

Delegated Report

Full Planning Application

Application No:	20250598
Location:	Gurdwara Temple, Guru Nanak Marg, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 1AG
Description:	Erection of a statue.
Applicant:	Mr Jagdev Virdee
Site Visit:	N/A Desktop Assessment

Submitted Documents/Plans

- Application Form – dated 13 June 2025;
- Drawing no. GND/A2/01 – Site Location Plan;
- Drawing no. GND/A2/02 – Existing Floor Plan;
- Drawing no. GND/A2/03 – Proposed Floor Plan;
- Drawing no. GND/A2/04 – Existing Front Elevation;
- Drawing no. GND/A2/05 – Existing Side Elevation;
- Drawing no. GND/A2/05 – Proposed Front Elevation;
- Drawing no. GND/A2/05 – Proposed Side Elevation;
- Drawing no. GND/A2/08 – Existing Block Plan;
- Drawing no. GND/A2/09 – Proposed Block Plan.

Relevant Planning History

No relevant planning history.

Development Plan

Gravesham Local Plan Core Strategy (2014)

- CS01 – Sustainable Development
- CS02 – Scale & Distribution of Development
- CS09 – Culture and Tourism
- CS12 – Green Infrastructure
- CS18 – Climate Change
- CS19 – Development & Design Principles

Gravesham Local Plan: First Review (1994)

- P3 – Vehicle Parking Standards

Paragraph 34 of the NPPF (2024) sets out that policies within adopted local plans should be reviewed to assess whether they need updating at least once every five years, and should then be updated as necessary. Such reviews are also a legal requirement as set out in Regulation 10A of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) England Regulations 2012.

The Council undertook such a review in September 2019 and found that the adopted Local Plan Core Strategy is in need of a partial review in terms of Policy CS02, due to the increased need for housing since

the Local Plan Core Strategy was adopted and the need to ensure that a sufficient land supply exists to meet this need. Whilst saved policies from the Local Plan 1st Review (1994) generally conform with the NPPF (2024), the Council will also seek to replace these.

National Planning Policy Framework (2024)

- Section 2 – Achieving Sustainable Development
- Section 8 – Promoting Healthy and Safe Communities
- Section 12 – Achieving Well-Designed Places
- Section 16 – Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment

Consultations, Publicity and Representations

Internal Consultees

Local Ward Councillors – No comment received.

Neighbouring properties

A notice was displayed on site 02 July 2025.

In addition, thirty-five surrounding properties were consulted and no representations were received. The consultation period expired 25 July 2025.

Officer's Analysis

Site Description

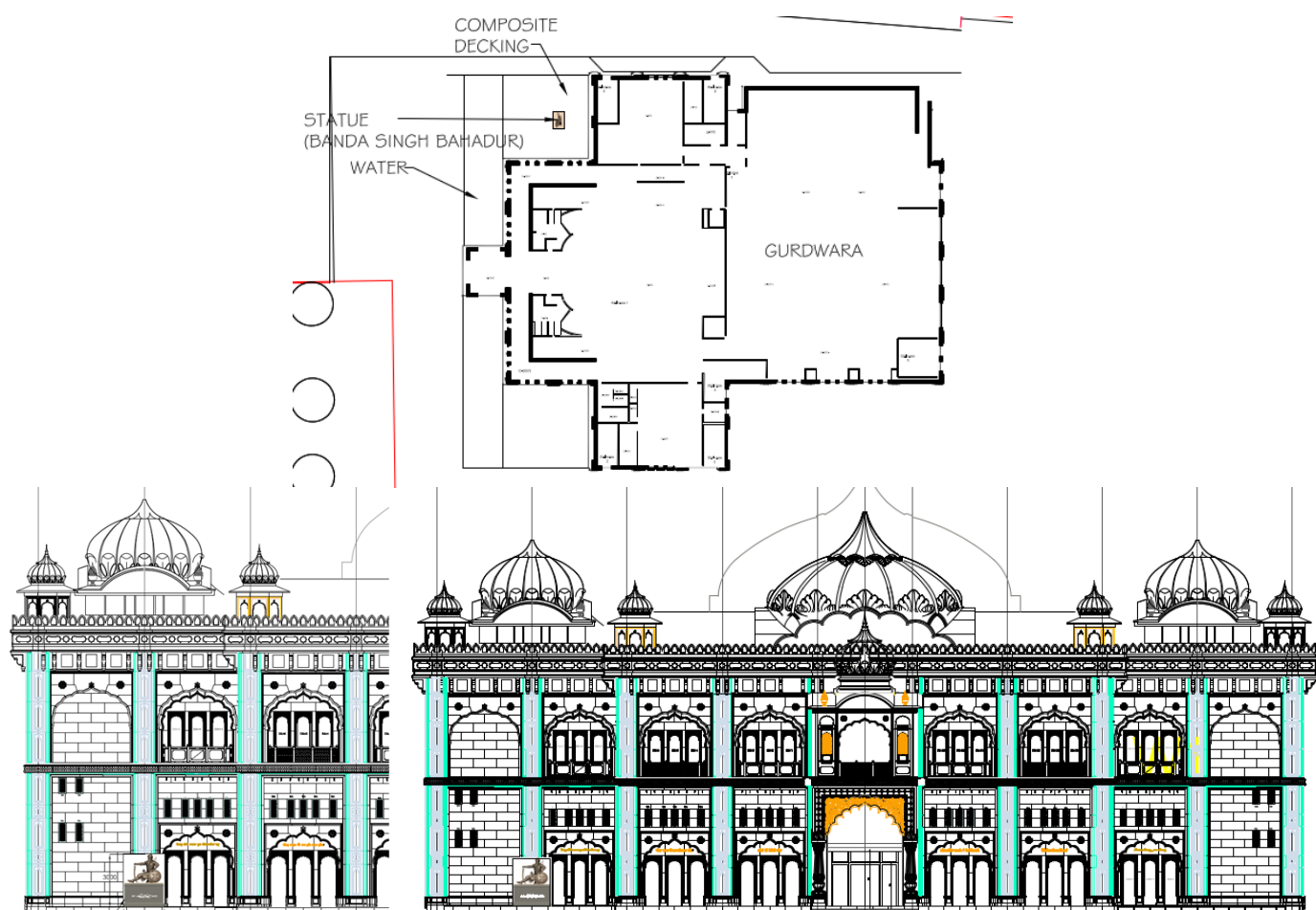
The Guru Nanak Darbar Gurdwara is a Sikh Gurdwara situated within the Town Centre of Gravesend. It is one of the largest Sikh temples in Europe.



The Gurdwara was opened in 2010. The complex contains 3 prayer halls and 2 langar halls (with separate industrial kitchens), a lecture theatre, IT room, Library and reception area. The site offers additional community facilities such as a day centre for elderly, a fully equipped sports halls and 2no football pitches and a running track.

Development Proposal

This application proposes the erection of a statue at the Gurdwara Temple, Gravesend.



Assessment

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2024) recognises the importance of cultural well-being to providing strong, vibrant and healthy communities, stating that people's quality of life can be positively improved by improving the conditions in which people take leisure. The NPPF requires the planning system to deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs.

Gravesham's Local Plan Core Strategy (LPCS) (2014) seeks to protect existing cultural and tourism

facilities and to enable the provision of new and enhanced facilities to serve the needs of the Borough's residents and visitors and to maximise opportunities from an expanding visitor economy. It also recognises the value of multi-culturalism in the Gravesham context and the importance of supporting the cultural needs of different sections of the local community. This is furthered by Policy CS09 which seeks to protect and support improvements to existing cultural facilities.

The proposed statue would represent a piece of public art within a place of worship and is supported in principle. The statue and plinth are not excessive in size, at a total of 3m in height, with a width of 2.3m and depth of 1.58m. It will be erected on the existing decked seating area to the north of the front entrance projection and will not be visible from outside of the Gurdwara grounds and would not have any impact on the character of the wider area.

Therefore, the proposed statue is in accordance with Policies CS09 and CS19 of the Gravesham Local Plan Core Strategy (2014) and Section 12 of the National Planning Policy Framework (2024).

Conclusion

The application has been fully considered and is in accordance with local and national planning policy.

The proposed statue is a piece of public art within a place of worship and is supported by local and national planning policies, which seek to promote strong, vibrant and healthy communities and to support improvements to existing cultural facilities. The statue is not excessive in scale and would be discretely siting adjacent to the main entrance of the Gurdwara and would be viewed in context with no impact on amenity or the wider area.

Therefore, it is recommended that planning permission is granted.

Recommendation

Permission

(For detailed conditions and informatives, see draft Decision)

Case Officer:	Mr Ethan Bonthron	Team Leader:	Richard Hart
Signed:		Signed:	<i>R Hart</i>
Dated:	6 th October 2025	Dated:	7th October 2025