



**26/01401/FUL – 71, 73, 75, 91, 95, 101, 107, 109, 111,  
Union Lane, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, CB4 1PX**

## **Application details**

**Report to:** Planning Committee

**Lead Officer:** Joint Director of Planning and Economic Development

**Ward/parish:** East Chesterton

**Proposal:** Addition of external wall insulation to solid wall constructed parts of the buildings.

**Applicant:** Cambridge City Council

**Presenting officer:** Laura Horan

**Reason presented to committee:** Applicant is the Local Authority

**Member site visit date:** N/A

**Key considerations:** 1. Design/Visual Impact

2. Residential Amenity

**Recommendation:** Approve subject to conditions

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## 1. Executive summary

- 1.1 The application site relates to 9 Council owned properties within Union Lane, Cambridge.
- 1.2 The properties this application relates to are semi-detached end of terraced dwellings and mid terraced properties.
- 1.3 This proposal consists of rendering the Council owned properties within Union Lane using an EWI propriety render system.
- 1.4 This application is being presented to the Planning Committee due to the applicant being the Local Authority – Cambridge City Council.
- 1.5 A rendered finish would enlarge the external footprint of the building by the thickness of the product (approximately 120mm per wall rendered area). Officers consider the proposed increase in external footprint to be relatively minor and would not significantly change the visual prominence of the dwellings.
- 1.6 Officers therefore recommend that the application be **approved**, subject to conditions.

Consultee	Object / No objection / No comment / Other	Paragraph Reference
Local Highways Authority	No Objection	6.1

Environmental Health	No objections.  Recommend noise construction condition.	6.2
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Table 2 Consultee summary

## 2. Site Description and Context

- 2.1 The application site relates to 9 Council owned properties situated within Union Lane, Cambridge. Properties located within Union Lane consists of both council owned houses and private houses in a mixture of semi-detached, mid terraced properties and flats. It is primarily a residential street that has properties with brick external facades.
- 2.2 The properties this application relates to are mid terraced properties and semi-detached end of terraced properties. The properties are of solid masonry construction with a brick external finish. The roofs have been covered with contoured roof tiles, fenestrations are UPVC windows with double glazed units with a mixture of composite and timber doors.
- 2.3 This proposal consists of rendering the Council owned properties within Union Lane using an EWI propriety render system as part of the Council's carbon reduction plans. These works are to be undertaken to the solid wall parts of the building's construction.
- 2.4 External Wall Insulation (EWI) render aims to improve the insulative properties of the building wall envelope. In addition to helping to mitigate existing damp issues. Retrofitting EWI will reduce the carbon emissions of the houses, by reducing the use of heating. It will also create a better regulated internal temperature and, in turn, work to reduce energy bills to the residents.
- 2.5 A rendered finish would enlarge the external footprint of the building by the thickness of the product (approximately 120mm per wall rendered area). This render finish will be one of three colours previously used on properties with a similar brick finish – Aran, Chime or Ellastone. Officers consider the proposed increase in external footprint to be relatively minor and would not significantly change the visual prominence of the dwellings.

## 3. The proposal

- 3.1 The applicant has submitted a FUL application for the addition of external wall insulation to solid wall constructed parts of the building.

## **4. Relevant site history**

None relevant.

## **5. Policy**

### **5.1 National policy**

National Planning Policy Framework 2024

National Planning Practice Guidance

National Design Guide 2021

Circular 11/95 – The Use of Conditions in Planning Permissions (Annex A)

### **5.2 Draft Greater Cambridge Local Plan 2024-2045 (Regulation 18 Stage Consultation – December 2025 to January 2026)**

5.2.1 The Regulation 18 Draft Greater Cambridge Local Plan (the draft 'Joint Local Plan' (JLP)) represents the next stage of preparing a new joint Local Plan for Greater Cambridge. Once it is adopted, it will become the statutory development plan for the Greater Cambridge area, replacing the current (adopted) Local Plans for Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire District.

5.2.2 Following endorsement by Joint Cabinet in November, the draft JLP has – at the time of writing - proceeded to a formal public consultation (under Regulation 18 of The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012). This is currently scheduled between 1 December 2025 and 30 January 2026.

5.2.3 In line with paragraph 49 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), local planning authorities may give weight to relevant policies in emerging plans according to several factors. The draft JLP is consistent with policies in the current NPPF, but represents an early stage of the plan making process. Therefore, at this stage, the draft JLP and its policies can only be afforded limited weight as a material consideration in decision making.

### **5.3 Cambridge Local Plan (2018)**

Policy 1: The presumption in favour of sustainable development

Policy 28: Carbon reduction, community energy networks, sustainable design and construction, and water use

Policy 30: Energy-efficiency improvements in existing dwellings  
Policy 35: Protection of human health from noise and vibration  
Policy 55: Responding to context  
Policy 56: Creating successful places  
Policy 58: Altering and extending existing buildings  
Policy 81: Highway Safety

Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD)

Sustainable Design and Construction SPD – Adopted January 2020

## **6. Consultations**

### **Publicity**

Neighbour letters – Y

Site Notice – Y

Press Notice – N

6.1 **Local Highways Authority – No objection**

6.2 **Environmental Health – No objections**  
Recommend condition for noise construction hours.

## **7. Third party representations**

7.1 None

## **8. Member Representations**

8.1 No member representations have been received

## **9. Local Groups / Petition**

9.1 No Local Groups/Petitions have been received

9.2 The above representations are a summary of the comments that have been received. Full details of the representations are available on the Council's website.

## **10. Assessment**

10.1 From the consultation responses and representations received and from an inspection of the site and the surroundings, the main considerations are as follows:

- Principle
- Design/Visual Impact
- Residential Amenity

## **11. Principle of development**

11.1 Policy 1 of the Cambridge Local Plan (2018) sets out that the Local Planning Authority will take a positive approach that reflects the presumption in favour of sustainable development. Sustainable development proposals will be supported unless material considerations indicate otherwise, taking into account whether a) Any adverse impacts of granting permission would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits, when assessed against the policies in the NPPF taken as a whole, or b) Specific policies in that Framework indicate that development should be restricted.

11.2 Policy 30 states that extensions and/or alterations to existing dwellings should be accompanied by cost-effective improvements to their energy efficiency. This may include the installation of cavity wall or loft insulation, the replacement of F- and G-rated boilers, heating controls upgrades, and the application of draught stripping on openings.

11.3 The proposal sees the application of insulated external render. The works would improve the energy efficiency of the buildings, as per NPPF para. 11 and Policies 1 and 30 of the Cambridge Local Plan (2018).

## **12. Design and Visual Impact**

12.1 Policies 55, 56, 58 and 59 of the Cambridge Local Plan (2018) seek to ensure that development responds appropriately to its context, is of a high quality, reflects or successfully contrasts with existing building forms and materials and includes appropriate landscaping and boundary treatment.

12.2 This FUL application proposes the addition of external wall insulation to solid wall constructed parts of the buildings, with no change of use to the properties. A rendered finish which will enlarge the external footprint of the building by the thickness of the product (approximately 120mm per wall rendered area). The finished render colours being proposed are Ellastone, Chime and Aran (PPG Johnstones Stormshield detailed specification).

- 12.3 The 9 properties which form part of the application are all Council owned dwellings set around the whole street. Whilst the proposed painted external render finish will alter the character of the dwellings on the street scene, given there is some existing painted render on the properties in the area, the addition of this proposed external render is not considered significantly harmful to the character and appearance of the dwellings and area.
- 12.4 It is therefore considered that the proposal would not result in an unacceptable level of impact on the existing properties, street scene or surrounding areas. Therefore, it would comply with policies 55, 56 and 58 of the Cambridge Local Plan 2018.

### **13. Residential Amenity**

Policy 58 of the Cambridge Local Plan (2018) permits extensions and / or alterations to existing buildings provided they do not unacceptably overlook, overshadow or visually dominate neighbouring properties.

- 13.1 The development would result in the external elevations of the house moving marginally closer to the boundaries but it is considered that this would not affect residential amenity. No objections have been received from neighbouring occupiers. A site visit has been undertaken. Given the adjacent context, location, size, and design of the proposal it is unlikely to give rise to any significant amenity impacts in terms of overlooking, loss of daylight, enclosure or other environmental impacts. The proposal is compliant with Policies 30, 56 and 58 of the Cambridge Local Plan (2018)
- 13.2 The Environmental Health Officer has been consulted on the proposal and they have not raised any objections, subject to conditions relating to noise construction hours given the residential nature of the surroundings and to protect local amenity at the more sensitive times of day. This is considered reasonable by Officers to protect the amenities of nearby residential properties. The proposal is therefore compliant with Policy 35 of the Local Plan (2018).

### **Highway Matters**

- 13.3 Policy 81 states that developments will only be permitted where they do not have an unacceptable transport impact and paragraph 116 of the NPPF seeks to protect the safety of the public highway.

- 13.4 The Local Highways Authority have been consulted on the proposal and they have raised no objections. Following a review of the documents provided to the Highway Authority as part of the planning application, no significant adverse effect upon the Public Highway should result from this proposal should it gain benefit of Planning Permission.
- 13.5 The proposal is compliant with Policies 81 Cambridge City Local Plan (2018) and paragraph 116 of the NPPF.

## **14. Planning Balance**

- 14.1 As part of the proposal the applicants set out that External Wall Insulation (EWI) render aims to improve the insulative properties of the building wall envelope and that the proposal would help mitigate existing damp issues. In so doing, the proposed retrofit would reduce the carbon emissions of the dwellings, by reducing the demand for heating. It would also create a better regulated internal temperature and, in turn, work to reduce energy bills to residents. This work is in line with the Council's vision of lowering carbon emissions and aids its target of meeting net zero targets in the future. The proposal is compliant with policies 1, 28 and 30 of the Cambridge Local Plan 2018 which support improved sustainable development standards and energy efficiency in existing dwellings.
- 14.2 The proposal adequately respects the amenity of its neighbours. The proposal is compliant with policies 55, 56, 58 and 59 of the Local Plan 2018. The associated construction and environmental impacts would be acceptable in accordance with policies 35 of the Local Plan 2018, subject to condition 4 recommended below.
- 14.3 In applying the planning balance, any perceived visual discord associated with the application of the render system is significantly outweighed by the sustainability benefits arising from the proposal.

## **15. Recommendation**

- 15.1 **Approve** subject to:
- the planning conditions as set out in Section 15 of this report with delegated authority to officers to carry through amendments to those conditions (including additional / revised conditions as appropriate and necessary), prior to the issuing of the planning permission.

## 16. Planning Conditions

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

Reason: In accordance with the requirements of Section 91 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended by Section 51 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004).

2. The development hereby permitted shall be carried out in accordance with the approved plans as listed on this decision notice.

Reason: In the interests of good planning, for the avoidance of doubt and to facilitate any future application to the Local Planning Authority under Section 73 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

3. The materials to be used in the external construction of the development, hereby permitted, shall follow the specifications in accordance with the details specified within the approved documents/application form; unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: To ensure that the external appearance of the development does not detract from the character and appearance of the area. (Cambridge Local Plan 2018 policies 55, 57 (for new buildings) and/or 58 (for extensions)).

4. No construction or demolition work shall be carried out and no plant or power operated machinery operated other than between the following hours: 0800 hours and 1800 hours on Monday to Friday, 0800 hours and 1300 hours on Saturday and at no time on Sundays, Bank or Public Holidays, unless otherwise previously agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: To protect the amenity of the adjoining properties. (Cambridge Local Plan 2018 policy 35).

### **Background papers:**

The following list contains links to the documents on the Council's website and / or an indication as to where hard copies can be inspected.

- Cambridge Local Plan 2018
- Cambridge Local Development Framework SPDs

