

# Plans For Controversial Apartment Block Dropped

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AN INVESTMENT firm has dropped controversial plans to build a 20-storey copper, bronze and steel apartment block in the centre of Cardiff.

The London-based Moorfield Group today revealed it was going back to the drawing board with its plans to build 164 flats on the site of the former Odeon Cinema on Queen Street, Cardiff.

The plans were described as “overbearing, intrusive and congested”, “un-neighbourly” and “incongruous” by city planning officers who were expecting the company to appeal later this year.

A spokeswoman for the property investment firm denied that the decision had anything to do with the collapse in the market for flats and said the firm was committed to building homes at the site.

In a statement, she said: “Moorfield Group has today withdrawn its appeal against the non-determination (refusal) of planning consent for a new residential development at the corner of North Edward Street and Station Terrace in Cardiff.

“The company has decided to spend more time refining its proposals for the site in consultation with the city council.

“Moorfield Group remains committed to Cardiff and the delivery of a scheme that will bring vitality to a site that has been dormant since the closure of the Odeon cinema seven years ago.

“Having invested substantially in the city since 2001, Moorfield is dedicated to developing a mixed-use scheme that will provide new homes at the heart of the city centre.

“The development team will continue to work with the local authority’s planning department, highways department and housing team to hone certain aspects of the scheme, which will make a positive contribution to the public space around Queen Street station and re-invigorate the ‘streetscape’ around North Edward Street and Station Terrace.”