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**EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

**Draft Rochdale Town Centre Conservation Area Appraisal (CAA)**

**May 2023**

**ROCHDALE METROPOLITAN BOROUGH LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK**

An Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) is a measure that public authorities often carry out prior to implementing an area appraisal, with a view to ascertaining its potential impact on equality. Such assessments are not required by law, although are a way of facilitating and evidencing compliance with the Public Sector Equality Duty.

This Equalities Impact Assessment has been prepared as a supporting document for the Rochdale Town Centre Conservation Area Appraisal (CAA).

The CAA has been produced to support and guide appropriate identification, analysis, protection, conservation and enhancement of the historic environment within the designated Rochdale Town Centre Conservation Area, as well as to inform a Conservation Area Management Plan.

**Equalities Impact Assessment and Target Groups**

The purpose of this Equality Impact Assessment is to ensure the proposed CAA for the Rochdale Town Centre Conservation Area integrates the best outcome for those affected by the appraisal and mitigates any negative impacts, in respect of the protected characteristics defined by the Equality Act 2010. These are:

* Age;
* Disability; (Disability Discrimination Act 2005, GLA Disability Equality Scheme 2005, Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001)
* Gender reassignment;
* Marriage and civil partnership;
* Pregnancy and maternity;
* Race; (Race Relations Act 1976, Amendment 2000, Amendment Regulations 2003)
* Religion or belief;
* Sex; (Sex Discrimination Act 1975); and
* Sexual orientation.

This EqIA is an opportunity to consider whether a policy, strategy or approach, affects all groups in the same way or whether there are is a significant positive, negative or neutral impact on particular groups before a policy is formally introduced.

On the whole, EqIAs should make sure that equality is placed at the centre of policy development, highlighting the likely impact of the policy on the target groups and to take action to improve the policies where appropriate as a result or to demonstrate the potential benefits.

**Appendix 1 Equality Impact Proforma**

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| **Department** | Development Management | | **Section**  Economy | **Person responsible for the assessment** | Chris Shovlin  Michael Atkinson-Smith | |
| **Name of the Policy to be assessed** | Rochdale Town Centre Conservation Area Appraisal (CAA) | | **Date of Assessment** | 19/05/2023 | **Is this a new or existing policy** | Updated CAA for Rochdale Town Centre Conservation Area |
| **1. Describe the aims, objectives and purpose of the policy** | | The draft Conservation Area Appraisal (CAA) has been prepared to guide planning decisions relating to the Rochdale Town Centre Conservation Area. The draft CAA was produced to:  • Ensure that the areas and buildings of significance within the Rochdale Town Centre Conservation Area are identified, alongside opportunities for restoration and enhancement.  • Inform the development of a Management Plan which will provide opportunities to guide new development, including preserving the historic elements of the built fabric of area which contributes to the significance of the Rochdale Town Centre Conservation Area, together with identifying areas for enhancement and better management.  • Ensure an enduring positive legacy of the Rochdale Heritage Action Zone (HAZ) programme. The work is being funded as part of the HAZ programme, which is being delivered by the Rochdale Development Agency on behalf of Rochdale Borough Council, in association with Historic England. | | | | |
| **2. Are there any associated objectives of the policy, please explain** | | The Rochdale Town Centre Conservation Area and its surroundings are undergoing significant changes, with a number of recent significant regeneration works having taken place and with more high profile developments in the pipeline. Given the ongoing changes in the area, it is considered an appropriate time to create a Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan to facilitate consistent decision-making amongst all stakeholders operating within the Rochdale Town Centre Conservation Area. | | | | |

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| **3. Who is intended to benefit from the policy and in what way** | | Private Individuals, Community and Interest Groups, Stakeholders, Land Owners, Developers, Councillors, Rochdale Council Officers, Local and National Heritage Organisations | |
| **4. What outcomes are wanted from this policy?** | | The Draft Conservation Area Appraisal has been produced as a tool to ensure that the areas and buildings of significance within the Rochdale Town Centre Conservation Area are analysed, alongside opportunities for restoration and enhancement. This is with the eventual goal of ensuring that the special character of the conservation area is preserved and enhanced for the benefit of future generations. | |
| **5. What factors/forces could contribute/detract from the outcomes?** | | Inadequate protection of heritage assets defined within the document.  Inadequate enhancement/conservation of the Conservation Area.  Unforeseen/unavoidable circumstances. | |
| **6. Who are the main stakeholders in relation to the policy** | Rochdale Council, Private Individuals, Community and Interest Groups, Stakeholders, Land Owners, Developers. Local and National Heritage Organisations | **7. Who implements the policy and who is responsible for the policy?** | Development Management.  Strategic Planning. |

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| **8. Are there concerns that the policy *could* have a differential impact on racial groups**? | Y | **N** | This CAA seeks to promote a high quality environment for all. This focuses on identifying, analysing and protecting heritage assets for the continued enjoyment of all future generations, inclusive of race. Therefore, it is anticipated that this CAA will have a positive benefit upon this group. |

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| **9. Are there concerns that the policy *could* have a differential impact due to gender?** | Y | **N** | This CAA seeks to promote a high quality environment for all. This focuses on identifying, analysing and protecting heritage assets for the continued enjoyment of all future generations, inclusive of gender. Therefore, it is anticipated that this CAA will have a positive benefit upon this group. |
| **10. Are there concerns that the policy *could* have a differential impact due disability?** | Y | **N** | This CAA seeks to promote a high quality environment for all. This focuses on identifying, analysing and protecting heritage assets for the continued enjoyment of all future generations, inclusive of disability.  Therefore, it is anticipated that this CAA will have a positive benefit upon this group. |
| **11. Are there concerns that the policy *could* have a differential impact on people due to sexual orientation?** | Y | **N** | This CAA seeks to promote a high quality environment for all. This focuses on identifying, analysing and protecting heritage assets for the continued enjoyment of all future generations, inclusive of sexual orientation. Therefore, it is anticipated that this CAA will have a positive benefit upon this group. |
| **12. Are there concerns that the policy *could* have a differential impact on people due to their age?** | Y | **N** | This CAA seeks to promote a high quality environment for all. This focuses on identifying, analysing and protecting heritage assets for the continued enjoyment of all future generations, inclusive of age. Therefore, it is anticipated that this CAA will have a positive benefit upon this group. |
| **13. Are there concerns that the policy *could* have a differential impact on people due to their religious belief?** | Y | **N** | This CAA seeks to promote a high quality environment for all. This focuses on identifying, analysing and protecting heritage assets for the continued enjoyment of all future generations, inclusive of religious belief. Therefore, it is anticipated that this CAA will have a positive benefit upon this group. |

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| **14. Are there concerns that the policy *could* have a differential impact on people due to them being in a marriage or civil partnership?** | Y | **N** | This CAA seeks to promote a high quality environment for all. This focuses on identifying, analysing and protecting heritage assets for the continued enjoyment of all future generations, inclusive of marriage/civil partnership status. Therefore, it is anticipated that this CAA will have a positive benefit upon this group. |
| **15. Are there concerns that the policy *could* have a differential impact on people who are pregnant or on maternity?** | Y | **N** | This CAA seeks to promote a high quality environment for all. This focuses on identifying, analysing and protecting heritage assets for the continued enjoyment of all future generations, inclusive of pregnancy/maternity. Therefore, it is anticipated that this CAA will have a positive benefit upon this group. |
| **16. Are there concerns that the policy *could* have a differential impact on people due to their gender reassignment?** | Y | **N** | This CAA seeks to promote a high quality environment for all. This focuses on identifying, analysing and protecting heritage assets for the continued enjoyment of all future generations, inclusive of those who have undergone gender reassignment. Therefore, it is anticipated that this CAA will have a positive benefit upon this group. |

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| **17. Could the differential impact identified in 8-16 amount to there being the potential for adverse impact in this policy** | | YES | **NO** | |  | |
| **18. Can this adverse impact be justified on the grounds of promoting equality of opportunity for one group? Or any other reason** | | YES | **NO** | | **Please explain for each equality heading (question 8-16) on a separate piece of paper** | |
| **19. Should the policy proceed to a partial impact assessment** | YES | **NO** | **20. If Yes, is there enough evidence to proceed to a full EIA** | YES | | **NO** |

Signed (completing officer) Chris Shovlin Signed (Lead Officer) Daniela Ripa