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Your ref:

TRANSPORT STATEMENT

**Railway House Nursery
1A Railway Street
Littleborough
OL15 8AG**

Proposed Change of Use of an Attached Dwelling to Form Part of the Existing Nursery together with the Retrospective Regularisation of Existing Nursery Accommodation

1.0 Introduction

1.1

This Transport Statement has been prepared in support of a planning application at Railway House Nursery, 1A Railway Street, Littleborough.

The application seeks planning permission for the change of use of an attached dwelling to form part of the existing nursery together with the retrospective regularisation of nursery accommodation created within a former workshop and detached garage.

The purpose of this statement is to demonstrate that the proposal will not result in an unacceptable impact upon the surrounding highway network and that the modest increase in nursery capacity can be accommodated using the existing access, parking and transport infrastructure.

This statement should be read alongside the accompanying Planning Statement, Heritage Statement and Flood Risk Statement.

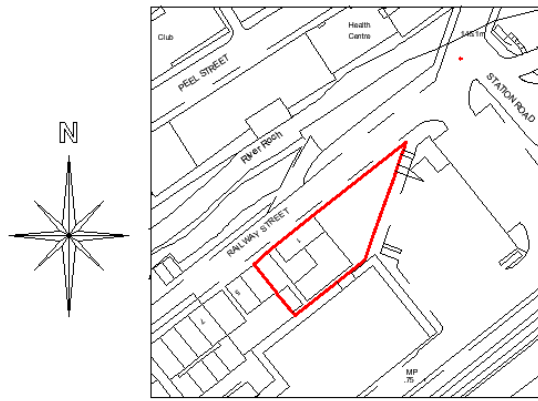
2.0 Site Location

2.1

Railway House Nursery occupies an established site on Railway Street, immediately adjacent to Littleborough Railway Station and within walking distance of Littleborough Town Centre.

The surrounding area comprises a mix of residential properties, commercial premises and community facilities.

The nursery has operated from the site since 2014 and benefits from an accessible location served by footways, public transport and the existing highway network.



Scale 1:1250

SITE LOCATION PLAN

Site Location Plan

2.2 Existing Highway Network

Vehicular access to the nursery is taken from Railway Street via the existing site access.

No alterations are proposed to the existing access arrangements.

Likewise, the proposal does not alter the surrounding highway layout, footways, visibility, parking arrangements or pedestrian access.

The proposal therefore relies entirely upon the existing highway infrastructure which has successfully served the nursery for a number of years.

3.0 Existing Nursery Operation

Railway House Nursery currently operates with an Ofsted registered capacity of **45 children** and employs **15 members of staff**.

The nursery has become an established childcare provider serving Littleborough and the surrounding area.

The existing accommodation comprises:

Area	Existing Capacity
Main Nursery Room & Conservatory	22
Toddler Room	14
Baby Room	9
Total	45

The nursery currently experiences strong demand and maintains a waiting list of approximately twenty children.

4.0 Proposed Development

The proposal will increase the registered capacity from **45 children to 55 children**.

Staff numbers are expected to increase from **15 to 16**.

No alterations are proposed to:

- the existing vehicular access;
- parking arrangements;

- internal circulation for vehicles;
- highway alignment;
- pedestrian access;
- servicing arrangements.

Accordingly, the proposal represents a modest operational expansion rather than a significant change in the nature of the use.

5.0 Accessibility

5.1 Walking

The nursery occupies a sustainable location within easy walking distance of surrounding residential areas.

Many children attending the nursery live locally and are accompanied on foot.

Continuous footways are provided throughout the surrounding area, allowing safe pedestrian access between the nursery, nearby housing and the town centre.

5.2 Rail

Littleborough Railway Station lies immediately adjacent to the application site.

The station provides regular services connecting Littleborough with Rochdale, Manchester, Todmorden, Halifax and Leeds.

This level of accessibility provides staff and visitors with a realistic alternative to travelling by private car.

5.3 Bus Services

The site also benefits from bus services operating within Littleborough Town Centre and along the surrounding highway network.

These services provide further sustainable travel opportunities for staff and visitors.

5.4 Cycling

The surrounding highway network is suitable for cycle access and several members of staff already travel using sustainable modes of transport.

The proposal does not prejudice future opportunities to encourage cycling.

6.0 Staff Travel

Travel information supplied by the applicant demonstrates that the majority of staff do not travel to work by private car.

Current staff travel patterns are approximately:

Mode	Staff
Car	5
Walk / Cycle / Public Transport	10

This demonstrates that approximately two-thirds of employees already use sustainable forms of transport.

Given the site's location adjacent to the railway station and within walking distance of surrounding residential areas, this pattern is expected to continue following the proposed development.

7.0 Vehicle Movements

The proposal increases the registered nursery capacity by **10 children**.

Whilst this represents additional childcare provision, it should not be assumed that this results in a corresponding increase in vehicle movements.

Several factors reduce the overall transport impact.

Firstly, many families already have more than one child attending the nursery, meaning additional places do not necessarily generate additional vehicle trips.

Secondly, nursery arrivals and departures naturally occur over an extended period rather than within a single peak hour.

Children arrive and leave throughout the morning and afternoon, resulting in staggered vehicle movements rather than concentrated traffic generation.

Thirdly, the proposal results in only one additional member of staff.

Taken together, these factors indicate that the proposal is unlikely to generate a material increase in peak traffic when compared with the existing operation.

8.0 Parking Assessment

The proposal does not alter the existing parking arrangements serving the nursery.

Existing access arrangements remain unchanged and no alterations are proposed to the surrounding highway.

The nursery has operated successfully for many years using the existing arrangements.

The modest increase in nursery capacity, together with only one additional member of staff, is not considered sufficient to justify alterations to the existing parking provision.

Furthermore, the sustainable location of the site, combined with existing staff travel patterns and staggered arrival times, further limits the impact on local parking demand.

9.0 Highway Safety

No changes are proposed to the existing site access or visibility.

The proposal does not introduce a new vehicular access, alter highway geometry or affect pedestrian routes.

The nursery has operated successfully from the site for over ten years without any requirement to alter the surrounding highway network.

Given the modest scale of the proposal and the continued use of the existing access arrangements, there is no evidence to suggest that highway safety would be adversely affected.

10.0 Planning Assessment

National planning policy seeks to promote sustainable transport whilst ensuring that development only gives rise to unacceptable highway impacts where those impacts would be severe.

In this instance, the proposal comprises the expansion of an established nursery within existing buildings.

The proposal:

- retains the existing access;
- retains existing parking arrangements;
- occupies a highly sustainable location;

- is immediately adjacent to Littleborough Railway Station;
- is accessible by walking, cycling and public transport;
- generates only a modest increase in activity;
- does not materially alter vehicle movements.

Having considered the characteristics of the proposal as a whole, it is considered that the development satisfies the transport objectives of the National Planning Policy Framework together with the relevant policies of the Rochdale Development Plan.

11.0 Conclusion

Railway House Nursery has operated successfully from Railway Street since 2014 and has become an established childcare provider within Littleborough.

The current proposal seeks to improve the operation of the nursery and respond to increasing demand for childcare through the better use of existing buildings.

The proposal results in a modest increase in registered capacity from **45 to 55 children** together with one additional member of staff.

Importantly, the proposal does not alter the existing highway network, vehicular access or parking arrangements.

The site occupies an accessible location adjacent to Littleborough Railway Station, many staff already travel by sustainable modes and nursery arrivals naturally occur over an extended period.

In my opinion, the proposal will not result in a material increase in vehicle movements or give rise to any unacceptable impact upon the surrounding highway network.

Accordingly, there are no transport or highway reasons why planning permission should not be granted.