

## MINUTES OF PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING - TUESDAY, 5 MARCH 2019

### **Present:**

Councillor L Williams (in the Chair)

Councillors

Humphreys  
Hutton

Jackson  
O'Hara

Robertson BEM  
Stansfield

### **In Attendance:**

Mr Lennox Beattie, Executive and Regulatory Support Manager

Mrs Wendy Clarke, Property and Commercial Lawyer

Mr Nick Gerrard, Programme Director

Miss Susan Parker, Senior Planning Officer

Mr Latif Patel, Network Planning and Projects Manager

Mr Mark Shaw, Principal Planning Officer

### **1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest on this occasion.

### **2 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 5 FEBRUARY 2019**

The Planning Committee considered the minutes of the last meeting held on 5 February 2019.

### **Resolved:**

That the minutes of the meeting on the 5 February 2019 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

### **3 PLANNING/ENFORCEMENT APPEALS LODGED AND DETERMINED**

The Planning Committee considered the report of the Head of Development Management regarding planning appeals lodged and determined. The report outlined the two planning appeals received against the refusal of planning permission in respect of application 18/0169 at 518 Midgeland Road and application 18/0385 land between 15 and 127 Powell Avenue. The Committee was also advised that no appeals had been determined since the last meeting.

### **Resolved:**

To note the report on planning and enforcement appeals lodged and determined

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### 4 PLANNING ENFORCEMENT UPDATE REPORT

The Committee considered a report detailing the planning enforcement activity undertaken within Blackpool during January 2019.

The report stated that 19 new cases had been registered for investigation, 6 cases had been resolved by negotiation without recourse to formal action and 21 cases had been closed as there was either no breach of planning control found, no action was appropriate or it was not considered expedient to take action.

The report also provided comparative information for the same period last year.

**Resolved:** To note the outcome of the cases set out in the report and to support the actions of the Service Manager, Public Protection Department, in authorising the notices.

### PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND APPEALS PERFORMANCE

Miss Parker, Senior Planner, presented the planning applications and appeals performance report. The Chairman referred to the performance figures against Government targets for the determination of planning applications for December 2018 that showed 100% performance for major development decisions and 100% for minor development decisions. Miss Parker also reported on the performance for the last quarter of 2018, which showed 92% for minor development decisions. One appeal decision had been dealt with in January with the appeal being dismissed.

**Resolved:**

To note the report.

### 6 PLANNING APPLICATION 19/0083 - THE SANDS VENUE, PALATINE BUILDINGS, PROMENADE, BLACKPOOL

The Planning Committee considered application 19/0818 for external alterations and erection of a two-storey side extension and a two-storey extension to the roof to create a 3rd and 4th floor and use of the premises as altered to provide a restaurant, hotel reception and museum reception, themed bar at ground floor level, a museum and associated facilities at first floor and hotel accommodation on the upper three floors comprising 91 en-suite bedrooms and suites and associated facilities in the basement, including meeting rooms and a spa and a rooftop plant area at the Sands Venue, Palatine Buildings, Promenade.

Ms Parker, Senior Planner, provided the Committee with an overview of the application and explained that the application was a resubmission of application 18/0818 which had been refused by the Planning Committee on the 5 February 2019. Ms Parker presented an aerial view of the site, site location and layout plans and photographs depicting the setting of the proposed development on the Promenade. Ms Parker reminded members of the outline planning permission that had been granted for a development on the site in April 2016, followed by approval of a reserved matters application in July 2017. Ms Parker highlighted the changes between the approved development and the current proposed

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development which included a reduction in height of the building, a reduction in the number of bedrooms, the introduction of a museum, the omission of retail use and car parking and the change in colour scheme. Ms Parker highlighted the presentation notably the photographs of the previously approved development and the current proposed development. Ms Parker presented the additional information submitted by the applicant after the submission of the update note and commented that the planning team had only just received this information including samples of materials. There therefore remained a number of questions to be dealt with and while a degree of progress had been made there remained significant issues to be overcome as to the appropriateness of the materials.

Miss Parker reminded members of the social and economic benefits of the scheme and its compliance with Policies CS17 and CS21 of the Core Strategy and Policy LQ4 of the Local Plan which were outlined at the meeting on the 5 February 2019. She referred to the Head of Highways and Traffic Management's concerns and advised that these concerns could be designed out or resolved by imposing conditions on the planning permission, if granted. Ms Parker reported the planning department's view that in common with the previous application there were significant benefits that weighed in favour of the application. However the proposed colour of the materials for the building in view of the location of the site was considered to be in conflict with both national policy and guidance and local policy and as such weighed heavily against the proposal. Ms Parker reported that on balance given the size, prominence and setting of the proposed building in close proximity to the Tower, former Woolworth building and Town Centre Conservation Area, she considered that the disbenefits from the proposed colour scheme and its conflict with national and local policies outweighed the benefits of the development and justified the amended officer recommendation of refusal.

In response to questions from the Planning Committee- Miss Parker reminded members that as a result of the date on which some consultation requests were issued, the earliest date for a decision was the 18 March 2019. Therefore any decision of the Planning Committee would have to be in principle, with the Head of Development Management delegated to issue the decision notice on the expiry of the consultation period subject to there being no objections received.

The applicant, Mr Peter Swann, accompanied by the agent, Mr Marcus Walker, were in attendance. Mr Swann highlighted the samples of materials and the designs submitted. Mr Swann explained that the materials were of high quality and that branding and lighting would soften the black and grey material palette. Mr Swann further explained that in his view a balance had to be sought between the need for a building to blend in with the existing streetscene but also be striking and distinctive. Mr Swann reminded members that the building would house Blackpool's first five star hotel and this required a strong and unique brand identity. Mr Swann expressed a willingness to work with the planning department on a range of issues and highlighted the additional information provided which included examples of materials and artist's renderings of the proposed development.

The Planning Committee considered carefully the evidence submitted by the applicant. It considered that on balance the additional information submitted by the applicant gave the Committee more confidence that the development would be sympathetic to neighbouring listed and locally listed buildings. It considered that on balance there were

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significant advantages to the application and that with suitable conditions the concerns about the impact of the development could be overcome.

The Committee considered that suitable conditions to include materials, highways works, construction and servicing provisions should be imposed to mitigate any problems and avoid unacceptable impact from the development.

### **Resolved:**

1. That the application be approved in principle, subject to conditions and the issuing of the decision notice be delegated to the Head of Development Management subject to the expiry of the consultation period and no objections being received.
2. That the Head of Development Management be delegated subject to consultation with the Chairman, to agree suitable conditions.

### **Chairman**

(The meeting ended at 6.45 pm)

Any queries regarding these minutes, please contact:  
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