

Improving supporting 'Health' in the Locality to support Policy JP-P6: Health

This statement is to be read in conjunction with the documents submitted to support the planning application for the proposed extension at Pilsworth Industrial Estate. An extract has been provided below of the relevant documents and supporting information that identifies the proposed extension has no negative impact on the health of the wider community.

The proposal is an extension of an existing building and proposes no change of use of the existing facility and introduces no new impacts on the local and wider community. The site location is a private site within an industrial estate with no immediate residential areas adjacent the site. The site has the M66 directly to the eastern boundary. No sections of the wider community are at a disadvantage with the proposed extension due to the location of the site and the nature of extending an existing facility and uses.

Client Statement - 25.03.2024

The statement provides a brief history of the client and company that has an existing warehouse this application seeks to extend. The use of the existing facilities is not changing and has no negative impact on the wider community or local areas. The proposed extension will be managed to the same high level of hygiene standards as the existing facility and will therefore have no negative impact on the wider community. All equipment is fully sealed internal with extraction and filter systems as the existing facility.

The Kersia - Holchem Chemicals is an Upper Tier COMAH site and as result we are heavily regulated by the 'Competent Authority' which enforces the COMAH regulations. It comprises of the Health and Safety Executive (H.S.E.) in Great Britain and the relevant environment agency (e.g., Environment Agency in England, Scottish Environment Protection Agency in Scotland, and Natural Resources Body for Wales in Wales). We have an exemplary record in blending chemicals at the Holchem site and abide by all the regulations as stated in the COMAH Regulations 2015.

Recently we have undertaken an external Emergency Plan day 06-03-24, which involved the Greater Manchester Fire & Rescue and other external agencies, to ensure that all our emergency controls with respect to controlling Major Hazards are in place and are at a state of readiness, thus ensuring that our operations do not impact on the wider community and if we did have an major incident, we have a highly trained/competent workforce - who can react and act accordingly in line with the prescribed detailed procedures to ensure the safety of the local and wider environment. Kersia Holchem Chemicals passed the Emergency Plan day with flying colours yet again, demonstrating our continued investment in operating a safe site under the COMAH 2015 Regulations.

Kersia - Holchem Chemicals emit no emissions into the atmosphere, our primary process in Blending Chemicals and as a result, we do not generate any harmful Air Borne emissions e.g. Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC'S) and/or Particulate Matter with respect to gasses, dust and/or smoke etc. Therefore, not impacting on the Health of the residents in the local community.

See extracts below from the statement identifying the high level of hygiene the facilities requires for its production and therefore ensures there are no harmful external outputs from the facility into the wider surrounding area.

We are a hygiene chemical, manufacturing company supplying chemicals and services to the Food & Beverage sector and to a lesser extent, the Foodservice & Facilities sector.

The products we produce and the markets we service are critical to the national food supply chain, with Holchem being one, if not 'the', primary supplier to the food manufacturing industry.

There are obviously rigorous obligations and regulations incumbent on food producers to maintain very high standards of plant and product hygiene. Holchem produce chemicals that facilitate and ensure these standards can be maintained.

As we are integral to food production in the UK, we were considered a key supplier to the 'critical national infrastructure' during the Covid pandemic. During this period, we also diversified and adapted a proportion of our capacity onto personal hygiene, as well as food hygiene.

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Transport statement that identifies the extension could lead to a requirement of 20 additional staff and the parking, and cycle storage areas are proposed to be improved to accommodate this increase.

See extract and summary below identifying there is minimal impact on the wider community in relation to traffic movement and parking provisions.

2.2.2 Based on the recorded directional distribution at the Site, and assuming that all Site generated traffic to/from the east passes through M66 J3, the estimated development generated traffic at M66 J3 is:

<i>TIME</i>	<i>DEVELOPMENT TRAFFIC (VEHICLES)</i>
<i>0730-0830</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>0815-0915</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>1600-1700</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>1630-1730</i>	<i>23</i>

This demonstrates that proposed development does not increase traffic at M66 J3 by 30 vehicles or more (Materiality Test 1 in the TA report). Therefore, it is reasonable to conclude that the traffic impact, of the proposed development at M66 J3 is not material, and no further assessment is required.

2.5.5 It is considered that development generated parking demands can be met within the development. Consequently, there is no identified need to review or amend Traffic Regulation Orders on Pilsworth Road

Below are some examples of the advantages and positive impacts the Kersia company have had on the immediate staff, local and wider community that this extension will allow to continue in this location.

Kersia Designated Charity – FareShare

Kersia has partnered with a local charity 'FareShare' which provide food to those in our community who have the most need. They also ensure that underprivileged school children and least get one good balance meal by delivering to local schools and community centres.

FareShare is the UK's national network of charitable food redistributors, made up of 18 independent organisations. Together, they take good quality surplus food from right across the food industry and get it to nearly 8,500 frontline charities and community groups.

The food that Fareshare redistribute is nutritious and good to eat. It reaches charities across the UK, including school breakfast clubs, older people's lunch clubs, homeless shelters, and community cafes. Every week they provide enough food to create almost a million meals for vulnerable people.

FareShare Greater Manchester was established in October 2008, with the mission of addressing food poverty and reducing food waste in and around Greater Manchester. The operation is run by EMERGE 3Rs (<https://www.emerge3rs.co.uk/>).

Fareshare currently redistribute food to more than 280 charitable organisations and community groups, including community centres, homeless shelters, and children's breakfast/ after school clubs. Through this work, Fareshare play a pivotal role in providing essential meals, food parcels and snacks to over 30,000 individuals. The groups that Fareshare work with support individuals to address the root causes of poverty by providing additional services such as addiction support, childcare, housing and debt advice, and referral services.

Fareshare operation is volunteer-driven, and they currently have 128 volunteers on site helping us to pick and pack orders and deliver surplus food across Greater Manchester and East Cheshire. Fareshare volunteers come from all walks of life, and Fareshare provide them with training opportunities and employment support.

To find out more about the work that FareShare Greater Manchester do, please contact info@faresharegm.org.uk or give us a call on 0161 223 8200

For volunteering enquiries, please contact voladmin@emergemanchester.co.uk

For information on becoming a food or funding partner, please contact ruth@emergemanchester.co.uk

Employee Assistance Helpline

Kersia have an Employee Assistance Helpline for all of our employees & family members. Employees utilise this for a variety of reasons including support for bereavement, financial advice & mental wellbeing etc. It is also able to be utilised by our employees' family members.

Kersia Employee Help line is supplied by MetLife's Group Life Employee Assistance Programme (EAP) In today's busy world, finding the right kind of wellbeing support and services that we need can be time consuming, not to mention expensive. MetLife's Group Life EAP support centre can help you feel in control, whether it's affecting you directly or a loved one in your household, who are also able to access the service for free.

Financial Wellbeing

When your finances feel out of control it can be overwhelming and stressful. Legal advisers can provide information on a range of financial issues, including:

- Debt
- Credit card consolidation
- Pensions
- Living on reduced income
- Managing your money
- Retirement

Mental Wellbeing

Kersia's staff can speak to a qualified counsellor to help with issues such as:

- Depression
- Child support
- Bereavement
- Anxiety and panic attacks
- Stress
- Relationships

Physical Wellbeing

As well as keeping fit and healthy, Kersia's staff can speak with Nursing and Midwifery Council registered nurses. They can help with:

- Aches and pains
- Heart health
- Giving up smoking
- Exercise and eating well
- Travel advice
- Terminal illness

Bereavement & terminal illness support help via MetLife

Kersia has selected MetLife to provide Bereavement & terminal illness support services. Thus, supporting our staff and their families in dealing with a bereavement and/or terminal illness through emotional and difficult times. Kersia & MetLife are here to support our employees and their families.

MetLife also have a complimentary Bereavement and Probate support helpline, staffed by qualified counsellors, to provide emotional and practical support to Kersia's Staff and immediate family when they need it the most.

Kersia Health Care Cash Plan – to ease the financial Burden re Health Services

Kersia also offer a Health care cash plan to most employees which is also utilised by our staff's children (in fact up to the age of 24). This is for example opticians and dentists.

Mental Wellbeing & Mental Health First Aiders

Kersia have also invested and appointed Mental Health First Aiders on all of our sites, who often assist with problems that staff are experiencing, often with their families.

Kersia also monitors our employees' working time and anyone who is consistently doing over and above their contractual hours we advise the manager to ensure that it does not continue.

Neil Shaw (External)
03-04-24