

**Manchester City Council
Report for Information**

Report to: Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee –
1 February 2018

Subject: Manchester Town Hall and Albert Square: ‘Our Town Hall’

Report of: Deputy Chief Executive (Growth and Neighbourhoods)

Summary

Previous reports to the Executive Committee and Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee have provided regular progress reports on the refurbishment and partial restoration of the Town Hall and Albert Square under the Our Town Hall project. This report outlines progress with the decant of the Town Hall, the design phase of the project, arrangements for the procurement of a Management Contractor, an update on maximising social value through the project and recent communications activity, particularly in the run up to the public closure of the building.

Recommendations

Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee is recommended to note the report.

Wards Affected:

All

Alignment to the Our Manchester Strategy Outcomes (if applicable)

Manchester Strategy outcomes	Summary of how this report aligns to the OMS
A thriving and sustainable city: supporting a diverse and distinctive economy that creates jobs and opportunities	Manchester Town Hall refurbishment will provide the opportunity for a significant increase in employment within the building.
A highly skilled city: world class and home grown talent sustaining the city’s economic success	The refurbishment will provide new opportunities for young people and graduates, including apprenticeships and work placements.
A progressive and equitable city: making a positive contribution by unlocking the potential of our communities	The refurbishment will increase the productivity and the efficiency of Council staff and support the development of an equitable city, taking advantage of new opportunities offered by devolution. There is also the opportunity through the co-location of public and private uses and new modern meetings rooms to promote collaboration

	and networking to strengthen the collaboration between organisations, businesses and residents, including the community and voluntary sector.
A liveable and low carbon city: a destination of choice to live, visit, work	The refurbishment will contribute to sustainable economic growth by retaining employment within a central location. It will significantly enhance the Town Hall's energy efficiency and enable the incorporation of sustainable design features.
A connected city: world class infrastructure and connectivity to drive growth	The refurbishment will retain and improve public uses within an accessible city centre location, connected to residents and visitors by the City's expanding public transport network. The work will reinforce the City's role as the centre of public and private sector networks and meetings in the north, with connections through the Airport to support international events.

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Background documents (available for public inspection):

The following documents disclose important facts on which the report is based and have been relied upon in preparing the report. Copies of the background documents are available up to 4 years after the date of the meeting. If you would like a copy please contact one of the contact officers above.

- Report to Executive Committee – Town Hall Complex Strategy – 23 July 2008
- Report to Executive Committee – Town Hall Complex Programme – Transforming Customer Experience – 11 February 2009
- Report to Executive Committee – Town Hall and Albert Square Maintenance Programme – 1 October 2014
- Report to Executive Committee – The Refurbishment of Manchester Town Hall and Albert Square: 'Our Town Hall' – 27 July 2016
- Report to Executive Committee – The Refurbishment of Manchester Town Hall and Albert Square: 'Our Town Hall' – 16 November 2016
- Report to Executive Committee – Capital Programme (Budget 2017/18 – 2021/22) – 11 January 2017

- Report to Executive Committee – Manchester Town Hall and Albert Square: ‘Our Town Hall’ – 8 March 2017
- Report to Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee – Our Town Hall Social Value and Communications – 22 June 2017
- Report to Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee – ‘Our Town Hall’ – 7 September 2017
- Report to Executive Committee – Manchester Town Hall and Albert Square: ‘Our Town Hall’ – 13 September 2017
- Report to Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee – Manchester Town Hall and Albert Square ‘Our Town Hall’ – 9 November 2017

1.0 Background

- 1.1 Manchester Town Hall is an internationally significant landmark and Manchester's greatest cultural and civic asset. The building is Grade 1 listed, considered to be one of the masterpieces of Victorian architecture and cherished by the people of the City who view it as the civic heart of Manchester. The Town Hall, whilst structurally sound, is now seriously showing its age with many elements reaching the end of their natural lifespan. It has been agreed that significant refurbishment is required to rectify the identified defects and to protect the building for the benefit of future generations of Mancunians.
- 1.2 Previous reports to Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee have reported on progress with the Our Town Hall refurbishment project and this report provides detail of activity over the previous two months, particularly progress on RIBA Stage 2, the procurement of the Management Contractor and the decant from and public closure of the building.

2.0 Decant Update

- 2.1 A decision was taken early in the Our Town Hall project that to best enable the refurbishment, all staff, members and partners should be vacated from the building for the duration of the construction works. The planning and delivery of the Town Hall decant has been progressing for the past 18 months, and is now nearing completion.
- 2.2 Since the last update to the Committee in November last year, the decant has accelerated and to date around 450 people have been relocated as part of the decant project, all of which had been relatively smooth moves. The teams that have moved recently include: the Highways Service, Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub, Unite, the training team, and the Youth Council all to Bridgewater House; Members, Executive Members, Members Services, the Strategic Management Team and other senior officers from the Town Hall to the Town Hall extension, the Energy Management team, the Performance Research and Intelligence Team, the Elections Team, the Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit, who have all moved into or within the Town Hall Extension.
- 2.3 The new FM reception in the Town Hall Extension is now fully open, and can be accessed from the Cenotaph Entrance to the Extension (on Lloyd Street). The Café St Peter's Square opened to the public, staff and Members on the 15th January.
- 2.4 The multifaith prayer room has relocated from the Town Hall to the Town Hall Extension, as has the M4 Print facility. Additional cycling storage capacity has also been created in the Extension.
- 2.5 The Town Hall closed to the general public on 15 January 2018, after a very successful open day on Sunday 14th January. A small number of Council functions continue to use space in the Town Hall after the 15th January. This is being managed by the Facilities Management Team, and carefully co-ordinated with the Our Town Hall Team to ensure there is no impact on the ongoing survey and investigation works. The functions that will continue to use space in the

Town Hall include: the Lord Mayor (Moving to Central Library on 2 February), Unison (moving to Peter House on 2 February) and the Coroners Service who will move to the Royal Exchange in June once refurbishment works to that building have been completed. The elections team will continue to access their storage and material packing area in the basement until the May elections are complete. The Street Wardens will access their mess room until they relocate later in February.

- 2.6 The Lord Mayor and their office will relocate to Central Library, making this iconic building the civic focus of the complex while the Town Hall is closed. The accommodation will include office space and a suite of rooms for civic functions. Manchester Central will continue to provide the catering service for civic events, supported by a small kitchen area created in Central Library as the kitchens in the Town Hall are no longer available.
- 2.7 The Coroners Service, including the two courts, will relocate to premises at the Royal Exchange on Cross Street. The Coroner's new accommodation requires building work to create the court and office spaces, so this move will take longer than the other relocations and the Coroner will relocate in early summer. Given the building will still provide accommodation for the Town Hall Project Team, FM services, including security, will be maintained, this will not present an issue for the OTH Project. The Coroner will hold jury hearings in other court accommodation elsewhere in the city centre. The smaller non-jury court will remain in its current location on the ground floor of the Town Hall until the new offices are ready. General visitors to the Coroners Service counter will be directed to the Registrars Service in Heron House. School Appeals meetings will also be held in the Royal Exchange Offices, and until the offices are ready, these meetings can take place on the ground floor of the Town Hall.
- 2.8 In all cases, secure access to the Town Hall will be maintained by the FM team. Efforts will be made to minimise the impact of the intrusive surveys on the remaining services in the Town Hall.
- 2.9 Following a request at the November meeting of the Committee, a directory of the Extension showing where services are based has been prepared. These are available to Members via Members Services. A request was also made by the committee to clearly name the lift/stair cores within the Town Hall Extension. These have now been named as follows: Mount Street Entrance; Lloyd Street Albert Square entrance; Lloyd Street Cenotaph entrance; St Peter's Square entrance. The internal signage in the building has been updated accordingly.

3.0 Communications

Communications strategy

- 3.1 A communication strategy has been developed to support the objectives of the Our Town Hall project. The strategy will inform, educate and engage with various audiences and key stakeholders throughout the project milestones. The strategy encompasses both media and engagement work streams to promote awareness of the work taking place and its importance to residents and the City.

Activity will focus on driving civic pride with both internal and external stakeholders.

- 3.2 Guided by the key priorities of the Our Manchester approach the strategy will support the project's social value objectives. This includes signposting work, training and volunteering opportunities to residents as well as work packages to the local supply chain.
- 3.3 There is a breadth of material available to share at key moments throughout the project from a historical and heritage perspective, as well as experiences of the transformation through to the reopening. This content will consist of photography, video, digital, creative and stakeholder comments from engagement work.
- 3.4 At each milestone phase we will evaluate the qualitative and quantitative data, statistics and comments from engagement work, quality of media coverage, and online engagement. Targets will be monitored and reviewed annually to assess the delivery of activities and their impact on objectives.
- 3.5 **Activity and impact**

Previous reports to Executive and Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee presented the approach to the anniversary celebrations and the activity planned up to the closure date on 15 January 2018. Below is an overview of the activity and the impact.

1) **140 Year anniversary celebrations**

The 140 year anniversary of the building in September 2017 offered the opportunity to raise the importance of the Town Hall as part of Manchester's heritage and the work needed to safeguard, repair and restore it for future generations.

Through social media and other media, residents were asked to share their favourite memories of the building and what it means to them. This resulted in over 300 people sharing their comments, many of which included heartwarming and funny memories and their inspirations for the future of the building.



Manchester City Council ✓
@ManCityCouncil



A few months back we asked our followers for their personal memories of the Town Hall. In response to this, a number of people kindly shared photos from their wedding days!

What special moments have you had at **#OurTownHall**?



12:20 PM - 8 Jan 2018

2 Retweets 17 Likes



One resident responded with:

@xxxxxxxxxx

Meeting my future wife in a meeting there, and getting married there 2 years later. Thank you Manchester Town Hall.

Dedicated Town Hall web pages provide a brief overview of the project as well as a linking to a video with talking heads from the project team and Executive member. The video highlights the most treasured areas of the building alongside those most in need of repair. To date the web pages have been viewed over 5,800 times and the video has had 700 views.

Engagement has been particularly high with the Council Instagram account, which is suited to share the striking photography taken by residents and visitors to the city. One post in particular gained over 500 likes and reaffirms this channel as a useful way of generating and sharing interest in the building.



2) **Back of house Town Hall tours**

Tours have continued in the run up to the closure date with a total of 95 tours running between January 2017 and January 2018. With up to 12 people per tour, this provided an access opportunity to 1140 people in total. Analysis of the ticket data from the first run of tours showed that 49% of people attending the tours are from Manchester with a further 49% from within Greater Manchester. The tours were promoted via press releases and social media as well as being promoted by the guides delivering the tours. The last batch of tours sold out within two days.

3) **January 2018 - building closure**

Following the closure on the 15 January there is an ongoing requirement to ensure that people know the building is no longer accessible. Given the listed status of the building the signage approach was limited to the options that already exist within the complex. These include the poster sites and the Town Hall banner. Messages will explain that the building is closed and to visit the webpages to find out more. In addition, an orientation space at the Mount Street entrance of the Customer Service Centre is in development that will provide information on the project and some interaction with the heritage assets that are no longer accessible given the Town Hall is closed.

Messages have also been shared with partners such as Visit Manchester to reflect the closure on their webpages but at the same time promoting Albert Square as a destination to visit and to learn more about the rationale for the project.

Media activity for the closure was focussed around the open day event. Coverage is highlighted in the appendix.

4) **Open day event**

Given the demand for public tours and the significance of the building being handed over to the project team for the next six years, a decision was made to host a ticketed open day event. The event took place on the 14 January, the day before public closure, and allowed members of the public to access areas of the Town Hall they may not have seen and to learn more about the Our Town Hall project.

The full ticket allocation of 3,900 was taken up within two weeks, highlighting the interest and significance the building has with people. The majority of tickets were taken up by Manchester residents.

On the day a guide book developed by the project team with Communications support was on sale for £3. A total of 417 guidebooks were sold. The guide will now be on sale in the Central Library shop.

Media presence on the day extended to the Guardian, MEN, Granada Reports and BBC Northwest Tonight. An overview of the coverage is included within the appendix. A group of local Instagram photographers were invited to take pictures at the event and to share these using #ourtownhall. This resulted in high quality photography currently gaining more than 5,500 impressions and 388 likes. If this trend continues, once all the images have been posted an estimated 30,000 impressions and 2,000 likes will have been realised.

Sentiment on the day was extremely positive with visitors expressing their support for the project and enthusiasm to see the future plans for the building. Online sentiment was largely the same with social media messages on Facebook creating 72,433 impressions, 192 likes and 38 separate comments.

Facebook comment included the following from a Manchester resident:

SR:

"It's always been the Father Christmas (and now Zippy) on the side of the clock tower for me. My first visit as Sunday, absolutely stunning building. I hope the renovations are sympathetic to all the original features,"

Twitter messages had higher engagement with 148,343 impressions, 450 likes and 123 comments.

5) **Future communications**

Communications activity over the next few months will focus on supporting securing social value, using appropriate channels to communicate with Manchester residents on how they can access opportunities for work and skills as a result of the Our Town Hall project.

A communications plan for a procurement launch event in February is in development and will focus on increasing the take-up by Manchester businesses. Work will also continue to capture the survey work taking place as well as heritage asset documentation, restoration and removal.

4.0 **Design update**

- 4.1 The Design team are now halfway through RIBA stage 2, Concept Design, and have completed their review of the Stage 1 documents, together with gaining familiarisation of the building and further visual inspections. The main focus of design development has been on determining key principles of building strategies such as lift positions, catering and building servicing and access into and through the building together with firefighting and security strategies. This work will develop into architectural concept proposals as part of the completion of RIBA 2 at the end of May this year and will be reported to Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee at the appropriate time.
- 4.2 Alongside this design work, in depth studies and sampling of individual aspects of the building have been carried out, for example window schedules, stonework, existing building service routes, in order to inform the scope of more intrusive surveys and opening up works that will form part of the first application for Listed Building Consent in the next couple of months. The design and client team are working closely with Historic England to inform the approach. Initial design proposals and emerging findings are being simultaneously checked against the cost plan.
- 4.3 As part of developing a more in depth understanding of the Town Hall and engaging with key users and those with in depth historical knowledge of the building the team are organising specific workshops this month. These will assist in developing a Spirit of Place statement that will capture what is unique, distinctive and cherished about the Town Hall. This will draw on a wealth of background material including staff and public recollections as well as ensuring we have utilised the most accurate historic information about the building by inviting those architects and historians who have played a part in recording the history of this great building and its collections.

5.0 Update on procurement of a Management Contractor

- 5.1 The November report referenced work underway to begin the formal procurement of the Management Contractor.
- 5.2 A Project Launch Day will be held in February for prospective bidders for the Management Contractor role and interested works contractors from the wider supply chain to be briefed on the project and the range and scale of opportunities that will become available over the life of the project. The event will give those attending the opportunity to:
- Better understand the OTH project, its aims, objectives and the range of potential work packages.
 - Network with others across all tiers of the supply chains, including potential management contractors, locally based suppliers and works contractors.
 - Register their details with the OTH project for future updates on events and project announcements
 - Network with other organisations, such as VCS organisations and skills/training bodies, that will be in attendance to help Manchester businesses maximise the available opportunities.
- 5.3 The OJEU Notice for procurement of the Management Contractor was published at the end of January 2018. This kicks off the formal process of Competitive Dialogue that will conclude with appointment of the Management Contractor in Q4 2018. Once on board, the Management Contractor will work with the Council to identify and procure the works contractors that will undertake the construction works from October 2019 onwards.

6.0 Social Value update

- 6.1 As one of the main project objectives, social value has formed a key piece of the procurement strategy, and the procurement documentation (Specification, Contract and Tender documents) has been developed to reflect this. The Management Contractor will have specific responsibility for taking steps to maximise the use of a local supply chain, including identifying and engaging with contractors and suppliers in Manchester and identifying any support needs or barriers that will need to be addressed for them to become part of the supply chain.
- 6.2 The assessment of prospective Management Contractor bids will take into account not only their social value commitments but also their plan for delivering these commitments and maximising the number of Manchester residents, contractors and suppliers reached. Once appointed it is a requirement of the Management Contractor to work with the Council and expand on this plan in detail, taking into account the potential supply and demand issues across the life of the project programme, most notably in respect of heritage skills, which are in short supply nationally as well as locally.

- 6.3 The project team has estimated that the construction works will comprise potentially in excess of 100 individual works packages, which will be engaged as part of the Management Contractor’s supply chain. All packages will be appointed via open book tendering, and subject to approval by the Council.
- 6.4 The ability to secure social value through the supply chain is crucial to the success of the project. The procurement strategy for the supply chain requires the Management Contractor to prioritise a local supply chain, and to proportionately roll down into its supply chain the commitment to delivery of the social value KPIs, such that works contractors will need to deliver social value commitments as part of bidding for work on the project. There are a number of specific requirements in the Management Contractor procurement documentation, which require the Management Contractor to work closely with its supply chain and which reinforce these commitments:
- It is a specific requirement of the Management Contractor to engage with and support a local supply chain and to demonstrate how they will do this in their bid.
 - Every person employed on the project should be paid at least the Manchester Minimum Wage.
 - No employer on the project should ask about criminal convictions in the recruitment process unless they are legally obliged to do so.

Local Labour

- 6.5 Members are aware that there has been considerable discussion around determining an appropriate and achievable local labour target for the Project. Clearly there is an ambition that Manchester leads in this area, maximising employment and training opportunities for people resident in the City. There are a number of challenges nationally, regionally and locally in the current economic climate resulting in a shortage of a skilled construction labour force. A report to Economy Scrutiny on 31 January outlines these in more detail. A major challenge in setting a target for Our Town Hall that is challenging and realistic, is that there are few recent projects of a similar scale and type against which to benchmark. Another key challenge is that given the early stage of the project we are unable to currently understand the full shape of the supply chain.

A summary of information for other major and recent projects in the region is provided in the following table. Officers also approached the Palace of Westminster Restoration and Renewal project who were unable to provide any information:

	Our Town Hall	Birley Fields	Oldham Town Hall	City Football Academy	Manchester Airport T2
Value	£330m	£139m	£32m	£88m	£1bn
Target percentage local labour	30% 40% stretch	10%	20%	25%	50%

No. new apprentices	150	5	30 (min 12 weeks)	70	150
Definition of local	MCC boundary	Central Manchester wards	Oldham MBC boundary	East Manchester wards + Tameside	35 mile radius of site

Taking into consideration the above information and following discussions with prospective management contractors it has been agreed to revise the local labour target to 30% with an ambitious stretch goal of 40%. This is felt to be a more realistic though still extremely challenging target given the skills demands of the project.

Apprenticeships

- 6.6 Following discussions at Resources & Governance Scrutiny Committee in November it has been agreed to revise the local apprenticeship target for new apprentices up to 100% either Manchester resident, attending a Manchester based educational institution or attending the University of Salford. This accounts for the reality that there are a significant number of students in Manchester and GM who attend institutions across local authority boundaries and that it would be unfair to exclude people based on their local authority of residence. Around 15% of students attending Manchester colleges are not resident in the city. Additionally, the University of Salford has been included due to the strength of the institution's School of Built Environment and again because significant numbers of University of Salford students live in or very close to Manchester.
- 6.7 The next round of M Futures higher level apprenticeships recruitment has now launched and places on the OTH project have been ring-fenced according to the above criteria. The campaign will be run predominantly online and supported by MCC communications team. The apprenticeship provider, Total People, will also continue to engage with Manchester based colleges and sixth forms with the support of the design team and current apprentices. The Management Contractor will be asked to make a commitment to delivering higher level apprenticeships as part of their overall social value offer.
- 6.8 In terms of sustained apprentices we need to be mindful that many contractors and suppliers will have already recruited apprentices before starting work on the OTH project however we will encourage placements for those that are Manchester resident as a priority.

Black and Minority Ethnic Groups

- 6.9 At the previous meeting officers were asked to report on how opportunities arising through the OTH project would be made accessible to BAME groups.

6.10 There are numerous sources citing the under-representation of BAME groups in the construction industry, particularly in professional and managerial or senior roles. There are a number of barriers facing BAME groups in construction, most of which are not specific to the industry.

Identified barriers include:

- Already low levels of BAME groups in construction perpetuate the perception that the industry is not welcoming for minority ethnic people.
- Perceptions of the construction industry more generally, especially around the perceived lack of professional trades.
- Contractors do not always recruit from the communities that they work in.

6.11 In the broadest sense, the Management Contractor must continuously monitor equality and diversity in the workforce including through the supply chain, specifically the groups identified in the Equality Act 2010. This will allow us to quickly identify and address where specific groups are under-represented.

6.12 In addition to this there are a number measures that we will take to encourage take up of opportunities:

Building a more diverse candidate pool.

- Be more pro-active in how we advertise opportunities to BAME groups, making use of the networks, organisations and resources that already exist in the city
- Consider how opportunities are presented to ensure they do not reinforce existing negative perceptions of the industry
- Ensure diversity in recruitment or selection panels

Improving retention in the industry.

- Establish equalities champions for the project
- Consider establishing informal networks, endorsed at a senior level and supported by further mentoring, coaching, or career development opportunities.

Ensuring compliance with the Equality Act 2010.

- Ensure that contractors have set their commitments out in policy
- Take action against discrimination

The Management Contractor will ensure that the above measures are incorporated through the supply chain.

Priority Groups

6.13 The Project Team is reaching out to key voluntary and community sector partners in the City to explore how we can best provide an offer that is accessible and useful to their service users. The next steps are to programme out what this offer looks like in practice so we can begin working with people in advance of the Management Contractor starting on site in October 2019. This will allow us to start building a group of people and organisations who are already interested and engaged in the project in time for the construction phase when the bulk of paid training and employment opportunities will become available.

Delivery of social value activities to date

6.14 The design team has commenced its programme of engagement activities as part of delivering the social value commitments outlined in their bids. A selection of activity is outlined below. Work is continuing to form and build relationships with Manchester schools, colleges, universities and employment/skills related organisations to ensure that we can target the offer to where it will have the greatest effect, and where we have the opportunity to work with people in the future to progress people into paid employment or training.

- A number of school engagement activities have taken place or are planned for the near future. These have consisted of attending careers fairs and STEM related events at Chorlton High School, Whalley Range 11-18 High School and Connell Sixth Form College. A group from Melland High School has visited the Town Hall with a view to developing a long term relationship over the life of the project in collaboration with Melland's careers leads. In March the project will host its first work experience placements, with the ambition being to stay in touch with students via their school or college to make them aware of further opportunities such as apprenticeships.
- The architects, Purcell, have taken a lead on building links with the Manchester School of Architecture (MSA) and are now mentoring a number of students as part of the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) mentoring scheme. Purcell are also developing a programme of workshops for up to 60 students from the MSA to work on the Project in late April, including creating models and resources that contribute towards the students achieving their qualifications and which may also be used by the Project Team as part of our engagement resources. Landscape Architects, Planit IE are also involved in supporting this work.
- The Project Team has approached the Friends of Clayton Hall to explore how some of the volunteer hours donated by the design team may be spent providing a level of professional support to the organisation to help FoCH understand the scale, nature and likely cost of some of their ambitions for their building.
- The first intake of M Futures apprentices employed on the project are progressing well and are now in their second rotation. Feedback from employers on their performance has been universally positive and the

apprentices have impressed with their dedication, drive and willingness to learn.

7.0 Conclusion

- 7.1 Good progress continues to be made with the Our Town Hall project and the last two months has seen significant achievements secured, particularly in relation to decanting staff and Members from the building and the public closure of the building. Similarly, a significant amount of work has been undertaken in preparation of procuring the Management Contractor. The design team have continued to make good progress in developing the Concept Design, RIBA Stage 2.

APPENDIX 1 - Media Coverage

The media strategy for this phase of the Our Town Hall project - covering the period between the immediate run-up to the 140th anniversary in September 2017 of the official opening of the Town Hall and the beginning of the building's temporary closure in January 2018 - focused on raising public awareness of the project and impending works while also reflecting on the national heritage importance of the building and its central role in the life of the city. Media work dovetailed with, and reinforced, other communications including the council's e-bulletin.

There was strong regional and local broadcast, print and online coverage centred on these themes, predominantly focused around the anniversary and the Open Day prior to the temporary closure, and The Guardian featured a photo gallery of the Town Hall in recognition of its significance.

The tone of coverage was almost without exception positive or neutral with much, particularly around the open day, enthusing about the splendours of the building and the historic events it has witnessed.

Media coverage for decision-making to decant phase included:

1 September 2017

- Manchester Evening News, p3: Town Hall to shut to the public for six years
- Manchester Evening News, p3: 150 years at city heart (town hall history factfile dating back to Alfred Waterhouse winning the competition to design it in 1867.)
- Radio Manchester (bulletins) – people urged to visit town hall before its temporary closure for major works in the New Year
- ITV website, Public encouraged to visit Manchester Town Hall ahead of six year closure
- Place North West, Town Hall prepares for New Year closure
- North West Business Insider (web), Manchester Town Hall closing for six years

13 September 2017

- Radio Manchester (bulletins), project director Paul Candelent interviewed about the Our Town Hall project and the 140th anniversary of the building's opening.
- That's Manchester TV (bulletins): interview with Cllr Priest about the project and anniversary
- Local Government Chronicle magazine, 22 Sept. Joanne Roney column, reflects on the Our Town Hall project as the 140th anniversary of the building is marked.

Town hall open day and tours

Friday 17 November 2017

- Key 103, package on the availability of Town Hall tours in the context of the Our Town Hall project (included article and tour video on website.)

Tuesday 2 January 2018

- Manchester Evening News website, From Peaky Blinders to Victor Frankenstein, the films and TV series filmed at Manchester Town Hall (shorter version in paper edition on Weds 3 Jan)

Thursday 4 January 2018

- Manchester Evening News, p28 Last chance to look in town hall for six years - Mancunians have less than fortnight left to visit the city's iconic town hall before it shuts for six years.

Thursday 11 January 2018

- BBC Northwest Tonight: Package looking at the “spectacular” Town Hall’s role at the heart of Manchester life and the need for the Our Town Hall project. Cllr Priest interviewed.

Friday 12 January 2018

- ITV Granada Reports: Package about impending closure and need for Our Town Hall project. Cllr Priest interviewed.
- BBC Radio Manchester (Breakfast) The Town Hall is set to temporarily close this weekend to enable its safeguard, repair and partial restoration. Cllr Pat Karney shares his memories of the building.

Saturday 13 January 2018

- BBC Radio Manchester Andy Crane show: Talks about the Town Hall £330m refurbishment. Includes repeat of previous item.

Sunday 14 January 2018

- BBC North West News: Report from the Town Hall open day ahead of its temporary closure for major works. Cllr Priest and Lord Mayor interviewed.
- BBC Radio Manchester news bulletins: Report on popularity of open day. Key 103 (bulletins): As above.
- Manchester Evening News (web): Today is your last chance to visit Manchester town hall before it closes for six years

Monday 15 January 2018

- The Guardian, Gothic Revival, pgs 14 & 15: Photographs of Manchester Town Hall, which closes today for a major refurbishment programme (larger version with more pictures used on the website)
- MEN (web): Visitors queue around the block to explore historic Manchester Town Hall one last time - includes video footage taken at the open day

Tuesday 16 January 2018

- Manchester Confidential: So, farewell then big fella: A fond farewell from writer Jonathan Schofield as the Town Hall closes for essential works

Thursday 18 January 2018

- Manchester Evening News, p23: Town Hall goes under wraps until 2024