

Planning Application – Proposed “Return Point” Pod to Accommodate Reverse Vending Machines for Scottish Deposit and Return Scheme

Darnley, Glasgow

Statement

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Prepared on behalf of Lidl Great Britain Ltd

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Introduction

1. This Statement has been prepared in support of a planning application for the erection of a pod to provide a "Return Point" accommodating Reverse Vending Machines at the Lidl foodstore at Darnley, Glasgow. This provides for the return of single-use packaging for drinks to enable Lidl Great Britain Ltd to meet their obligations under the Scottish Deposit and Return Scheme thereby supporting increased recycling of packaging materials.

Scottish Deposit and Return Scheme

2. The Scottish Deposit and Return Scheme was passed by the Scottish Parliament in May 2020. The aim of this scheme is to help improve the quality and quantity of recycling thereby reducing litter and assist in achieving the country's climate change targets. The scheme is regulated through Scottish Statutory Instrument 2020 No. 154. The principal features of the scheme are:

- It applies to all drinks that are sold in single-use packaging.
- It requires the payment of a 20 pence deposit to be paid by consumers when purchasing such drinks (Reg 5).
- All retailers of these drinks are required under the regulations to operate a "Return Point" for the collection of single use packaging and for the redemption of deposits. This packaging would be retained for collection by the producer (Reg 20).
- The Regulations provide for only a small number of exceptions to the requirement to provide Return Points, for example if the layout of the retail premises is such that this could result in a breach of other regulations such as health and safety or fire risk (Reg 22).
- The commencement date for the operation of this scheme in 1st July 2022.

Permitted Development for Reverse Vending Machines

3. The machines for the collection and retention of packing and the reimbursement of deposits paid are frequently termed "reverse vending machines". These would be accommodated within the proposed Return Point. Given the importance of having the necessary infrastructure in place for Return Points the Scottish Government has extended permitted development rights to include new reverse vending machines together with their associated buildings, canopies and enclosures (i.e. the Return Points as a whole). This is covered by the Town & Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (Reverse Vending Machines) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2020 which introduced a new Class 9H in the GPDO which allows the installation, alteration or replacement of a reverse vending machine (including the building in which it is located) either within the wall or curtilage of a shop without the need for express planning permission (subject to specific restrictions).
4. The current proposal only requires planning permission because the proposed RVM and building enclosure exceeds 3.5m to height.

Key Planning Issues

5. The proposed extension is to provide a new Return Point, that is a building/structure that would contain reverse vending machines for the receipt of single-purpose packing/containers for drinks. This ensures that Lidl fully meet the requirements of the Scottish Deposit and Return Scheme. It will, therefore, provide a significant environmental benefit in support of sustainable development in that it will encourage re-use and recycling of packaging materials in line with the Scottish Government's aims and objectives.
6. The proposed extension is modest in scale amounting to approximately 60 sqm GFA and is, therefore, only a modest extension of the gross (i.e. non-sales) floor area of the Lidl foodstore. The appearance of the Return Point will use materials that match the existing Lidl foodstore and it will, therefore, have minimal effect on the appearance of the foodstore as a whole.
7. When using the Return Point pod customers will be entirely within an enclosed area. This will ensure that this will not have any effect on the amenity of nearby neighbours and other sensitive premises. Noise (from both customers and the reverse vending machines) will be contained within the building enclosure and customers will be inside rather than outside the building. As noted above General Permitted Development Order Class 9H establishes the principle that, subject to limited exceptions, this type of development would not normally require express planning permission.

Conclusion

8. The current application is for an extension to the existing Lidl foodstore at Darnley to accommodate a new Return Point containing reverse vending machines to meet the requirements of the Scottish Deposit and Return Scheme Regulations for the collection of single use packaging for drinks and redemption of customers' deposits. Under these Regulations Lidl are required to provide this facility by July 2022. The proposed extension is limited in size, it would support sustainable development, provide environmental benefit and will not affect the amenity of nearby properties. In normal circumstances this type of development would be treated as permitted development under Class 9H of the GPDO. It is, therefore, requested that planning permission be granted for the proposed development.