

DELEGATED OFFICER REPORT



WOKINGHAM
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Application Number:	250903
Site Address:	18 Ambler Drive, Arborfield, Wokingham, RG2 9TL
Expiry Date:	17 June 2025
Site Visit Date:	29 May 2025
Proposal: Householder application for the proposed garage conversion.	

PLANNING CONSTRAINTS/STATUS

Scale and Location of Development Proposals

PLANNING POLICY

National Policy	National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) National Planning Policy Guidance (NPPG)
Core Strategy (CS)	CP1 – Sustainable Development CP3 – General Principles for Development CP6 – Managing Travel Demand CP9 – Scale and Location of Development Proposals
MDD Local Plan (MDD)	CC01 – Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development CC02 – Development Limits CC07 – Parking
Other	Borough Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document

NO RELEVANT PLANNING HISTORY

CONSULTATION RESPONSES

Internal

WBC Highways – No objection
WBC CIL – No comments

External

None

REPRESENTATIONS

Finchampstead Parish Council	No objection
Ward Member(s)	No comments received
Neighbours	No comments received

APPRAISAL

Principle of Development: The National Planning Policy Framework has an underlying presumption in favour of sustainable development which is carried through to the local Development Plan. The Managing Development Delivery Local Plan Policy

CC01 states that planning applications that accord with the policies in the Development Plan for Wokingham Borough will be approved without delay, unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

The site is located within settlement limits and as such the development should be acceptable providing that it complies with the principles stated in the Core Strategy. Policy CP3 of the Core Strategy states that development must be appropriate in terms of its scale of activity, mass, layout, built form, height, materials and character to the area in which it is located and must be of high quality design without detriment to the amenities of adjoining land uses and occupiers.

Character of the Area: The conversion of the garage would be facilitated by the addition of fenestration and a door. These minor changes would not detract from the appearance of the site, nor have an unacceptable impact on the street scene. Accordingly, the proposal would have an acceptable visual impact and would comply with policies CP1 & CP3 of the Core Strategy in this respect.

Neighbouring Amenity: Due to the nature of the proposal, there are no concerns on neighbouring amenity grounds.

Highway Access and Parking Provision: The applicant proposes to convert the existing garage to one additional habitable room, which would increase the numbers of habitable rooms from 5 to 6. The retainment of two existing driveway parking would meet the council's requirement, which is acceptable. The proposed store would remain suitable for cycle storage, which is welcome.

Conclusion: For all the above, the proposal is acceptable, and the application is recommended for approval.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL): When planning permission is granted for a development that is CIL liable, the Council will issue a liability notice as soon as practicable after the day on which the planning permission first permits development. Completing the assumption of liability notice is a statutory requirement to be completed for all CIL liable applications.

The Public Sector Equality Duty (Equality Act 2010): In determining this application the Council is required to have due regard to its obligations under the Equality Act 2010. The key equalities protected characteristics include age, disability, gender, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief. There is no indication or evidence (including from consultation on the application) that persons with protected characteristics as identified by the Act have or will have different needs, experiences, issues and priorities in relation to this particular planning application and there would be no significant adverse impacts as a result of the development.

RECOMMENDATION

Conditions agreed:	Not required
Recommendation:	Approve

Date:	6 June 2025
Earliest date for decision:	14 May 2025

Recommendation agreed by: (Authorised Officer)	<i>JMM</i>
Date:	9 June 2025