

Chairman, Councillors,

My name is Ben Peirson and I represent AECOM who act as planning agent to Fordstam Ltd; the Applicant for this planning application.

You have before you a scheme that would deliver a modern football stadium of considerable architectural distinction, which will be recognised as one of the world's most distinguished sports venues; located in the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham. Not only would the new stadium be an important addition to the local townscape, it would contribute greatly to London's visitor economy and to the social and economic prosperity of the local community.

The scope and content of the planning application is the culmination of considerable engagement between the project team, Council officers and technical consultees over several years to ensure that all relevant planning issues associated with the scheme have been satisfactorily addressed.

Extensive consultation has been carried out with local residents, local amenity groups and varied organisations as well as other key stakeholders such as Transport for London, Network Rail, The Royal Parks, Historic England, the Metropolitan Police and the Greater London Authority. Public attendance at the consultation events held at Stamford Bridge Stadium was impressive. Beyond those events, the Applicant has also engaged with numerous residents groups on many occasions throughout the planning process to discuss the scheme, take feedback and answer questions.

Following public consultation on the original planning application submitted in November 2015, a series of design refinements were made to the scheme in response to comments received by consultees as well as feedback from the Council's Design Review Panel on the original proposals.

Design amendments have included:

- Reconfiguration of the decking platforms over the railways, particularly to the east, to cut back from neighbouring residential properties;
- Redefining the design treatment to parts of the site boundary to include additional perimeter planting;
- Revised landscape proposals to the grounds, providing increased soft landscape, tree planting and green roofs which deliver on-site biodiversity enhancements;
- Incorporation of on-site renewable and low energy in the form of a CHP plant;
- Adjustments to the stadium massing and its roof geometry, as well as refining the façade treatment;
- Reduction in parking spaces; and
- Refinement to the accessibility strategy.

The impact of the proposed development has been carefully considered and assessed through a number of supporting documents including a comprehensive Environmental Statement, Transport Assessment and Travel Plan and Outline Construction and Logistics Plan, amongst others.

The Applicant is committed to on-going consultation with those neighbours with particular sensitivities throughout the design development and construction process. Indeed, A Community Liaison Group will be established through a planning condition for this purpose.

The proposed development is compliant with the development plan as a whole. In particular, the scheme accords with the overarching objective of development plan policies to support the continued success of a major sporting venue in the borough and its contribution to the local and wider London economy.

We request therefore that members approve the application in line with the officer recommendation.