

Mrs Morton
Flat 2 8 Dorset Place
Edinburgh
EH11 1JQ

Decision date: 12 October 2022

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACTS
DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013

Permission for change of use to enable property to be offered as a short term let.
At Flat 2 8 Dorset Place Edinburgh EH11 1JQ

Application No: 22/02965/FUL

DECISION NOTICE

With reference to your application for Planning Permission registered on 12 July 2022, this has been decided by **Local Delegated Decision**. The Council in exercise of its powers under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Acts and regulations, now determines the application as **Refused** in accordance with the particulars given in the application.

Any condition(s) attached to this consent, with reasons for imposing them, or reasons for refusal, are shown below;

Conditions:-

1. The proposal is contrary to Local Development Plan Policy Hou 7 in respect of Inappropriate Uses in Residential Areas, as the use of the property as a short stay let will have a materially detrimental effect on the living conditions and amenity of nearby residents.

Please see the guidance notes on our [decision page](#) for further information, including how to appeal or review your decision.

Drawings 01,02, represent the determined scheme. Full details of the application can be found on the [Planning and Building Standards Online Services](#)

The reason why the Council made this decision is as follows:

This determination does not carry with it any necessary consent or approval for the proposed development under other statutory enactments.

Should you have a specific enquiry regarding this decision please contact Lesley Porteous directly at lesley.porteous@edinburgh.gov.uk.



Chief Planning Officer
PLACE
The City of Edinburgh Council

NOTES

1. If the applicant is aggrieved by the decision to refuse permission for or approval required by a condition in respect of the proposed development, or to grant permission or approval subject to conditions, the applicant may require the planning authority to review the case under section 43A of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 within three months beginning with the date of this notice. The Notice of Review can be made online at www.eplanning.scot or forms can be downloaded from that website. Paper forms should be addressed to the City of Edinburgh Planning Local Review Body, G.2, Waverley Court, 4 East Market Street, Edinburgh, EH8 8BG. For enquiries about the Local Review Body, please email localreviewbody@edinburgh.gov.uk.

2. If permission to develop land is refused or granted subject to conditions and the owner of the land claims that the land has become incapable of reasonably beneficial use in its existing state and cannot be rendered capable of reasonably beneficial use by carrying out of any development which has been or would be permitted, the owner of the land may serve on the planning authority a purchase notice requiring the purchase of the owner of the land's interest in the land accordance with Part 5 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997.

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Report of Handling

Application for Planning Permission
Flat 2 8 Dorset Place, Edinburgh, EH11 1JQ

Proposal: Permission for change of use to enable property to be offered as a short term let.

Item – Local Delegated Decision
Application Number – 22/02965/FUL
Ward – B10 - Morningside

Recommendation

It is recommended that this application be **Refused** subject to the details below.

Summary

The proposal does not comply with the relevant policy of the development plan as it would have a materially detrimental effect on the living conditions and amenity of nearby residents. It does not comply with the objectives of SPP, as it will not contribute towards sustainable development and a sustainable community. There are no material considerations that outweigh this conclusion.

SECTION A – Application Background

Site Description

The application site is a two bedroom flat on the ground floor at 8 Dorset Place, Polwarth. The property shares its access to the south side walkway of the Union Canal via a communal stair.

The property in Dorset Place is part of a four storey tenement block in a larger contemporary development. There are eight flats in the block which all share a communal stair and access door. The surrounding area is entirely residential. The development is bordered on the northern edge by the Union Canal. The nearest concentration of shops, cafes, restaurants and hospitality venues is a ten minute walk away in Dundee Terrace. Public transport links are accessible from the site.

Description Of The Proposal

The application is for a change of use from residential to short term let (sui-generis). No internal or external physical changes are proposed. The applicant has advised that the

property has been used as a short term let since 2018. Therefore, the application is retrospective.

Supporting Information

Supporting Statement.

Relevant Site History

No relevant site history.

Other Relevant Site History

No other relevant site planning history.

Consultation Engagement

No consultations.

Publicity and Public Engagement

Date of Neighbour Notification: 12 October 2022

Date of Advertisement: Not Applicable

Date of Site Notice: Not Applicable

Number of Contributors: 1

Section B - Assessment

Determining Issues

This report will consider the proposed development under Sections 25 and 37 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (the 1997 Act):

Do the proposals comply with the development plan?

If the proposals do comply with the development plan, are there any compelling material considerations for not approving them?

If the proposals do not comply with the development plan, are there any compelling material considerations for approving them?

In the assessment of material considerations this report will consider:

- the Scottish Planning Policy presumption in favour of sustainable development, which is a significant material consideration due to the development plan being over 5 years old;
- equalities and human rights;
- public representations; and
- any other identified material considerations.

Assessment

To address these determining issues, it needs to be considered whether:

a) The proposals comply with the development plan?

The Development Plan comprises the Strategic and Local Development Plans. The relevant Edinburgh Local Development Plan 2016 (LDP) policies to be considered are:

- LDP Housing policy Hou 7
- LDP Transport policies Tra 2 and Tra 3.

The non-statutory Guidance for Businesses is a material consideration that is relevant when considering policy Hou 7 and the Edinburgh Design Guidance is a material consideration when considering policies Tra 2 and Tra 3.

Proposed Use and Principle of Development

The application site is situated in the urban area as defined in the adopted Edinburgh Local Development Plan (LDP) 2016.

The main policy that is applicable to the assessment of short-stay commercial visitor accommodation (SCVA) lets is LDP policy Hou 7 (Inappropriate Uses in Residential Areas) which states that developments, including changes of use which would have a materially detrimental impact on the living conditions of nearby residents, will not be permitted.

The non-statutory Guidance for Businesses sets out a number of criteria that are considered in an assessment of the materiality of a change of use of dwellings to an STL:

- The character of the new use and of the wider area;
- The size of the property;
- The pattern of activity associated with the use including numbers of occupants, the period of use, issues of noise, disturbance and parking demand; and
- The nature and character of any services provided.

Paragraph 220 of the LDP acknowledges that tourism is the biggest source of employment in Edinburgh, providing jobs for over 31,000 people. Whilst there is not a specific LDP policy relating to the jobs created through the required care, maintenance and upkeep of SVCA properties, the economic benefits are a material planning consideration.

The two-bedroom property is on the ground floor of a block of eight flats accessed via a communal stair. There are two access doors to the flat block. The front accesses the south side walkway of the Union Canal. The rear door accesses the communal gardens of the property.

The property is in a four-storey block which is part of a much larger residential development. The use of the property as a short term let would have the potential to introduce an increased frequency of movement to the flat and in the street at unsociable hours. The proposed two bedroom short stay use would enable four or more visitors to arrive and stay at the premises for a short period of time on a regular basis throughout the year in a manner dissimilar to that of permanent residents. There is also no guarantee that guests would not come and go frequently throughout the day and night and transient visitors may have less regard for neighbours' amenity than long standing residents. This would be significantly different from the ambient background

noise that residents might reasonably expect and may have a detrimental impact on the sense of community.

The location of the flat, being in a four storey tenement block, surrounded by a high number of residential units, creates a situation where such a use could instead bring additional noise and disturbance immediately outside the flat on the canal walkway.

Anti-social behaviour can be dealt with through relevant legislation, such as by Police Scotland or Environmental Health Acts.

The proposal will have a materially detrimental effect on the living conditions and amenity of nearby residents. Therefore, it does not comply with LDP policy Hou 7.

Parking Standards

LDP policy Tra 2 - Private Car Parking encourages low car provision where a development is accessible to public transport stops and that existing off-street car parking spaces could adequately accommodate the proposed development.

LDP policy Tra 3 - Private Cycle Parking supports development where proposed cycle parking and storage provision complies with the standards set out in Council Guidance.

The property has access to a private car parking space. The site is accessible by public transport on Gilmore Place to the south. There is no cycle parking standards for SCVAs. Bikes could be parked within the property if required. The proposals comply with policies Tra 2 and Tra 3.

Conclusion in relation to the Development Plan

The proposal does not comply with LDP policy Hou 7 as the change of use of this property to a short term visitor let would materially harm neighbouring amenity.

b) There are any other material considerations which must be addressed?

The following material planning considerations have been identified:

SPP - Sustainable development

Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) is a significant material consideration due to the LDP being over 5 years old. Paragraph 28 of SPP gives a presumption in favour of development which contributes to sustainable development. Paragraph 29 outlines the thirteen principles which should guide the assessment of sustainable development.

The proposal does not comply with Paragraph 29 of SPP. It would not protect the amenity of existing development nor contribute to a sustainable community and, therefore, will not contribute to sustainable development.

Emerging policy context

The Draft National Planning Framework 4 has been consulted on but has not yet been adopted. As such, little weight can be attached to it as a material consideration in the determination of this application.

While City Plan 2030 represents the settled will of the Council, it has not yet been submitted to Scottish Ministers for examination. As such, little weight can be attached to it as a material consideration in the determination of this application.

Equalities and human rights

Due regard has been given to section 149 of the Equalities Act 2010. No impacts have been identified.

Consideration has been given to human rights. No impacts have been identified through the assessment and no comments have been received in relation to human rights.

Public representations

A summary of the representations is provided below:

material considerations

- Not in accordance with policy Hou 7 of the LDP. Addressed in a) above.
- Not supportive of Scottish Planning Policy on 'socially sustainable places'. Addressed in b) above.

non-material considerations

- Does not accord with Scottish Government Housing Policy on More Homes. The application has to be assessed against the Strategic and Local Development Plans.

Conclusion in relation to identified material considerations

The proposals do not raise any issues in relation to other material considerations identified.

Overall conclusion

The proposal does not comply with the relevant policy of the development plan as it would have a materially detrimental effect on the living conditions and amenity of nearby residents. It does not comply with the objectives of SPP, as it will not contribute towards sustainable development and a sustainable community. There are no material considerations that outweigh this conclusion.

Section C - Conditions/Reasons/Informatives

The recommendation is subject to the following;

1. The proposal is contrary to Local Development Plan Policy Hou 7 in respect of Inappropriate Uses in Residential Areas, as the use of the property as a short stay let will have a materially detrimental effect on the living conditions and amenity of nearby residents.

Background Reading/External References

To view details of the application go to the [Planning Portal](#)

Further Information - [Local Development Plan](#)

Date Registered: 12 July 2022

Drawing Numbers/Scheme

01,02

Scheme 1

David Givan
Chief Planning Officer
PLACE
The City of Edinburgh Council

Contact: Lesley Porteous, Planning Officer
E-mail:lesley.porteous@edinburgh.gov.uk

Appendix 1

Consultations

No consultations undertaken.

Comments for Planning Application 22/02965/FUL

Application Summary

Application Number: 22/02965/FUL

Address: Flat 2 8 Dorset Place Edinburgh EH11 1JQ

Proposal: Permission for change of use to enable property to be offered as a short term let.

Case Officer: Local1 Team

Customer Details

Name: Lord Cockburn Association

Address: 1 Trunks Close, 55 High Street, Edinburgh EH1 1SR

Comment Details

Commenter Type: Amenity Body

Stance: Customer objects to the Planning Application

Comment Reasons:

Comment: The Cockburn has studied this application and would wish to lodge a formal objection to it.

It is our view that in this residential shared stair context the proposed change of use is not in accordance with Policy Housing 7 'Inappropriate Uses in Residential Areas' as it would have a materially detrimental effect on the living conditions of other residents of the main door accessed residential stair, and so should not be permitted.

In addition, the proposed change of use is not supportive of either Scottish Government Housing policy on More homes - "everyone has a quality home that they can afford and that meets their needs" or Scottish Planning Policy on "socially sustainable places" and "supporting delivery of accessible housing".