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NORTHWEST REGION

3rd June 2020

Re: Application number 126431/FO/2020 - Erection of a multi-use arena

I am writing to confirm Unite support the above application for an arena on the Eithad Campus. Unite is the country's leading construction trade union and is dedicated to serving the best interests of its members, protecting workers rights and equality and diversity in the workplace.

We have continued to press the government on the safety of construction workers operating during the Covid19 crisis and have seen some progress which is now even more important as we see more construction sites reopening. Unite believes the emphasis will need to continue to be on the protection of lives but recognises there is a growing concern with regards to the protection of livelihoods. The government's austerity plan that followed the global financial crisis meant many of our members, their families and communities, struggled to make ends meet. Following this crisis, it is critical there is a just and fair policy response from the government and that 'shovel-ready' projects like this arena are on site as soon as possible, to lift confidence and lessen any economic damage caused.

It is estimated this arena could reduce the scale of Greater Manchester's construction industry downturn over the next few years by 20% and it is new money. £350m of private investment and not taxpayer money moved from one project to the detriment of another. This will make a real difference to people's lives. Like those who take up one of the 3,350 jobs or 100 apprenticeships created during construction or the 1000 jobs once opened. Or those whose jobs are supported, like the 1400 in bars and restaurants, transport and accommodation. This is particularly significant for the area surrounding the arena where there is income and social inequality.

Furthermore, it is also imperative for Greater Manchester. Some 6,500 construction jobs will be supported across the supply chain and it is estimated some 700 to 800 construction companies will be involved from towns across the Northwest. Given Trafford, Bolton, Wigan and Salford collectively employ 30,000 people in the construction sector, it is a lift that will benefit our members' right across the region, which is why Unite fully supports this project.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]
Andy Fisher
Construction RCO
Unite the Union