

# Diversity impact assessment

## **STAR HILL TO SUN PIER CONSERVATION AREA SIGNIFICANCE LED DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT**

**5 SEPTEMBER 2023**

**DAVE HARRIS, CHIEF PLANNING OFFICER**

### **1 Summary description of the proposed change**

In April 2020, Medway Council were awarded £1.6m in funding from Historic England as part of their High Street Heritage Action Zones (HSHAZ) programme, which is funded by the Government.

The aim of this programme is to transform high streets into thriving town centres through the power of heritage, by delivering physical improvements and cultural activities to regenerate historic high streets and/or town centres.

One of the programme's workstreams is the creation of a Significance Led Development Framework for the Sun Pier to Star Hill Conservation Area (known locally as 'Chatham Intra') to guide future development in a way which protects heritage and character, whilst enabling sensitive sustainable growth and regeneration.

This Framework will be adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), which is a non-statutory document and forms a part of the Council's wider Development Framework.

### **2 Summary of evidence used to support this assessment**

The SPD Framework is informed by a comprehensive evidence base, and engagement with stakeholders, statutory bodies, and the local community, through workshops, symposia, stakeholder and community forum group meetings held between 2020 and 2023.

Additional engagement and awareness has also taken place through the University of Kent School of Architecture and Planning, with associated projects intended to continue into the future.

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### 3 What is the likely impact of the proposed change?

Is it likely to:

Adversely impact on one or more of the protected characteristic groups

Advance equality of opportunity for one or more of the protected characteristic groups

Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who don't

**(insert Yes when there is an impact or No when there isn't)**

Protected characteristic groups (Equality Act 2010)	Adverse impact	Advance equality	Foster good relations
Age	No	Yes	Yes
Disability	No	Yes	Yes
Gender reassignment	No	-	Yes
Marriage/civil partnership	No	-	Yes
Pregnancy/maternity	No	-	Yes
Race	No	-	Yes
Religion/belief	No	-	Yes
Sex	No	-	Yes
Sexual orientation	No	-	Yes
Other (eg low income groups)	No	Yes	Yes

### 4 Summary of the likely impacts

The draft SPD framework promotes sustainable development in Chatham Intra.

It aims to transform high streets into thriving town centres through the power of heritage, by delivering physical improvements and cultural activities to regenerate historic high streets and/or town centres benefiting a range of local residents, visitors, business owners and the wider community.

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The information and guidance within the SPD will support existing and emerging planning policies within the Council's Local Plan and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), including those relating to sustainability, sustainable development, and mitigating the effects of climate change.

The SPD framework sets out opportunities to increase biodiversity, tree planting, improve air quality, Sustainable Urban Drainage and the environmental quality of new development.

## 5 What actions can be taken to mitigate likely adverse impacts, improve equality of opportunity or foster good relations?

The Council is consulting on the draft SPD Framework and welcomes views on alternative approaches to transforming the high streets.

## 6 Action plan

Actions to mitigate adverse impact, improve equality of opportunity or foster good relations and/or obtain new evidence

Action	Lead	Deadline or review date
Review of DIA in line with preparation of Supplementary Planning Document.	Planning Service	February 2024

## 7 Recommendation

It is recommended to proceed with the publication of the SPD Development Framework for the Sun Pier to Star Hill Conservation Area (known locally as 'Chatham Intra') for consultation.

## 8 Authorisation

The authorising officer is consenting that the recommendation can be implemented, sufficient evidence has been obtained and appropriate mitigation is planned, the Action Plan will be incorporated into the relevant Service Plan and monitored

### Assistant Director

Dee Orourke, Assistant Director Culture & community • regeneration, culture and environment.

### Date of authorisation

14 July 2023