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Local Review Reference: 20/00014/RREF

Planning Application Reference: 20/00283/FUL

Development Proposal: Change of use of land to form motor vehicle display and form sales office from industrial unit (renewal of previous consent 16/01363/FUL) and erection of new sales building (retrospective)

Location: Unit 1B and incorporating land to West of Riverside Works, Edinburgh Road, Jedburgh

Applicant: Mr James Hewit

Scottish Borders Local Development Plan 2016

POLICY PMD2: QUALITY STANDARDS

All new development will be expected to be of high quality in accordance with sustainability principles, designed to fit with Scottish Borders townscapes and to integrate with its landscape surroundings. The standards which will apply to all development are that:

Sustainability

- a) In terms of layout, orientation, construction and energy supply, the developer has demonstrated that appropriate measures have been taken to maximise the efficient use of energy and resources, including the use of renewable energy and resources such as District Heating Schemes and the incorporation of sustainable construction techniques in accordance with supplementary planning guidance. Planning applications must demonstrate that the current carbon dioxide emissions reduction target has been met, with at least half of this target met through the use of low or zero carbon technology,
- b) it provides digital connectivity and associated infrastructure,
- c) it provides for Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems in the context of overall provision of Green Infrastructure where appropriate and their after-care and maintenance,
- d) it encourages minimal water usage for new developments,
- e) it provides for appropriate internal and external provision for waste storage and presentation with, in all instances, separate provision for waste and recycling and, depending on the location, separate provision for composting facilities,
- f) it incorporates appropriate hard and soft landscape works, including structural or screen planting where necessary, to help integration with its surroundings and the wider environment and to meet open space requirements. In some cases agreements will be required to ensure that landscape works are undertaken at an early stage of development and that appropriate arrangements are put in place for long term landscape/open space maintenance,
- g) it considers, where appropriate, the long term adaptability of buildings and spaces.

Placemaking & Design

- h) It creates developments with a sense of place, based on a clear understanding of the context, designed in sympathy with Scottish Borders architectural styles; this need not exclude appropriate contemporary and/or innovative design,
- i) it is of a scale, massing, height and density appropriate to its surroundings and, where an extension or alteration, appropriate to the existing building,
- j) it is finished externally in materials, the colours and textures of which complement the highest quality of architecture in the locality and, where an extension or alteration, the existing building,
- k) it is compatible with, and respects the character of the surrounding area, neighbouring uses, and neighbouring built form,
- l) it can be satisfactorily accommodated within the site,

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- m) it provides appropriate boundary treatments to ensure attractive edges to the development that will help integration with its surroundings,
- n) it incorporates, where appropriate, adequate safety and security measures, in accordance with current guidance on 'designing out crime'.

Accessibility

- o) Street layouts must be designed to properly connect and integrate with existing street patterns and be able to be easily extended in the future where appropriate in order to minimise the need for turning heads and isolated footpaths,
- p) it incorporates, where required, access for those with mobility difficulties,
- q) it ensures there is no adverse impact on road safety, including but not limited to the site access,
- r) it provides for linkages with adjoining built up areas including public transport connections and provision for buses, and new paths and cycleways, linking where possible to the existing path network; Travel Plans will be encouraged to support more sustainable travel patterns,
- s) it incorporates adequate access and turning space for vehicles including those used for waste collection purposes.

Greenspace, Open Space & Biodiversity

- t) It provides meaningful open space that wherever possible, links to existing open spaces and that is in accordance with current Council standards pending preparation of an up-to-date open space strategy and local standards. In some cases a developer contribution to wider neighbourhood or settlement provision may be appropriate, supported by appropriate arrangements for maintenance,
- u) it retains physical or natural features or habitats which are important to the amenity or biodiversity of the area or makes provision for adequate mitigation or replacements.

Developers are required to provide design and access statements, design briefs and landscape plans as appropriate.

POLICY ED1: PROTECTION OF BUSINESS AND INDUSTRIAL LAND

The Council aims to maintain a supply of business and industrial land allocations in the Scottish Borders (see Table 1). There is a presumption in favour of the retention of industrial and business use on strategic and district sites, including new land use proposals for business and industrial land.

1. STRATEGIC SITES

The Council rigorously protects strategic business and industrial sites for employment uses.

a) Strategic High Amenity Sites

Development on Strategic High Amenity Sites will be predominantly for Class 4 use. Other complementary commercial activity e.g. offices, call centres and high technology uses may be acceptable if it enhances the quality of the business park as an employment location.

b) Strategic Business and Industrial Sites

Development for uses other than Classes 4, 5 and 6 on strategic business and industrial sites in the locations identified in Table 1 will generally be refused. Uses other than Class 4, 5 or 6 can be considered if clearly demonstrated as contributing to the efficient functioning of the allocated site.

2. DISTRICT SITES

Although District sites do not merit the same level of stringent protection as Strategic sites there remains a preference to retain these within employment uses.

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However, development other than Classes 4, 5 and 6 may be accepted on district business and industrial sites identified in Table 1 in order to, where appropriate, allow a more mixed use area.

Proposals for development outwith Class 4, 5 and 6 will be considered against the following criteria:

- a) the loss of business and industrial land does not prejudice the existing and predicted long term requirements for industrial and business land in the locality, and
- b) the alternative land use is considered to offer significant benefits to the surrounding area and community that outweigh the need to retain the site in business and industrial use, and
- c) there is a constraint on the site whereby there is no reasonable prospect of its becoming marketable for business and industrial development in the future, or
- d) the predominant land uses have changed owing to previous exceptions to policy such that a more mixed use land use pattern is now considered acceptable by the Council.

3. LOCAL SITES

Although Local sites are allocated for business and industrial use, these are considered to have a lower priority and need for retention in the hierarchy of all business and industrial sites. Consequently alternative uses are likely to be supported.

Development other than Classes 4, 5 and 6 are likely to be supported on local business and industrial sites identified in Table 1. Retail may be acceptable on local sites where they are located within or adjacent to town centres.

POLICY HD3 : PROTECTION OF RESIDENTIAL AMENITY

Development that is judged to have an adverse impact on the amenity of existing or proposed residential areas will not be permitted. To protect the amenity and character of these areas, any developments will be assessed against:

- a) the principle of the development, including where relevant, any open space that would be lost; and
- b) the details of the development itself particularly in terms of:
 - (i) the scale, form and type of development in terms of its fit within a residential area,
 - (ii) the impact of the proposed development on the existing and surrounding properties particularly in terms of overlooking, loss of privacy and sunlighting provisions. These considerations apply especially in relation to garden ground or ‘backland’ development,
 - (iii) the generation of traffic or noise,
 - (iv) the level of visual impact.

POLICY EP1: INTERNATIONAL NATURE CONSERVATION SITES AND PROTECTED SPECIES

Development proposals which will have a likely significant effect on a designated or proposed Natura site, which includes all Ramsar sites, are only permissible where:

- a) an appropriate assessment has demonstrated that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site, or
- b) there are no alternative solutions, and
- c) there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest including those of a social or economic nature

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Where a development proposal is sited where there is the likely presence of an EPS, the planning authority must be satisfied that:

- a) there is no satisfactory alternative, and
- b) the development is required for preserving public health or public safety or for other imperative reasons of overriding public interest including those of a social or economic nature and beneficial consequences of primary importance to the environment, and
- c) the development is not detrimental to the maintenance of the population of a EPS at a favourable conservation status in its natural range.

POLICY EP2: NATIONAL NATURE CONSERVATION AND PROTECTED SPECIES

Development proposals which are likely to have a significant adverse effect, either directly or indirectly, on a Site of Special Scientific Interest or habitat directly supporting a nationally important species will not be permitted unless:

- a) the development will not adversely affect the integrity of the site, and
- b) the development offers substantial benefits of national importance, including those of a social or economic nature, that clearly outweigh the national nature conservation value of the site.

The developer will be required to detail mitigation, either on or off site, of any damage that may be caused by development permissible under the exception criteria.

POLICY EP3: LOCAL BIODIVERSITY

Development that would have an unacceptable adverse effect on Borders Notable Species and Habitats of Conservation Concern will be refused unless it can be demonstrated that the public benefits of the development clearly outweigh the value of the habitat for biodiversity conservation.

Any development that could impact on local biodiversity through impacts on habitats and species should:

- a) aim to avoid fragmentation or isolation of habitats; and
- b) be sited and designed to minimise adverse impacts on the biodiversity of the site, including its environmental quality, ecological status and viability; and
- c) compensate to ensure no net loss of biodiversity through use of biodiversity offsets as appropriate; and
- d) aim to enhance the biodiversity value of the site, through use of an ecosystems approach, with the aim of creation or restoration of habitats and wildlife corridors and provision for their long-term management and maintenance.

POLICY EP13: TREES, WOODLANDS AND HEDGEROWS

The Council will refuse development that would cause the loss of or serious damage to the woodland resource unless the public benefits of the development clearly outweigh the loss of landscape, ecological, recreational, historical, or shelter value.

Any development that may impact on the woodland resource should:

- a) aim to minimise adverse impacts on the biodiversity value of the woodland resource, including its environmental quality, ecological status and viability; and

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- b) where there is an unavoidable loss of the woodland resource, ensure appropriate replacement planting, where possible, within the area of the Scottish Borders; and
- c) adhere to any planning agreement sought to enhance the woodland resource.

POLICY IS5: PROTECTION OF ACCESS ROUTES

Development that would have an adverse impact upon an access route available to the public will not be permitted unless a suitable diversion or appropriate alternative route, as agreed by the Council, can be provided by the developer.

POLICY IS7: PARKING PROVISION AND STANDARDS

Development proposals should provide for car and cycle parking in accordance with approved standards.

Relaxation of technical standards will be considered where appropriate due to the nature of the development and/or if positive amenity gains can be demonstrated that do not compromise road safety.

In town centres where there appear to be parking difficulties, the Council will consider the desirability of seeking additional public parking provision, in the context of policies to promote the use of sustainable travel modes.

POLICY IS8: FLOODING

At all times, avoidance will be the first principle of managing flood risk. In general terms, new development should therefore be located in areas free from significant flood risk.

Development will not be permitted if it would be at significant risk of flooding from any source or would materially increase the probability of flooding elsewhere. The ability of functional flood plains to convey and store floodwater should be protected, and development should be located away from them.

Within certain defined risk categories, particularly where the risk is greater than 0.5% annual flooding probability or 1 in 200 year flood risk, some forms of development will generally not be acceptable. These include:

- a) development comprising essential civil infrastructure such as hospitals, fire stations, emergency depots etc., schools, care homes, ground-based electrical and telecommunications equipment unless subject to an appropriate long term flood risk management strategy;
- b) additional built development in undeveloped and sparsely developed areas.

Other forms of development will be subject to an assessment of the risk and mitigation measures.

Developers will be required to provide, including if necessary at planning permission in principle stage:

- a) a competent flood risk assessment, including all sources of flooding, and taking account of climate change; and
- b) a report of the measures that are proposed to mitigate the flood risk.

The information used to assess the acceptability of development will include:

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- a) information and advice from consultation with the council's flood team and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency;
- b) flood risk maps provided by the Scottish Environment Protection Agency which indicate the extent of the flood plain;
- c) historical records and flood studies held by the council and other agencies, including past flood risk assessment reports carried out by consultants and associated comments from the Scottish Environment Protection Agency, also held by the council;
- (d) the Scottish Environment Protection Agency's Land Use Vulnerability Guidance.

POLICY IS13: CONTAMINATED LAND

Where development is proposed on land that is contaminated, suspected of contamination, or unstable the developer will be required to:

- a) carry out, in full consultation with, and to the satisfaction of Scottish Borders Council, appropriate phased site investigations and risk assessments; and
- b) where necessary, and to the satisfaction of Scottish Borders Council design, implement, and validate appropriate remedial or mitigation measures to render the site suitable for its proposed use.

OTHER MATERIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- SBC Supplementary Planning Guidance on Placemaking & Design 2010
- SBC Supplementary Planning Guidance on Landscape and Development 2008
- SBC Supplementary Planning Guidance on Trees and Development 2008