



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

21st May 2020

Dear Jennifer

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

I am writing on behalf of the Northern Powerhouse Partnership to give our support to the above application for a new arena in Manchester.

The Northern Powerhouse is a strategy to increase the contribution the North makes to the UK economy. The Partnership has five priorities two of which are infrastructure (including cultural assets) and international competitiveness.

It is clear a proposal for the UK's largest and most sustainable arena, to bring in some £350m of private investment, and to be located in the North of England, supports these priorities and will contribute towards the government's stated objective of levelling-up the UK economy.

Growth in East Manchester is integral to Manchester's Core Strategy and its stated long-term objective to bring investment into the city. This will be greatly enhanced by transforming the area into a destination for leisure and recreation related activities. The world-class Etihad Campus is a manifestation of this, which the proposed arena will complement.

Furthermore, it will complement Manchester's existing arena offer, growing their collective contribution to the city's economy. Two complementary arenas is a model proven in the UK and around the world with no evidence that competition causes closure.

In the short-term, the need for investment is made all the more acute due to the impact of coronavirus. We believe that the North can play a major role in the UK's economic recovery and that this will require short-term stimulus for longer term productivity. This includes a pipeline of public and private shovel-ready projects to be on site in the coming months and years.

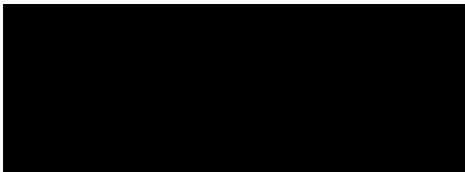
As far as we understand, subject to approval, this project can commence in September. With spend close to £300m, this would be both a major and timely boost. It will help to underpin and shield the Greater Manchester construction sector from the full recessionary impact being felt over the coming years by some 20%. In part through 3000+ construction jobs the project will create. But also through the significant impact



of orders entering the supply chain from this autumn onwards. It is estimated that some 6,500 jobs will be supported with up to 800 companies involved.

This confidence is important not just for the arena project, but for other large public and private sector projects across the North, that will need to call on specialised firms within the construction sector. Which is why, alongside the longer-term economic benefits, the Northern Powerhouse Partnership gives this project our full support.

Yours sincerely



Henri Murison
Director, Northern Powerhouse Partnership