

**PRESS RELEASE: EMBARGOED UNTIL 0001 WEDNESDAY 17  
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From: Manchester Library of Things (LoT)

For media enquiries please contact Helen Power on +44 (0) 7853 266 598 or by email [helenwpower@gmail.com](mailto:helenwpower@gmail.com). Spokespeople are available for interview/broadcast.

## **Manchester's first "library of things" to launch in Levenshulme**

**Described by organisers as a "community shed: bursting with things you need...but don't want to buy" Manchester Library of Things (LoT) will open in Summer 2022 and is planning to operate from a converted shipping container at the community-owned Levenshulme Old Library.**

The LoT – Manchester's first – will be launched this Friday (19 November) at the popular Levenshulme night market, with the first of [three information events](#) for prospective members to be held over the course of the following few months.

The LoT follows in the footsteps of over 400 other successful library of things projects across the UK and overseas – as far afield as Australia, Ghana and China – and is founded on an ethos of sustainable consumption, meaning that by borrowing, rather than buying rarely-used items, people can do more, whilst saving money and protecting the planet.

Like a normal library, the LoT will allow Manchester residents to sign up for membership and then, for a small fee, borrow the items that suit their needs. From bikes to binoculars and drills to disco balls - the LoT will stock the things that people need, want or just want to try, for DIY projects, gardening, exploring new hobbies and much, much more. Borrowing will be affordable, with pay as you go and membership options to suit every budget.

At the first information event, the volunteer co-ordinators for the project – which has thus far secured funding from Manchester City Council's Neighbourhood Investment Fund and Hubbub as part of the [In Our Nature](#) programme – will showcase the items they hope the Library will stock and encourage visitors to [shape the LoT and sign up for more information by completing a survey](#) on what they need and how they might use the physical space once it is opened.

**Maria Houlihan, lead co-ordinator for Manchester LoT**, commented:

*"I was inspired to set up the project after spending far too much money on tools and DIY equipment to do up our house, but then saw huge benefits when I could lend things out to neighbours and friends. At the heart of the LoT is the belief that we, the community, should own our stuff – together. Not only that, but, in this era of climate emergency, borrowing rarely used items prevents waste and overproduction, and sourcing them locally reduces transport emissions and avoids lining the pockets of polluting multinationals."*

**Cllr Dzidra Noor (Levenshulme ward)**, added:

*Manchester Library of Things will help, not only our bank balances, but also sustainability. It gives the community the chance to utilise those occasional use things that we often need but cannot justify the cost of purchase and is kinder to the environment as less appliances are made and gathering dust on our shelves when not in use.*

**Gavin Ellis, Director and Co-founder at Hubbub**, added:

*"Hubbub are delighted to be providing funding through the In Our Nature programme to get Manchester's first Library of Things off the ground. The Library of Things is a brilliant way to get residents and communities engaged with the circular economy agenda, offering a practical, local solution to the problem of waste and over-consumption. It will be a real asset to the local community and contribute to meeting the city's ambitions to tackle the climate emergency."*

**ENDS**

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## NOTES TO EDITORS

### 1. Manchester Library of Things

Manchester Library of Things is a community interest company, limited by guarantee. It is funded by grant, membership and rental income. Any profits generated are reinvested in the Library of Things or to serve the company's social mission.

Website: [www.mcrlot.com](http://www.mcrlot.com)

Instagram: [www.instagram.com/mcrlot](https://www.instagram.com/mcrlot)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/mcrlot](https://www.facebook.com/mcrlot)

Twitter: [www.twitter.com/mcrlot](https://www.twitter.com/mcrlot)

### 2. Levenshulme Old Library

Levenshulme Old Library CIO was set up in 2016 to carry forward our vision for a vibrant arts and culture centre, housed in the former Levenshulme public library, built in 1904 by Andrew Carnegie, to bring knowledge and opportunity to the people of Levenshulme.

Further details: [levenshulmeoldlibrary.org.uk](http://levenshulmeoldlibrary.org.uk)

### 3. Levenshulme night market

Levenshulme night market will take place at Levenshulme Train Station Car Park on Friday 19 November, from 5pm – 9pm. The Market is free to attend.

Further details: [www.levymarket.com](http://www.levymarket.com)

### 4. In Our Nature

In Our Nature is a campaign to boost nature and fight climate change in Manchester. The campaign is run by Hubbub, Manchester Climate Change Agency, Manchester City Council, Amity CIC, Tyndall Centre and Commonplace. In Our Nature is funded by the National Lottery's Climate Action Fund and a coalition of funding partners including Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, Garfield Weston Foundation, the Wates Family Enterprise Trust, the Co-op, Suntory Beverage and Food GB&I, Coca-Cola GB, Danone UK & Ireland, JCDcaux UK and Tetra Pak.

Manchester residents can visit the online hub at [inournaturemcr.co.uk](http://inournaturemcr.co.uk) for more information and to have their say. Follow @InOurNatureMCR on social media to find everyday inspiration, tips, and hacks for greener living in Manchester. The campaign is keen to hear from more businesses keen on supporting.

Get in touch with [inournature@hubbub.org.uk](mailto:inournature@hubbub.org.uk) to explore potential collaborations.

