

OUR

CULTURAL

HEART

HUDDERSFIELD

TOWNSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

ADDENDUM

MARCH 2026

Townscape and Visual Impact Assessment – Addendum

Our Cultural Heart – Phase 2

On behalf of Kirklees Council.

Date: | Pegasus Ref: P24-2054_ENV_001

Author: VR/CC



Document Management.

Version	Date	Author	Checked/ Approved by:	Reason for revision
V1	23.03.26	CC	CC	

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This addendum relates to *Kirklees Cultural Heart Townscape and Visual Impact Assessment (TVIA)*, prepared by Pegasus Group. It serves to update the TVIA in response to a Design & Access Statement Addendum concerning the OCH Combined Museum & Art Gallery. This Design & Access Statement Addendum has been prepared to support a Section 73 Application and new Listed Building Consent Application to vary aspects pertaining to the existing Grade II listed Huddersfield Library and Art Gallery building, consented as part of the Our Cultural Heart masterplan. This building was formerly proposed solely as a Museum; there has been a change in brief to a proposed Museum and Art Gallery which would retain the building's existing gallery use alongside the new museum use. These changes have been previously granted consent in 2024, consequently these amendments are the next iteration of the design process.
- 1.2. The relevant previous and updated elevation drawings are shown within the submitted Design and Access Statement so that clear comparisons can be made.

2. Layout changes

- 2.1. The altered proposals are primarily reflective of the approved scheme, with changes to internal building configuration, services, materials and access to respond to the new brief of combining both museum and gallery use. The overall principles of scale, massing and form follow those of the consented schemes.

3. Townscape & Visual Effects

Townscape Features / Townscape Character Effects

- 3.1. Changes are only proposed to the northern, eastern and western elevations of existing / proposed built form, with no significant changes proposed to the southern elevation of the existing Huddersfield Library and Art Gallery building. The alterations are slight and do not involve a change in terms of scale, massing, nor overall form.
- 3.2. It is not considered that changes to the proposal shall have a notable effect on townscape features nor its character.
- 3.3. Overall, the updated proposals do not result in a 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

- 3.4. As the core scale, massing, form and materiality of proposals in this area remain predominantly the same, it is not anticipated that the updated proposals will result in a 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 scheme 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 mostly 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, the total extent of the landscape / townscape and visual effects would be well tolerated by the surrounding urban environment'.

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

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