Access Statement

19-21 George Street Manchester M1 4HE

This statement has been prepared to address access arrangements to the site in accordance with the requirements of the Local Planning Authority.

1. Site Entrance

Both main entrances for the basement and ground floor are accessed directly from George Street: one staircase leads up to the ground floor (restaurant), and a separate staircase leads down to the basement (mini market).

We have considered the feasibility of providing a ramp or platform lift at the entrance. However, due to the very limited forecourt space, the steep gradient that would be required, and the structural and heritage constraints associated with the building's location within the Chinatown Conservation Area, it is not practicable to provide step-free access at this location.

2. Ground Floor Restaurant

The ground floor restaurant is reached via a short flight of steps from the entrance. Once inside, the internal layout provides adequate circulation space for wheelchair users and those with mobility needs. Staff will be available to assist customers with mobility difficulties at the entrance.

3. Basement Mini Market

The basement mini market is accessed via a staircase descending directly from the entrance. Due to physical and structural constraints, it is not practicable to provide lift access to this area. As a reasonable adjustment, staff will provide assistance to disabled customers by bringing requested goods from the basement mini market to the ground floor for viewing and purchase. Clear signage at the entrance will explain this service.

4. Alternative Adjustments

The applicant is committed to making reasonable adjustments in accordance with the Equality Act 2010, ensuring that disabled customers are not excluded from accessing the goods and services offered.

Conclusion

While it is not possible to achieve step-free access to either the ground floor or basement levels due to the building's existing structure and its location within the Conservation Area, reasonable adjustments will be implemented to ensure that disabled customers are accommodated as far as practicable.