



Mr L Osborne
Knowsley Borough Council
Planning Department

By email

Date 18 December 2025
Our Ref LIVE13
Your Ref

Dear Lee

Liverpool FC Academy, Arbour Lane, Northwood

Further to our recent meetings, I am pleased to enclose a planning application on behalf of Liverpool Football Club ('LFC' or 'the Club') to for phased works at the LFC Academy off Arbour Lane, Kirkby. The application, which is submitted for detailed approval comprises the following works:

"Two-storey extension to the existing Academy training building, convert the existing grass 'show-pitch' to an all-weather pitch with a domed roof, construct a 499-seat spectator stand with associated facilities, replacement floodlighting, reconfigure car parking and carry out associated external works of hard and soft landscaping".

The application has been submitted via the Portal ref: PP-14428744

Background

The LFC Academy has been permanently based in Kirkby, Knowsley since 1998. Its aim is to develop young players with the skill base and mental and physical attributes to represent the first team at the highest level. The Academy has been awarded highest status (Category 1) under the Elite Player Performance Plan (EPPP). EPPP is a Premier League initiative with the aim of revitalising youth football by developing areas such as coaching, education, welfare, medical care and providing greater opportunities for young players to progress.

In 2018, the Club secured a planning permission for works to the Academy as part of the application for a new first team training facility on adjacent land immediately to the north (LPA ref: 17/00324/HYB).

Development Proposal

The Club's current proposals are for a similar scope of works at the Academy, albeit the details differ from those previously approved in that:

- There are alternative proposals to extend the existing Academy building and provide further enhanced accommodation, including gymnasium, sports science suite and visitor accommodation;

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- The location of the spectator stand has moved to reflect the decision to use the northern pitch as the show pitch for the Academy; resulting in
- A decision to cover the southern pitch as an indoor grass training pitch.

Notwithstanding those amendments, the extant permission provides a useful backstop position that is a material consideration in the assessment and determination of any planning application for those parts of the development.

In addition to the above, the current proposals include:

- Remodelling of the car park to provide additional car parking and dedicated coach / mini-bus spaces and cycle parking
- Provision of a taxi drop-off/pick-up area
- Replacement floodlighting

All of the proposed components are necessary to maintain the quality of facilities at the Academy as part of the EPPP.

In accordance with the pre-application advice received, the application is accompanied by a wide range of supporting technical documents and reports, and detailed plans of all components of the scheme. I trust that you have sufficient information to enable you to register the application and look forward to receiving confirmation shortly.

Finally, it is worth noting that while a wide-ranging consultation exercise has been carried out, the proposals have attracted limited interest from key stakeholders and the local community. In those circumstances, we trust that the application can be dealt with under delegated powers.

If you have any queries or require anything further then please don't hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully



Sam Ryan MRTPI
Director
 Ryan & May

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