

GREEN AND BLUE STRATEGY RESPONSE

PROJECT CONTEXT + POLICY

Site Context:

The site is a brownfield in nature, it comprises of hardstanding, timber fencing, advertising boards with overgrown weeds and shrubbery beyond. The urban area surrounding the site is characterised by a mixture of housing types. The proposed site layout for the development follows the linear arrangement established by the neighbouring properties to Moss Lane East.

Landscaping for the development is intended to have a soft approach. Each property features a generous private front garden surrounded by a low brick boundary wall. Lawned areas and proposed small shrubbery will help to soften the development and maximise green open space.

The houses each have proposed hard and soft landscaping to the rear, providing external amenity space that is greater than that of existing neighbouring dwellings.

Manchester's Great Outdoors: A Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy for Manchester

This Strategy outlines the importance of Green and Blue Infrastructure in creating successful, liveable Cities. The strategy has been produced to set out how this will be achieved in the future with the vision being:

***“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.”

This need for improvements to the quality of open space and recreational space is also highlighted in both the Core Strategy Evidence Base and specifically within Policies EN9 and EN10.

The Following pages outline how the development responds to the Manchester Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy based on the four main objectives and actions within the document.

Objective 1: Improve the quality and function of existing green and blue Infrastructure, to maximise the benefits it delivers.

Relevant Action Points:

- Gardens; protect and enhance private gardens as important areas of green space.

Response:

The parking spaces are clustered together at the rear which has resulted in the avoidance of hard surface front driveways and instead this space is given over to lawned front gardens and additional green space, which contributes to the greening of the wider streetscape with soft boundary planting adding a variety of species and helping to increase the site's biodiversity.

Dwelling 1 features a side garden further increasing the green space and allows for a green boundary edge which wraps around both sides of the site where it fronts onto public realm.

Private gardens are blended into the design and provide private amenity space in the form of front and rear gardens. This can have a strong impact on people's health and well-being and having access to these areas will be highly beneficial.

Objective 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.

Relevant Action Points:

- Embed green infrastructure as part of residential developments.

Response:

The proposals have a range of green infrastructure woven throughout the design and creates strong connections to wider green areas.

Objective 3: Improve connectivity and accessibility to green and blue infrastructure within the city and beyond.

Relevant Action Points:

- Green routes: greening transport routes (e.g. tramlines, footpaths, cycle routes, roads, rail corridors including disused railway lines), to encourage walking and cycling, reduce flood risk and provide attractive corridors for wildlife.
- Use active and sustainable transport to access green infrastructure in the city and beyond.

Response:

The site is highly accessible and within walking and cycling distance of many essential local facilities and services. The proposed development seeks to reduce the reliance on car journeys

through limited parking provision and numerous nearby public transport opportunities will encourage sustainable modes of transport.

Key green spaces are located near to the site and will allow future residents within the development to enjoy and capitalise on these for recreational purposes.

Objective 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.

Relevant Action Points:

- Embed GI in key plans and policies, to ensure it can support the delivery of the city's socio-economic policies.
- Raise the profile of Manchester as an attractive place to live with access to high quality GI within and beyond the city.

Response:

The proposed development at Moss Lane East offers the opportunity to embed green infrastructure to the site and other developments close in the surrounding area. It also takes advantage of key green spaces which are in walking distance. These include Moss Side Park (50 metres west), Whitworth Park (550 metres north-east) and Alexandra Park (400m south-west).