OUR CULTURAL HEART

HUDDERSFIELD

TOWNSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

ADDENDUM

JANUARY 2024

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Townscape and Visual Impact Assessment – Addendum

Our Cultural Heart – Phase 1

On behalf of Kirlees Council

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Townscape & Visual Impact Assessment Addendum

January 2024

1. Introduction

1.1. This addendum relates to *Kirklees Cultural Heart Townscape and Visual Impact Assessment (TVIA) DOC NUMBER 0001 (P21-0731.001_TVIA)*, prepared by Pegasus Group - issue date 30.09.2022. It serves to update the TVIA in response to an updated development layout which has been prepared for the scheme in line with the *Design & Access Statement Addendum*, prepared by Chapman Taylor for Phase 1 of the Kirklees Cultural Heart Masterplan. This updated development layout pertains to the area covered by the proposed Library, Food Hall and adjacent public realm.

1.2. The relevant previous and updated development layouts are shown in Figures 1 and 2 below. The changes to the scheme which are relevant to the consideration of townscape and visual effects are summarised below.

2. Layout changes

2.1. The relevant updated development comprises, in brief:

- alteration to the scale and massing of the proposed Library building, with the footprint and height of the roof-top element reduced due to the omission of the Level 02 Event Space, along with some subtle changes to the material choices in this area – with most of the original proposed materials being retained and with additional, complementary materials added to support the revised elevation design.

2.2. As a result of the above changes to the Library building, the design of this built-form element has been reconsidered in order to retain a sense of verticality in line with original design principles. Piers have been introduced, reflecting the rhythm of the lower colonnade columns, as well as vertical glazing panels, to enhance verticality and reduce the perception of this element as overly horizontal or squat (see Figures 3 and 4).

3. Townscape & Visual Effects

Townscape Features / Townscape Character Effects

3.1. The slight alteration of the proposed Library building in terms of scale and massing results in a different profile of the building when compared against the original proposals. However, the revised design has incorporated architectural elements which help to retain a sense of verticality, and the scale of the proposed building remains proportionate to the existing built form in the surrounding area. The revised choice of materials is also not substantially different to original proposals and remains sensitive to the materiality of the local townscape.

3.2. Overall, the updated development does not result in any substantive change in comparison with the previous layout that would alter the conclusions of the Townscape and Visual Impact Assessment regarding effects on townscape features or character.

Visual Effects

3.3. As described above, the slight alteration of the proposed Library building means that anticipated views of the proposed development may change as a result in some areas, especially views from nearby Viewpoints 1, 2 and 3. From these viewpoints, visibility of the proposed Library building would be reduced as a result of its reduction in height. From certain locations in the east, this would allow clearer views of the existing, grade II listed Town Hall building beyond as well as a reduction in the prominence of the Library building for visual receptors along the A62 and those in nearby buildings. The materiality of the altered Library building is not substantially different to original proposals and remains sensitive to the materiality of the local townscape, therefore no impactful visual changes are anticipated as a result of this alteration.

3.4. Overall, the updated development does not result in any substantive change in comparison with the previous layout that would alter the conclusions of the Townscape and Visual Impact Assessment regarding visual effects.

4. Conclusion

4.1. The updated layout brings about minor changes in relation to townscape feature / townscape character effects as well as visual effects. However, the changes to proposals do not result in any alterations to the assessment judgements provided in the Townscape and Visual Impact Assessment. The overall conclusions therefore remain as follows:

'*Proposed changes to townscape features are localised within the site boundary and universally constitute beneficial changes, substantially enhancing the quality and character of the townscape in this area.*

Townscape character across the entire site is improved as a result of assessed proposals, and indirect effects on surrounding townscape character areas also confer beneficial effects.

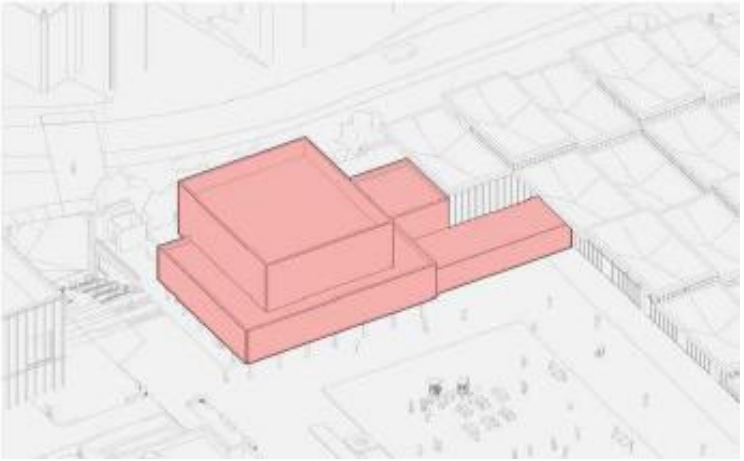
From a visual perspective, impactful views of proposals are limited to areas in close proximity to the site and all major and major / moderate levels of visual effect are assessed as beneficial. From other viewpoints, the level of effect upon visual receptors is generally considered to be minor or moderate / minor and neutral.

Overall, care has been taken in the design of proposals to respect and enhance the setting of historical, listed buildings - both within and around the site - and proposals relate well to such features, increasing their legibility in the townscape and celebrating the architectural heritage of this part of Huddersfield Town Centre. Alterations to the retained, listed Library building and Queensgate Market within the site are sensitive and appropriate and result in the successful regeneration of these assets [...] the

opening up of historical, wide access routes from west to east across the site is decidedly positive, with visual and physical connections between important historical and cultural assets restored [….]

Overall, the total extent of the landscape / townscape and visual effects would be well tolerated by the surrounding urban environment, conferring definitive beneficial effects in all cases.'

Fig 1. Planning consented scheme – 3D axonometric



SOURCE (all Figs.):
Chapman Taylor -Kirklees Cultural Heart, Design & Access Statement Addendum

Fig 2. Amended proposal – 3D axonometric

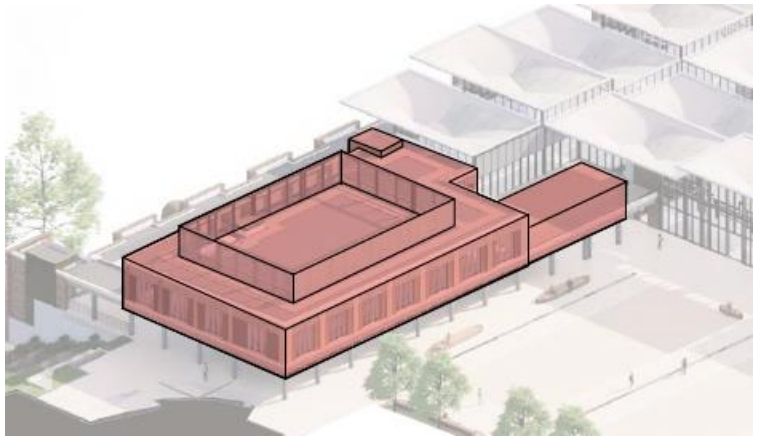


Fig 3. Original & amended elevational hierarchy

Fig 4. Continuation of masterplan character themes

Town & Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)
Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004

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