



Camden EWI Sustainable Improvements Scheme

Planning Statement for
1-42 Ashdown Crescent
London
NW5 4QB

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Contents

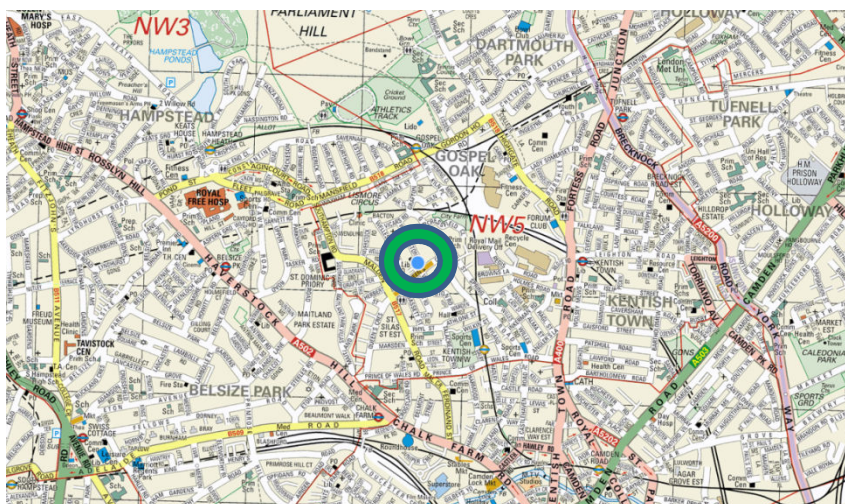
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1. Introduction

- 1.1** This planning statement has been prepared in support of the proposed application at 1-42 Ashdown Crescent, for the over-cladding of the block in an external wall insulation system with a colour rendered finish.
- 1.2** The proposed works forms part of a wider energy efficiency improvements scheme utilising external wall insulation. The scheme offers an excellent opportunity for the London Borough of Camden to:
- Enhance the welfare of residents by improving the thermal efficiency of housing stock.
 - Reduce fuel bills and thereby, tackle the issue of fuel poverty.
 - Increase thermal comfort and reduce the risks of ill health arising from poor thermally performing buildings.
 - Local and National commitments to mitigating climate change.
 - Utilise funding from energy companies, through Energy Company Obligation (ECO), to reduce the cost to Camden Council of undertaking the scheme and thereby enable Camden to undertake further investment works to improve council housing stock to the benefit of the council residents.

2. Existing Site

- 2.1** The application site is located on the corner of Weedington Road and Queens Crescent, within the London Borough of Camden. The block is accessed via Queens Crescent and is located in an area of eclectic archetypes and building ages.



- 2.2** The application building is a five storey block of 42 flats of cavity/solid masonry construction, built beneath a flat roof, with white UPVC windows and doors. The ground floor of the building houses the library, however no external works are proposed to this area.

- 2.3** The building has no grade listing and is not located within a Conservation Area.

3. Proposal

- 3.1** The proposal is to install external wall insulation to all elevations of the block with the exception of the ground floor which will be retained as existing brickwork.

4. Pre-Planning Enquiry

- 4.1** Pre-Application Reference **ENQ/2014/0873/PRE**.
- 4.2** Prior to making a number of planning applications for external wall insulation we consulted with both the Planning and Heritage and Conservation officers to determine locations where external wall insulation would be acceptable and the most appropriate render colours and finishes in those locations.
- 4.3** This was carried out to assess both the viability of each individual scheme and to mitigate any potential impact the EWI would have on adjacent properties and the surrounding area.
- 4.4** Following this extensive consultation we have incorporated specific feedback from Planning and Conservation Officers for the Ashdown Crescent building into this application.
- 4.5** A positive outcome was achieved from the pre-application advice with both Planning and Conservation confirming they had no objections to the use of EWI on Ashdown Crescent. This is however subject to a suitable finish.
- 4.6** Subsequently we have explored the use of colours on the scheme and confirm that an off white colour would be best suited to the block. The existing ground floor has a facing yellow brick finish.

5. Planning Policy

- 5.1** The National Planning Policy Framework 2012 (NPPF) sets out the Government's planning policies and how these are expected to be applied. Several sections are relevant to the proposals at 7-12 Plender Court.
- 5.2** The NPPF It makes clear that local authorities should adopt proactive strategies to mitigate and adapt to climate change and, to support the move to a low carbon future, local authorities should actively support energy efficiency improvements to existing buildings.
- 5.3** Section 65; states '*...planning authorities should not refuse planning permission for buildings...which promote high levels of sustainability because of concerns about incompatibility with an existing townscape if those concerns have been mitigated by good design...'*.

- 5.4** Section 95; states that Local Planning Authorities should ‘...actively support energy efficiency improvements to existing buildings.’
- 5.5** The Camden borough wide ‘Energy efficiency planning guidance for Conservation Areas’, states in section 3.4 that: ‘energy efficiency measure and renewable energy technologies can generally be said to benefit the wider public by virtue of the contribution they make to controlling domestic energy costs, reducing fuel poverty and mitigating against the risks of climate change’.
- It goes on to state that “where particular homes are known to suffer from fuel poverty or wider deprivation, and the energy saving improvements can clearly demonstrate that they will reduce fuel bills and improve well-being, the local public benefit is easier to determine and a greater degree of change may be acceptable.” and;
- ‘Although the guidance is specifically for conservation areas and street property, we consider that the same interpretation can be given to Plender Court, as a council owned block wholly occupied by council tenants.’

6. Alleviating Fuel Poverty

- 6.1** The current construction of the block falls far short of the requirements of the current building regulations in terms of thermal performance.
- 6.2** Currently the construction is such that the buildings offer poor thermal performance and therefore the residents within are generally suffering from elevated levels of heat loss, high fuel bills and are at a greater risk of fuel poverty.
- 6.3** The proposed works are being designed to significantly improve the thermal performance of each block. All works are in line with the local energy efficiency ambitions and priorities of London Borough of Camden; working to improve energy efficiency across all tenures.
- 6.4** The proposed external wall insulation will improve thermal comfort, be less prone to condensation, reduce heat loss and reduce the risk of fuel poverty. We believe that our proposals are the most practical treatment to achieve this.
- 6.5** The proposal will improve the airtightness and water tightness of the blocks, and the works will extend the life of the building whilst being sympathetic to the retention of important existing features of the blocks.

7. Conclusion

- 7.1** In conclusion, we have examined the proposed insulated render system and its application at 1-42 Ashdown Crescent. In conjunction with the supporting documentation, it is believed that the proposals present a well-designed and practical solution to improving the energy efficiency of the property.

- 7.2** The proposals would benefit the thermal performance of the building and make warmth more affordable for the residents therein.
- 7.3** With surrounding buildings being of varying age, type and design and given the public benefit of the project; we consider the proposals to be acceptable.



Signed:

Andrew Kilford BSc (Hons) AMFPWS
For and on behalf of pod LLP

Date: 30th October 2014

APPENDIX A – PHOTO MONTAGE



PHOTO 1 – ENTRANCE TO FLATS



PHOTO 2 – VIEW FROM QUEENS CRESCENT

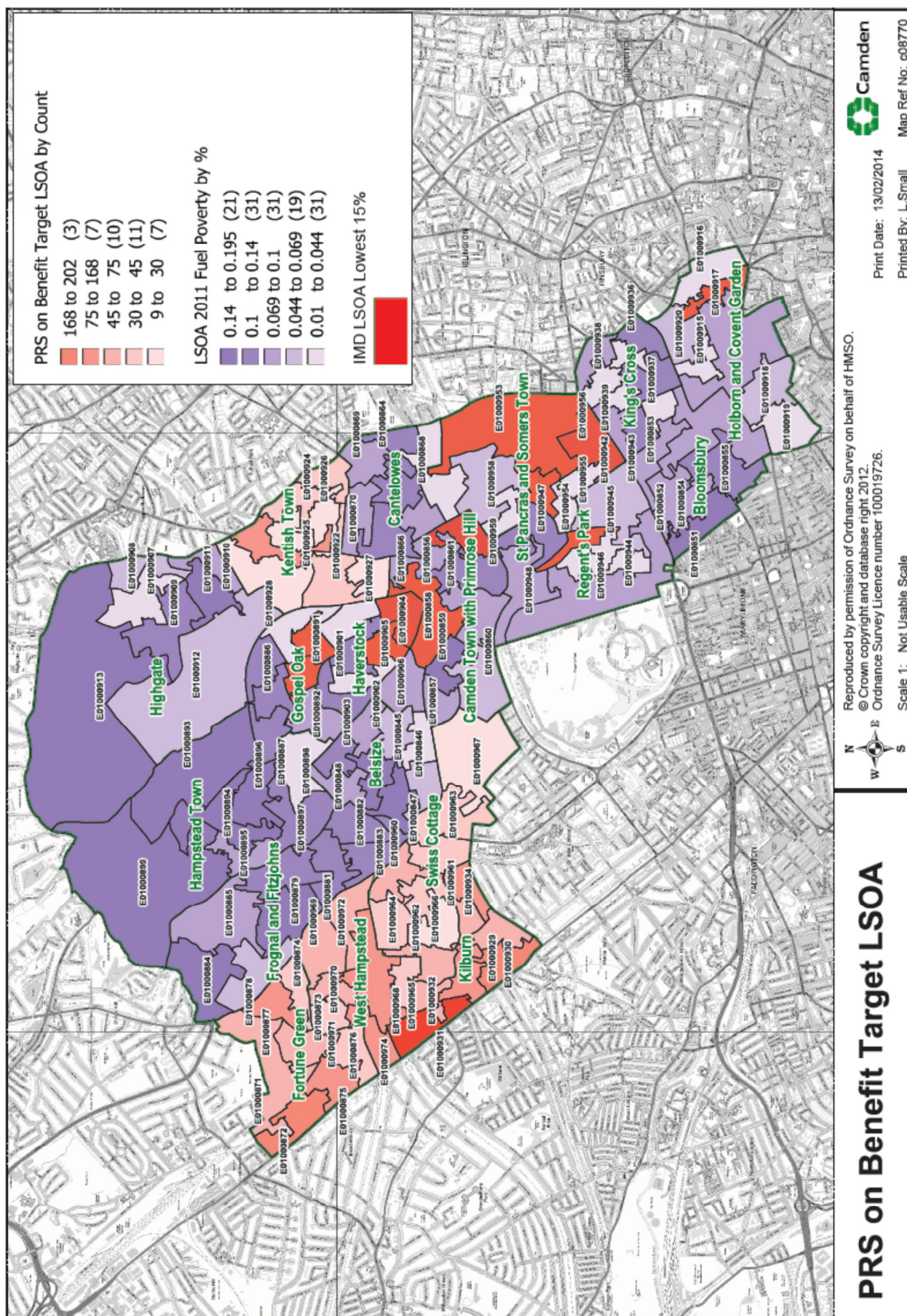


PHOTO 3 – VIEW FROM WEEDINGTON ROAD



PHOTO 4 – VIEW FROM GARDENS TO REAR OF THE BLOCK

APPENDIX B – LSOA MAP OF FUEL POVERTY



APPENDIX C – FUEL POOR HOUSEHOLDS DATA (LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN)

Ward	No. Fuel Poor Households		% Fuel Poor Households		% change
	2011	2012	2011	2012	
Belsize	590	456	9.2	7.6	-1.6
Bloomsbury	354	518	9.1	11.6	2.5
Camden Town with Primrose Hill	507	462	9.3	8.3	-1
Cantelowes	457	462	9.1	9.5	0.4
Fortune Green	642	476	12.5	9.4	-3.1
Frognal and Fitzjohns	631	402	11.8	8.6	-3.2
Gospel Oak	321	342	6.8	7.4	0.6
Hampstead Town	646	415	13.2	8.6	-4.6
Haverstock	321	403	6.4	8.1	1.7
Highgate	413	393	9.2	8.7	-0.5
Holborn and Covent Garden	274	498	4.8	8.5	3.7
Kentish Town	544	516	9.7	9.2	-0.5
Kilburn	354	390	6.3	7	0.7
King's Cross	407	590	7.9	13.2	5.3
Regent's Park	312	466	5.5	8.5	3
St Pancras and Somers Town	161	408	2.9	7.7	4.8
Swiss Cottage	592	466	9.9	8.3	-1.6
West Hampstead	612	544	11.6	9.8	-1.8
	8138	8207	8.6	8.9	



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