

**Manchester City Council  
Report for Information**

**Report to:** Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee – 5 November 2020

**Subject:** Peterloo Memorial

**Report of:** Director of City Centre Growth and Infrastructure

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**Summary**

Following a verbal update to the Committee on the 3 September 2020 this report provides details of the arrangements for a public meeting on the 18 November 2020.

**Recommendations**

The Committee is asked to note and comment on the report.

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**Wards Affected:** Deansgate

<b>Environmental Impact Assessment</b> - the impact of the issues addressed in this report on achieving the zero-carbon target for the city
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The construction of the Peterloo Memorial was undertaken in the context of Manchester achieving its zero-carbon target for the city. The location of the Memorial is easily accessible using sustainable modes of transport.
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Our Manchester Strategy outcomes	Summary of how this report aligns to the OMS
<p>A thriving and sustainable city: supporting a diverse and distinctive economy that creates jobs and opportunities</p>	<p>2019 marked a once-in-a-generation opportunity to remember and raise the profile of the Peterloo Massacre. This important historic event for the city was commemorated through the completion of the Memorial and a coordinated programme of events over the summer, including the performance event on the 16th August 2019, to mark the 200th anniversary for the Peterloo Massacre. The Memorial is a key visitor destination, telling the location's historical story. The Memorial provides an important visitor attraction, and remembrance place, for the city centre, where annual anniversary events can be held, adding to the attractiveness of the city centre as a place to work in, live in, and visit. This can help support the ongoing growth of the city centre. In addition, the Memorial is located close to Manchester Central, adding a point of interest for visitors to events held at the venue</p>
<p>A highly skilled city: world class and home grown talent sustaining the city's economic success</p>	<p>The delivery of the Memorial in the heart of the city centre has added to the visual attractiveness of its location. There will be an ongoing opportunity for local school children and residents to learn from the historic events and participate in future events.</p>
<p>A progressive and equitable city: making a positive contribution by unlocking the potential of our communities</p>	<p>The Peterloo Memorial marks the gathering of 60,000 Greater Manchester residents in peaceful protest 200 years ago. It provides a focal point for local residents and visitors to be informed of the event close by the site of the original St Peter's Field. The lessons learned from the design and engagement stages of the Peterloo Memorial project, will be used to strengthen our mechanisms for consulting with disabled people in the City and with Disabled people's organisations through taking an Our Manchester approach.</p>

<p>A liveable and low carbon city: a destination of choice to live, visit, work</p>	<p>In addition to adding to the attractiveness of the city centre, the identified site for the Memorial is in a particularly sustainable location. For the 60,000 city centre residents and 140,000 people working within the city centre, the Memorial will be within walking distance. For those living in the wider Manchester and Greater Manchester region and visitors nationally, the Peterloo Memorial will be easily accessible using sustainable modes of transport. The St. Peter's Square and Deansgate-Castlefield Metrolink stops are within a few minutes' walk, as is Deansgate and Oxford Road Railway Stations. In addition, the location of the Memorial sits in close proximity to key bus routes that serve the city including the free Metroshuttle service.</p>
<p>A connected city: world class infrastructure and connectivity to drive growth</p>	<p>The Civic Quarter, benefits from excellent transport connectivity. This includes strong public transport links, as outlined above, with both rail and Metrolink stations within a two minute walk from the location identified for the Peterloo Memorial. This will reduce the need for car trips to the site, supporting the city's strategy of creating world class sustainable transport infrastructure.</p>

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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.

Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee – 20 June 2019  
Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee – 5 September 2019

The Peterloo Memorial Campaign Group Brief produced in 2016  
Peterloo Memorial Adaption Options prepared by Caruso St. John Architects 22  
October 2019  
Minutes of the Adaption of the Peterloo Memorial Meeting 22 October 2019  
New Ramp Proposal prepared by the Access Campaign Group 11 February 2020

## **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 The Peterloo Memorial was completed and handed over to the City Council on Tuesday 13th August 2019 prior to the 200th anniversary of the massacre on the 16th August 2019.
- 1.2 A report to the 5 September Scrutiny Committee 2019 provided an update on the implementation of the Peterloo Memorial, and progress on the work undertaken to review the options for the adaptation of the completed structure to ensure it is fully accessible. The report explored seven options which had been developed by the architects Caruso St. John and the artist Jeremy Deller in discussions with officers and representatives of both the Peterloo Massacre Campaign Group and the Peterloo Massacre Accessibility Campaign Group at meetings held on the 19<sup>th</sup> July 2019 and the 14<sup>th</sup> August 2019.
- 1.3 The architects Caruso St. John produced a detailed 52 page report for a meeting held with the representatives from both the Peterloo Massacre Campaign group and the Peterloo Massacre Accessibility Campaign group on the 22 October 2019 looking at six options. The report and the minutes of the meeting have been circulated to the Committee Members. The Peterloo Massacre Accessibility Campaign Group produced a further south ramp option in February 2020 which has also been circulated to the Committee Members.

## **2.0 Background**

- 2.1 The Director of City Centre Growth and Infrastructure provided a verbal report to the 3 September 2020 Committee that a number of permanent options had been considered to make the Peterloo Memorial fully accessible to all disabled people, including a lift, a bridge and different designs of ramp. Members were advised that these permanent adaptation options had been thoroughly assessed by the design team, working in consultation with the Peterloo Massacre Accessibility Campaign group, but none of the options had proved viable, due to the constraints of the site and the geometry of the Memorial. The design team and officers have offered to undertake further discussions about exploring a temporary ramp solution.
- 2.2 The Executive Member for Skills, Culture and Leisure acknowledged at the Committee meeting that mistakes had been made which had resulted in the Memorial not being fully accessible. He reported that lessons had been learnt, that considerations about accessibility had been taken on board in the design and consultation process for the Memorial to the victims of the Manchester Arena terrorist attack from the start and that this was the approach that would be taken for any future monuments and public realm projects. The Council's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Team are providing advice and support in the development of consultation processes with accessibility groups at the beginning and throughout the design and construction development to deliver new accessible environments in the city.
- 2.3 The Peterloo Memorial is a public art installation telling the story of the Massacre with information of who died and where they had travelled from. The

original design brief produced by the Peterloo Massacre Campaign Group in 2016 has been circulated to Committee Members. The Memorial has not become a speakers corner or location for general protests and the only time people would want to use the steps to address a crowd is on the annual anniversary of the Massacre. A temporary ramp could be designed for this purpose. The top platform of the Memorial is a small area and only has enough space therefore for a few people and or wheelchairs. The development of any ramp structure would overbear and overshadow the existing Memorial and the messages it carries in respect of those who died and where they came from. The area to the north of the Memorial is owned by Manchester Central and when the Conference and Events Centre can reopen this forecourt area will be rented out to exhibitors to promote events taking place in the main hall. There is insufficient space to the south, east and west to introduce a ramp feature.

- 2.4 Council officers and the design team have now spent over 12 months working to try to find a permanent solution, in consultation with both the Peterloo Massacre Campaign Group and the Peterloo Massacre Accessibility Campaign group, but have not been able to find one. The Executive Member for Skills, Culture and Leisure has arranged for a public meeting to take place on the 18 November at 4.30 pm and the design team will present the report on the six options they have developed and will comment on the new south ramp option developed by the Peterloo Massacre Accessibility Campaign Group. All participants to the virtual meeting will be invited to comment on the design options and the opportunity which exists to look at a temporary ramp option. An invite to attend this meeting has been sent to all Committee Members.

### **3.0 Recommendations**

- 3.1 The Committee is asked to note that a public meeting has been arranged for the 18 November to receive a detailed report by the design team of the options considered to make the Peterloo Memorial accessible.