

## PLANNING APPLICATIONS COMMITTEE

### ADDENDUM 4<sup>th</sup> July 2023

#### Item

1. Amendment to page 33 of the agenda to refer to the stopping up of the existing vehicular access to No.7a Leyland Road and not No.5a Leyland Road.

Two further third party letters of objection have been received raising comments relating to the highway safety impacts of the scheme, specifically in relation to the traffic survey which has been carried out, the traffic flow in and out of Benn Road, as well as the location of school and public bus stops. Concerns are also raised in relation to the impact upon existing open spaces, destruction of habitat and wildlife displacement, impact upon the ecosystem, impact upon air quality, lack of infrastructure and the increase in traffic levels.

Amend neighbours notified to remove 14 Bedworth Close, 14 Mersey Road, 21 Amberley Avenue, 19 Gloucester Close, 3 Smiths Way and Grove Park.

Amend the number of signatures within the petition received to 118 and number of objections received to 20 from 18 addresses.

Recommendation: No change to original recommendation.

2. **Add to section 4. Other Considerations:**

The Minister of State for Housing and Planning produced a statement in May 2023 to advise Local Authorities regarding accommodating looked after children. The statement sets out the Government's commitment to support the development of accommodation for looked after children and its delivery through the planning system. The document states that 'The planning system should not be a barrier to providing homes for the most vulnerable children in society. When care is the best choice for a child, it is important that the care system provides stable, loving homes close to children's communities. These need to be the right homes, in the right places with access to good schools and community support. It is not acceptable that some children are living far from where they would call home (without a clear child protection reason for this), separated from the people they know and love'. The document also states that Planning Authorities should give due weight to and be supporting of applications, where appropriate, for all types of accommodation for looked after children in their area. The

statement also refers to the Ofsted registration process, as set out in the Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations. Under the Care Standards Act 2000, it is an offence to run a children's home without the appropriate registration. This requirement to register helps to prevent unsuitable people from owning, operating, managing or working within children's homes. Providers are required to provide information to Ofsted in order to support the registration process to include safeguarding, missing child and behaviour management policies. In addition to this, Ofsted require a location assessment. The location assessment must show the steps that the owner has taken to make sure that the home is needed locally, is in the right place and is safe, and that the home promotes positive opportunities for children. The location assessment to be submitted to Ofsted will cover whether the location:

- puts children at risk of exploitation due to local criminal activity
  - is close to other children's homes
  - is close to local criminal 'hot spots'
  - is close to environmental hazards such as reservoirs, busy roads or railway lines
  - is in a neighbourhood where children can flourish - has accessible, available and suitable local education, leisure, faith, cultural and healthcare services
- This statement is considered to carry moderate weight in support of this application. In addition, the statement confirms that Ofsted will also review the appropriateness of the location as part of their registration process.

The application site falls within SN - St Nicolas and not BU - Bulkington as listed

An additional objection has been received, stating that it would not be possible for fit 4 cars on the driveway without having to apply for a dropped kerb or causing an obstruction on the pavement.

Amend part of section 3 to read 'However, a third and fourth space would be provided on the existing grass area to the front and on the existing driveway'