

### Implications

#### Corporate & Strategic Implications

1. The City Plan 2040 is undergoing review. This decision is separate from the City Plan process.

#### Financial implications

2. None

#### Staff resource implications

3. Staff time to support the designation of the conservation area and production of the follow-up Appraisal and Management Strategy will be met through the ongoing work of the Planning & Development Division

#### Legal implications

4. The legal framework and the implications of designating a conservation area are set out in the body of the report.

#### Equalities implications

5. Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 requires that the City Corporation, as a public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:
  - Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act;
  - Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
  - Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
6. The characteristics protected by the Equality Act are age, disability, gender, reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or beliefs, sex and sexual orientation.
7. A proposed range of draft boundaries were consulted on. The City Corporation have completed an equalities screening The equalities screening was carried out on the recommended option (option 3) which is the most extensive proposed conservation area, and is the area proposed by representatives of Bevis Marks Synagogue. The equalities screening concluded that the option recommended would have positive impacts on the persons who share the protected characteristics of marriage and civil partnership, religion or belief, and race. There

were no negative impacts identified for persons who share any other relevant protected characteristics.

8. Counsel acting on behalf of Bevis Marks Synagogue and the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue has provided a letter as part of the consultation responses which provides that the proposals would *'particularly and disproportionately affect the Jewish community of Great Britain which worships at the Synagogue and for whom the Synagogue and surrounding Jewish sites hold incalculable religious and historic value'*. The letter expresses that *'the wider the conservation area the greater the level of protection to the Jewish sites, particularly Bevis Marks Synagogue and its wider setting and that option 3 would have the most positive impact on the Jewish community and its relations with other groups'*. The view is expressed that the alternative options offer far less protection to the Jewish sites and that exclusion of the sites of the former Creechurch Lane and Great Synagogues and the potential development site of 31 Bury Street would negatively impact the Jewish community. The full response which sets out why the wider boundary is considered to have the most positive impact, is set out in the background papers. These views are supported by other consultation responses.
9. Should Members wish to approve a narrower boundary this remains an option open to members if it is properly reasoned by reference to the statutory test and taking account of Historic England guidance, however Members should take into account (have due regard to the fact) that whilst a smaller area with a narrower boundary would still have positive impacts on those sharing relevant protected characteristics compared to the current situation, the full equality benefits that would come through protecting the wider area would not be achieved.

### **Risk implications**

10. None

### **Climate implications**

11. The previous report to committee proposed the production of a Sustainability Appraisal in the event of a recommendation to designate a conservation area. Having further examined the relevant legislation and regulations, officers are of the view that this is not required for the purposes of conservation area designation, which is not considered to have direct implications for sustainability and climate change.

### **Security implications**

12. None