfill within 100m of the proposed site, however the likelihood of leachate is reduced as it is further downhill. Therefore no further investigation is required. If however during construction any contamination is identified then work is to cease and investigations carried out.

Police: Recommends that the development is built to Secured by Design standards.

PUBLICITY AND REPRESENTATIONS

Press notice published: 27 July 2017

Site notice displayed: 20 July 2017

Neighbours notified: 18 July 2017

Mr Ian Pigott, 56 Deerhurst Road, Blackpool, FY5 3HG (Objects)

We object to the principle of developing this land.

1. We remind the Council of its motto "Blackpool a town where everyone matters" or similar. A great many residents have moved to this area for the green and open living and clean air it offered only to see it continually taken away by development, along with increased pollution levels. Cleveleys is becoming over populated and the road infrastructure is inadequate for the increasing demands more development produces. This makes life stressful and miserable for all when going about normal daily tasks and using the dwindling services we all take for granted.

2. Hedge retention and enhanced planting to hedges must be a robust condition applied by the Council. The current hedge to the east boundary of Deerhurst Road, loses all foliage between November to May and provides little screening between those months. This aspect although mentioned, is not as yet detailed. It should be noted that intensive planting is not always carried out by the developer at build stage and Fulwood, near Preston developments

would provide a good example of how the blend of housing and the green environment could be done.

3. Maintaining an open green lung across the site has been a requirement of the local plan and sited in past applications. It would be reasonable to restrict the height of all dwellings to two storey as this is the case for existing residential property to the North and West of the proposed development. The East boundary has single storey bungalows making up the property mix. The applicant will then construct a less oppressive living environment both within the development and to the surrounding residents who will overlook it. This should be achieved cost neutral and return the best open aspect.

4. A lot of concern has been expressed regarding the potential for flooding and as a previous application for an office block was passed without a drainage plan in place I trust a strict condition will be applied to this application.

5. A prime example of development not being completed is Warbreck Gardens off Coopers way Blackpool. It would make sense to put in safeguards that a part complete development cannot be left to suffer the anti-social behaviour, vandalism and graffiti that this development has suffered since 2008!

Mr Roy Kennaugh 22 Warren Grove, Blackpool, FY5 3TX (Objects)

The part of Warren Drive that I live on, that is to say between Fleetwood Road and the mini roundabout at the Golden Eagle, is already very congested by traffic at peak times. If these houses are built then the congestion will greatly increase. Assuming more than one car per house planned that would be hundreds more cars using Warren Drive. The risk of flooding will greatly increase. I know measures have been taken over recent years to improve sea defences but I believe that a combination of high tides, wind and constant heavy rain will be a serious risk to flooding. Building so many new houses together will greatly increase flooding risks.

Why build on green land? There is very little green land left in this part of Blackpool. Why not build on brown land? There seems to be plenty of space on brown land in Blackpool. One proposal is apparently to ask Asda, who own most of the land where this development is planned, to "give" this land to the local people as a goodwill gesture by a supermarket. This would be a good gesture by Asda and would benefit the local area.

Traffic fumes are a major cause for concern at the moment, diesel fumes and people's health. The increase in traffic that I have already mentioned will greatly increase this pollution. From my house I see traffic backed up at peak times at present. These fumes are no doubt affecting myself and other nearby residents.

Also children from Norbreck Academy School and Montgomery High School walk past in quite large numbers on their way to and from school. Surely the health of our country's children is very important. Building these houses will add to this pollution. There is also all the disruption occurring during the building of these houses.

Mrs M Allsopp, 6 Wingate Avenue, Blackpool, FY5 3HE (Objects)

Objects on the following grounds:

- there is no need for more houses
- there is a need for more open space
- the impact of additional traffic would be unacceptable
- there are other brownfield sites available
- concerned about the impact on flooding to surrounding properties
- concerned about the impact on wildlife

Mr Malcolm Reece, 54 Deerhurst Road, Blackpool, FY5 3HG (Objects)

I wish to register my objection to the above mentioned planning application on the following grounds:-

Flooding -The land in question is not only situated in flood zones but also has a history of standing water during times of heavy rainfall. I am led to believe that Deerhurst Road has had serious drainage problems in the past leading to remedial civil engineering works being necessary. The analysis contained within the application, in so far as a layman can interpret, seems to acknowledge this. All the measures planned to deal with possible flooding such as raising the floor slabs 600mm above estimated flood levels are designed to protect the proposed houses. My concern is that the new hard surfacing within the new estate will result in surface water run off causing flooding to existing properties. Consideration could be given to constructing driveways etc. of porous materials.

Building Heights -The houses on Deerhurst Road are single storey bungalows and other surrounding residential properties are no taller than 2 storey. The proposals to raise the floor slabs and have 2 1/2 story properties will mean that they are visually intrusive and out of character with the area.

Area Plan -I understand that at least part of the development land is designated as public green space forming a green long between Bispham and Cleveleys. The erosion of this green belt is of serious concern and in particular once the principle has been set other open green land may be eyed up for development.

Traffic -The traffic survey conclusion that the new estate will have minimal effect surprised me to be honest. The mini roundabout on the Warren Drive/North Drive junction is already problematic causing delays and confusion. An additional vehicle load of 100 plus vehicles discharging from the estate at this point will cause problems which will be added to when the retail areas proposed off Norcross Lane are operational.

Grassed are to East of Site -Although not strictly an objection I would wish to raise concern over the hedgerow and triangular grassed area to the east of the site. Although the site plans

show this remaining I would ask if ownership has been passed to the developer. If this is the case I would hope that clauses would have been added to ensure the ongoing maintenance of this land.

Finally if the Committee decides to grant this application then I would respectfully suggest that conditions are attached to minimise nuisance to existing residents during the construction phase. These to include restricting the hours of noisy operations such as piling, precautions to minimise dust and controlled delivery times.

Mr and Mrs Leary, 163 Warren Drive, Blackpool, FY5 3TG (Objects)

Objects on the following grounds

- risk of flooding to surrounding properties
- loss of open aspect
- impact of additional traffic

Mrs D Sellers, 4 Warren Drive, Blackpool, FY5 3HB (Objects)

The proposed building of 86 houses will cause a greater volume of traffic. You cannot cross the road as it is. This has increased greatly in the 16 years I have lived there. If each house has one car that is 86 cars going down Warren Dr and we know there will be more than that. We also have drainage problems. My garden regularly floods when we have heavy rain. As you can see myself and my husband object to the building of these houses. Needs to stay a green area.

The Owner, 119 Lockerbie Avenue (Objects)

Objects on the following grounds

- risk of flooding to surrounding properties

Councillors Peter and Maxine Callow JP (Objects)

As the two Councillors of Norbreck Ward, we formally object to the planning application submitted to erect 86 houses on the Warren Drive land. Our reasons are:

- This will cause extra traffic flow on an already busy road exacerbated by a huge retail park planned for the former civil service site at Norcross.
- The land in question on Warren Drive is already subjected to flooding and additional buildings can only make matters worse for existing residents.
- We understand that the schools in the area are already full to capacity as are the medical practices.

- There are very little open spaces left in the Borough.

Councillor Tony Williams (Objects)

1. I believe that this number of proposed homes is an 'overdevelopment' for this particular piece of land. The stated inclusion of 10 Affordable Homes falls extremely short of the Government's recommended percentage of 30%. For a development of this size an approximate number of affordable homes should be circa 25.
2. The stated build cost by the developer per square foot is 15% less than the local average suggesting materials etc. might be of a lesser quality than other developed estates.
3. If 85 homes are allowed to be developed it could introduce an additional 250 individuals into an already densely populated area putting pressure on local schools and medical services which are all at maximum currently, together with emergency services etc.
4. With this number of residents, we could expect that approximately 150 additional vehicles will also need to be accommodated with access from Warren Drive which is already heavily used. The current traffic numbers will also be greatly increased when the new approved retail site is developed and opened on the former Norcross site. Access to this retail site from the west and south side of Norcross Lane will mainly be along Warren Drive. This will also include frequent delivery and service vehicles. A drive through restaurant is part of the current plan for this site.

On the corner of Warren Drive and North Drive there is a popular pub and eating venue which has a high level of trade at lunch and early evening with associated vehicles using the car park with the larger area accessed from Warren Drive. There is also a large day centre on the North side of Warren Drive and a Church of Latter Day Saints both with transport access needs.

5. There is no zebra or pelican crossing on Warren drive despite the houses and flats to the North side consisting mainly of sheltered housing.
6. The bus service on Warren Drive is not operated by Blackpool Transport Services and has an infrequent service so direct transport links to the proposed development are poor.
7. The land is known to have a very high-water table and the surface ground is often too saturated to walk on.

There are concerns in regard to potential flooding not only on the site itself but to houses that are on a lower platform and adjacent to this site. The area has been known locally for some years as 'Boggy Fields'. When Fielding's builders originally built the existing houses some years ago they left this patch of land as it was unsuitable through flooding. Similarly, the original plan to have North Drive be continuous from Bispham into Cleveleys was also abandoned for the same reason. We now have a situation where North Drive is in two parts separated by this piece of water logged land. An extensive and high level of additional new

drainage system will need to be instigated in cooperation with United Utilities and with a full guarantee of adequate existing and new water waste.

8. This land was also deemed as 'Green Space' by Blackpool Council in a previous Core Strategy and is now home to several species of wild life. Barn owls, foxes, rabbits and field mice have been spotted in the area along with several types of butterflies. Arguments say that when new developments occur wildlife will migrate to other areas, however we are dangerously close to running out of 'other areas' and the loss of natural habitat for our local wild life.

9. ASDA is the owner of the land and as far as I can ascertain it has not been in dialogue with the developer in regard to them purchasing the site. I have written to the Chief Executive of ASDA requesting that they gift the land to the local community and help develop it into a natural wild life park with walks and observation areas which would not only benefit the community but provide an exciting and educational open-air class room for all local schools.

10. Blackpool Council's Core Strategy includes this site in its potential list of land that could support new homes, however it may be the only green space site within that list and they currently have a public call out for more potential sites which I am sure will prove successful. I would therefore respectfully request that this site be left as green space and that further pressure is placed upon the owners, ASDA, to finally do something with this land that would benefit the community, after they have neglected it since its acquisition.

Councillor Paul Galley (Objects)

As an Anchorsholme Ward Councillor whose ward is directly across the road from this development I wish to strongly object to the scheme for the following reasons (in no order of importance):

1) The land is far too waterlogged for any development and whilst the developer has included an impact study of flooding this has a strong focus on the impact of flooding from the sea rather than rain water and poor drainage from the site itself, especially what water impact it will have on existing housing in the area. Any planning permission granted should include conditions that ensure surrounding houses will not be negatively impacted by enforcing increased investment in local drainage for existing houses by the developer.

2) The green corridor provided in the design along Warren Drive is not sufficient in size and should be far wider from the edge of Warren Drive so as to minimise the impact of the development on the existing green corridor.

3) As many houses in the area increasingly have more than two cars, not enough car parking is provided for the houses in the development so a planning condition must be set that ensures more parking spaces made available on the site itself and a double yellow line is placed alongside the development along Warren Drive as Warren Drive is a very busy road and will not be able to cope with a build-up of parked cars alongside it.

4) Nearly all the facilities any residents would access by foot are on the Anchorsholme side of Warren Drive, including the two parks, shops and churches and local pub, a planning condition should include a zebra crossing so as to ensure the safe movement of all residents from this proposed site.

5) There are not enough affordable homes in the plan, currently only a small number of the houses in the development are affordable homes, this number should be closer to 30 and any permission granted by the Committee should ensure that the number of affordable homes is dramatically increased to that number.

The issues raised will be discussed in the assessment section of this report.

NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK

In March 2012, the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was published. This document sets out the Government's approach and expectations with regard to planning and development. It places heavy emphasis on sustainable development and the need for the planning system to be proactive in driving economic growth and delivering the homes, jobs and infrastructure that the country needs.

Paragraph 2 requires applications to be determined in accordance with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise. The NPPF is a material consideration in planning decisions

Paragraph 11 reiterates this requirement.

Paragraph 12 states that the NPPF does not change the statutory status of the development plan as the starting point for decision making. Proposed development that accords with an up to date Local Plan should be approved and proposed development that conflicts should be refused unless material considerations indicated otherwise. It is highly desirable that Local Planning Authorities have an up to date plan in place.

Paragraph 14 states - at the heart of the National Planning Policy Framework is a presumption in favour of sustainable development, which should be seen as a golden thread running through both plan-making and decision-taking. For decision-taking this means:

- approving development proposals that accord with the development plan without delay; and
- where the development plan is absent, silent or relevant policies are out-of-date, granting permission unless:
 - any adverse impacts of doing so would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits, when assessed against the policies in this Framework taken as whole; or
 - specific policies in this Framework indicate development should be restricted.

Paragraph 17 sets out the 12 core land-use planning principles which should underpin both plan-making and decision-taking which include to proactively drive sustainable development and secure a high standard of design and a good standard of amenity.

Paragraph 32 states that development should only be prevented or refused on transport grounds where the residual cumulative impacts of the development are severe.

Paragraphs 47-52 deal with the supply of housing. There is a need to identify and update annually a supply of deliverable sites sufficient to provide five years' worth of housing against our housing requirement.

Paragraph 56 states that good design is a key aspect of sustainable development and is indivisible from good planning and should contribute positively to making places better for people.

Paragraph 61 states that although visual appearance and architecture of individual buildings are very important factors, securing high quality and inclusive design goes beyond aesthetic considerations.

Paragraphs 100-104 seek to ensure that development is not at risk of flooding and will not cause flooding elsewhere. Reference is made to the sequential test and exception test.

Paragraph 150 emphasises the importance of Local Plans in delivering sustainable development. It reiterates the point that planning decisions should be made in accordance with the 'Local Plan' unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

Paragraph 186 states that local planning authorities should approach decision-taking in a positive way to foster the delivery of sustainable development. The relationship between decision-taking and plan-making should be seamless, translating plans into high quality development on the ground.

Paragraph 187 states that local planning authorities should look for solutions rather than problems, and decision-takers at every level should seek to approve applications for sustainable development where possible. Local planning authorities should work proactively with applicants to secure developments that improve the economic, social and environmental conditions of the area.

Paragraph 196 states that the planning system is plan-led. Planning law requires that applications for planning permission must be determined in accordance with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise. This Framework is a material consideration in planning decisions.

There is a presumption in favour of development where there are no over-riding material considerations. The Framework requires high quality design in new developments and a good standard of amenity for all existing and future occupants of land and buildings. It is considered that developments should establish a strong sense of place, respond to local

character and be visually attractive. The NPPF makes it clear that new development should not be at risk of flooding or increase the risk of flooding elsewhere, and that any flood risk should be safely managed. Biodiversity must be maintained and, where possible, enhanced with appropriate mitigation measures put in place to avoid harm to the natural environment.

BLACKPOOL LOCAL PLAN PART 1: CORE STRATEGY 2012-2027

The Blackpool Local Plan Part 1 : Core Strategy was adopted by the Council in January 2016. The policies in the Core Strategy that are most relevant to this application are:

Policy CS1: Strategic Location of Development

Policy CS2: Housing provision

Policy CS6: Green Infrastructure

Policy CS7: Quality of Design

Policy CS9: Water Management Policy

Policy CS12: Sustainable Neighbourhoods

Policy CS13: Housing Mix, Density and Standards

Policy CS14: Affordable Housing

SAVED POLICIES: BLACKPOOL LOCAL PLAN 2001-2016

The Blackpool Local Plan was adopted in June 2006. A number of policies in the Blackpool Local Plan (2006) have now been superseded by policies in the Core Strategy (these are listed in Appendix B of the Core Strategy). Other policies in the Blackpool Local Plan are saved until the Local Part 2: Site Allocations and Development Management Policies is produced.

The following policies are most relevant to this application:

LQ1 Lifting the Quality of Design

LQ2 Site Context

LQ3 Layout of Streets and Spaces

LQ4 Building Design

LQ6 Landscape Design and Biodiversity

LQ8 Energy and Resource Conservation

HN4 Windfall sites

BH3 Residential and Visitor Amenity

BH10 Open Space in New Housing Developments

NE6 Protected Species

NE7 Sites and Features of Landscape, Nature Conservation and Environmental Value

NE8 Urban Greenspace

AS1 General Development Requirements

Supplementary Planning Guidance Note 11 (SPG11): Open Space: provision for new residential development and the funding system.

ASSESSMENT

Principle – This site is allocated as Urban Greenspace on the Proposals Map to the Blackpool Local Plan 2001-2016 (Policy NE8) but also has an extant permission for an office development which it is clear will not now proceed. In paragraph 8.41 of the justification to Policy NE8 reference is made to the application site not being needed to meet the development needs of the town up to 2016. However the position has changed in terms of the Blackpool Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy 2012-2027 and the Council's five year housing land supply.

Whilst members will be aware that a proportion of the housing the town requires comes from conversions of existing hotels/ guesthouses and other buildings and the redevelopment of brownfield sites there is a need to meet demand through new build developments and also add to the mix of housing in terms of the town's housing stock. This proposal would meet both objectives of contributing to the five year housing supply and providing a mix of housing on the site.

Over the first five years of the Core Strategy there has been a need to provide 250 dwellings per annum (2012-2017). The actual provision over this period has fluctuated in part through demolitions at Queens Park, where there has been a net loss of dwellings through the demolition of the tower blocks and their replacement with family housing. In addition other sites seen as contributing to supply may not now come forward. In contrast this site is available and there is a willing developer. Whilst the position in terms of five year supply is not quite as bad as the applicant's agent is portraying this site would clearly contribute to ensuring that the Council does have a five year housing supply which is important in warding off speculative housing proposals in less desirable locations. It is therefore considered that the principle of the development is acceptable and is in accordance with paragraphs 14, 17 and 47-50 of the NPPF and Policies CS1 and CS2 of the Blackpool Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy and these policies being more up to date outweigh Policy NE8.

Design -The layout has been designed to retain a strip of land along the western side of the site as means of retaining a public access route to the open space to the rear of the site. In addition it has been designed to have properties outward looking to all sides to avoid back garden fences forming substantial lengths of the boundaries of the site. It has also been designed to retain the hedgerow on the eastern side of the site. Housing fronting Warren Drive would not have individual access points, instead they would be served by private drives which would be a feature of the development because of the need to have outward facing houses.

A mixture of detached, semi-detached and terraced housing would be provided. There would be a central area of open space and central square and a number of dual aspect properties. Each property would have a minimum of two off-street car parking spaces. Although the levels would be altered around the perimeter of the site to ensure that the properties would not be at risk of flooding the design solution of grading land to the site boundaries or feature retaining walls is considered acceptable.

It is felt that the design principles of the development are consistent with paragraphs 17 and 56-65 of the NPPF, the LQ policies of the Local Plan and Policy CS7 of the Blackpool Local Plan

Part 1: Core Strategy. Given that there is a mix of detached, semi-detached and terraced housing proposed and a mix of house sizes it is considered that the development would be consistent with paragraphs 17 and 56-65 of the NPPF and Policy CS13 of the Blackpool Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy. The site area is 3.12 hectares and the number of dwellings is 86. This equates to a density of around 28 dwellings per hectare which is not excessive for the site or in terms of the character of the surrounding area and hence it is my view that the proposal would be consistent with Policy CS13 of the Blackpool Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy. (If the 'developable area' is considered rather than the overall site area the density would be 30 dwellings per hectare, which is also not considered excessive for this area).

The starting point in terms of affordable housing is 30% of the total number of dwellings i.e. 30% of 86 = 26 in this case. However Policy CS14 of the Blackpool Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy acknowledges that this is the starting point and that if this level of provision would render the development unviable then an alternative level of provision may be considered. In this case a viability assessment has been submitted which demonstrates that the proposal could only support the provision of nine dwellings- circa 10%. The viability assessment has been scrutinised by an officer of the Council with expertise in these matters and he concurs with its findings.

Amenity - The layout has been designed to ensure that the privacy and outlook of the occupants of the development would be protected and separation distances meet the minimum requirements and are generally in excess of the normal minimum standards.

In terms of house sizes, the National Technical Housing Standards are not applicable at this time as Policy CS13 of the Blackpool Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy states that this issue will be addressed in Part 2 of the Local Plan. There is a central area of open space which will provide a focal point in the development as well as meeting part of the open space requirements for the development. This central area of open space would be overlooked by a number of properties to ensure good levels of surveillance. An additional area of open space will be maintained along the western side of the site. Pedestrian links to Warren Drive will be provided on the western side of the site, in the middle of the Warren Drive frontage of the site and at the site access where an additional pedestrian refuge would be provided in Warren Drive. A footpath link to the open space to the south of the site would be provided along the western side of the site and this would join up with routes from the centre of the site. These would be lit with low level lighting as would the private drives within the development.

Although it is recognised that the houses would sit higher than surrounding houses and bungalows because of the need to reduce the risk of flooding to the properties on the site, the separation distance to the rear gardens of houses to the west would be between 16 and 36 metres and hence it is not considered that this would adversely affect the amenities of these residents. In terms of the houses and bungalows to the east the distances to the front gardens would be between 40 and 46 metres and hence this relationship is considered acceptable.

The layout has been designed to have outward looking properties which would afford residents views over open land and would mean that the development would appear appropriate in the local context. The existing hedgerow on the eastern side of the site would be retained as would vegetation on the western side of the site. Additional tree and shrub planting would be provided. It is considered that the development would be consistent with paragraphs 17 and 56-65 of the NPPF and Policies BH3 of the Blackpool Local Plan and Policy CS7 of the Blackpool Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy.

Highway Safety- In order to ensure safe means of access to/egress from the application site a new mini roundabout is proposed on Warren Drive. This would have the added benefit of reducing vehicle speeds on Warren Drive, which is a straight wide road. As part of the alterations to Warren Drive a new pedestrian refuge would be provided on the western arm of the new mini roundabout. The mini roundabout at the junction of Warren Drive and North Drive has pedestrian refuges to the three arms of the mini roundabout so there would in effect be three crossing points on Warren Drive for residents of the development. The applicant's transport consultant has provided information to suggest that the development would not adversely affect the capacity and operation of the mini roundabout at the junction of Warren Drive and North Drive. The test in terms of the National Planning Policy Framework is whether the residual cumulative impacts of the development are severe enough to warrant refusal of the application. In this case the evidence suggests that the traffic generated from the development would not have a severe impact.

The internal road layout to the development would provide a safe layout and three pedestrian links to Warren Drive - at the western end of the site, in the middle of the site frontage and at the eastern end would offer safe routes to Warren Drive. As part of the development two bus stops would be upgraded to make them Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) compliant. A residential travel plan would be produced with the aim of encouraging the use of other modes of travel in preference to the private car. In order to encourage the use of electric cars each house would be fitted with an electrical charging point. A Construction Management Plan would be produced and a review of street lighting in the vicinity of the site access would be undertaken and improvements made if needed. As such the development is considered to be consistent with paragraphs 17 and 32 of the NPPF and Policies AS1 and AS2 of the Blackpool Local Plan and Policy CS5 of the Blackpool Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy.

Parking and Servicing - Each property would have two off street car parking spaces and in a number of cases there would be three off street car parking spaces. Garages would be conditioned to remain garages and avoid them being used for storage or as an ancillary room. The turning heads within the development have been designed to cater for Blackpool bin lorries. As the layout involves a number of private drives refuse collection points are proposed within the development to meet bin carry distances.

Other Issues -

Drainage

The perimeter of the application site falls within Flood Zone 3 (high probability of flooding) with the domed area of the site outside Flood Zone 3. In response to this situation it is

proposed to raise the level of the land around the perimeter of the site to create a plateau on which to erect the houses. This would mean that the finished floor levels of the houses would put them outside the risk of flooding. The change in levels would mean grading parts of the site down to existing land levels and the erection of decorative retaining walls. Members will note that the Environment Agency and United Utilities have no objections to this approach. There are several dimensions to the drainage issue -

- will the site be at risk of flooding
- will the site cause flooding elsewhere
- as the site is partially within Flood Zone 3 are there sequentially more preferential sites (not at risk of flooding)
- as the site is partially within Flood Zone 3 the exception test is met

The Flood Risk Assessment and drainage strategy submitted with the application demonstrates that the site would not be at risk of flooding and would not cause flooding elsewhere. In terms of the sequential test sites of between 2.5 and 3.5 hectares have been considered and six have been identified of which only one - remaining land at Regency Gardens (near the Water Tower) is considered available. Given the scarcity of land in the town this is not unusual and given the site is identified in the SHLAA as contributing to the Council's five year housing supply this adds weight to the suitability of the application site. This case is also slightly unusual in that part of the site is not at risk of flooding - in effect an island within Flood Zone 3. Given that there is not an extensive range of alternative sites available the sequential test is considered to be met.

In terms of the exception test the benefits of the proposal include the following-

- it would provide construction jobs
- it would provide increased spending power in the area
- it would not adversely affect the local highway network
- it is close to local facilities
- it would contribute to the Council's housing requirement for 2012-2027
- it would provide a mix of house types and sizes together with some affordable housing
- it would provide for access to the wider open space and include areas of open space
- it would provide electric charging points for all properties
- the layout has been designed to be outward looking improving its appearance in the streetscene

In terms of flood resilience the properties would have raised plug sockets etc., they would be two storey and residents would have a warning pack. It is considered that the exception test is met.

Overall it is felt that the proposal is consistent with paragraphs 17 and 101-102 of the NPPF and Policy CS9 of the Blackpool Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy.

Ecology

There is nothing of significant merit on the application site. The application proposes areas of formal and informal planting and could include Alder Buckthorn as recommended by the Sustainability Manager. The scrub along the western boundary of the site would be retained as would the hedgerow on the eastern boundary. Bat and bird boxes are proposed as part of the development. There is not a pond on the site, it is a depression which fills with water in periods of heavy rainfall and dries out. It is felt that with the retention of the shrub on the western side of the site and the hedgerow on the eastern side, together with the additional planting, that the proposal is acceptable.

Open Space

The proposal would generate a requirement for 6696 square metres of open space and 2276 square metres is proposed in the form of a formal area of open space in the centre of the development including children's play area and an informal corridor of open space along the western boundary of the site which would benefit the residents of the development and residents in the area in providing a link from Warren Drive to the open space to the south of the development. It is normal practice to secure on site provision of young children's open space on site and secure a commuted sum for youth/ adult provision off site. In this case the deficiency would be 4420 square metres which equates to a commuted sum of £25,919 which would be secured by condition. Whilst the level of on-site provision may seem low at approximately one third of the overall total requirement the site does benefit from access to wider areas of open space to the south of the development and a link would be provide from the centre of the southern boundary of the site. The open space, footpaths and retaining walls would be maintained by a Management Company.

Affordable Housing

Policy CS14 requires 30% of the total number of dwellings to be affordable i.e. 30% of 86 = 26 in this case. However Policy CS14 acknowledges that this is the starting point and that if this level of provision would render the development unviable then an alternative level of provision may be considered. In this case a viability assessment has been submitted which demonstrates that the proposal could only support the provision of nine dwellings- circa 10%. The viability assessment has been scrutinised by an officer of the Council with expertise in these matters and he concurs with its findings.

Viability

The viability assessment, which has been vetted to check its accuracy and validity, demonstrates that after taking account of the normal considerations and the abnormal costs involved with the development there would be a surplus of £70,000. This money would go towards the open space commuted sum of £25,919 which could be secured by condition and the provision of the mini roundabout, pedestrian refuge and bus stop upgrades which would be covered by a Section 278 Agreement. The development cannot fund improvements to local schools and medical facilities.

Pollution

It is acknowledged that the development could have a minimum of 172 cars on the site and that there could be additional vehicle emissions in and around the application site. However to mitigate against this each property would have an electrical charging point as an incentive

for the use of electric cars and the commitment to produce a residential travel plan would seek to reduce reliance on the private motor car.

CONCLUSION

Whilst it is recognised that the site is allocated as Urban Greenspace in the 2001-2016 Local Plan, it is clear from the justification to Policy NE8 that this was in part because the site was not needed to meet the development needs of the town up to 2016. In addition it needs to be borne in mind that the site has an extant permission for office development.

The housing requirement for the town for the 2001-2016 plan period was 3230 dwellings. For the 2012-2027 plan period the requirement is 4200 dwellings. Whilst it is acknowledged that there is some overlap in the plan periods and that there is a drive to meet the supply through the re-use of brownfield sites and the conversion of redundant hotels and guesthouses there is still a need to identify sites for development. This site has been part of the Council's Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) since 2011 and hence has formed part of the evidence base to the Blackpool Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy 2012-2027 which was adopted in January 2016. The SHLAA is important in demonstrating that the Council has a five year supply of housing land to meet the town's needs and also the Government's objective of delivering more housing. If we cannot demonstrate a five year supply of housing land we leave ourselves vulnerable to development in less sustainable locations and on sites not identified in the SHLAA. By including the site in the SHLAA officers have recognised that this is a sustainable location for development consistent with Policy CS2 of the Core Strategy.

Paragraph 14 of the NPPF establishes a presumption in favour of sustainable development unless the adverse effects would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the disbenefits. Sustainable development has three dimensions and the benefits of the development are as follows -

Economic

- construction jobs
- increased local spending power

Social

- new houses at the northern end of town
- range of house sizes/types
- some affordable housing
- contributing to the Council's 5 year housing land supply
- on site open space and access to wider area of open space
- access to local facilities

Environmental

- the development would not involve the loss of environmentally sensitive land

- houses would not be at risk of flooding and would not cause flooding elsewhere
- each house would have an electrical vehicle charging point
- an existing area of scrub vegetation and a hedgerow would be retained
- bat and bird boxes would be provided as part of the development
- additional tree planting would be provided as part of the development
- bus stop upgrades would be provided as part of the development
- the development would not cause severe off site highway issues

The disbenefits of the development are as follows:

Economic

- None

Social

- the development would not provide 30% affordable housing although this is justified in the viability assessment which accompanies the application
- the development cannot fund school improvements or health improvements (explained by the viability assessment)

Environmental

- loss of open land (although there is nothing to stop the previously approved office development from being developed)

Given the consistency with the NPPF, policies in the Blackpool Local Plan and Blackpool Local Plan Part1: Core Strategy the development is recommended for approval subject to conditions.

LEGAL AGREEMENT AND/OR DEVELOPER FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION

In accordance with Policy BH10 of the Local Plan and SPG 11 a commuted sum of £25,919 would be required for off-site open space and the balance of the £70,000 overall contribution would be used for the mini roundabout, pedestrian refuge and bus stop upgrades which would be covered by a Section 278 Agreement.

HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

Under Article eight and Article one of the first protocol to the Convention on Human Rights, a person is entitled to the right to respect for private and family life, and the peaceful enjoyment of his/her property. However, these rights are qualified in that they must be set against the general interest and the protection of the rights and freedoms of others. It is not considered that the application raises any human rights issues.

CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998

The contents of this report have been considered in the context of the Council's general duty, in all its functions, to have regard to community safety issues as required by section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Planning Application File(s) 17/0466 which can be accessed via the link below:

<http://idoxpa.blackpool.gov.uk/online-applications/search.do?action=simple>

Recommended Decision: Grant Permission

Conditions and Reasons

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

Reason: Required to be imposed pursuant to Section 91 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended).

2. The development shall be carried out, except where modified by the conditions attached to this permission, in accordance with the planning application received by the Local Planning Authority including the following plans:

Plan numbers to be confirmed in the update note.

Reason: For the avoidance of doubt and so the Local Planning Authority can be satisfied as to the details of the permission.

3. Details of materials to be used on the external elevations shall be submitted to and agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority prior to any above ground structures being erected.

Reason: In the interests of the appearance of the locality, in accordance with Policy LQ4 of the Blackpool Local Plan 2001-2016 and Policy CS7 of the Blackpool Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy 2012-2027.

4. Details of the surfacing materials to be used shall be submitted to and agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority prior to any above ground structures being erected.

Reason: In the interests of the appearance of the locality, in accordance with Policy LQ1 of the Blackpool Local Plan 2001-2016 and Policy CS7 of the Blackpool Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy 2012-2027.

5.
 - a) Prior to any above ground structures being erected full details of both hard and soft landscaping works have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. These details shall include any proposed changes to existing ground levels, means of enclosure and boundary treatment, areas of soft landscaping, hard surfaced areas and materials, planting plans specifications and schedules (including plant size, species and number/ densities), existing landscaping to be retained, and shall show how account has been taken of any underground services.
 - b) The landscaping works shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details within the first planting season following completion of the development hereby approved or in accordance with a programme agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority (whichever is sooner.)
 - c) Any trees or shrubs planted in accordance with this condition which are removed, uprooted, destroyed, die, or become severely damaged or seriously diseased within five years of planting shall be replaced within the next planting season by trees or shrubs of similar size and species to those originally required to be planted, unless the Local Planning Authority gives its written consent to any variation.

Reason: To ensure the site is satisfactorily landscaped in the interests of visual amenity and to ensure there are adequate areas of soft landscaping to act as a soakaway during times of heavy rainfall with regards to Policy LQ6 of the Blackpool Local Plan 2001-2016 and Policy CS7 of the Blackpool Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy 2012-2027.

6.
 - (a) No development or other operations shall commence on site until a scheme (hereinafter called the approved protection scheme) which provides for the retention and protection of trees, shrubs and hedges growing on or adjacent to the site has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.
 - (b) No operations shall commence on site in connection with the development hereby approved (including any tree felling, tree pruning, demolition works, soil moving, temporary access construction and or widening or any operations involving the use of motorised vehicles or construction machinery) until the protection works required by the approved scheme are in place.

(c) No excavations for services, storage of materials or machinery, parking of vehicles, deposit or excavation of soil or rubble, lighting of fires or disposal of liquids shall take place within any area designated as being fenced off or otherwise protected in the approved scheme are in place.

(d) The fencing or other works which are part of the approved protection scheme shall not be moved or removed, temporarily or otherwise, until all works including external works have been completed and all equipment, machinery and surplus materials have been removed from the site, unless the prior written agreement of the Local Planning Authority has first been sought and obtained.

Reason: To secure the protection, throughout the time that the development is being carried out, of trees, shrubs or hedges growing within or adjacent to the site which are of amenity value to the area, having regards to Policy LQ6 of the Blackpool Local Plan 2001-2016 and Policies CS6 and CS7 of the Blackpool Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy 2012-2027.

7. The development authorised by this permission shall not begin until the Local Planning Authority has approved a scheme to secure the provision of or improvements to off-site open space together with a mechanism for delivery, in accordance with Policy BH10 of the Blackpool Local Plan 2011-2016 and Supplementary Planning Guidance Note 11 "Open Space Provision for New Residential Development"(SPG11).

Reason: To ensure sufficient provision of or to provide sufficient improvements to open space to serve the dwellings in accordance with Policy BH10 of the Blackpool Local Plan 2011-2016 and Supplementary Planning Guidance Note 11 "Open Space Provision for New Residential Development"(SPG11).

NOTE – The development is of a scale to warrant a contribution of £25,919 towards the provision of or improvement to off-site open space and management of the open space provision, in accordance with Policy BH10 of the Blackpool Local Plan 2001-2016 and SPG 11. The Applicant(s) should contact the Council to arrange payment of the contribution.

8. Prior to the development hereby approved being first brought into use the refuse collection areas shown on the approved plans shall be provided and shall thereafter be retained.

Reason: In the interests of the appearance of the locality and the residential amenity of occupants and neighbours, in accordance with Policies LQ1 and BH3 of the Blackpool Local Plan 2001-2016 and Policy CS7 of the Blackpool Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy 2012-2027.

9. No development shall take place until a Construction Management Plan has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The Construction Management Plan shall include and specify the provision to be made for the following:

- dust mitigation measures during the construction period
- control of noise emanating from the site during the construction period
- hours and days of construction work for the development
- contractors' compounds and other storage arrangements
- provision for all site operatives, visitors and construction loading, off-loading, parking and turning within the site during the construction period
- arrangements during the construction period to minimise the deposit of mud and other similar debris on the adjacent highways
- the routing of construction traffic.

The construction of the development shall then proceed in accordance with the approved Construction Management Plan.

Reason: In the interests of the amenities of surrounding residents and to safeguard the character and appearance of the area in accordance with Policies LQ1 and BH3 of the Blackpool Local Plan 2001-2016 and Policy CS7 of the Blackpool Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy 2012-2027.

10. Notwithstanding the provisions of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 2015 (or any Order revoking and re-enacting that Order) the garages shown on the approved plan shall not be used for any purpose which would preclude their use for the parking of motor cars.

Reason: In the opinion of the Local Planning Authority the retention of parking space within the site is of importance in safeguarding the appearance of the locality and highway safety, in accordance with Policies AS1 and LQ1 of the Blackpool Local Plan 2001-2016 and Policy CS7 of the Blackpool Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy 2012-2027.

11. Notwithstanding the provisions of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 2015 (or any Order revoking and re-enacting that Order) no change of use from Use Class C3 (the subject of this permission) to Use

Class C4 shall take place without the written approval of the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: To safeguard the living conditions of the occupants of nearby residential premises and to prevent the further establishment of Houses in Multiple Occupation which would further increase the stock of poor quality accommodation in the town and further undermine the aim of creating balanced and healthy communities, in accordance with Policies BH3 and HN5 of the Blackpool Local Plan 2001-2016 and Policies CS7, CS12 and CS13 of the Blackpool Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy 2012-2027.

12. Notwithstanding the provisions of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 2015 (or any Order revoking and re-enacting that Order), no fences, gates or walls shall be erected within the curtilage of any dwellinghouse which fronts or is side onto a road.

Reason: The development as a whole is proposed on an open plan layout and a variety of individual walls/fences would seriously detract from the overall appearance of the development and would be contrary to Policy LQ2 of the Blackpool Local Plan 2001-2016.

13. No development shall be commenced until a detailed scheme for the provision of the site access, mini roundabout and pedestrian refuge in Warren Drive has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: In the interests of highway and pedestrian safety in accordance with Policies AS1 and AS2 of the Blackpool Local Plan 2001-2016 and Policy CS5 of the Blackpool Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy 2012-2027.

14. No dwelling on the development shall be occupied until the site access, mini roundabout and pedestrian refuge in Warren Drive have been provided in accordance with the details required by condition 13 of this permission.

Reason: In the interests of highway and pedestrian safety in accordance with Policies AS1 and AS2 of the Blackpool Local Plan 2001-2016 and Policy CS5 of the Blackpool Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy 2012-2027.

15. None of the dwellings hereby approved shall be first occupied until a Residential Travel Plan has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The Travel Plan shall then be implemented in accordance with the approved details and shall then be retained thereafter.

Reason; In the interests of promoting sustainable travel in accordance with Policy AS1 of the Blackpool Local Plan 2001-2016 and Policy CS5 of the Blackpool Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy 2012-2027.

16. No refuse shall be stored forward of the front building line of any property other than on the day of presentation for collection.

Reason: In the interests of the appearance of the locality and the residential amenity of occupants and neighbours, in accordance with Policies LQ1 and BH3 of the Blackpool Local Plan 2001-2016 and Policy CS7 of the Blackpool Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy 2012-2027.

17. The children's play area and perimeter fencing shown on drawing no. PL-01 Rev L shall be provided as part of the development and shall thereafter be retained.

Reason: In the interests of the appearance of the locality and amenity, in accordance with Policy LQ1 of the Blackpool Local Plan 2001-2016 and Policy CS7 of the Blackpool Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy 2012-2027.

18. Prior to any above ground structures being erected a lighting strategy for the development (to include roads, private drives and footpaths) shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The approved strategy shall then be implemented as part of the development and retained as such.

Reason; In the interests of the amenities of surrounding residents and to safeguard the character and appearance of the area in accordance with Policies LQ1 and BH3 of the Blackpool Local Plan 2001-2016 and Policy CS7 of the Blackpool Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy 2012-2027.

19. No dwelling on the development shall be occupied until the bat and bird boxes detailed on drawing no.PL-01 Rev L have been provided.

Reason: In the interests of amenity and biodiversity in accordance with Policies LQ6 and NE5 of the Blackpool Local Plan 2001-2016 and Policy CS6 of the Blackpool Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy 2012-2027.

20. No dwelling on the development shall be occupied until the electrical charging points referred to on drawing no. PL-01 Rev L have been provided. Once provided they shall thereafter be maintained.

Reason: In the interests of amenity and air quality and in accordance with Policy BH4 of the Blackpool Local Plan 2001-2016 and Policies CS7 and CS10 of the Blackpool Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy 2012-2027

21. No dwelling on the development shall be occupied until the retaining walls detailed on drawing no. GW-01 have been provided and once provided they shall thereafter be retained.

Reason: In the interests of amenity and biodiversity in accordance with Policies LQ6 and NE5 of the Blackpool Local Plan 2001-2016 and Policy CS6 of the Blackpool Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy 2012-2027.

22. The surface water drainage for the development hereby approved, shall be carried out in accordance with principles set out the submitted Flood Risk Assessment. The final details of the scheme agreed with United Utilities shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority. The development shall be completed, maintained and managed in accordance with the approved details.

Reason: To ensure a satisfactory form of development and to prevent an undue increase in surface water run-off and to reduce the risk of flooding in accordance with Policy CS9 of the Blackpool Local Plan: Part 1 - Core Strategy 2012-2027.

23. No dwelling on the development shall be occupied until a management plan for the open space, lighting, footpaths and retaining walls within the development has been submitted to and been approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The open space, lighting, footpaths and retaining walls shall then be maintained in accordance with the approved management plan.

Reason: In the interests of the appearance of the locality, in accordance with Policies LQ1 and BH3 of the Blackpool Local Plan 2001-2016 and Policy CS7 of the Blackpool Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy 2012-2027.

Advice Notes to Developer

1. Please note this approval relates specifically to the details indicated on the approved plans and documents, and to the requirement to satisfy all conditions of the approval. Any variation from this approval need to be agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority prior to works commencing and may require the submission of a revised application. Any works carried out without such written agreement or approval would render the development as unauthorised and liable

to legal proceedings.

2. The developer is recommended to install suitable approved design measures to prevent landfill gas ingress.
3. The granting of planning permission will require the developer to enter into an appropriate Legal Agreement with Blackpool Borough Council acting as Highway Authority. The Highway Authority may also wish to implement their right to design all works within the highway relating to this proposal. The applicant is advised to contact the Council's Built Environment Department, Layton Depot, Depot Road, Blackpool, FY3 7HW (Tel 01253 477477) in the first instance to ascertain the details of such an agreement and the information provided.
4. The developer is required to note that, in accordance with Policy BH10 of the Blackpool Local Plan 2001-2016, prior to the granting of planning approval of Reserved Matters for the development, the Local Planning Authority may require the provision of open space, or commuted sum payment in lieu, calculated under the terms of the Council's approved Supplementary Planning Guidance Note 11.
5. Please note that any address changes or new addresses needed as a result of this development must be agreed by the Council. Please contact Council's Streetscene and Property Department, Layton Depot, Depot Road, Blackpool, FY3 7HW (Tel 01253 477477).