



Application to Local Planning Authority for Listed Building Consent to install an artwork hanging track system at Rochdale Town Hall

Heritage Statement

The purpose of this statement is to discuss the rationale for installing a modern art hanging system at Rochdale Town Hall, a Grade 1 Listed Building. This installation is intended to increase the functionality of the building whilst ensuring that the integrity and historic character of the space are respected and preserved.

Rochdale Town Hall, built in 1871, holds significant historical, architectural and cultural value for the borough and reflects the craftsmanship, design principles and aesthetic ideals of its time. The building's heritage value is embodied in its distinctive architectural features such as stained-glass windows, painted ceilings and walls and original furniture.

The artwork hanging track system presents a sustainable method for displaying artwork within heritage spaces, ensuring that art can be rotated, replaced or relocated without damaging or altering the original structure of the building. Key points include:

- The proposed artwork hanging system is designed to use existing walls and structures, without the need for invasive changes to the structure of the building.
- The installation of the hanging system enriches the visual experience of the rooms, allowing contemporary artworks or historical pieces to be exhibited. By providing a flexible, unobtrusive display system, it will allow for an evolving exhibition programme, that can be utilized by the community for co-curated exhibitions, and for collaborations with local and national museums. This is key in ensuring that Rochdale Town Hall is truly representative of the diverse communities that it serves.
- The track will be placed in carefully chosen locations, ensuring that it does not detract or obscure key architectural elements such as painted walls or decorative cornices.
- The tracks will be installed to be as discreet as possible, utilizing materials and techniques that ensure it will blend into the wall; colour matching the track with the original wall colours will ensure the system does not overpower the room's aesthetic or historical atmosphere.

In conclusion, the installation of the hanging track system at Rochdale Town Hall offers the opportunity to enhance the cultural experience of visitors and the broader community, ensuring the building remains a relevant and accessible space for future generations while safeguarding its historical integrity.