

HERITAGE & CONSERVATION CONSULTATION RESPONSE

Application Details

Heritage, Conservation & Design team officer

Catherine Fenghour

Date

12 January 2026

Application reference

25/00846/LBC

Address

Rochdale Town Hall, The Esplanade, OL16 1AZ

Proposal

Listed building consent for installation of modern artwork hanging track system onto walls

Affected Heritage Assets

Designated heritage assets

- Rochdale Town Hall (grade I)

Non-designated heritage assets

n/a

Summary

The scheme is now acceptable in heritage terms subject to conditions.

Assessment

Concerns were previously raised regarding the installation of the hanging track system in the following locations:

- Ground floor – Mayor's Parlour

The hanging track has been omitted from this location.

- First floor – Zodiac Room

The initial scheme showed the tracks to be positioned on two of the walls. There were concerns that the extent of the tracks in this room would detract from the original decorative scheme on the ceiling. The scheme has now been reduced, so that the hanging system is now proposed on only one wall, reducing its visual impact. The tracks should also be conditioned to be matched to the existing wall colour, as shown in the revised plan pack. Subject to this condition and noting the reversibility, it is considered that a neutral impact on significance could be achieved.

- First floor – Corridor outside Mayor’s Parlour

There were concerns regarding the positioning of the track in this location. The track is now proposed along a smaller section of the wall, between the two circular protrusions and directly below the cornice detail. Subject to a condition requiring the track to be colour matched, it is considered that the proposed scheme would have a neutral impact on significance.

Conclusions

The revised scheme has addressed the concerns raised previously. Conditions should be imposed requiring the hanging tracks to be colour matched to the existing wall finishes; and requiring walls to be made good. on removal of the tracks.

Subject to these conditions and noting the reversibility of the proposals, it is considered that the scheme would not harm the significance of the Town Hall.

Re-consultation

No