

PLANNING STATEMENT

North Bridge House Senior School, 65 Rosslyn Hill, London NW3 5UD

Replacement Stair Tower, Replacement Hall Fire Escape, New Entrance Foyer And Locker Provision

Prepared on behalf of Cognita Schools Ltd and

January 2020

Planning Statement

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Section 1 INTRODUCTION

Previous consents are relevant to this application, including:

2011/6369/P in which planning permission was granted on the 5 March 2012 for alterations to front façade including replacement of front entrance with replacement canopy, cladding of stair tower on north west facing elevation of building, installation of 3 cycle stands, and installation of planters and soft landscaping with floodlights to frontage of existing school (Class D1).

2012/2371/P in which planning permission was granted on the 17th October 2012 for erection of a sports hall with adjacent ancillary store at rear of school building.

2012/3984/C in which conservation area consent was granted on the 17th October 2012 in tandem with the above application for demolition of existing portacabin structure at rear of school building.

2019/1698/P an application for stand alone changing block was approved on the 25 June 2019.

2018/5196/PRE a pre application for the changing rooms which advised:

Works to Stair

It is understood that the current external escape stair will be removed and replaced with an internally connected stair. Given this would be of a similar scale as the existing stair no objection would be raised in principle. In terms of materials it is proposed to be a glass and brick structure. However there hasn't been any detail of the tone or type of brick. Given the building is a modern construction in the context of a lot of the historic neighbouring buildings, it may be appropriate for the brick to match that of the existing school building. However it could be worth exploring how a grey brick would look in the context of the window frames on the existing school buildings. I would be happy to discuss this with you further ahead of submitting a planning application.

There is a slight concern that the level of glazing within the stair when coupled with the glazing in the new entrance would be overly dominant. This could result in a lot of light emission during dusk and evening hours. There may be a way this could be controlled via the use of a different type glass, or we condition that the lights are turned off after 8 or 9pm. However it may be better if the design was revised to add a little more interest to the elevation of the stair core which then results in less glazing. The concern is that the stair core could look like a beacon when standing at the end of Vane Close.

Response

The materials on the stair tower have been altered to reflect the comments with an oxidized aluminium proposed or VM Zinc for the rainscreen to better reflect the building and surroundings. In addition the windows proposed for the rear elevation towards Fitzjohn's Avenue have been omitted after concerns were raised by the neighbour at No. 92 during the pre application consultation process we undertook. The level of glazing facing towards Vane Close has been reduced to respond to the comments made and the proposed lights will be on sensors, which will automatically cut the light source at 21.00 hours Monday to Friday to coincide with the finishing of the building cleaning. There would be no light use on Saturdays, Sundays or bank holidays from the stair tower.

New Entrance and remodelling of the administrative block and re-cladding

No objection is raised to the two storey entrance, the siting of this is considered to be appear subordinate in scale to the parent building and would not detract from the character of the building or surrounding conservation area.

The works to the two storey administrative block are welcomed. It is considered it would benefit from recladding and linking it into the other elements of the school at that point such as the stair tower and entrance.

In terms of the materials of these two elements, the submission notes these elements would be clad, however there isn't detail on what sort of cladding this would be. It is welcomed that the cladding to both elements would be the same to tie them together. I would be happy to review some cladding options ahead of the application being submitted.

The use of a green roof to the two storey element is welcomed, this will add interest when viewed from above and also contribute towards the sustainability and biodiversity benefits of the development. It is recommended that the same is applied to the remodelled administrative block.

Response

The entrance proposed has been reduced in size to meet budgetary constraints. The materials have been designed to match the stair tower. The green sedum roof is retained. The administration block is proposed to have the painted finish removed and taken back to the existing brickwork to match the main school building. The level of glazing facing towards Vane Close has been reduced to respond to the comments made and the proposed lights will be on sensors, which will automatically cut the light source at 21.00 hours Monday to Friday to coincide with the finishing of the building cleaning.

To meet the requirement for students to have locker provision, this has

been included within the application. These have been chosen to be plastic to ensure there is not noise transmission issue, which could have occurred from metal lockers.

This Planning Statement outlines the detailed application proposals following this pre application.

The Council sustainable requirements have been considered in these proposals, along with provision of green roofs, and these proposals set out to show how these would be addressed.

This statement provides the planning justification for the proposed development having regard to National Planning Policy, the Development Plan and other material considerations.

This Planning Statement demonstrates that the proposals will be a positive gain for the pupils and parents and will benefit Camden Council through its education provision, it would not adversely impact on the surrounding area. The proposal will preserve the Conservation Area.

A Design and Access Statement from the architects Ellis Williams accompanies the application and sets out the site context and the proposals in detail.

This Statement sets out the following:

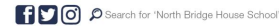
- Section 2 sets out the pre application engagement
- Section 3 describes the background context of Cognita Schools Ltd and Charterhouse Square School.
- Section 4 describes the site and surrounding area.
- Section 5 sets out the relevant planning policy framework.
- Section 6 provides the justification for planning permission.
- Section 7 sets out the conclusions.

Section 2 PRE APPLICATION NEIGHBOUR ENGAGEMENT

It was thought helpful after undertaking pre application with the Local Planning Authority and before submission of the planning application to undertake pre application neighbour engagement. A letter was prepared and issued on the 10th December 2019, to the residents at:

- Owner / Occupier Flat 1-138 Greenhill, Prince Arthur Road, Hampstead NW3 5UB – issued through the residents portal by the management company Rendall and Rittner.
- Henderson Court Sheltered Housing, 102 Fitzjohns Avenue, Hampstead NW3 6NS
- 92 Fitzjohns Avenue, Hampstead, NW3 6NP
- Fitzjohns Primary School, Fitzjohns Avenue, Hampstead, NW3 6NP
- 3-21 Vane Close, Hampstead, NW3 5UN

One letter of response was received from the owner of 92 Fitzjohn's Avenue, who advised he was concerned regarding light spill from the rear windows proposed in the replacement stairwell to his main primary windows and his daughters bedroom window. Following this letter the design was revised to remove the stair well windows in this elevation to meet those concerns, and the application has been submitted on that basis.



North Bridge House
Senior Hampstead

Owner / Occupier
Flat 1-138 Greenhill
Prince Arthur Road
Hampstead
NW3 5UB

Dear Neighbour

RE: The improvement of North Bridge House Senior School, Rosslyn Hill

I am writing to inform you that North Bridge House Senior School is working on improving the existing school building for its current pupils, parents and teachers and will shortly be submitting a planning application for these works. The works are limited in nature and comprise three main elements.

Stair Tower

The existing stair tower was clad in 2012 and the existing cladding has helped the stair tower considerably, but has not been as effective as hoped. There is still wind and rain ingress to the stair tower, which limits its use and effectiveness to escape only and poses a health and safety risk to pupils. Rebuilding the stair tower with rainscreen and glass facade will provide a safe and permanent solution for pupils and allow them to utilise the different floors of the building. The school is conscious of limiting light spill to residents, and so would propose limiting lighting in the stair tower in winter from 8am to 9pm only.

Foyer/Reception

The existing canopy installed in 2012 has served the school well, but does not protect visitors, parents or pupils attending the school from the elements. In addition, the existing reception area is too small, given the current safeguarding requirement, and there is need to accommodate all pupils in a safe and secure area when arriving at school and going through to registration. This enlarged area will provide for that safe, attractive and welcoming entrance. The glass frontage and green sedum roof proposed will form an attractive and safe frontage to the school.

In addition, within the site some external lockers are proposed for the use of pupils.

The School prides itself on being a good neighbour and is committed to ensuring an open and constructive dialogue with local residents as its plans progress.

Should you have any queries, please feel free to contact one of the School's consultation team on 020 7267 6266 (Monday-Friday, 9am-5.30pm) or email me direct at brendan.pavey@northbridgehouse.com

Yours sincerely

BRENDAN PAVEY
Headmaster

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COGNITA North Bridge House School is part of the Cognita Schools Group www.cognitaschools.com
Registered in England: Cognita Limited trading as North Bridge House School No 2313425. Registered Office: Seaback House, One Seaback Place, Knowhill, Milton Keynes MK5 8FR.

Section 3 BACKGROUND CONTEXT

Cognita, owner of North Bridge Senior School, was formed in 2004. The company employs over 2,900 teachers and support staff in 56 schools across the UK and international schools in Brazil, Spain, Singapore, Vietnam and Thailand. There are over 15,200 pupils on the roll of these schools. The schools fit a broad profile, including Pre-Prep, Prep and Senior Schools.

Over the years, Cognita has championed the values that are important to millions of parents across the country. 'The basic skills of literacy and numeracy; a broad and balanced curriculum which excites all children; a secure, disciplined learning environment in which each child is known and valued; we do not need to reinvent the 21st century'. 'What we want is what concerned parents have always wanted: teachers who care equally about the subjects they teach and the children for whom they are responsible, who have the highest possible expectations of each and every one of their pupils, and who can keep order and explain ideas with clarity and enthusiasm that captures the child's imagination'.

Cognita's vision is to own and manage a family of independent schools, each of which enjoys an excellent reputation within its community. Each school's reputation will grow as a result of consistently meeting the aspirations that parents have for their child's education. Their child will be happy and enthusiastic about the school. The school will be seen to

invest in its relationship with individual parents and it will be recognised as keen to nurture a culture that treats parents as customers.

The Group will implement three key strategies in all its schools, in order to deliver this vision. It will:

- Protect, preserve and develop the atmosphere, ethos and culture of each school so that it promotes its own identity
- Recruit, retain and develop very good teachers in order to provide the very best education. It will therefore recruit and retain the best head teachers, invest in regular and appropriate staff development programmes, develop programs to support, measure, review and reward excellent performance, foster best practice initiatives between schools and departments, implement regular internal quality control reviews that audit education delivery and performance, and invest in the development and maintenance of a broad and balanced curriculum.
- Develop excellent communications between the school and its parents through frequent and routine communications, easy access to information, the provision of easy access of staff at all levels, regular forums including staff and parents,

the promotion of schemes to encourage parental involvement, programs that adopt appropriate technologies.

this objective and allow the school to meet national curriculum requirements.

The group will exercise four unique sources of competitive advantage in developing these strategies. The Group:

- Maintains a staff of leading educationalists, who are very successful and experienced in education, in teaching and in the development of schools
- Is run by professional management, who have broader business skills than are to be found in most schools
- Has access to funds for the development of people, organisation, facilities and systems infrastructure
- Enjoys the benefits of scale of being a large group. It employs a large cadre of excellent teachers, able to exchange best practice experiences, it is financially robust and it can deliver savings and efficiencies through its support services

School objectives

North Bridge House Senior School is to provide pupils with a high quality education and to deliver this to meet current Government objectives and curriculum requirements. The provision of this enhancement will meet

Section 3 THE SITE AND SURROUNDING AREA

The site is located at Vane Close.

It is accessed through secure gates from Vane Close, with entrance, landscaping and parking beyond.

The surrounding area is predominantly a mixed-use with a range of uses surrounding the site including other schools, Royal Mail depot, residential as well as the High Street nearby which caters for a mix of retail and leisure uses.

The site is accessible with the tube stations to the north and south along with a range of buses, which run past the site.

Section 4 PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK

The Development Plan provides the statutory policy framework against which planning applications should be made. Decisions should normally be made in accordance with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise. Other material considerations such as Ministerial Statements and National Policy Guidance should be taken into account in reaching decisions.

National Policy Framework

National Planning Policy Framework (July 2018) and Updated (February 2019)

The NPPF sets out clearly the rational and aim of sustainable development in paragraph 7 and 8, namely:

- an economic role – to help build a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right type is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth, innovation and improved productivity; and by identifying and coordinating the provision of infrastructure;
- a social objective – to support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by fostering a well-designed and safe built

environment, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities' health, social and cultural well-being; and

- an environmental role – to contribute to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment; including making the effective use of land, helping to improve biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change including moving to a low carbon economy.

And in paragraphs 10 and 11 it emphasises that at the heart of the NPPF is a **presumption in favour of sustainable development**, which should be seen as a golden thread running through both plan making and decision taking. This means approving development proposals that accord with the development plan without delay.

Paragraph 38 advises Councils should work proactively with applicants to secure developments that will improve the economic, social and environmental conditions of the area. Decision-makers at every level should seek to approve applications for sustainable development where possible.

Through section 8 it promotes healthy communities in paragraphs 92 to 95.

Paragraph 94 advises that ‘the Government attaches great importance to ensuring that a sufficient choice of school places is available to meet the needs of existing and new communities. Local planning authorities should take **a proactive, positive and collaborative approach to meeting this requirement**, and to development that will widen choice in education. They should:

- **give great weight to the need to create, expand or alter schools;** and
- work with schools promoters, delivery partners and statutory bodies to identify and resolve key planning issues before applications are submitted’.

Paragraph 95 recognises potential malicious threats and the need to take appropriate and proportional steps to reduce vulnerability, increase resilience and ensure public safety and security.

Section 12 through paragraphs 124 to 132 sets out the importance of understanding site context and good design. In paragraph 127 it emphasises the need of planning policies and decisions to ‘address the connections between people and places and the integration of new development into the natural, built and historic environment’.

Section 15 of the NPPF sets out the guidance on conserving and enhancing the natural environment. Through paragraphs 170 to 177 it seeks to protect flora and fauna with ‘opportunities to incorporate biodiversity in and around developments should be encouraged’, while ensuring no adverse air quality or noise issues arise.

Lastly, Section 16 sets out the position in relation to conserving and enhancing the historic environment through paragraphs 184 to 202.

Through paragraph 192 it advises that in determining planning applications, local planning authorities should take account of:

- the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation;
- the positive contribution that conservation of heritage assets can make to sustainable communities including their economic vitality; and
- the desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness.

The Adopted London Plan

The London Plan March 2016 (The Spatial Development Strategy for London Consolidated with Alterations Since 2011) is based on planning for substantial population growth in the short to medium term while ensuring London has the schools and other facilities needed by a growing number of younger people, while also addressing the needs of a rapidly ageing population.

The London Plan has 3 main themes, which are:

- Growth
- Equity
- Sustainable Development

Education and Employment

Key POLICY 3.1 Ensuring Equal Life Chances for All

Strategic

The Mayor is committed to ensuring equal life chances for all Londoners. Meeting the needs and expanding opportunities for all Londoners – and where appropriate, addressing the barriers to meeting the needs of particular groups and communities – is key to tackling the huge issue of inequality across London.

Planning decisions

Development proposals should protect and enhance facilities and services that meet the needs of particular groups and communities. Proposals involving loss of these facilities without adequate justification or provision for replacement should be resisted.

POLICY 3.18 Education Facilities

Strategic

The Mayor will support provision of early years, primary and secondary school and further and higher education facilities adequate to meet the demands of a growing and changing population and to enable greater educational choice, particularly in parts of London with poor educational performance.

The Mayor strongly supports the establishment of new schools and steps to enable local people and communities to do this.

Policy 4.1 Developing London's Economy

Strategic

A The Mayor will work with partners to promote and enable the continued development of a strong, sustainable and increasingly diverse economy across all parts of London, ensuring the availability of sufficient and suitable workspaces in terms of type, size and cost, supporting infrastructure and suitable environments for larger employers and small and medium sized enterprises, including the voluntary and community

sectors.

To drive London's transition to a low carbon economy and to secure the range of benefits this will bring.

To support and promote outer London as an attractive location for national government as well as businesses, giving access to the highly-skilled London workforce, relatively affordable work space and the competitive advantages of the wider London economy.

To support and promote the distinctive and crucial contribution to London's economic success made by central London and its specialist clusters of economic activity.

To emphasise the need for greater recognition of the importance of enterprise and innovation.

POLICY 5.3 Sustainable Design and Construction

Strategic

The highest standards of sustainable design and construction should be achieved in London to improve the environmental performance of new developments and to adapt to the effects of climate change over their lifetime.

POLICY 5.4 Retrofitting

Strategic

The environmental impact of existing urban areas should be reduced through policies and programmes that bring existing buildings up to the Mayor's standards on sustainable design and construction. In particular, programmes should reduce carbon dioxide emissions, improve the efficiency of resource use (such as water) and minimise the generation of pollution and waste from existing building stock.

POLICY 7.14 Improving Air Quality

Strategic

The Mayor recognises the importance of tackling air pollution and improving air quality to London's development and the health and well-being of its people. He will work with strategic partners to ensure that the spatial, climate change, transport and design policies of this plan support implementation of his Air Quality and Transport strategies to achieve reductions in pollutant emissions and minimize public exposure to pollution.

POLICY 7.15 Reducing and Managing Noise and Managing and Enhancing Soundscapes

Strategic

The transport, spatial and design policies of this plan will be implemented in order to reduce noise and support the objectives of

the Mayor's Ambient Noise Strategy.

Adopted Camden Local Plan July 2017

Policies

Policy G1 Delivery and location of growth

Policy C6 Access for all Policy

A1 Managing the impact of development

Policy D1 Design

Policy D2 Heritage Policy

CC1 Climate change mitigation

Policy CC2 Adapting to climate change

Policy T4 Sustainable movement of goods and materials

Camden SPG Planning Guidance

CPG1 (Design) 2018

CPG6 (Amenity) 2018

Policy C2 Community Facilities

The Council will work with its partners to ensure that community facilities and services are developed and modernised to meet the changing needs of our community and react new approaches to the delivery of services.

The Council will:

- seek planning obligations to secure new and improved community facilities and services to mitigate the impact of developments. The Council may also fund improvements to community facilities using receipts from the Community Infrastructure Levy where this is identified on the Council's CIL funding list;
- expect a developer proposing additional floorspace in community use, or a new community facility, to reach agreement with the Council on its continuing maintenance and other future funding requirements;
- ensure that facilities provide access to a service on foot and by sustainable modes of travel;
- facilitate multi-purpose community facilities and the secure sharing or extended use of facilities that can be accessed by the

wider community, except for facilities occupied by the emergency services due to their distinct operating needs;

- support the investment plans of educational, health, scientific and research bodies to expand and enhance their operations, taking into account the social and economic benefits they generate for Camden, London and the UK. In assessing proposals, the Council will also balance the impact proposals may have on residential amenity and transport infrastructure;
- seek the inclusion of measures which address the needs of community groups and foster community integration;
- ensure existing community facilities are retained recognising their benefit to the community, including protected groups, unless one of the following tests is met:

a replacement facility of a similar nature is provided that meets the needs of the local population or its current, or intended, users;

- the existing premises are no longer required or viable in their existing use and there is no alternative community use capable of meeting the needs of the local area. Where it has been demonstrated to the Council's satisfaction there is no reasonable prospect of a community use, then our preferred

alternative will be the maximum viable amount of affordable housing;

- take into account listing or nomination of 'Assets of Community Value' as a material planning consideration and encourage communities to nominate Assets of Community Value.

In the explanatory text it recognises that in paragraph 4.33:

Hampstead and Belsize Park have a very high concentration of schools where significant issues exist concerning the 'school run'. We will refuse applications for new schools or the expansion of existing schools in these areas, unless it can be demonstrated the number of traffic movements will not increase. Policy A1 Managing the impact of development refers to how the Council will manage the impact of traffic movements.

Policy A1 Managing the Impact of Development

The Council will seek to protect the quality of life of occupiers and neighbours. We will grant permission for development unless this causes unacceptable harm to amenity.

We will:

- seek to ensure that the amenity of communities, occupiers and

neighbours is protected;

- seek to ensure development contributes towards strong and successful communities by balancing the needs of development with the needs and characteristics of local areas and communities;
- resist development that fails to adequately assess and address transport impacts affecting communities, occupiers, neighbours and the existing transport network; and
- require mitigation measures where necessary.

The factors we will consider include:

- visual privacy, outlook;
- sunlight, daylight and overshadowing;
- artificial lighting levels;
- transport impacts, including the use of Transport Assessments, Travel Plans and Delivery and Servicing Management Plans;
- impacts of the construction phase, including the use of

Construction Management Plans;

- noise and vibration levels;
- odour, fumes and dust;
- microclimate;

Policy A4 Noise and Vibration

The Council will seek to ensure that noise and vibration is controlled and managed.

Development should have regard to Camden's Noise and Vibration Thresholds (Appendix 3). We will not grant planning permission for:

- development likely to generate unacceptable noise and vibration impacts; or
- development sensitive to noise in locations which experience high levels of noise, unless appropriate attenuation measures can be provided and will not harm the continued operation of existing uses.

We will only grant permission for noise generating development,

including any plant and machinery, if it can be operated without causing harm to amenity. We will also seek to minimise the impact on local amenity from deliveries and from the demolition and construction phases of development.

Policy D1 Design

The Council will seek to secure high quality design in development. The Council will require that development:

- respects local context and character;
- preserves or enhances the historic environment and heritage assets in accordance with Policy D2 Heritage;
- is sustainable in design and construction, incorporating best practice in resource management and climate change mitigation and adaptation;
- is of sustainable and durable construction and adaptable to different activities and land uses;
- comprises details and materials that are of high quality and complement the local character;

- integrates well with the surrounding streets and open spaces, improving movement through the site and wider area with direct, accessible and easily recognisable routes and contributes positively to the street frontage;

is inclusive and accessible for all;

- promotes health;
- is secure and designed to minimise crime and antisocial behaviour;
- responds to natural features and preserves gardens and other open space;
- incorporates high quality landscape design (including public art, where appropriate) and maximises opportunities for greening for example through planting of trees and other soft landscaping,
- incorporates outdoor amenity space;
- preserves strategic and local views;
- for housing, provides a high standard of accommodation; and

- carefully integrates building services equipment.

The Council will resist development of poor design that fails to take the opportunities available for improving the character and quality of an area and the way it functions.

Policy D2 Heritage

The Council will preserve and, where appropriate, enhance Camden's rich and diverse heritage assets and their settings, including conservation areas, listed buildings, archaeological remains, scheduled ancient monuments and historic parks and gardens and locally listed heritage assets.

Conservation areas

Conservation areas are designated heritage assets and this section should be read in conjunction with the section above headed 'designated heritage assets'. In order to maintain the character of Camden's conservation areas, the Council will take account of conservation area statements, appraisals and management strategies when assessing applications within conservation areas.

The Camden CIL Charging Schedule and Section 106

All developments should be assessed against the CIL charging schedule. Developments may require Section 106 contributions.

Having run through in detail the planning policy position to understand the material considerations, it is now considered appropriate to focus in on each of the issues, and how these policies would relate to the proposals before the Local Planning Authority.

Section 5 JUSTIFICATION FOR PLANNING

Previous consents are relevant to this application, including:

2011/6369/P in which planning permission was granted on the 5 March 2012 for alterations to front façade including replacement of front entrance with replacement canopy, cladding of stair tower on north west facing elevation of building, installation of 3 cycle stands, and installation of planters and soft landscaping with floodlights to frontage of existing school (Class D1).

2012/2371/P in which planning permission was granted on the 17th October 2012 for erection of a sports hall with adjacent ancillary store at rear of school building.

2012/3984/C in which conservation area consent was granted on the 17th October 2012 in tandem with the above application for demolition of existing portacabin structure at rear of school building.

2019/1698/P an application for stand alone changing block was approved on the 25 June 2019.

2018/5196/PRE a pre application for the proposal including changing room (already approved) replacement stairs and extended foyer was received. The detailed advice was given in section 1 of the document along with a response on how this had been addressed.

Education, Employment and Opportunity

The NPPF July 2018 sets out clearly the rationale and aim of sustainable development in paragraph 7 and 8, namely:

- an economic role – to help build a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right type is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth, innovation and improved productivity; and by identifying and coordinating the provision of infrastructure;
- a social objective – to support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by fostering a well-designed and safe built environment, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities' health, social and cultural well-being; and
- an environmental role – to contribute to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment; including making the

effective use of land, helping to improve biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change including moving to a low carbon economy.

These proposals reinforce the present and future economic role not just for teachers at the school but future employment for pupils when they leave school. By investing in improving existing facilities we lay the foundations for a fully educated and fully active workforce in the future, thereby driving the economic success of the economy. By providing the right facilities for pupils it allows them to develop and to reach their full potential.

The school provides a crucial role in educating pupils on their roles and responsibilities and guides them on the path to adulthood and society. The school supports strong, vibrant and healthy communities and by providing the right buildings and accommodation through a high quality built environment it meets the community's needs. The building will provide and meet the curriculum requirements.

It also meets the key requirement of paragraph 94 on which **‘the Government attaches great importance to ensuring that a sufficient choice of school places is available to meet the needs of existing and new communities. Local planning authorities should take a**

proactive, positive and collaborative approach to meeting this requirement, and to development that will widen choice in education. They should:

- **give great weight to the need to create, expand or alter schools; and**
- **work with schools promoters, delivery partners and statutory bodies to identify and resolve key planning issues before applications are submitted’.**

Crucially, it also meets the emphasises at the heart of the NPPF that there is a **‘presumption in favour of sustainable development**, which should be seen as a golden thread running through both plan making and decision taking. **This means approving development proposals that accord with the development plan without delay’.**

This strategy complies with NPPF July 2018 policy. The London Plan promotes education services in policy 3.18 encouraging Boroughs to ensure the demand for these services are being met while the newly adopted Local Plan through education provision Policy C2 Community facilities advises new social and community facilities will be supported, subject to movement and amenity within Belsize and Hampstead due to number of existing facilities. This proposal is for improvements to the existing school buildings only.

Design and Conservation Area

Good design is central to all objectives of the London Plan and is specifically promoted by the policies contained within Chapter 7, which address both general design principles and specific design issues. London Plan Policy 7.6 sets out the overarching design principles for development in London.

All development within the Borough should create a high quality urban environment. There should be an approach to accessible and inclusive urban design that considers how good design, quality public realm and land use can be integrated.

The proposals involve the replacement of the stair tower with a new functional stair tower, which can be used by pupils, teachers and cleaners and takes the pressure away from the existing and substandard stair within the building and the present emergency only stair it replaces. It is of a high quality design and materials, as set out in the accompanying Design and Access Statement. The foyer comprises a new, open and welcoming entrance, while providing the space for pupils to gather and go through security into registration. It also acts as a focal and meeting point for parents. The proposal is considered to sit well and respect the Conservation Area. A green/sedum roof is proposed for the roof of the foyer.

The hours of operation of the lighting would be to 21.00pm hours Monday to Friday to allow the cleaners to work through each floor of the building. There will be no light spill beyond these hours or at the weekend or bank holidays.

These proposals are considered to meet the NPPF July 2018 as updated February 2019 as well as Policies A1 Impact of Development, D1 Design and D2 Heritage of the Camden Local Plan July 2017.

Sustainability

Through the NPPF July 2018 and updated February 2019, The London Plan and local policies the proposals and design have addressed this.

London Plan policies 5.2 to 5.4 focus on mitigation of climate change and require a reduction in a development's carbon dioxide emissions through the use of passive design, energy efficiency and renewable energy measures. Policies 5.3, 5.9 to 5.12, 5.15 and 6.13 of the London Plan are also relevant and require developments to make the fullest contribution to tackling climate change by minimising carbon dioxide emissions, adopting sustainable design and construction measures and prioritising decentralised energy, including renewables.

The proposals include a green sedum roof to the foyer. Other features include energy efficient lighting and all proposals will meet Building Regulations.

Secured By Design

Both the London Plan and local policies seek to address crime.

The existing building is secure and no new features are required. The Cognita Schools Group and North Bridge House Senior have many years experience in ensuring high quality and secure design for its students.

The door openings will be retained in the same approximate positions and site perimeter and security will remain as existing. There would be no new openings around the site and access and egress will be as existing. The rear garden area is secure around and behind the building and no works are considered necessary to it.

The proposal is considered to provide a safe and secure environment and to meet the key proposals in Secured by Design as well as London Plan policy 7.3.I.

The proposal will therefore accord with NPPF July 2018 and Updated February 2019, London Plan and local policies on safe design.

Transport and Parking

The proposal seeks to enhance existing school facilities. The proposal is for a replacement stair tower and enlarged foyer only no change to the parking and layout is proposed. The proposal would not generate additional transport movements or parking requirements.

Servicing / Service Management Strategy

The proposal will not impact on servicing or service management strategy.

Noise

National Guidance is set out in NPPF and Building Bulletin 93 'Acoustic Design of Schools', BB10 'Ventilation in School Buildings', while more local guidance is set out in the London Plan Chapter 7 policy 7.14. Policy A1 Managing the Impact of Development and Policy A4 Noise and Vibration work to reduce noise pollution and its impacts and protect Noise Sensitive receptors from noise. These seek to control and minimise noise and disturbance.

The planning system has the task of guiding development to the most appropriate locations. It will be hard to reconcile some land uses, such as housing, hospitals or schools, with other activities which generate high levels of noise, but the planning system should ensure that, wherever practicable, noise-sensitive developments are separated from major sources of noise (such as road, rail and air transport and certain types of industrial development). It is equally important that new development involving noisy activities should, if possible, be sited away from noise-sensitive land uses. Where it is not possible to achieve such a separation of land uses, local planning authorities should consider whether it is practicable to control or reduce noise levels, or to mitigate the impact of noise, through the use of conditions or planning obligations.

The schools hours will remain the same.

No additional external noise sources will be generated through the proposal.

Air Quality

National Guidance is set out in NPPF and the Environmental Protection UK document “Development Control: Planning for Air Quality” (2010). Strategic guidance is set out in the London Plan in Chapter 7. These

policies seek in particular to control and minimise pollution and particularly promote a reduction of air pollution, with the aim of meeting the objectives for pollutants set out in the national strategy.

The proposal would have no adverse impact on air quality and the proposal accords with policy.

Section 7 CONCLUSION

As set out in the section 6 above, the proposal has been considered in line with national and local policy, and it is considered that the proposed development would accord with the relevant policies.

The proposal has been carefully sited in relation to the site, neighbours and the Conservation Area.

The materials are to meet Camden policies and ensure the building sits well within the site, as viewed by neighbours and within the Conservation Area.

Hours for the lighting are limited to 21.00pm Monday to Friday only.

As such, the proposal would accord with the strategic aims of local and national policy.