



IN THE NORTH WEST & IRISH REGION

8th June 2020

Jennifer Atkinson
Planning - Case Officer
Strategic Development Directorate
Manchester City Council
P O Box 532
Manchester
M60 2LA

Dear Jennifer,

Re: Application number 126431/FO/2020 - Erection of a Multi-Use Arena

I am writing to confirm GMB supports the above application for a new arena in Manchester. GMB is a trade union with over 620,000 members drawn from all types of work. Our members are from the public and private sector and work in full-time jobs, part-time jobs or are working while they study.

Our focus has, first and foremost, been on ensuring the safety of our workers and their families during this difficult time. But it is becoming increasingly clear that alongside this health crisis is a growing economic crisis.

From March to April the number of people claiming unemployment benefits rose from 3.5% to 5.8%. This rate is higher than at the peak of the global financial crisis (4.9%). And in the North West, the Small Business Federation has found that one in three small employers are considering redundancies as they struggle to pay bills, shelve exports and pause product development.

Projects important for Manchester's future are now projects important for Manchester's present. Jobs are needed. And they are needed fast.

£350m of private investment through a new arena could see the creation of 3,350 jobs in construction beginning in September. This is a huge amount. And it will help support a further 6,500 jobs across some 800 companies in the construction sector as orders ripple through the supply chain. These companies are in places like Wigan, Bolton, Salford and Trafford and evidence suggests that without such orders, many would struggle to survive.

On completion, the arena will probably create a further 1000 jobs and is likely to support a further 1400.

The site of the arena is identified as a strategic employment location in Manchester's Core Strategy because it is an area that continues to face social and economic challenges. The jobs in construction alongside those when the arena is open, will both mitigate the impact of the coronavirus in the short term and will help tackle deep-rooted social and economic inequality in the long term.

GMB – BRITAINS GENERAL UNION

Regional Secretary Paul McCarthy

GMB
Unit 10 Turnstone Business Park
Mulberry Avenue, Widnes, WA8 0WN
Tel: 0151 203 0189
www.gmbnorthwest.com

UNIONLINE
YOUR TRADE UNION LAW FIRM
0300 333 0303
www.unionline.co.uk



IN THE NORTH WEST & IRISH REGION

This is why the GMB fully supports this proposal.

Yours faithfully

[Redacted signature]

P Alan Collinge
Regional Organiser
GMB Trade Union

E [Redacted email address]

M [Redacted mobile number]

GMB – BRITAINS GENERAL UNION
Regional Secretary Paul McCarthy

GMB
Unit 10 Turnstone Business Park
Mulberry Avenue, Widnes, WA8 0WN
Tel: 0151 203 0189
www.gmbnorthwest.com

UNIONLINE
YOUR TRADE UNION LAW FIRM
0300 333 0303
www.unionline.co.uk