

Planning
Strategic Development Directorate
Manchester City Council
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Friday 29 May 2020

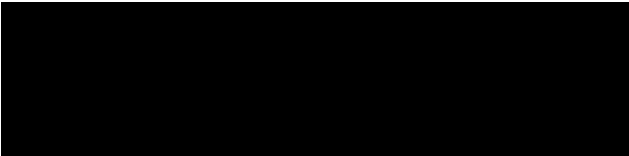
Dear Sir or Madam

I am writing in relation to the planning application submitted by Oakview Group for a new Arena in East Manchester (Planning Reference 126431/FO/2020]. It is clear that this scheme will bring significant investment to this part of the city and many thousands of new jobs through both the construction phase and when it is operational.

Having seen the proposals I am impressed by the quality of the venue and the opportunity that it provides for the City. It will be additive to the City's leisure offer and in attracting new acts, sports fixtures and visitors in what is a very competitive UK and European market. Over the last 10 years or so Manchester's visitor economy has grown substantially, however we cannot stand still and need to continue to build our offer. Bruntwood, and the Oglesby Charitable Trust have invested heavily in the cultural life of the city because we know how critical this is to the regeneration and long term success of our cities. Our view is that the Arena has the potential to significantly contribute to this and that continuing to develop the cultural life of the city will underpin it's sustained long-term competitive position.

We are aware of the ambitions of the scheme promoters to create one of the most sustainable venues in Europe and of their commitment to local employment. As the first UK property company to commit to the UKGBC net zero carbon pledge and as a founder member of the GM Good Employers Charter we very much support both these aims, as you'd expect. We would ask the committee to ensure that the highest standards of sustainability and local employment and engagement are met during the construction of the arena and through its operation. This will be crucial to ensuring the maximum benefits for the city and its communities as well, we believe, for all of those involved in developing and operating the venue.

Yours faithfully


Chris Oglesby
CEO, Bruntwood