



# London Borough of Hackney Equality Impact Assessment Form

## Title and Purpose of Policy:

**Title:** Albion Square Conservation Area Appraisal and Revised Conservation Area Boundary

**Purpose:** The principal purpose of the review of the conservation area is to ensure that a full conservation area appraisal is in place that clearly sets out the area's qualities and identifies its threats and weaknesses. It is also required in order to ensure that the conservation area boundary accurately reflects the historic environment in this area and affords it appropriate protection.

Albion Square Conservation Area was originally designated in 1975 and as such was one of the earliest conservation areas to receive protection in Hackney. However, despite such early protection, no detailed Conservation Area Appraisal was produced until fieldwork was undertaken in 2007. Due to limited resources at that time, public consultation was not undertaken and the appraisal remained in draft form.

Cabinet approved public consultation of the revised and updated draft appraisal in 2014 and this was carried out in April and May 2015. The research and assessment of the area's special interest undertaken for the appraisal has enabled careful consideration of the existing boundaries and an eastern extension to the designated area has been included in this appraisal.

Following endorsement by Cabinet, the item will be taken to Full Council in July 2016 for adoption.

## Officer Responsible:

<b>Name:</b> Matt Payne	<b>Ext:</b> 8106
<b>Directorate:</b> Legal, HR and Regulatory Services	<b>Department/Division:</b> Planning & Regulatory Services/ Conservation, Urban Design & Sustainability Team

NB: This assessment must be reviewed and agreed by the relevant Assistant Director, who is responsible for ensuring it is made publicly available and is in line with guidance ([staffroom.hackney.gov.uk/equality-impact-assessments.htm](http://staffroom.hackney.gov.uk/equality-impact-assessments.htm)).

**Assistant Director:** Cathy Gallagher  
**Date:** 4 February 2016  
**Comment:**

## 1. Please summarise the service, function, policy, initiative or saving.

Conservation Area designation, review and management is an important part of the planning process. Under the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2012, Conservation Areas are classed as heritage assets. The NPPF requires local planning authorities to set out in their Local Plan a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment, including heritage assets most at risk through neglect, decay or other threats. In doing so, LPAs should recognise that heritage assets are an irreplaceable resource and conserve them in a manner appropriate to their significance.

Conservation Area Appraisals clearly set out the important qualities of the heritage asset and not only does this enable proper protection of those parts of the historic environment that the community genuinely values, but it also provides clarity to developers as to where those heritage assets are located and, critically, what it is about them that is worth considering.

## 2 Who are the main people that will be affected?

The key people who will be affected will be the property owners and occupiers within the conservation area. These owners and occupiers have been consulted as part of the public consultation carried out in April and May 2015.

## 3 What research or consultation(s) have been carried out?

In line with best practice and the Council's Statement of Community Involvement, the Council carried out a six week public consultation with stakeholders as appraisals that have been adopted following public consultation carry greater weight on appeal.

Consultation as also carried out with statutory and local organisations including Historic England, the Hackney Society and the Kingsland Conservation Areas Advisory Committee (CAAC). Responses were also sought from local residents, ward members and other interested parties. Publicity was disseminated through the local groups, *Hackney Today*, the Council's Consultation web page, public drop-in sessions and in local libraries. Officers considered all relevant responses and made appropriate amendments to the appraisal before reporting back to Cabinet and Council.

## 4 Equality Impacts

The following tables outline the main issues in planned consultation that may impact on each equalities strand.

### 4(a) What positive impact could there be overall, on different equality groups, and on cohesion and good relations?

#### **Positive Impact:**

#### **Overall**

**Residents within the conservation area and other key stakeholders had equal**

<p><b>opportunity to have their say through all methods of consultation. The Albion Square Conservation Area Appraisal and Revised Conservation Area Boundary will not impact on any one equality group.</b></p>	
<p><b>a) Age</b> The review does not discriminate against age.</p>	<p><b>b) Disability</b> The review does not impede the ability to require a property to be DDA compliant.</p>
<p><b>c) Gender</b> The review does not discriminate against gender.</p>	<p><b>d) Race</b> Hackney's borough population identifies 37.3 per cent as ethnic minorities (including White Other groups). No impact identified.</p>
<p><b>e) Religion/Belief</b> Close to half (46.6%) of Hackney's residents identify their religion as being Christian, a lower level than that found in London and England &amp; Wales. The borough does, however, have comparatively larger Muslim, Jewish and Buddhist populations.  The review does not discriminate against any one religious or belief groups</p>	<p><b>f) Sexual Orientation</b> The review does not discriminate against sexual orientation.</p>
<p><b>g) Other groups</b> None identified.</p>	

**4(b) What negative impact could there be overall, on different equality groups, and on cohesion and good relations?**

<p><b>Negative Impact:</b></p> <p><b>Overall</b> There are no identified negative impacts.</p>	
<p><b>a) Age</b> None identified.</p>	<p><b>b) Disability</b> None identified.</p>
<p><b>c) Gender</b> None identified.</p>	<p><b>d) Race</b> None identified.</p>
<p><b>e) Religion/Belief</b> None identified.</p>	<p><b>f) Sexual Orientation</b> None identified.</p>
<p><b>g) Other groups</b> None identified.</p>	

**5. Equality and Cohesion Action Planning– specific actions to address equality and cohesion issues raised by this assessment**

None identified.