

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

TITLE: Macclesfield Indoor Market Refurbishment (MIMR)

VERSION CONTROL

Date	Version	Authors	Description of Changes
8/8/2023	0.1	Jo Wise & Craig Wallace	New Document

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL –EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Stage 1 Description: Fact finding (about your policy / service /

Department	Growth & Enterprise		Lead officer responsible for assessment	Jo Wise
Service	Economic Development		Other members of team undertaking assessment	Craig Wallace
Date	8/8/2023		Version	0.01
Type of document (mark as appropriate)	Plan	Yes		
Is this a new/ existing/ revision of an existing document (please mark as appropriate)	New	Yes		
Title and subject of the impact assessment (include a brief description of the aims, outcomes, operational issues as appropriate and how it fits in with the wider aims of the organisation) Please attach a copy of the strategy/ plan/ function/ policy/ procedure/ service	Macclesfield Indoor Market Refurbishment (MIMR) <p>The Macclesfield SRF identifies as an objective improving the environment in the town centre, with the historic heart as a priority location. 'There is a need to enhance the physical environment of the Retail Core in order to better appeal to all town centre users. Interventions to support this could include...Investment in enhancing the indoor market and Grosvenor Centre Car Park would also improve the look and feel of the Retail Core' and 'support the revitalisation of the existing indoor market to attract a wider range of shoppers'.</p> <p>The Macclesfield Town Centre Recovery Plan identifies improving the market offer of the town and liaising with traders to achieve this.</p> <p>The aim of this project is to address both these objectives; improving the market offer in the town centre, not only to enhance the quality of the town centre environment but also to change its functionality to make it a 'go-to' destination for visitors.</p>			
Who are the main stakeholders, and have they been engaged with?	<p>The main stakeholders are:</p> <p>Market Traders</p>			

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<p>(e.g. general public, employees, Councillors, partners, specific audiences, residents)</p>	<p>Adjacent businesses Macclesfield DIB/East Cheshire Eye Society Blue Badge holders Local residents/visitors to the town centre Local elected Members Macclesfield Town Council</p> <p>The MIMR project has been informed by numerous consultation and engagement activities that have occurred in recent years as explained in more detail below.. Further engagement is envisaged as plans are developed in detail, particularly with market traders and those with insight into how the project might impact on people with specific needs such as Macclesfield DIB and the Cheshire East Eye Society.</p>
<p>Consultation/ involvement carried out</p>	<p>In 2019, recognising the need to support the vitality and viability of Macclesfield town centre, Cheshire East Council (CEC) commissioned a Strategic Regeneration Framework (SRF) to identify clear objectives, priorities, and a route map for town centre regeneration. Between February and March 2019 CEC consulted on the SRF for Macclesfield town centre by employing a range of consultation strategies that resulted in over 250 responses, the majority originating from an online survey.</p> <p>Some of the key findings from the SRF consultation alongside an assessment of how these findings support the proposed investment from the LUF are outlined below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Of the six identified character areas outlined in the draft SRF, respondents to the consultation identified “Chestergate & Historic Heart” as the highest priority area for regeneration and the “Retail Core” as the joint second greatest priority area. The proposal seeks to improve the indoor market, sited in the Grosvenor Centre in central Macclesfield. The proposal is therefore focused on the area of the town centre which the local community has identified as the most important area for regeneration. These results clearly demonstrate the general support for investment in these areas of Macclesfield town centre. • Investment made in the indoor market and Grosvenor Centre car park was referenced heavily in the comments received
<p>What consultation method(s) did you use?</p>	<p>To date, public consultation on concept designs used CEC website to collect responses. Paper copies of questionnaires were made available on request for people who cannot access the internet.</p>

Stage 2 Initial Screening

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Who is affected and what evidence have you considered to arrive at this analysis? (This may or may not include the stakeholders listed above)	The parties most directly affected by this proposal would be existing market traders and their customers.
Who is intended to benefit and how	<p>The measures are intended to benefit both the General Public and traders in Macclesfield Indoor Market.</p> <p>The measures would significantly enhance the appearance of the indoor market in the town centre, with the intention of enhancing the town centre experience for all who use it. To enhance dwell time with additional seating that enables more social interaction, and to improve perceptions of place with the aim of encouraging wider private investment in the town centre. This should benefit the local community as a whole.</p>
Could there be a different impact or outcome for some groups?	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Changing the design of the indoor market can have both particular impacts on those with visual impairments or mobility issues (including those with pushchairs) in potentially positive ways.</p> <p>For example, improving the layout of the market hall and remodelling the stalls so that they are uniform in shape and look can reduce 'clutter' making it less difficult for people with visual impairments or mobility issues to navigate a clear unobstructed route through the market. Increased seating may help older people who may rely on sitting down to rest.</p>
Does it include making decisions based on individual characteristics, needs or circumstances?	The decision to progress with any detailed design, would take into account impact on all current users alongside the benefits to local businesses and would have regard to any mitigation.
Are relations between different groups or communities likely to be affected? (eg will it favour one particular group or deny opportunities for others?)	Not considered likely provided due consideration is given to design and mitigation from the perspective of all users and access for all is a key design objective.
Is there any specific targeted action to promote equality? Is there a history of unequal outcomes (do you have enough evidence to prove otherwise)?	Based on general correspondence and discussions with users such as East Cheshire Eye Society there is a current conflict in the public realm when pavement areas are used for outdoor seating/advertising/sale of goods etc by individual businesses. The careful design of the indoor market gives scope to consider and hopefully help reduce such issues in the market hall..
Is there an actual or potential negative impact on these specific characteristics? (Please tick)	

Age	Y		Marriage & civil partnership		N	Religion & belief		N
Disability	Y		Pregnancy & maternity		Y	Sex		N
Gender reassignment		N	Race		N	Sexual orientation		N

Stage 3 Evidence

What evidence do you have to support your findings? (quantitative and qualitative) Please provide additional information that you wish to include as appendices to this document, i.e., graphs, tables, charts		Level of Risk (High, Medium or Low)
Age	No specific evidence has been identified but it is assumed evidence would be available to demonstrate that older age groups will be more likely to have mobility and visual issues and therefore may be more impacted by availability of public seating, clarity of unobstructed access routes etc	Medium
Marriage & civil partnership	No impact	Low
Religion	No impact	Low
Disability	<p>Past engagement with the Macclesfield DIB and East Cheshire Eye Society on similar projects indicates there is a high risk of changes to the public realm impacting on how people with disabilities can access and use the space. This is also true within the indoor market area.</p> <p>This may impact on how disabled people feel about using the town centre as well as any physical impacts.</p> <p>We have previously worked with Macclesfield DIB and the Cheshire East Eye Society and their input has been invaluable in shaping detailed designs for the Castle St scheme for example. We would continue to liaise with them pre, during and post works on any future stage of any indoor market interventions.</p>	High
Pregnancy & maternity	No specific evidence has been identified but it is clear that parents with young children using prams may be impacted in similar ways to wheelchair users with regard to access in the indoor market.	Low
Sex	No impact	Low

Gender Reassignment	No impact	Low
Race	No impact	Low
Sexual Orientation	No impact	Low

Stage 4 Mitigation

Protected characteristics	Mitigating action <i>Once you have assessed the impact of a policy/service, it is important to identify options and alternatives to reduce or eliminate any negative impact. Options considered could be adapting the policy or service, changing the way in which it is implemented or introducing balancing measures to reduce any negative impact. When considering each option you should think about how it will reduce any negative impact, how it might impact on other groups and how it might impact on relationships between groups and overall issues around community cohesion. You should clearly demonstrate how you have considered various options and the impact of these. You must have a detailed rationale behind decisions and a justification for those alternatives that have not been accepted.</i>	How will this be monitored?	Officer responsible	Target date
Age	Maintain as a minimum existing levels of indoor market seating	Cheshire East Regeneration Service	Craig Wallace	Through detailed design stages
Marriage & civil partnership	No impact			
Religion	No impact			
Disability	Materials /detailed design for the indoor market should be discussed with both the DIB and East Cheshire Eye Society. This will enable discussion on potential issues in further detail and help identify mitigation for any issues identified.	Cheshire East Regeneration Service	Craig Wallace	At stage of development of detailed designs

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Pregnancy & maternity	Materials /detailed design for the indoor market should be discussed with both the DIB and East Cheshire Eye Society which should highlight issues for anyone needing more space for access such as those with prams and pushchairs alongside wheelchair users. This will enable discussion on potential issues in further detail and help identify mitigation for any issues identified.	Cheshire East Regeneration Service	Craig Wallace	At stage of development of detailed designs
Sex	No impact			
Gender Reassignment	No impact			
Race	No impact			
Sexual Orientation	No impact			

5. Review and Conclusion

Summary: provide a brief overview including impact, changes, improvement, any gaps in evidence and additional data that is needed			
Specific actions to be taken to reduce, justify or remove any adverse impacts	How will this be monitored?	Officer responsible	Target date
Liaise at detailed design stage with Macclesfield DIB and East Cheshire Eye Society in addition to requiring design team to adhere to any current regulations with regard to accessibility for those with disabilities.	This will be monitored by the project officer responsible for project management on any public realm scheme.	Craig Wallace	On going as detailed designs are developed and refined.
Please provide details and link to full action plan for actions	Macclesfield Town Centre Strategic Regeneration Framework Macclesfield Town Centre Recovery Plan		
When will this assessment be reviewed?	Every 12 months		
Are there any additional assessments that need to be undertaken in relation to this assessment?	No		
Lead officer sign off	Jo Wise	Date	8/8/23
Head of service sign off	Charles Jarvis	Date	8/8/23

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Please publish this completed EIA form on the relevant section of the Cheshire East website