



## Chichester City Council

### DESIGN, ACCESS AND HERITAGE STATEMENT

#### INSTALLATION OF ADDITIONAL SOLAR PANELS TO ROOF

THE COUNCIL HOUSE, NORTH STREET, CHICHESTER, PO19 1LQ

MARCH 2024

### Significance of the Heritage Assets

The Council House is located on North Street, one of the principal streets within the historic Chichester City Centre, which is a designated Conservation Area. The building is situated on the eastern side of North Street, on the corner of Lion Street. It is an attractive and distinctive building and a local landmark. The Council House is a grade II\* listed building. The listing details are as follows:

Heritage Category:

**Listed Building**

Grade:

**II\***

List Entry Number:

**1354331**

Date first listed:

**04-Jul-1950**

List Entry Name:

**THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AND ASSEMBLY ROOM**

Statutory Address:

**THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AND ASSEMBLY ROOM, NORTH STREET**

NORTH STREET 1. 972 (East Side) The Council Chamber and Assembly Rooms SU 8604 NW 4/42 5.7.50. II\* 2. Council Chamber 1731. Architect Roger Morris. Red brick. Built out over the pavement on arcade. 4 stone Ionic columns above supporting entablature and solid parapet with inscribed tablet in parapet and figure of lion above. Large round-headed window in centre and 1 plain sash window on each side with empty niches for statues beyond. Addition to the south 1880. The Pudens stone (1783) is built into the wall under the arcade. The Assembly Rooms behind 1783. James Wyatt Architect.

Listing NGR: **SU8611404955**

The Council House was built in 1731 in the Classical style by well-known English architect Roger Morris. The Assembly Rooms behind, designed by James Wyatt, were constructed in 1783. The building was extended to the south in 1880 in a similar style and the facade has remained largely unaltered since.

The building remains in its historic use as the offices of the City Council and features rooms available for public hire for entertainment, educational and other public gatherings. The building is therefore of historic, architectural and social significance.

## **Proposal**

The proposal is to add further solar panels to the existing solar array on the roof of the building. This would not require any structural alterations to the building and would not be visible from anywhere within the public realm, due to the placement on the roof, the viewing angle and the parapet. Consequently, there would be no impact upon the Conservation Area and no harm to the fabric or appearance of the listed building itself.

The benefits of the proposal are that it would further improve the sustainability and energy performance of the building and would contribute to the aim of Chichester City Council to reduce the carbon footprint of Council assets and activities. This would make a small contribution to tackling climate change and the sustainability of infrastructure, which, cumulatively would have a positive impact upon the environment. The proposal is considered to be in the public interest.

## **Planning permission**

Subject to the Listed Building Consent, the works would be undertaken as permitted development under Part 12 of Schedule 2 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015.

## **Design**

The proposed solar panels are of functional appearance by necessity but would not be visible from the public realm. The appearance of the panels matches the existing.

## **Access**

There are no access changes as a result of the proposals. Access to the building is via the main entrance on North Street, or via the car park on the southern side of Lion Street.

## **Summary**

The proposed work is considered to be an important step towards fulfilling the stated aim of the Council to reduce carbon emissions and improve the sustainability of the Council's assets and activities. The proposed solar array installation would not alter the appearance or harm the fabric of the building, and would improve the energy performance of the building.