



Jennifer Atkinson
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RE: Application No. 126431/FO/2020 - Proposed arena

Dear Jennifer

I am writing as the MP for Denton and Reddish in Greater Manchester to wholeheartedly support the exciting proposal for a new arena on the Etihad Campus.

There is a looming unemployment crisis. Prior to the Coronavirus outbreak, 1,985 people in my constituency were claiming unemployment benefits. By July this figure had almost doubled to 3,395, some 7.2% of the working age population. 20% of these claimants were aged between 18-24. A further 13,400 people in my constituency have been furloughed (almost a third of the workforce) and around 3,000 residents have made a claim under the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme.

Now is the time to drive job creation. Now is the time to support those acting in that great Manchester tradition of generating wealth which the Council and its partners can redistribute to benefit people in communities like mine. Now is the time to be wholeheartedly backing projects like the proposed arena.

It will see almost £300m of private investment enter the construction supply chain, creating 3000+ jobs and involving 70 companies. There will be training for 100 apprentices and trainees, encompassing 2,800 apprenticeship and trainee weeks during the construction. And the applicants have committed to pay the Manchester Living Wage recruiting as many people locally as possible. This will ensure the impact of their investment is captured by local residents and the wider East Manchester area. There will also be 1,000 new jobs created once the proposed new arena is operational.

I have seen East Manchester transformed since I entered politics, and this proposal will continue that renewal, building on world-class sports facilities with a world-class leisure facility and creating much needed employment at a pivotal moment.

Yours faithfully

ANDREW GWYNNE

Member of Parliament for Denton and Reddish