



**CITY OF NORWICH SCHOOL
APPLICATION NUMBER 20/00819/F
PROPOSED DEMOLITION OF EXISTING MOBILE SCIENCE BLOCKS AND CONSTRUCTION OF
REPLACEMENT SIXTH FORM BLOCK WITH ASSOCIATED ALTERATIONS**

**WRITTEN STATEMENT TO PLANNING APPLICATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING
(10 SEPTEMBER 2020) ON BEHALF OF THE APPLICANT (ORMISTON ACADEMIES TRUST)**

Good morning Chair and fellow planning committee members. This statement has been prepared on behalf of the Ormiston Academies Trust (as applicant) and in support of the officer recommendation to grant planning permission for the proposed demolition of the two old mobile science blocks situated directly to the north of the east wing of the main school building and erection of a single-storey sixth form block containing 3 classrooms, an ICT room, library, study/café area and other ancillary facilities.

This current application follows the applicant's recent withdrawal of a previous application for a similar form of development, which also included a small dance studio building configured on land adjacent to the existing performing arts block. That application was withdrawn in direct response to the concerns that had been expressed by some of the near neighbours at the time on the potentially adverse noise implications of siting a dance studio externally of the performing arts block. The applicant has therefore agreed to incorporate the dance studio into the performing arts block through a re-purposing of the accommodation. Consequently, one of the existing ICT rooms needs to be relocated into the new sixth form block.

The school does not have a dedicated sixth form space and so the application proposal would provide for a much-needed qualitative improvement and education benefit. The overall capacity of the school (in terms of maximum roll number) would remain unchanged.

The new building would be a little larger than originally anticipated to accommodate the ICT room. It would be configured largely on the footprint of the old science blocks (with the one remaining science classroom relocated into the main school building). The building would be a little higher (at 0.5m) to incorporate the minimum roof pitch needed for a roof-mounted PV array that would reinforce its net zero energy credentials.

The applicant is mindful of the two objections raised locally at the visual impact of the new building to the residential properties situated directly to the north on Eaton Road. At its nearest point, the building would be situated 4.21m away from the northern boundary, increasing to 6.3m, although it is acknowledged that the screening is limited to a 2m high fence currently. As a consequence, the applicant has agreed to initiate some new planting along this boundary (according to an outline planting schedule agreed with the Council's

landscape officer) to help confer some additional protection in this respect. These details would be secured under a recommended condition to this effect.

The applicant is aware of the importance of being a good neighbour to surrounding residents and it is hoped that the steps it has taken to respond directly to the concerns originally raised in respect of the dance studio and with this current application will be received positively.

The application proposal has significant planning merit in helping to sustain the ongoing livelihood of the school and we hope that planning permission may be granted in accordance with the officer recommendation.

08.09.20