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**Planning and Development Acts 2000 to 2020**

**Planning Authority: Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council**

**Application** for permission under section 4 of the Planning and Development (Housing) and Residential Tenancies Act 2016, in accordance with plans and particulars, lodged with An Bord Pleanála on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of February 2021 by Colbeam Limited care of Thornton O'Connor Town Planning of No. 1 Kilmacud Road Upper, Dundrum, Dublin.

**Proposed Development comprises of the following:**

The construction of a Student Accommodation development containing 698 number bedspaces with associated facilities located in eight number blocks, which range in height from part three number storeys to part six number storeys over part lower ground floor level, seven number storeys as viewed from a courtyard that will be internal to the scheme at lower ground floor level.

Some 679 number bedspaces are provided in 99 number clusters ranging in size from five number bedspaces to eight number bedspaces, each with a communal Living, kitchen and Dining room. The remaining 19 number bedspaces are accessible studios.

The development includes the provision of communal residential amenity space at lower ground floor level (349 square metres) including the provision of a movie room (108 square metres), a music room (42 square metres) and a laundry (37 square metres); communal residential amenity space (1,356 square metres) at ground floor level including the provision of a gym (228 square metres), reception desk and seating area (173 square metres), a common room (338 square metres), a study space (104 square metres), a library (64 square metres), a yoga studio (74 square metres), a prayer room (33 square metres) and group dining (33 square metres).

The development also includes staff and administrative facilities (195 square metres); nine number car parking spaces; four number motorcycle parking spaces; 860 number cycle parking spaces; refuse stores; signage; an Electricity Supply Board substation and switch room; boundary treatments; green roofs; photovoltaic panels; hard and soft landscaping; plant; lighting; and all other associated site works above and below ground.

The development includes the demolition of part of the Goatstown Afterschool building (558 square metres) and the construction of a new external wall to the remaining ope. In addition, a prefabricated structure (161 square metres) located to the south of the Afterschool building is proposed to be removed all located at Our Lady's Grove (which includes an existing childcare facility 'The Grove After School Care', Our Lady's Grove, Goatstown Road, Goatstown, Dublin 14.

## **Decision**

**Grant permission for the above proposed development in accordance with the said plans and particulars based on the reasons and considerations under and subject to the conditions set out below.**

## **Matters Considered**

In making its decision, the Board had regard to those matters to which, by virtue of the Planning and Development Acts and Regulations made thereunder, it was required to have regard. Such matters included any submissions and observations received by it in accordance with statutory provisions.

## **Reasons and Considerations**

In coming to its decision, the Board had regard to the following:

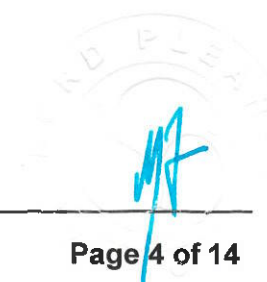
- (a) The planning history of the site;
- (b) The location of the site on lands with a zoning objective for residential development;
- (c) The policies and objectives as set out in the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Development Plan 2016-2022;
- (d) The nature, scale and design of the proposed development;
- (e) The pattern of existing development in the area;
- (f) The location of the site on urban lands accessible to the bus network;
- (g) The provisions for the National Student Accommodation Strategy issued by the Department of Education in July 2017;
- (h) The provisions of Rebuilding Ireland Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness 2016;
- (i) The National Planning Framework, Project Ireland 2040, issued by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in February 2018;
- (j) The provisions of the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Eastern and Midland Region 2019-2031;
- (k) The provisions of the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (DMURS) issued by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport and the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government in March 2019, as amended;

- (l) The Guidelines for Sustainable Residential Developments in Urban Areas and the accompanying Urban Design Manual, A Best Practice Guide, issued by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in May 2009;
- (m) The Urban Development and Building Heights Guidelines for Planning Authorities, issued by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in December 2018;
- (n) The submissions and observations received; and
- (o) The Chief Executive's Report of the planning authority;
- (p) The report of the Planning Inspector.

The Board, in deciding not to accept the recommendations for refusal as contained in the Report of the Chief Executive of the planning authority, agreed with the Inspector's assessment and recommendation on those matters.

### **Appropriate Assessment**

The Board completed an Appropriate Assessment screening exercise in relation to the potential effects of the proposed development on designated European Sites, taking into account the nature, scale and location of the proposed development within an zoned and adequately serviced urban site, the information contained in the Screening Report for Appropriate Assessment and the Ecological Impact Assessment submitted with the application, the Inspector's Report, and the submissions on file. In completing the screening exercise, the Board adopted the report of the Inspector and concluded that, by itself or in combination with other development in the vicinity, the proposed development would not be likely to have a significant effect on any European Site in view of the conservation objectives of such Sites, and that a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment is not, therefore, required.



## **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) - Preliminary Examination**

The Board agreed with the Inspector's examination as set out in the Inspector's report, and recommendation in respect of EIA screening, and concludes that, having regard to the nature and scale of the proposed development, its location on zoned and serviced lands in a built up area, the existing pattern of development in the area, that it is outside of and not connected to any sensitive location, that there is no real likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from the proposed development. The need for environmental impact assessment can, therefore, be excluded at preliminary examination stage and the Board is satisfied that a screening determination is not required.

### **Conclusions on Proper Planning and Sustainable Development**

The Board considered that the proposed development is, apart from the parameters of the Building Height as set out in Policy UD6: Building Height Strategy; Density as set out in Policy RES 5: the Institutional Lands Objective and Section 2.1.3.5 and Part V and Affordable Housing as set out in Section 7.6 of Appendix 2 of the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Development Plan 2016-2022 is broadly compliant with the provisions of the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Development Plan 2016-2022 and would therefore be in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

The Board considers that, while a grant of permission for the proposed Strategic Housing Development would not materially contravene a zoning objective of the Development Plan, it would materially contravene the provisions of the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Development Plan 2016-2022 with regard to building height, density, open space and Part V and Affordable Housing.

The Board considers that, having regard to the provisions of section 37(2)(b)(i) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, the grant of permission in material contravention of the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Development Plan 2016-2022 would be justified for the following reasons and considerations:

- The proposed development falls within the definition of strategic housing as set out in Planning and Development (Housing) and Residential Tenancies Act 2016, as amended.
- The Government's policy to provide more housing as set out in Rebuilding Ireland Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness 2016.

The Board considers that, having regard to the provisions of section 37(2)(b)(iii) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, the grant of permission in material contravention of Policy UD6: Building Height Strategy of the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Development Plan 2016-2022 would be justified for the following reasons and considerations:

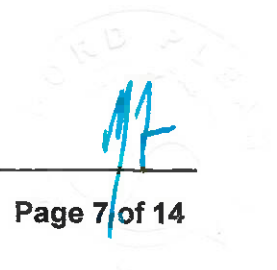
- Objectives 13, and 35 of Project Ireland 2040 National Planning Framework which support increased residential densities and building heights at appropriate locations.
- Specific Planning Policy Requirement 3 of the 2018 Urban Development and Building Heights Guidelines for Planning Authorities, issued by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in December 2018 which support increased building heights and densities.

The Board considers that, having regard to the provisions of section 37(2)(b)(iii) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, the grant of permission in material contravention of Policy RES5, Institutional Lands Objective and Section 2.1.3.5 in relation to density of the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Development Plan 2016-2022 would be justified for the following reasons and considerations:

- Objective 35 of Project Ireland 2040 National Planning Framework which supports increased residential densities at appropriate locations.
- Regional Policy Objective 5.4 and Regional Policy Objective 5.5 of the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy 2019-2031 which encourage the provision of higher densities and the consolidation of Dublin and suburbs.

The Board considers that, having regard to the provisions of section 37(2)(b)(iv) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, the grant of permission in material contravention of the Part V and Affordable housing as set out in Section 7.6 of Appendix 2 of the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Development Plan 2016-2022 would be justified for the following reasons and considerations:

- Since the making of the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Development Plan 2016-2022 the Board did not apply Part V requirements for off campus student accommodation developments at Vector Motors site (formerly known as Victor Motors), Goatstown Road (An Bord Pleanála Reference Number ABP-308353-20); at the Avid Technology International site, Carmanhall Road, Sandford Industrial Estate, (An Bord Pleanála Reference Number ABP 303467-19) and at the Blakes and Esmonde Motors Site, Lower Kilmacud Road, Stillorgan (An Bord Pleanála Reference Number ABP-300520-18).



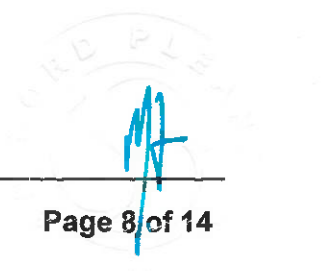
## Conditions

1. The development shall be carried out and completed in accordance with the plans and particulars lodged with the application except as may otherwise be required in order to comply with the following conditions. Where such conditions require details to be agreed with the planning authority, the developer shall agree such details in writing with the planning authority prior to commencement of development, and the development shall be carried out and completed in accordance with the agreed particulars. In default of agreement the matter(s) in dispute shall be referred to An Bord Pleanála for determination.

**Reason:** In the interest of clarity.

2. The proposed development hereby permitted shall only be occupied as student accommodation, in accordance with the definition of student accommodation provided for under section 13(d) of the Planning and Development (Housing) and Residential Tenancies Act 2016, as amended, and shall not be used for any other purpose without a prior grant of planning permission for change of use.

**Reason:** In the interest of residential amenity and to limit the scope of the proposed development to that for which the application was made.





3. The proposed development shall be implemented as follows:
  - (a) The student accommodation and complex shall be operated and managed in accordance with the measures indicated in the Student Accommodation Management Plan submitted with the application,
  - (b) Student House Units and Clusters shall not be amalgamated or combined.

**Reason:** In the interests of the amenities of occupiers of the units and surrounding properties.

4. The developer shall ensure that all construction methods and mitigation measures set out in the Ecological Impact Assessment are implemented in full, save as may be required by conditions set out below.

**Reason:** In the interest of protection of the environment.

5. Details of the materials, colours and textures of all the external finishes to the proposed buildings and details of all boundary treatments shall be as submitted with the application, unless otherwise agreed in writing with, the planning authority prior to commencement of development. In default of agreement the matter(s) in dispute shall be referred to An Bord Pleanála for determination.

**Reason:** In the interest of visual amenity.

6. No additional development shall take place above roof parapet level, including lift motor enclosures, air handling equipment, storage tanks, ducts or other external plant, telecommunication aerials, antennas or equipment, unless authorised by a further grant of planning permission.

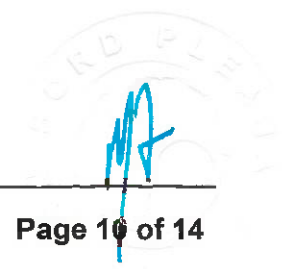
**Reason:** To protect the residential amenities of property in the vicinity and the visual amenities of the area.

7. Proposals for an apartment naming and numbering scheme and associated signage shall be submitted to, and agreed in writing with, the planning authority prior to commencement of development. Thereafter, all signs, and apartment numbers, shall be provided in accordance with the agreed scheme. The proposed names shall be based on local historical or topographical features, or other alternatives acceptable to the planning authority. No advertisements or marketing signage relating to the name(s) of the development shall be erected until the developer has obtained the planning authority's written agreement to the proposed name(s).

**Reason:** In the interest of urban legibility and to ensure the use of locally appropriate place names for new residential areas.

8. All service cables associated with the proposed development such as electrical, telecommunications and communal television shall be located underground. Ducting shall be provided by the developer to facilitate the provision of broadband infrastructure within the proposed development.

**Reason:** In the interests of visual and residential amenity.



9. Prior to the opening or occupation of the development, a Mobility Management Strategy including an interim or temporary strategy reflecting any requirements or adjustments relating to Covid-19 movement and travel patterns shall be submitted to and agreed in writing with the planning authority. This shall provide for incentives to encourage the use of public transport, cycling, walking and carpooling by residents, occupants and staff employed in the development and to reduce and regulate the extent of parking. Details may include the provision of centralised facilities within the commercial element of the development for bicycle parking, shower and changing facilities associated with the policies set out in the strategy. The interim or temporary strategy, where applicable, should reflect the requirements of Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets Interim Advice Note – Covid Pandemic Response (May, 2020). The mobility strategy shall be prepared and implemented by the management company for all units within the development.

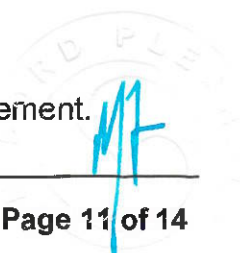
**Reason:** In the interest of encouraging the use of sustainable modes of transport and reflecting the needs of pedestrians and cyclists during Covid-19 pandemic.

10. Drainage arrangements including the attenuation and disposal of surface water, shall comply with the requirements of the planning authority for such works and services.

Prior to commencement of development the developer shall submit to the Planning Authority for written agreement a Stage 2 - Detailed Design Stage Storm Water Audit.

Upon Completion of the development, a Stage 3 - Completion Stormwater Audit to demonstrate Sustainable Urban Drainage System measures have been installed, and are working as designed and that there has been no misconnections or damage to storm water drainage infrastructure during construction, shall be submitted to the planning authority for written agreement.

**Reason:** In the interests of public health and surface water management.



11. Prior to commencement of development, the developer shall enter into water and/or waste water connection agreement(s) with Irish Water

**Reason:** In the interest of public health.

12. The site shall be landscaped, and earthworks carried out in accordance with the detailed comprehensive scheme of landscaping, which accompanied the application submitted, unless otherwise agreed in writing with, the planning authority prior to commencement of development.

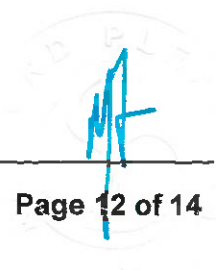
**Reason:** In the interest of residential and visual amenity.

13. A schedule of landscape maintenance shall be submitted to, and agreed in writing with, the planning authority prior to occupation of the development. This schedule shall cover a period of at least three years and shall include details of the arrangements for its implementation.

**Reason:** To provide for the satisfactory future maintenance of this development in the interest of visual amenity.

14. Site development and building works shall be carried out only between the hours of 0700 to 1900 Mondays to Fridays inclusive, between 0800 to 1400 hours on Saturdays and not at all on Sundays and public holidays. Deviation from these times will only be allowed in exceptional circumstances where prior written approval has been received from the planning authority.

**Reason:** In order to safeguard the residential amenities of property in the vicinity.



15. Construction and demolition waste shall be managed in accordance with a construction waste and demolition management plan, which shall be submitted to, and agreed in writing with, the planning authority prior to commencement of development. This plan shall be prepared in accordance with the "Best Practice Guidelines on the Preparation of Waste Management Plans for Construction and Demolition Projects", published by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in July 2006.

**Reason:** In the interest of sustainable waste management.

16. The construction of the development shall be managed in accordance with a Construction Management Plan, which shall be submitted to, and agreed in writing with, the planning authority prior to commencement of development. This plan shall provide details of intended construction practice for the development, including hours of working, noise management measures and off-site disposal of construction/demolition waste.


**Reason:** In the interests of public safety and residential amenity.

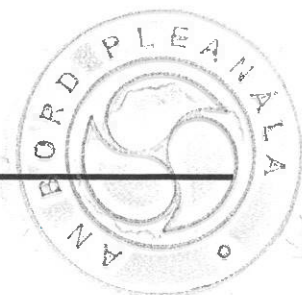
17. Prior to commencement of development, the developer shall lodge with the planning authority a cash deposit, a bond of an insurance company, or other security to secure the provision and satisfactory completion and maintenance until taken in charge by the local authority of roads, footpaths, watermains, drains and other services required in connection with the development, coupled with an agreement empowering the local authority to apply such security or part thereof to the satisfactory completion or maintenance of any part of the development. The form and amount of the security shall be as agreed between the planning authority and the developer or, in default of agreement, shall be referred to An Bord Pleanála for determination.

**Reason:** To ensure the satisfactory completion and maintenance of the development until taken in charge.

18. The developer shall pay to the planning authority a financial contribution in respect of public infrastructure and facilities benefiting development in the area of the planning authority that is provided or intended to be provided by or on behalf of the authority in accordance with the terms of the Development Contribution Scheme made under section 48 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended. The contribution shall be paid prior to commencement of development or in such phased payments as the planning authority may facilitate and shall be subject to any applicable indexation provisions of the Scheme at the time of payment. Details of the application of the terms of the Scheme shall be agreed between the planning authority and the developer or, in default of such agreement, the matter shall be referred to An Bord Pleanála to determine the proper application of the terms of the Scheme.

**Reason:** It is a requirement of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, that a condition requiring a contribution in accordance with the Development Contribution Scheme made under section 48 of the Act be applied to the permission.

  
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**Michelle Fagan**  
**Member of An Bord Pleanála**  
**duly authorised to authenticate**  
**the seal of the Board.**



Dated this *3<sup>rd</sup>* day of *June* 2021