

Jennifer Atkinson
Planning - Case Officer
Strategic Development Directorate
Manchester City Council
P O Box 532
Manchester
M60 2LA
12th May 2020

Dear Jennifer

Reference: PLANNING APPLICATION NO 126431/FO/2020 Erection of a multi-use arena The Etihad Campus Manchester.

I am writing to support the above application for an arena on the Etihad Campus.

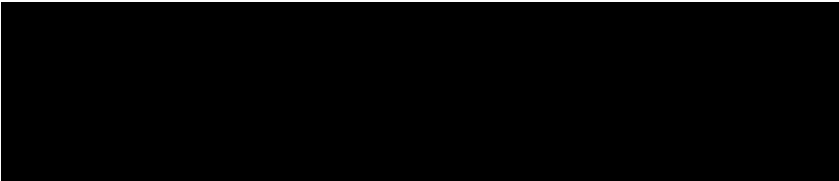
I am the Founder and Managing Director of Step Places, an award-winning Ancoats-based company which, through a people-centred approach, revitalises old neighbourhoods and builds new communities. We have a growing portfolio of residential and mixed-use schemes.

I support this application because it supports the regeneration of East Manchester in alignment with the city's long-term vision as set out in the Core Strategy. This area has been transformed in the two decades that I have lived and worked in Manchester but there remain social and economic challenges. The arena, and the thousands of training opportunities and jobs created in its construction and operation, alongside the further investment it will stimulate, will go some way to addressing these challenges.

Furthermore, the arena will help further integrate East Manchester and the City Centre, with employment, leisure, and lifestyle opportunities reaching a broader, more economically diverse, local population. Step Places are involved in a number of projects in this corridor between Eastlands and the City Centre, including Cotton Square in Ancoats. This is a mixed-use scheme on the eastern edge of the city centre includes the sympathetic restoration of a former public house which dates back some 200 years. I have no doubt that the arena, and further investment it will attract, will benefit this project and stimulate similar investments in the surrounding area.

I came to Manchester from Birmingham because it was clear this city was working in partnership to deliver opportunity through economic growth. And as a result of years of continued success, it can count itself amongst the great European cities. But it is clear that in order to remain competitive, investments such as this proposed £350 million arena are critical, and must be supported.

Yours faithfully



Harry Dhaliwal

stepplaces