

Trinity Islands, Great Jackson Street Response to the Manchester Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy December 2021

This table below outlines how the Proposed Development responds to the Manchester Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy 2015 visions and objectives:

Vision:	Response:
By 2025 high quality, well maintained green and blue spaces will be an integral part of all neighbourhoods. The City's communities will be living healthy, fulfilled lives, enjoying access to parks and greenspaces and safe green routes for walking, cycling and exercise throughout the City. Businesses will be investing in areas with a high environmental quality and attractive surroundings, enjoying access to a healthy, talented workforce. New funding models will be in place, ensuring progress achieved by 2025 can be sustained and provide the platform for ongoing investment in the years to follow.	The Proposed Development incorporates a large amount of high quality public realm, of c. 1.29 hectares, that will serve future and existing residents within the St. John's and Water Street Strategic Regeneration area, surrounding existing communities in Salford, Castlefield and Hulme, as well as visitors. On each plot, the scale of investment in the public realm is considerable and comparable to Deansgate Square, which comprises 0.48ha of public realm. When viewed together it will be one of the largest provisions in public space within new development coming forward in Manchester City Centre. The design of the Proposed Development has advanced from the 2017 Allied London proposals, by reducing the number of towers from five to four and containing the podium footprint as opposed to extending out further. As a result, the Trinity Islands scheme will have 1.29 ha of public realm, which is a considerable improvement from 0.4 ha proposed in the 2017 scheme. The principal reason for this is to enable the provision of a larger amount of public realm and to create a key public realm space in the heart of the St Johns and Water Street SRF areas and between the proposed buildings. The intention for this was to also improve the pedestrian and cyclist linkages through the Framework area from the adjacent communities, in particular linking St Johns through to Water and on through to Castlefield and Hulme. This provides improved pedestrian and cyclist links to the existing area of green infrastructure at Hulme Park whilst increasing the attractiveness of the riverside setting by forming new access. This helps to meet the objectives set out within the Irwell City Park Initiative which identifies the Site as being suitable for green and open space whilst maximising its connections and riverside setting.

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	Ultimately, the proposed enhancement to pedestrian permeability will create greater connectivity and linkages to this part of the City Centre to the rest. The public realm comprises areas of hard and soft landscaping, including green space and trees and street furniture, which will act to provide a very green landscape. Informal pathways lead users through the space where people are encouraged to stop and play and take in the surrounding architecture. Naturalistic style planting with tree groves and swathes of grasses and herbaceous planting will help to create seasonal interest within the public realm.
Objectives established to enable the vision to be achieved:	Response
1. Improve the quality and function of existing green and blue Infrastructure, to maximise the benefits it delivers.	○ The development includes a significant amount of new public realm which will improve the quality of the green and blue infrastructure, and the streetscape; therefore, improving the routes and connectivity to the green infrastructure offer within the wider City Centre and within the St Johns and Water Street SRF area. ○ A number of landscaping and public realm measures incorporated into the proposals will enhance the ecological value of the Site, including: ○ Shrub planting provision designed to enhance the ecological and aesthetic value of the Site; and ○ Vertical green walls on the podium edges along the river corridor with planting known to attract insects, that in turn attract bird and bats; ○ Tree planting, in hard landscape areas including street trees. In total, 149 trees are proposed throughout the public realm: ○ Tree planting incorporates below ground cellular systems contributing to SUDS and has the benefit of improved long term growth and quicker establishment. ○ Trees help with shading and cooling, absorbing pollutants and support biodiversity. ○ Creation of green lungs at a key gateway to the city in a traffic dominated landscape.

	○ Open landscaping, which will allow light and natural surveillance through the Site and surrounding spaces.
2. Use appropriate green and blue infrastructure as a key component of new developments to help create successful neighbourhoods and support the City's growth.	✓ The opportunity to deliver this quantum and quality of public realm being proposed has been identified within the Irwell City Park Initiative as well as the St Johns and Water Street SRF's. Altogether, these three guidance documents envision the creation of a large amount of green and open space on the Site, maximising the riverside setting to create enhanced connectivity across this part of City Centre whilst enabling newly formed access to the River Irwell in an attractive manner. ✓ The creation of a significant amount of public realm on the Site will provide a green open space for new residents and existing communities in St Johns and Water Street, Castlefield, Salford and the wider City Centre. ✓ This new public realm will improve linkages through the St Johns and Water Street Framework area and will effectively create better connectivity to the rest of the City Centre. The site will look to use permeable paving systems and large areas of soft landscape planting that collectively will slow surface water run off through the site. Transforming an existing asphalt car park into a rich and diverse landscape that will have measure sin place to deal with slowing down its own surface water.
3. Improve connectivity and accessibility to green and blue infrastructure within the City and beyond.	✓ The large amount of public realm connects and interacts with the River Irwell and Manchester's wider green and blue infrastructure network. In particular, the new public realm will link up with the other public realm spaces being provided across in St Johns and Water Street, creating a series of interconnected green infrastructure.
4. Improve and promote a wider understanding and awareness of the benefits that green and blue infrastructure provides to residents, the economy and the local environment.	✓ The provision of a significant amount of public realm on-site within a riverside setting in the Framework area will promote a wider understanding and awareness of the benefits from such infrastructure. ✓ The redevelopment of the currently underutilised Site will support the creation of a new residential-led neighbourhood. The addition of the new public realm will be accessible to future and existing residents within the St Johns and Water Street Framework area, nearby residential neighbourhoods and the wider City. The Proposed Development will provide additional green open space for local communities to come together, interact and play, thus improving community cohesion. ✓ By enhancing the green and blue infrastructure on-site and within the St Johns and Water Street Framework area and improving the quality of pedestrian and cycling routes to other areas of open

	space in the City, local communities will benefit from activated streets, thereby enhancing the vitality of the local area. ✓ The inclusion of public realm may increase passive surveillance, making a positive contribution to reducing localised crime and increasing safety. ✓ Furthermore, by improving and enhancing the safety and provision of the public realm, members of the community will be more attracted to these spaces and to undertaking sustainable modes of travel, such as walking and cycling, to access other areas of the City. This has the potential to reduce reliance on private car journeys and generate health benefits associated with walking and cycling. ✓ Raised grow beds along the river corridor will encourage collaborative engagement between the residents and wider local community and actively encourage edible grow zones.
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