HORSHAM DISTRICT COUNCIL CONSULTATION

TO:	Horsham District Council – Planning Dept
LOCATION:	19A-19B Carfax Horsham West Sussex RH12 1EB
DESCRIPTION:	Change of use from retail to self-contained upper ground floor flat with rear extension and associated alterations.
REFERENCE:	DC/24/0691
RECOMMENDATION:	Advice / No Objection / Objection / **More Information** / Modification / Refusal

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS & RECOMMENDATION:

Economic Development request more Information.

MAIN COMMENTS:

As previously mentioned, Economic Development would be reluctant to support any loss of commercial space which would be contrary to our Economic Strategy.

As set out in the Strategy, commercial floorspace is essential to accommodate businesses seeking to start up and grow within the district. It is vital that we protect and enhance the vitality of our district, support the local economy and facilitate local employment opportunities.

The marketing evidence statement submitted explains why the applicant believes the unit is not viable but there is no evidence showing that the unit has actually been marketed recently.

The provision of commercial floorspace does contribute towards maintaining a vibrant town centre, therefore a move straight to residential without testing the demand first, is not considered to be within the interests of the local economy.

ANY RECOMMENDED CONDITIONS:

The applicant has not submitted any information showing that the unit has been marketed as commercial floorspace.

Without this evidence, we cannot determine whether the change of use is justified in this regard.

NAME:	Julie Cavallo
DEPARTMENT:	Economic Development
DATE:	07.06.24