

<b>CITY OF WESTMINSTER</b>			
<b>PLANNING APPLICATIONS COMMITTEE</b>	<b>Date</b> 5 July 2016	<b>Classification</b> For General Release	
<b>Report of</b> Director of Planning		<b>Ward(s) involved</b> West End	
<b>Subject of Report</b>	<b>Broadcasting House, 2 - 22 Portland Place, London, W1A 1AA</b>		
<b>Proposal</b>	Installation of bronze statue on stone plinth and inscription carved into adjoining stone wall.		
<b>Agent</b>	BBC Workplace		
<b>On behalf of</b>	BBC and George Orwell Foundation Trust		
<b>Registered Number</b>	16/02562/FULL	<b>Date amended/ completed</b>	23 March 2016
<b>Date Application Received</b>	22 March 2016		
<b>Historic Building Grade</b>	The original portion of Broadcasting House is Grade II* listed.		
<b>Conservation Area</b>	Harley Street		

## 1. RECOMMENDATION

Grant conditional permission.

## 2. SUMMARY

This proposal is for the erection of a statue of George Orwell at Broadcasting House in Portland Place. Portland Place is in the Harley Street Conservation Area. The original portion of Broadcasting House is listed at grade II\*, the application site falls within its setting.

### Broadcasting House

Broadcasting House is a Portland Stone building of two parts, the oldest dating from 1932. The 1932 portion of the building with distinctive prow facing Langham Place by Col G. Val Myer and Watson Hart and was listed in 1981 at grade II\*. It has sculptural decoration of international renown by Eric Gill and Gilbert Bayes, in particular Gill's Prospero and Ariel above the main entrance.

Broadcasting House was extended with a new wing by MacCormac Jamieson and Pritchard, completed in 2005. This section mirrors the form of the original building and forms a second prow, enclosing a piazza between them.

### Other public art

The construction of this extension included various public art elements. The paving of the piazza is a piece by Mark Pimlott entitled 'World'. The surface of the piazza curves and is engraved with place names and lines of longitude and latitude. On the roof of the extension is a glass sculpture by Jaume Plensa called 'Breathing'. The lighting of the building was also designed by and artist, Martin Richman.

### Location

The Orwell sculpture is proposed for the undercroft of this new extension, visible from the piazza and from Langham Street. This is the new vehicular drop off for Broadcasting House.

### Sculpture

The proposed statue is by the sculptor, Martin Jennings, who has an international reputation and whose public commissions include the sculpture of John Betjeman in St Pancras station, HM the Queen Mother in St Paul's cathedral and Charles Dickens in Portsmouth.

The sculpture and pose is based on a number of different images of Orwell. Full length photographs of Orwell are comparatively rare, and the pose does not represent one particular point in history.

The finished bronze will be of similar scale to the majority of statuary in Westminster at life size and a half (2.5m). He will stand on a 1.5m Portland stone plinth to match the existing wall. The plinth will bear the inscription "George Orwell".

A further inscription will be carved into the adjacent Portland stone wall of Broadcasting House, quoting from Orwell's proposed preface to Animal Farm, "If Liberty means anything at all it means the right to tell people what they do not want to hear".

### Policy

Policy DES 7 of the UDP generally welcomes public art and statuary within the City. However, the unprecedented demand for statues and monuments in recent years has led to an over-concentration of memorials in parts of the City and suitable locations are becoming increasingly difficult to find. The Council's Supplementary Planning Document "Statues and Monuments in Westminster" provides guidance for the erection of new monuments.

It identifies a Monument Saturation Zone, requires that new sculptures have a contextual relationship with their proposed location, and that the subject should have been dead for at least ten years.

The Broadcasting House location is outside the saturation zone (which covers much of SW1), is considered to be a suitable location for a sculpture of Orwell due to the work that he carried out for the BBC during the second world war.

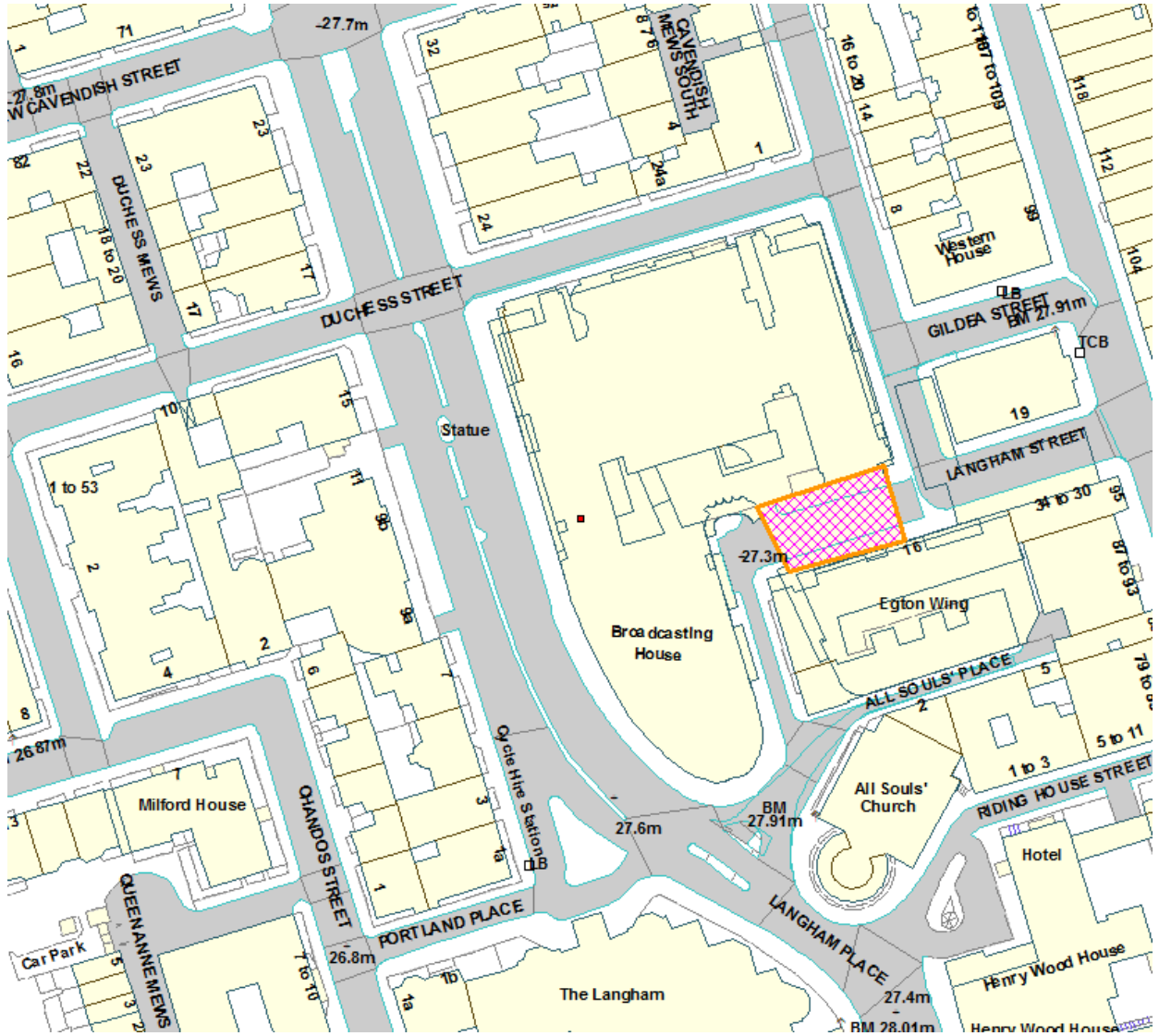
The proposal has received no objections. Any further comments will be reported verbally to the Committee.

Maintenance

The George Orwell Memorial Trust was founded in 2011 to educate the public about the life, works and legacy of George Orwell and in particular to raise the necessary funds to establish and maintain a memorial to him in London. This the Trust has now done.

The statue would be maintained by the BBC on behalf of the Trust and a suitable maintenance regime has been agreed. There is no financial implication for the City Council.

### 3. LOCATION PLAN



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4. PHOTOGRAPHS



## 5. CONSULTATIONS

Marylebone Association  
Any response to be reported verbally

### ADJOINING OWNERS/OCCUPIERS AND OTHER REPRESENTATIONS RECEIVED

No. Consulted: 9  
Total No. of replies: 0  
No. of objections: 0  
No. in support: 0

PRESS ADVERTISEMENT / SITE NOTICE: Yes

## 6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

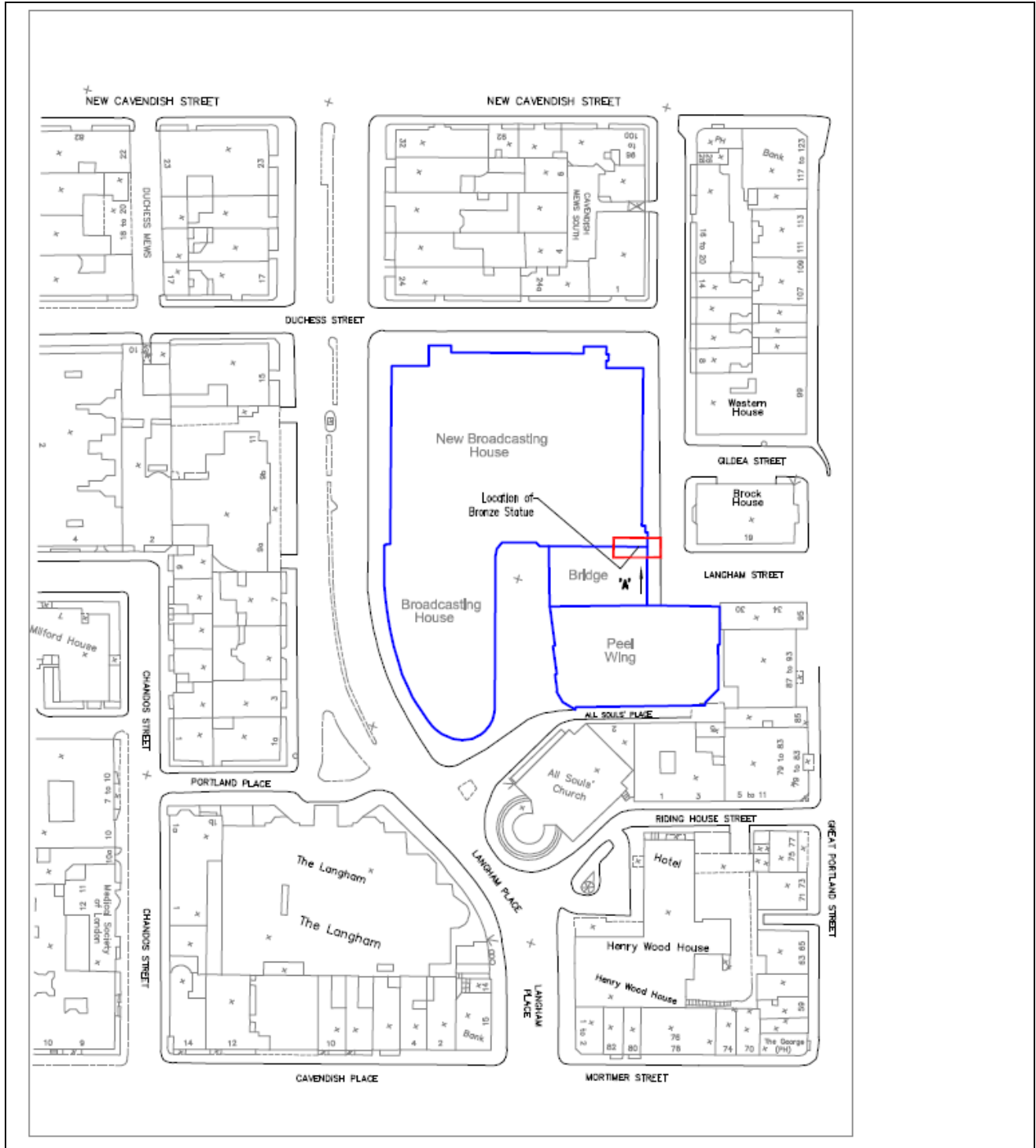
1. Application form

### **Selected relevant drawings**

(Please note: All the application drawings and other relevant documents and Background Papers are available to view on the Council's website)

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUERIES ABOUT THIS REPORT PLEASE CONTACT THE PRESENTING OFFICER: MARK HOLLINGTON BY EMAIL AT [mhollington2@westminster.gov.uk](mailto:mhollington2@westminster.gov.uk)

### 7. KEY DRAWINGS



**BBC** Workplace

BBC National Drawing Office  
2nd Floor Garden House  
London  
W12 7TS  
Tel: 07702212202

ES: Rev.No Change Details DATE AMEND PROJECT No.

**PROJECT DETAILS**

Discipline: Architectural Services  
Project: Propose Application  
Category: Other/Other

**SITE**

Broadcasting House  
Relaters Broadcasting House  
Broadcasting House  
Ground Floor

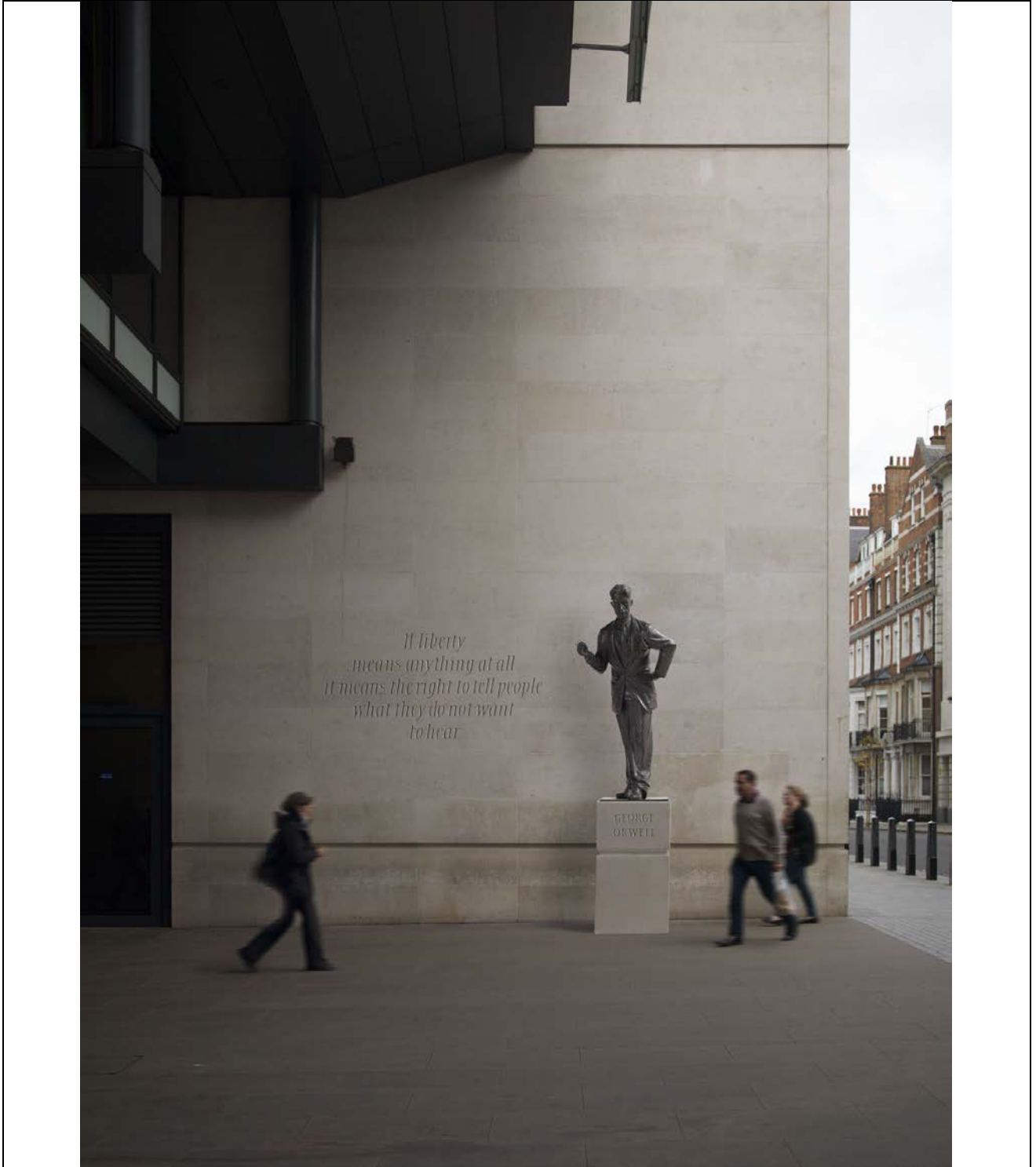
SHT: This drawing/identification is the property of the author and shall remain the property of the author. No part of this drawing may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or by any information storage and retrieval system, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner.

A3

ELEVATION SCALE 1:100

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**DRAFT DECISION LETTER**

**Address:** Broadcasting House, 2 - 22 Portland Place, London, W1A 1AA,

**Proposal:** Erection of bronze statue on stone plinth and inscription carved into adjoining stone wall.

**Reference:** 16/02562/FULL

**Plan Nos:** LON-BH-BH-00-1065.

**Case Officer:** Toby Cuthbertson

**Direct Tel. No.** 020 7641 8705

**Recommended Condition(s) and Reason(s):**

- 1 The development hereby permitted shall be carried out in accordance with the drawings and other documents listed on this decision letter, and any drawings approved subsequently by the City Council as local planning authority pursuant to any conditions on this decision letter.

Reason:

For the avoidance of doubt and in the interests of proper planning.

**Informative(s):**

- 1 In dealing with this application the City Council has implemented the requirement in the National Planning Policy Framework to work with the applicant in a positive and proactive way. We have made available detailed advice in the form of our statutory policies in Westminster's City Plan: Strategic Policies adopted November 2013, Unitary Development Plan, Supplementary Planning documents, planning briefs and other informal written guidance, as well as offering a full pre application advice service, in order to ensure that applicant has been given every opportunity to submit an application which is likely to be considered favourably. In addition, where appropriate, further guidance was offered to the applicant at the validation stage.

Please note: the full text for informatives can be found in the Council's Conditions, Reasons & Policies handbook, copies of which can be found in the Committee Room whilst the meeting is in progress, and on the Council's website.