Vaughan Street Padel Project Manchester

Introduction

This document outlines how our padel facility at Unit 9 Vaughan street industrial estate, Vaughan Street, Manchester, M12 5BT is designed to align closely with Manchester Active's Sport & Physical Activity Strategy (2028) and to meet key objectives around accessibility, inclusion, community engagement, and sustainability.

Our goal is to create an inclusive, high-quality sporting venue that provides affordable access, community-led initiatives, and professional pathways ensuring that padel becomes a sport for everyone, regardless of age, ability, or background.

There is currently only one commercial padel facility within a 10-minute drive, offering just four outdoor courts. Expanding the search to a 20-minute drive adds only nine more outdoor courts and two covered courts, all within commercial venues.

Our facility will be strategically located in one of Manchester's most densely populated areas, with approximately 140,000 people living within a 10-minute drive. Many parts of the local community experience significant social deprivation, where financial barriers and a lack of venues severely limit access to high-quality sporting facilities.

By transforming an unused industrial space in the heart of a major regeneration zone, our facility will provide both social and economic benefits, addressing a critical gap in accessible sports infrastructure. Beyond simply increasing opportunities for participation, we will create a pathway for grassroots engagement, talent development, and elite performance in padel, bringing the sport to an area that currently has little to no access to padel.

1. Technical Specification & Planning Application Updates

We acknowledge the need to provide an updated technical plan and are working on this with our design team to demonstrate that our plans adhere to SAPCA and LTA guidelines.

We have sent/will submit:

- A detailed technical plan demonstrating a clear layout and accessibility provision.
- Court specifications demonstrating compliance with SAPCA and LTA specifications.
- Information on court surfaces and lighting.

We welcome further discussions to finalise the technical details with the LTA property team as you suggested in your most recent correspondence.

2. Community Engagement & Accessibility

To ensure our venue maximises community benefit, we will implement a range of initiatives targeting different user groups.

2.1 Schools & Young People

We plan to establish strong links with local schools to encourage padel as an accessible and enjoyable sport for young people in the local area.

• There are approximately 30 schools within a two-mile radius of the site.
• We have already engaged with nine secondary schools, including two special needs schools, to discuss partnerships.
• Some of these schools have already replied expressing interest in a collaboration. We are working with them to agree the best way we can accommodate their needs and deliver this initiative.
• We plan to expand outreach to primary schools once the facility is operational.
• After-school clubs & holiday camps will be offered with subsidised participation fees to make them accessible to all.
• We will work with teachers to deliver Curriculum-based coaching sessions for school PE lessons.
• Teacher training programmes will empower educators to deliver padel activities.
• Once fully established we hope to deliver festival events & inter-school competitions in a fun and inclusive way to increase the profile of the sport locally.

2.2 Encouraging Female Participation

Recognising the need to increase female participation in sport, we will:

• Offer women-only coaching sessions to create a comfortable environment for learning and playing.
• Run family-focused sessions, encouraging parents and children to play together.
• We plan to run “Get into Padel” campaigns periodically which will target specific groups including women and girls.
• Partner with local women’s organisations, such as:
• We Matter Queen Been Women’s Group, A local group which support women’s empowerment and well-being.
• Pankhurst Trust, which provides services for women experiencing and recovering from domestic abuse across Manchester.
• Social groups such as Manchester Women Connect, Manchester Women Social and Manchester Women Together!

2.3 Open & Accessible Play Options

Our facility’s large court capacity will allow us to remove financial barriers and ensure padel is accessible to a wider audience. We plan to offer:

• Low-cost ‘pay & play’ sessions at off-peak hours, further subsidised for local low income households.
• Free sessions for certain groups such as local schools and community centres.
• Flexible membership schemes, including family discounts and youth passes.
• Free introductory sessions and taster days available to everyone.

2.4 Inclusive & Disability Sport Provision

We are committed to ensuring that disabled individuals have full access to padel.

• We will work with organisations such as:
• Access Sport Manchester, which develops inclusive sports programs for disadvantaged and disabled communities.
• DoSport UK, which provides adapted sporting opportunities for individuals with disabilities across the UK.
• We plan to introduce wheelchair padel sessions.
• The venue will include a fully accessible bathroom with a walk-in shower for disabled users.

2.5 Links with Voluntary Groups & Community Organisations

We plan to forge partnerships with local youth clubs, adult social groups, and grassroots organisations to provide targeted programs for underrepresented communities.

• We plan to further increase accessibility to padel by partnering with local youth organisations such as:
• Hideout Youth Zone, a local youth centre offering activities and support for young people aged 8 to 19.
• Young Champs, a community organisation focused on empowering young people through development programs.
• Kids Manchester Young People's Wellbeing Group, which supports the mental health and well-being of young people across the local area.

2.6 Increasing Accessibility Through Our Singles Court & Coaching Strategy

A key aspect of our facility's design is the inclusion of a singles court. Although singles courts are relatively new and not the traditional way to play padel we feel that having one available will provide a crucial entry point for new players and are also a valuable training space for all skill levels.

We will be the only facility in Manchester with a singles court and we will use it to offer:

• Better Learning Experience for Beginners – New players will get twice as many ball interactions on a singles court compared to traditional doubles play, helping them develop confidence, technique, and court awareness more quickly.
• 1-to-1 Coaching & Development – The singles courts will be ideal for personalised coaching sessions, allowing players to receive focused, structured training to accelerate their improvement while keeping the cost more affordable.

Our coaching programmes will be a core component of our facility designed to:

• Introduce new players to padel through structured beginner sessions.
• Help amateur and recreational players improve their enjoyment of the game by refining technique, strategy, and fitness.
• Provide elite-level coaching to develop high-performance players and support their progression to competitive levels including the use of high-tech coaching aids such as AI controlled video capture and analysis.

By offering a dedicated singles court for beginners and coaching and by having a strong coaching infrastructure at all levels, we hope to ensure greater accessibility, better player progression, and long-term engagement in the sport. Ultimately, in the very long term, we hope to play our part in elevating the position of UK padel at an international level.

3. Creating a True Club Atmosphere

A key part of our vision is to establish a real club culture, making our venue a place where people feel welcome, connected, and engaged beyond simply playing padel. Our aim is to offer a range of membership options to suit a wide audience. Members will benefit from:

- Regular club nights, offering structured social play opportunities.
- Internal leagues & ladder competitions for all skill levels.
- Doubles & mixed tournaments to encourage team-based competition.
- Competitions and fun events for junior members.
- Inter-club competitions to connect players with other padel communities.
- Additional facilities that we hope to introduce to the club in the future.

4. Charity Tournaments & Fundraising Events

Our venue will play an active role in giving back to the community by organising regular charity tournaments to support local causes. We Plan to have:

- Local charity partnerships, ensuring funds raised benefit community projects.
- Charity fundraising tournaments, with entry fees donated to our local charity partners.
- Themed events (e.g., corporate challenges, family fun days, student tournaments).
- An annual ‘Padel for Good’ festival, featuring exhibition matches, entertainment, and fundraising activities.

These initiatives will help to build a strong community spirit while raising money for worthy causes.

5. University Partnerships & Student Engagement

There is clear demand for a university padel society in Manchester, but many students have been priced out by existing operators. We plan on:

- Establishing a dedicated student padel society as a home for university players across Manchester.
- Offering discounted student memberships & training programs.
- Collaborating with university sports departments to integrate padel into intramural competitions & BUCS pathways.
- Providing coaching & volunteering opportunities for students looking to gain experience in sports leadership.

By working closely with local universities, we will ensure Manchester’s student community has affordable access to padel as well as a pathway toward elite level competition.

6. Future Plans: Multi-Use Studio & Wellness Programmes

As part of our long-term vision, we want to introduce a multi-use studio space within the facility. The space will be available for third-party instructors & community organisations, ensuring a wider range

of activities and greater community engagement.

This will allow us to expand beyond padel, offering a diverse range of activities including:

• Yoga & Pilates classes, promoting flexibility, strength, and mindfulness.
• Fitness sessions including those for older adults, ensuring inclusivity in active lifestyles.
• Martial arts, rehabilitation & mental wellbeing programs, catering to diverse community needs.

7. Local Economic Benefit

Our padel facility will provide economic benefits locally through:

• Job creation, business partnerships, and increased visitor spending.
• Generating employment opportunities in coaching, management, and hospitality while offering apprenticeships and training programs to develop the local workforce.
• Attracting players, spectators, and event attendees, boosting footfall for nearby businesses such as cafés, shops, and hotels.
• Hosting regional and national tournaments will enhance Manchester's reputation as a hub for padel, driving sports tourism and investment.
• Promoting affordable access to sport, we will also contribute to long-term health benefits, reducing healthcare costs and supporting workplace productivity.

8. Summary

The Manchester Active Strategy focuses on eight key themes. Below is a summary of each theme and how our padel facility will align with these priorities:

1. Encouraging Residents to Move More

This theme aims to reduce physical inactivity, particularly among underrepresented groups.

Our alignment:

• Affordable 'pay & play' sessions and free/subsidised programs for schools and community groups.
• Targeted initiatives for women, older adults, and disabled players.
• Community outreach and partnerships to remove barriers to participation.

2. Positive Experiences for Children & Young People

Manchester Active wants to ensure all young people enjoy sport and physical activity from an early age.

Our alignment:

• Strong school partnerships (engaging 30+ local schools - already in contact with nine secondary schools, including two special needs schools and plans to engage with local primary schools).
• After-school clubs, holiday camps, and inter-school competitions.
• Teacher training programs to integrate padel into the school curriculum.

3. Active Adults: Increasing & Sustaining Activity Levels

Helping adults stay active and engaged in sport.

Our alignment:

• Flexible membership options including options for local low income households to remove financial barriers.
• Regular club nights, leagues, and structured social play sessions.
• Dedicated coaching programs for all skill levels, from beginners to elite-level players.

4. World-Class Sport That Inspires Positive Change

Positioning Manchester as a global sporting hub through elite-level sport and high-performance opportunities.

Our alignment:

• Providing elite-level coaching and performance training including the use of high-tech equipment.
• Hosting regional and national tournaments to boost Manchester's standing in the padel community.
• Helping to establish and maintain a Manchester Universities padel society to attract and progress young talent.
• Offering pathways for talented players to compete at a higher level.

5. Active Places & Neighbourhoods

Developing high-quality, accessible sports facilities across the city.

Our alignment:

• Transforming an underutilised space into a state-of-the-art padel venue.
• Ensuring full accessibility, including wheelchair padel sessions and accessible facilities.
• Creating a welcoming community hub that is open to all.
• Providing a multi-use studio to be used for other health and wellbeing initiatives.

6. Communicating with & Connecting Communities

Ensuring residents can easily find and access sports opportunities.

Our alignment:

• Establishing strong partnerships with local youth groups and local Women's groups.
• Running open days and promotional events to constantly introduce new players to padel.
• Engaging with community organisations to provide tailored programs for different demographics including women, children and those with disabilities.

7. Realising the Potential of the Workforce

Developing a skilled sports workforce and creating employment and volunteering opportunities.

Our alignment:

• Creating jobs in coaching, management, and hospitality.
• Offering apprenticeships and training to develop the local workforce.
• Providing volunteering and work experience placements for students and young people.

8. Contributing to a Zero-Carbon Future

Supporting Manchester's goal of becoming a zero-carbon city before 2038.

Our alignment:

• Implementing energy-efficient lighting and heating solutions.
• Encouraging active travel with bike storage and local transport partnerships.
• Offering electric vehicle charging facilities.

9. Alignment with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Paragraphs 96 and 98.

We believe our facility is also aligned with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), specifically paragraphs 96 and 98, which emphasise the importance of high-quality sports and recreation facilities for building healthier communities and improving public access to sport.

Supporting Paragraph 96: High-Quality Sports & Recreation Facilities

NPPF Paragraph 96 highlights that access to high-quality sports and recreation facilities is essential for the well-being of communities. Our project directly supports this by:

• Introducing a brand-new, purpose-built padel facility in an area with limited access to similar high-quality sports venues.
• Providing affordable and inclusive opportunities to engage in regular physical activity, helping to address health inequalities.
• Offering structured programs for schools, community groups, and underrepresented populations, ensuring that residents of all ages and abilities can benefit from the facility.

Supporting Paragraph 98: Enhancing Public Access to Sport & Recreation

NPPF Paragraph 98 emphasises the need to protect and enhance public access to recreation spaces. Our facility aligns with this by:

• Removing financial barriers through low-cost 'pay & play' options, free/subsidised school programs, and free introductory sessions for people new to the sport.

• Providing an accessible venue with dedicated wheelchair padel sessions and disability-friendly facilities, ensuring inclusivity.
• Engaging with local youth groups and community organisations to actively promote participation and social cohesion.
• Encouraging sustainable transport, with bike storage and easy access to public transport as well as electric car charging points, reducing the environmental impact of travel to the facility.

10. Conclusion

Our proposed indoor padel facility will serve as a hub for sport, social connection, and community impact in Manchester. By aligning with Manchester Active's strategic objectives and the relevant NPPF policies, implementing inclusive and accessible programs, and ensuring a balance between commercial success and community benefit, we will establish a venue that is genuinely transformative for the area.

We look forward to working closely with Manchester City Council, Sport England, the LTA, and local stakeholders to bring this vision to life.