

Comments for Planning Application 126431/FO/2020

Application Summary

Application Number: 126431/FO/2020

Address: Site South Of Sportcity Way, East Of Joe Mercer Way, West Of Alan Turing Way And North Of The Ashton Canal At The Etihad Campus Manchester

Proposal: Erection of a multi-use arena (Use Class D2) (61082 sqm) with a partially illuminated external facade together with ancillary retail/commercial uses (Classes A1, A3 and A4), with highways, access, servicing, landscaping, public realm and other associated works.

Case Officer: Jennifer Atkinson

Customer Details

Name: Not Available

Address: Not Available

Comment Details

Commenter Type: Member of the Public

Stance: Customer objects to the Planning Application

Comment Reasons:

Comment: An expensive white elephant. Manchester already has the Manchester Arena, the largest indoor venue in the UK. We do not need a second, even bigger one, especially as the Etihad stadium next door to the proposed venue also acts as an events venue. In the wake of the pandemic, as live entertainment has collapsed and may never return to its pre-pandemic normal and will almost certainly be more expensive than before when anything does return, it is hard to see how this proposed venue will fill a need that probably no longer exists, if it ever did. Market analysis by Charles River Associates demonstrates that the proposal is unviable financially and that the local public transport network - already struggling to cope on match days and concert days at the Etihad - would be unable to support the additional demand. That demand, plus increased vehicle traffic, would also increase Manchester's greenhouse gas emissions at a time the council has set ambitious targets to slash emissions - this proposal would reverse the drive in Manchester to provide cleaner air to its residents and reduce climate change. Manchester Arena itself has just embarked on a major programme of redevelopment that has the full support of the local businesses in its neighbourhood. In the wake of the pandemic, as lockdown starts to ease, the council should be focusing on supporting existing entertainment venues, pubs, bars, restaurants and shops as they try to get back on their feet, rather than throwing its weight behind a venue the city neither needs nor wants. Lastly, at a time when Manchester is crying out for new affordable homes the site would be put to better use by house-building.