

Date: 7 June 2023

Dear Sir/Madam

We are pleased to be submitting this application to reconfigure and reimagine Rochdale's main arts & heritage venue (Touchstones) to create a flagship multi-disciplinary cultural hub, which will form the heart of our developing cultural district. This project represents the Arts Council / DCMS's largest ever capital investment in Rochdale Borough, and the second largest funding award through the national 'Cultural Development Fund 2' scheme.

Following submission, we are keen to engage with the planning team to make sure the proposed works and reimagining of the functions within the building are correctly identified within the planning forms, and make any necessary amendments to the planning fee.

For clarity:

- The project does not involve extending the building, with works focusing on the reconfiguration of internal spaces and the necessary external works to improve access into and out of the building and provide an external dining terrace.
- The building currently functions as an art gallery and museum, with associated education spaces, function rooms, café, and back office space to support this operation. The proposal seeks to add to these uses to create a more multi-disciplinary cultural hub, with the addition of a new performance space, artist workspaces, and a reimagined dining space that will integrate museum collections. Education and back office spaces will also see significant improvements. This application does not include a proposed '*change of use*', but we are happy to engage if during assessment it is deemed that a change of use needs to be obtained as part of this application.

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or clarifications.

Kind regards,

Oliver Boaler

Economic Development Manager (Culture)
Rochdale Development Agency