

<b>Application Number</b>	<b>Date of Appln</b>	<b>Committee Date</b>	<b>Ward</b>
121252/FO/2018	13th Sep 2018	21st Jan 2021	Deansgate Ward

**Proposal** Partial reconfiguration of existing Multi-Storey Car Park (MSCP), including temporary access off Great Marlborough Street, construction of 5 storey external ramps, closure of vehicular access to top level; and construction of new facade; and partial demolition of the surplus part of existing MSCP and erection of a part 55, part 11 storey, part 4 storey mixed-use building comprising 853 Purpose Built Student Accommodation units (sui generis), ancillary amenity space and support facilities, and 786sqm (GIA) SME incubator workspace (Use Class B1), including public realm improvements and other associated work

**Location** Great Marlborough Street Car Park, Great Marlborough Street, Manchester, M1 5NJ

**Applicant** GMS (Parking) Limited, C/o Agent,

**Agent** Mr John Cooper, Deloitte LLP, 2 Hardman Street, Manchester, M3 3HF

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The proposal would create 853 purpose built student accommodation units and 786 sqm of SME incubator workspaces within a part 55, part 11, part 4 storey building with associated amenity and support facilities.

Three rounds of neighbour notification took place due to amendments being made during this application. This generated objections from Macintosh Village Management Company, Councillor Marcus Johns, Councillor William Jevons as well as 134 individual objections (73 of which supported the objections of the Management Company). Manchester Metropolitan University Support the proposal.

## **Key Issues**

**Principle of the proposal and the schemes contribution to regeneration** The development is in accordance with national and local planning policies, and the scheme would bring significant economic, social and environmental benefits. This is a brownfield site, previously developed as a car park and is located in a highly sustainable location close to Oxford Road, the University Campuses and public transport modes and amenities. The proposal accords with policy H12. The proposal has University Support, is sustainable and provides an appropriate standard of accommodation (including supporting the wellbeing of students) and meets carbon objectives.

**Economic** The proposal would result in £130 million of investment and deliver 853 student beds. The ability to attract students, particularly as a high proportion of graduates stay in the City once they have finished their course, is vital to a successful and thriving economy. 3,130 direct and indirect construction jobs are

expected to be created. 15 jobs would be created once the development becomes operational together with 52-79 jobs associated with the SME space.

**Social** A local labour agreement would ensure that Manchester residents are prioritised for construction jobs. The provision of high quality student accommodation is vital to attract the right skills to the city given the high graduate retention rates. Amenity areas in the student accommodation and the SME spaces would allow for interaction and sharing of ideas and well as supporting student welfare.

**Environmental** This would be a low carbon building in a highly sustainable location. The development would be car free with active travel and use of public transport encouraged. 290 car parking spaces would be removed from the site which would reduce emissions and EV charging points cycle spaces would be provided. There would be public realm improvements around the with trees and hard landscaping. Biodiversity would be improved with new habitats created including bird and bat boxes. Flood risk can be managed and the adjacent watercourse utilised for drainage to minimise the pressure on the local sewer network.

The height, scale and appearance would be innovative and contribute positively. Secured by Design principles would ensure the development is safe and secure. Waste management would prioritise recycling to minimise the amount of waste going to landfill.

**Impact on the historic environment** Any harm to heritage assets would be less than substantial and would be outweighed by the economic, social and environmental public benefits of the scheme, in accordance with the provisions of Section 66 and Section 72 of the Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.

**Impact on local residents** The impact on daylight/sunlight, overlooking and wind conditions are considered to be acceptable in this context. Construction impacts would not be significant and can be managed. Noise outbreak from plant would meet relevant standards and the operational impacts of the accommodation can be managed.

A full report is attached below for Members consideration.

## **Description**

The site is approximately 0.22 hectares at the corner of Great Marlborough Street and Hulme Street and comprises a 5 storey Multi Storey Car Park (MSCP) and ground floor commercial unit. Vehicle access to the MSCP is from Great Marlborough Street. The site is within 'The Corridor Manchester' which is a major regeneration priority.

Macintosh Village, an established residential community, is on the opposite side of Great Marlborough Street. Liberty Heights and 1-5 New Wakefield Street are to the north and north east and provide high-rise purpose-built student accommodation on New Wakefield Street. This area contains residential and commercial developments which provide an active frontage to the railway viaduct.



**Existing MSCP at the application site**

To the east of the site is the Holiday Inn Express and the River Medlock and a range of commercial, retail and leisure uses which front Hulme Street.



**Location plan**

The site is not within a Conservation Area but owing to their age and format, some buildings in the local area could be considered to be non-designated heritage assets. The Whitworth Street Conservation Area is to the north east and the following listed buildings are nearby, the Former Refuge Assurance Company Offices ( the Principal Hotel) Grade II\*, Oxford Road Station and platforms, the Dancehouse Theatre, the Dalton Statue at Dalton College and Chatham Mill, all Grade II.

This is a highly sustainable area close to Oxford Road station with Deansgate/Castlefield Metrolink Station and Deansgate Station are nearby.

## **The Proposal**

The site contains a lower ground and 5 storey 391 space MSCP and a commercial unit fronting Hulme Street and Great Marlborough Street. Approximately 100 spaces within the car park are subject to long leases.

Planning permission is being sought to reconfigure the car park to provide 101 spaces, 20% of which would be fitted with an electric car charging point, (a loss of 290 spaces) with modification to its height and elevations. A 64 space secure cycle store would be created specifically for use by local residents.

Between 30-40 spaces are currently in use at any one time, however, it is understood that there a leasehold arrangement for 100 spaces. The proposal would retain the spaces which are subject to the lease arrangement and would be kept operational at all times in line with the current provision.

The changes to the car park would allow the erection of a part 55, part 11, part 4 storey mixed use building providing 853 purpose-built student accommodation units. The accommodation comprises individual studios with kitchen, shower, study area and sleeping accommodation. 9% of the development would be adaptable and suitable for those in a wheelchair.



***View from Hulme Street***

99% of the room sizes would range between 17.2 sqm and 27.3 sqm. Room sizes at Vita (Circle Square (18.2 sqm)), River Street (18.6 sqm) and Liberty Heights (18.8 sqm). The proposal would provide the largest average room size of these schemes.

The building would include a range of amenities including gym, private dining rooms, laundry, TV and games rooms, study areas and seating areas totalling 582 sqm.

262 cycle spaces would also be provided at the ground floor store with direct access from the street. 60 bikes would be freely available to students for those who do not have a bike.

Incubator workspaces would be provided, which would also be accessible to students, providing a unique opportunity for students to work alongside SMEs in a professional and collaborative environment.

The applicant also has an events programme specifically designed to support the physical and mental wellbeing of students and actively promote social interaction and the use of the onsite facilities.

The proposals include public realm improvements along Hulme Street and on-street planters on Great Marlborough Street. A dedicated ground floor bin store would contain general waste and recycling bins.

## **The planning submission**

This planning application has been supported by the following information:

- Supporting planning statement;
- Tall buildings statement;
- Design and access statement;
- Environmental standards statement;
- Travel plan;
- Waste management plan;
- Telecommunication assessment;
- TV reception statement;
- Crime Impact Statement;
- Archaeology;
- Ecology Report; and
- Ventilation strategy.

The application is also the subject of an Environmental Statement which includes the following chapters:

- Construction methodology and programme;
- Consideration of alternatives;
- Townscape and visual impact assessment;
- Built Heritage;
- Noise and Vibration;
- Sunlight, daylight and overshadowing;
- Traffic and transport;
- Flood risk, drainage and water resources;
- Wind microclimate;
- Air quality;
- Ground conditions and contamination;
- Socio-economic assessment;
- Human health; and
- Climate change.

## **Consultations**

The proposal has been advertised as a major development, as being of public interest, as affecting the setting of Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas together with being an EIA development. A Site notice was displayed. Notification letters have been sent to an extensive area, local residents and businesses.

Three rounds of neighbour notification have been carried out. The comments received can be summarised below.

## **First notification**

### *Macintosh Village Management Company*

A detailed objection from Macintosh Village Management Company was received supported by 216 residents (80 have a car parking space in the MSCP). This is a lengthy objection and summary is provided below:

Residents have creased homes in the area and contributed towards creating a neighbourhood. This has produced significant Council tax contributions, with some buildings being 100% owner occupied. Service charges have contributed towards creating and maintaining this residential quarter of the city. These service charges are not sustainable as purpose built student accommodation in the area increases. The proposal would create a high concentration of sui generis accommodation with over 72% of accommodation within 100 metres of the site within this established residential area.

Crime has increased by one third since the opening of Liberty Heights. Macintosh Village is a successful and vibrant residential neighbourhood. The density and largely regular building form of the Village, together with its narrow street, would mean the impact of a tall built such as this would be dominate, remove daylight, privacy and overlook.

This tall building, with a 165 metre cladded gable end would turn its back on our neighbourhood. In turning its back to the neighbourhood, it would present large frontages in parallel to the 37 storey Liberty Heights and the Quadrangle creating canyons. This would create new microclimates into Macintosh Village accelerating south westerly and north easterly winds. This would make standing, siting and cycling unsafe particularly in winter. Many of the public spaces, balconies, gardens and shared spaces have not been included in the wind assessment and Unite and Circle Square were added retrospectively. The methods and findings have not been presented and no mitigation is proposed.

The applicant plays down the requirements of Policy H12 and does not have the support of the Universities. The proposal is a niche product that does not meet the needs of the majority of students. It would affect the potential of the area to create family accommodation. It would change the residential neighbourhood of Macintosh Village and result in an unacceptable loss of amenity. The proposal is not compliant with plans or policies for this area and should be refused.

This applicant attempts to claim precedents for tall building in this residential area with a tight urban grain. There are no material considerations for precedents in planning. The location for a tall building is further challenged as the site is not a key nodal point on the corner of either of the four nodes of the grid street pattern that frames Macintosh Village: Oxford Road, Oxford Road Station, Chester Street or Cambridge Street. The site is in the village and some distance along the narrow Hulme Street.

The building is over dominant and out of scale with its surroundings. How many landmarks does a 100m radius of the site needs before they work against each other and produce a harsh discordant mix.

The application would result in a cluster of tall buildings. A cluster of tall buildings can offer shelter to one another and push the windy areas to the edge of the cluster. The site would be at the edge of the cluster and be particularly exposed to the prevailing south west winds and cold north easterly winds. The north easterly wind would shoot directly across Oxford Road where those standing, sitting and vulnerable pedestrians (cyclists) would be significantly at risk. This is also replicated at Oxford Road Station. Two independent wind surveys should be carried out together with a wind tunnel analysis along with other criteria outlined in the objection letter. This would ensure the technical quality and robustness of the wind statement.

The substantial architectural and design challenges of this site result in a building with large frontages exposed and this accelerates the most sensitive wind directions. The applicant has not correctly modelled nor identified streets, buildings nor considered issues identified in the local area or any mitigation measures.

Similar proposals have been refused at 20 storeys and this proposal is for 55 storeys. Buildings should be developed in similar style and height to the existing buildings. The building would also overlook and overshadow nearby buildings and detract from the listed former Refuge Assurance Clock Tower and Oxford Road Station.

There are impacts from 'no car buildings' and impact on crime.

The design and choice imitation brick cladding will affect the articulation of the mills and chimney including those which are grade II listed. The application introduces a harsh discord with the use of imitation and unavoidable uniformity of mortar and fake brick cladding which would detract from both old and the new.

The proposal would cause overlooking the back to back distances being below 20 metres as described in the residential quality guidance. Living rooms and balconies from the Quadrangle overlook Hulme Street. The applicant acknowledges material reductions in daylight and sunlight levels from the massing and height of the building. The Quadrangle would be shrouded by an application which faces 45 degrees either side of north and is impacted further by the development being within 20 metres of it.

The tall building would negatively impact on the character and atmospheric quality of the buildings in the area, narrow streets, patios, gardens and shared spaces. The applicant has not considered all relevant properties in the area and the impact of the development on daylight and sunlight.

The design and access statement is inadequate and does not consider the impact on existing residents car park by the development. There was inadequate consultation with local residents prior to the submission of the application.

Residents are concerned with inflation of land values in relation to building tall buildings. By flipping purpose building student accommodation projects so quickly, it is clear the market returns and operating models exceed those of the market. The



applicant appears bullish on the land parcels around the site and this is of great concern. The applicant is attempting to reverse the Macintosh masterplan and create a densification of student accommodation within a residential neighbourhood.

Obtaining planning permission on this site would inflate the land value and improve the viability and deliverability of the scheme. This is contrary to policy EN2. The distortion of land value in the city and surrounding area affects all schemes. It is crucial that the deliverability of the proposed tall building is proven. Unimplemented planning permissions for tall buildings can have a significant impact on land value and can distort the market in an unacceptable manner. This can hinder development of other sites and impact their deliverability and regeneration of an area.

There are ground conditions risks and flood risks. There are also air quality risks from demolishing the car park creating dust in the residential area.

The applicant presents 'The Fallowfield Fallacy' as a way to support their proposal. Their product is niche and does not meet need in affordability or space the students using HMOs in areas like Fallowfield would require. The impact on student accommodation has been felt on this area, When Liberty Heights opened, crime and anti-social behaviour increased. A balanced neighbourhood has many benefits – Council tax and creation directly attributed from residents. If properties are occupied by students, this is no longer sustainable. Students are Council tax exempt and it puts a strain on local services such as health. These problems are heightened in areas where between 20-40% are student households. Once the 20% threshold is reached problems become hard to manage. The Councils policy is 10% threshold.

The proposal does not comply with policy H12 for the following reasons:

- Proximity to public transport – students use UBER and not public transport as it evident from experiences at Liberty Heights due to fear of crime. This blocks carriageways and disrupts available on street parking;
- Regional Centre (including Oxford Road) and low carbon developments – the proposal is not sustainable and does not generate green energy sources;
- High density developments comparable with existing developments and not lead to on street parking - the proposal would lead to a high concentration of students – 72% within 100m of the site. No parking would be available which would lead to use of on street bays and congestion by UBER and taxis which is already an issue in the local area.
- Regeneration – the proposal would have a negative impact on the local area from wind, overshadowing, loss of privacy and daylight.
- Safety and security – as above;
- Waste management is inadequate for the development;
- Need – the applicant market is international students. The price point would not be available to most students and would remove adaptable rooms. There is degree of uncertainty to justify the need for the accommodation.

73 individual comments have been received which support the objections of Macintosh Village Management Company.

20 individual objections have been received and the comments can be summarised as follows:

- It would disrupt access to the car parking spaces in the MSCP;
- It would overshadow neighbouring buildings which would affect residential amenity.
- It would substantially dwarf the student castle building and is far too large;
- It would increase noise, traffic and would be out of place in the local area;
- It would result in a loss of privacy from overlooking;
- It would cause a wind tunnel effect within Macintosh Village and this issue has not been properly taken into consideration;
- Despite its brick façade it would not complement the local area and would stick out amongst the other buildings in the area;
- The exit/entrance of the car park on Hulme Street causes issues of manoeuvrability;
- There has been a lack of consultation with those who have a car parking space in the building;
- It would cause 4 years of disruption in the local area along with the other developments in the local area;
- There is not sufficient demand for student accommodation in the area as there are no actual increases in student numbers;
- There would be unacceptable impact on Chorlton Mill as a result of loss of light and loss of privacy from overlooking;
- It is 40% taller than Liberty Heights which is excessive and would have an impact on nearby listed buildings. The prevailing character of the area is 8 storeys;
- It would impact on resident's mental health and affect the value of properties;
- The scale would reduce the amount of natural light which can be seen from nearby residents windows;
- There is a lack of services to support students and they would create rubbish, noise and crime. The students do not pay Council tax and therefore do not contribute to the services which are required to resolve this;
- This part of the city is turning into a student ghetto and in the summer months it is empty in this area which contributes to the lack of community. There needs to be a greater focus on housing for everyone not just students and luxury flats;
- A smaller proposal would be acceptable that would be 9 storey and focused on SME accommodation or affordable housing;
- The proposal would have a negative impact on the surrounding listed buildings;
- The accommodation is small the impact on student wellbeing is concerning;
- It is not clear what impact will be on the leaseholders who park in the car park;
- It is not clear if the proposal would interfere with TV reception in the area;
- The current car park height is in keeping with the scale of developments in the area. At 55 storeys, this development would be one of the tallest buildings in Manchester and there would be 100s of window overlooking residential properties resulting in a significant loss of privacy;
- It would cast a significant shadow on the Quadrangle eliminating any natural sunlight and a drastic reduction in natural light;
- It would result in an overdevelopment of a very small site;

- The student accommodation is like a small cell with no room for interaction within each room and no shared student living spaces. This would be detrimental to the wellbeing of the students;
- There is only one single escape stair which poses a fire risk;
- Bikes would need to be carried up a staircase which is a fire risk;
- Dispute the level of occupancy of the car park suggested by the applicant;
- The cost of the accommodation being created at this development would be out of reach for most students.

## **Second Notification**

Following receipt of additional information relating to the size of the studio apartments, amount of amenity floor area, cycle provision and co workspace a further notification on the was carried out.

30 individual objections have been received and the comments can be summarised as follows:

- It would take away car parking spaces where there is already limited;
- The size is excessive, would be out of keeping with Macintosh Village, the conservation area and would be a huge eye sore in the Manchester skyline. The visual impact would be overwhelming with the building overshadowing a densely packed residential area. There is no case for such a tall building;
- The access from Hulme Street would have impact on the junction with Oxford Road. Hulme Street is also too narrow to accommodate the traffic on this road;
- 853 students would create intensive food and internet deliveries together with Uber and Taxis. This would lead to congestion and worsening of air quality;
- It is not clear how residents would access the car park during construction and operational phases;
- There is no contribution to the public realm and rely on other planned developments in the area for this;
- Noise and disturbance from vehicles in the area;
- Loss of privacy to the apartments in the Quadrangle;
- Lack of demand for student accommodation given the number of blocks being developed in the area;
- There would be impact on light to a number of surrounding developments;
- It is too tall and would a precedent for other tall building;
- It would impact on property prices in the area;
- There would be 20 metres or less between the proposal and surrounding living accommodation at the Quadrangle this would impact on light and block views;

## **Third Notification**

Following receipt of additional information relating to the MSCP (including retaining of the entrance to Great Marlborough Street), reduction of spaces to 101, elevational alterations to the MSCP, introduction of a four storey amenity blocks to Great Marlborough Street, revision to the Energy Strategy, revisions to the waste management strategy, revisions to the lay by to Hulme Street, introduction of electric car charging points and cycle provision to the MSCP, internal alterations to the

student accommodation, introduction of art work to the Great Marlborough Street elevations and details of a student wellbeing strategy. Amendments and revisions were also made to the Environmental Statements (ES).

### *Macintosh Village Management Company*

A further detailed objection from the Management Company has been received. This is a lengthy objection and summary is provided below:

- The revisions are significant and should be subject to further consultation with residents by the applicant;
- MSCP: There are concerns with regards to the means of access to the MSCP, number of spaces, Easements / private rights of way issues, removal of street level access to car park due to engine room, ramps only 2m wide from Student Castle and Wakefield House creating an 'alley' for residents to access the cycle store, the number of disabled spaces is reduced from 20 to 5, the location of the five disabled space on the plan appear at the furthest points on each floor from access and fire escape, two way ramps system and internal traffic light system for safety has been removed for one lane ramps;
- Highways and logistics: Hulme Street distance with hoardings 4.6 m means 2 cars cannot pass, further details on temporary car park access required including - Entrance and exit points, dimensions from crossroads to entrance/exit, total length of the pavement/highway dedicated to these entrance / exit points from the edge of the building to include at least two cars stacking, gradient of the hill for these locations and mitigations for cars rolling backwards, crossroads correctly describing as narrowed and those dimensions included and fire escapees/strategy, further details on the cranes including location and need for road closures and how this would affect access to other car parks; clarification on demolition and a structural survey should be undertaken on the car park;
- Mitigation measures: Question whether mitigation measures for reducing anti-social behaviour have been removed along with mitigation of mirrored walls and 'harm' to nursery, treatment to windows with regard to overlooking/light pollution, whether the windows are fully openable and are noise mitigation measures required, clarification on waste management arrangements;
- Wind: Request for street and building locations together with mitigation measures and how the scheme interact with an unplanned cluster in close proximity;
- Due to timeframe since 2018 application – request current verified views are updated;
- A condition was moved from Student Castle V1 to the MSCP for 84 cycle spaces and other items. This was to facilitate the proposed reception area as a cycle store converting to an internal use only gym. Can the applicant confirm this condition will be continued and are in addition to the 64 cycle spaces net new cycle spaces. They are described for "residents". Is this exclusive to Macintosh Village and not Student Castle V1? Which cycle store will house the 64 cycles for Macintosh Village? Will cycle store house the conditioned 84 cycles for Student Castle V1?;
- Clarification regarding the energy tariff referenced in the energy strategy;

- Contamination – requests details of containment strategy and safety during temporary car park and whether ventilation plan and mitigation for car park remains;
- Contract parking rights – states these are leaseholder rights and covenants. Would like to see advice from agent and officer;
- Delivery: All residents of Macintosh Village were promised by Taylor Wimpey of a future option to purchase a car park space or additional space;
- Restrictive covenants exist on the land;
- The car park was acquired with long leasehold rights and conditions;
- Taylor Wimpey affirmed this was a car park without development gains during negotiation and did not transfer assignment to GMS of any material rights or reservations under the leases owned by the 999-year leaseholders;
- GMS has a lack of legal rights to pursue the application due to the inability to carry out any permission;
- The car park works will be detrimental to payment of residential mortgages due to the impact on the lease;
- The development works and reduced Car Park would constitute substantial interference with the right of way, right to park and permanent loss of access/amenity. The Lease (which GMS are not party to) does not in itself permit redevelopment of the Car Park in a way which would reduce the number of car parking spaces potentially available to the tenants, who are 999-year leaseholders;
- Taylor Wimpey affirmed this was a car park without development gains during negotiation and did not transfer assignment to GMS of any material rights or reservations under the leases owned by the 999-year leaseholders. The estates were transferred to the RMC MVML. GMS was not party to the block lease, has not taken on an assignment of the lessor's interest, and is not a person entitled to the reversion immediately expectant upon the determination of the term. GMS does not fall within the definition of "Landlord" (in relation to 102 long leaseholders with a right to park) and would not take the benefit of the material rights reserved under the lease;
- Ability to deliver within 3 year life of permission;
- Legal opinion confirms Actionable Interference via Injunction(s) will be granted;
- Deliverability of proposals in context of Policy EN2 and H12;
- Principle of development: Need to retain existing car parking spaces, need to retain existing commercial unit, proposal is not in accordance with policy H12;
- MSCP: MSCP impacts on residential amenity on dwellings in Wakefield House, concern around structural integrity of MSCP, MSCP Circulation reduced to one way, proposals are not in accordance of proposals with Macintosh Village Masterplan; inappropriate access arrangements to the MSCP, the service charge will increase, inappropriate for scope of Operational Management Strategy to be agreed at a later date;
- Design: Inappropriate location for tall building in the middle of a small residential street and not key nodal point for its height, tall building design – requirement for podium or set-back, poor quality design and inappropriate pastiche of factory chimneys, impact on existing residential uses, dead frontage along GMS, the proposals offer no contribution to place making;
- Waste: Waste Strategy not in accordance with guidance, inappropriate location of waste storage and unacceptable noise impacts;

- Construction: Crane exclusion zones will prevent safe construction, requirement to leave slew brakes off while unattended and oversailing will not be accepted by HSE, inability to control contamination impacts during construction and length of construction period;
- Restriction to one way along GMS and Hume Street and waste Collections will block Hulme Street;
- Concerns around noise emanating from openable windows;
- Heritage: The group of heritage assets in the area face harm from the out of scale ratio in the form of a pastiche. The policy framework states that the 'significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting' should be understood in order to assess the potential impact of any development. The applicant has failed to understand this. The use of a pastiche design next door to the group of heritage assets is certainly not complementing (nor contrasting) and is not supported at local policy level EN3. What is not cited is how valued this group of local heritage assets is to us the community and how much we want to maintain its setting;
- Our mills and chimneys grouped together add a rich diversity to the local sense of identity that is Macintosh Village. Their role is as a focus of our community and community value. We can differentiate the old and the new for a very important reason. All those who have come to be welcome One Cambridge / Assembly Rooms, UNITE Tower, Student Castle 1 and Hotspur Press have intentionally sought to use massing and materials to contrast with the red brick of our heritage assets and the built environment. They have not sought to imitate, nor have they offered an unwelcome pastiche of the local heritage assets and our neighbourhood and homes;
- Creation of an unplanned cluster;
- Wind Micro-climate: Existing wind conditions haven't been suitably considered in the assessment.
- The proposal is likely to modify the local wind environment and create some localised wind accelerations at pedestrian level
- Bus stop location on Oxford Road wind environment not suitable to meet the 'standing' criteria;
- Commitment to energy tariff not enforceable;
- The application is not utilising an industry defined CHP system. The application is not deploying a Building Management system (BMS). The building will be relying primarily on fossil fuel source of gas for circa 80% of the energy required. The building will have no latent or spare heat capacity to feed into the decentralised system nor has indicated any spare capacity in its energy statement.

11 individual objections have been received and the comments can be summarised as follows:

- There is an ongoing legal dispute over the freeholders intention to off load responsibility for the much reduced car park to the small number of leaseholders who bought parking spaces some years ago. All of the potentially prohibitive costs associated with the car park would fall on c. 100 individuals, with less than one quarter of the current number of parking places shouldering the entire responsibility. The applicant is seeking to demonstrate that there is 'no demand' for parking in this area, despite the fact that there has

been no attempt to market the car park to local residents in the existing or the many newly-constructed residential buildings nearby which have no car parking provision.

- It will also overlook existing buildings adjacent and tower above even the newly-constructed blocks in the area. It is almost twice the height of other developments so there would be no privacy at all from prying eyes;
- Neither of the main universities in Manchester has expressed support for this new student residence and in other cities, such as Cardiff, student housing is now being converted into general housing, for which its design is fundamentally unsuitable.
- After Grenfell and the impact of Covid-19, it is questionable how many people - students or not - would choose to live in high-rise flats without any outside space and only limited means of egress. Population density in these streets is already extraordinarily high without adding such an enormous tower on a very small footprint, with its potentially adverse effects on mental well-being and social cohesion.
- The number of student rooms proposed is 853. This would constitute a massive overdevelopment of this very small site. A 55 storey tower is proposed and this is totally inappropriate in this location. To accommodate this number of students the rooms are exceedingly small cells.
- There is virtually no space for social interaction within each room and there are insufficient shared social spaces for use by small groups of students living in proximity to each other. This lack of social spaces will be detrimental to the wellbeing of some students and is likely to cause a rise in mental health issues, depression, anxiety etc.
- The proposal would change the fundamental character of this residential neighbourhood. The activities of the student night time economy would affect amenity and put stress on this residential neighbourhood;
- It is unclear how long the works to the car park would take or how access would be affected;
- It is apparent that the applicant has not considered the viability of the application. The proposals would directly impact enjoyment of rights under the lease;
- Concern about impact on footways during construction particularly disabled users. There would be noise and traffic associated with the construction activities which would impact on residents;
- The use would drain on public health services and increase crime in the area. There would also be increased waste generation from the site which would need to be managed.

**Councillor Marcus Johns (Deansgate Ward)** objects on the grounds of excessive height, harm to visual amenity, overdevelopment, negative effects on residential amenity, reduction in pedestrian comfort due to wind, the omission of a transport statement and insufficiencies of the demand analysis and socioeconomic statement.

The height at 55 storeys and 16 metres above ground level is too tall for its location. The tall buildings policy (EN2) in the Core Strategy clearly expresses that a building should have regard of the neighbouring buildings and local area in general.

There is a clear narrative of buildings stepping down away from the taller buildings along the railway viaduct (such as Liberty Heights and Number 1 Cambridge Street) to mid and low rise buildings that predominate the Macintosh Village area, particularly along Hulme Street, Chester Street and Lower Ormond Street. These buildings create a grid based urban grain with a canyon effect created by the brick warehouses along these streets. Along Hulme Street, the canyon sits between six and ten storeys above street level on the side of the proposal and up to nine storeys on the opposite side. The tight urban grain, characterised by a similarly high canyons along these streets, is an important characteristic of the area. The proposal does not have regard to these neighbouring buildings.

There is an emerging cluster of taller buildings to the north of the proposed development towards the railway viaduct. The townscape and visual impact assessment claims that developments in the immediate vicinity are of the same or similar scale to the proposal which is untrue. The proposal is significantly taller than the other buildings within the cluster. The planning statement cites tall developments within the cluster:

- Number 1 Cambridge Street – 28 storeys (83 metres) is just over half the height of the proposed development;
- 1-5 New Wakefield Street – 31 storeys (93 metres) would be 56% of the height of the proposed development;
- Liberty Heights – 37 storeys (109 metres) would be 2/3s of the height of the proposed development; and
- Circle square – buildings ranging from 14 to 36 storeys. The tallest building which is under construction would be 105 metres or 64% of the height of the proposed development.

It is clear from the above that this building would not complement and is not similar to the scale of the other buildings in the taller cluster of buildings in this area.

The proposal, stepping up significantly from the height of other buildings in the local area, would significantly shift the weight of the cluster in terms of height away from the existing tall buildings towards the lower buildings in the Macintosh Village area, including the Quadrangle and the Holiday Inn, which step down from the cluster. This would fundamentally alter, and damage, the character of the neighbourhood.

The proposal would severely impact the visual amenity of the local area. The NPPF advises that decisions should be visually attractive, create a strong sense of place and be sympathetic to the local area. The development is visually oppressive and would dominate the sense of place of Macintosh Village detracting from its current characteristics. The development can also be seen from the Whitworth Street Conservation Area and, for context, the site is within a shorter distance to the conservation area than its proposed height.

The Great Marlborough Street and North East elevations are of particular concern as they do not contain windows. These façades, though detailed with a grid pattern, would create a sheer, brick clad face that is oppressive and overbearing on the immediate vicinity of the site and in all views which can be seen. Despite the



detailing, these two facades are essentially 165 metres of blank walls. This is poor design and poor place making contradicting policy EN2.

The proposal amounts to overdevelopment. The intensity of the development, which provides 850 purpose-built student accommodation is excessive. It would fundamentally impact the amenity and character of the Macintosh Village and place a large amount of demand on local infrastructure and services.

This is particularly important on healthcare facilities and requires mitigation or the application should be refused.

The proposal would concentrate further purpose-built student accommodation in the area. The application references a large number of existing and pipeline purpose-built student accommodation in the vicinity. This would tip the balance away from a mixed-use neighbourhood with residential communities towards purpose built student accommodation because of the high number of units proposed.

The proposal would affect residential amenity by increasing noise and disturbance. 850 residents would result in increased noise particularly at entry and exits of the building. There would also be noise from construction and vibrations. There would also be significant overlooking of residents living in the Macintosh Village area. This is a particular issue for those living in the Quadrangle where balconies and roof terraces would be overlooked by the development with clear sightlines into their dwellings from some windows.

The proposal would decrease pedestrian comfort and reduce public amenity in the vicinity. Though the wind microclimate assessment finds an acceptable pedestrian safety level and in general acceptable pedestrian comfort, it finds a deterioration from the baseline position. There would be a reduction in terms of comfort for the vast majority of locations tested. Though considered safe, the reduction in pedestrian comfort is another negative impact on public interest.

The transport statement does not adequately take into account the sharp increase in food deliveries and shopping deliveries that is an increasing characteristic of city centre living. The transport statement only references taxis with respect to the waiting rank on the corner of Oxford Road and Whitworth Street West. This needs to be considered with regards to the private hire services which can be offered door to door. There would also be a concentrated amount of activity during evenings and weekends.

The proposal is not being brought forward with the support of the Universities and therefore lacks the benefits required by policy H12. The economic claims are weak and do not stand up to scrutiny.

The nature of the accommodation is more like C3 than sui generis and therefore should be considered against policy H8 (affordable housing).

**Councillor William Jeavons (Deansgate)** objects to the application on the grounds that a 55 storey building in this location is too tall. The Core Strategy for this area says that the building must have regard for the neighbouring building and local area.

The current tall buildings, such as Liberty Heights and No.1 Cambridge Street which run along the Viaduct, step down in size to the medium to low rise Macintosh Village. This tower would break this natural city scaling and character. It would also negatively affect the local community who already live there and has no regard for the local buildings.

The proposal would be overdevelopment and would result in adverse impacts on local services and amenities.

The nature of the tower creates significant overlooking of residents living accommodation particularly for those in Macintosh Village and residents of the Quadrangle building who have balconies and roof terraces that would become overlooked. There would also be an increase in noise and disturbance from the students on existing residents.

The wind assessment, whilst stating that there is an acceptable level of impact on pedestrian safety, would result in a deterioration from the baseline position.

There is no demand for this accommodation and it is not being developed in partnership with any of the local universities and doesn't form part of their strategic planning. It is purely speculative. Similar accommodation is already being met in the current rental market which has an increasing stock already being built and marketed. The local development plan identifies the need to limit the mix of types of accommodation specifically identifying limits to student accommodation which has already been met.

The proposal would have no positive benefit to the level of council tax because students are exempt with the economic benefits focused on clothing, food and drink sectors and not sustain or support the broader Manchester economy.

Deliveries to the building would not be limited to the building management and need to consider food deliveries and taxi services. Activity is likely to be focused on night time which would cause disturbance to local residents.

**Manchester Metropolitan University** support this proposal. The proposals are genuinely complementary and well located meaning that there is no reason for the University to oppose the scheme. Further information and reassurance has been provided on the quality of management, pastoral care and support facilities for students, which is critical to the University.

A target market and well strategy has been considered which indicates that the development would be targeted at students in 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> years of study. The overall quality of the product and amenity spaces would appear to be appropriate to this target market and there is a track record of this working well in a wide range of locations. There are established operational platform of providing pastoral care that is required and a clear strategy around mental health support. In terms of operation, it appears a wide variety of opportunities would be provided for students to take part in social, active and wellbeing events throughout the year which are designed to appeal to a wide range on interests and needs.

**University of Manchester** is not in a position to support this planning application. The University's position is as a result of uncertainty over the demand for purpose-built student accommodation in the coming years, resulting from a number of factors:

- The demand for University accommodation has reduced since 2016-17;
- At the start of the 2018-19 academic session there remained bed spaces still available in a number of centrally located purpose-built student accommodation buildings;
- New sector developments in Manchester that have recently opened or had planning approved will impact on future demand for non-University purpose-built student accommodation.

In addition to the general concerns over the Manchester purpose-built student accommodation market, the University has reservations relating to the proposal. The University recognises the need for affordable purpose built student accommodation in Manchester, however, this proposal includes 850 higher rent, studio units, the cost of which will not meet the needs of the majority of University of Manchester students.

The studio accommodation is by nature self-contained, with no shared communal areas on all but 5 of the 55 floors. The communal facilities are located on the top floor and the bottom floors. It is a concern that students living in the majority of the 55 floors would not be inclined to use these facilities. The scale of the development and the arrangement of the communal facilities does therefore raise concerns over student well-being.

**Highway Services** the significant reduction in car parking spaces would reduce vehicle trips compared to when the car park is fully occupied. This level of vehicle trips is not expected to impact local highway safety or operation. Details of a suitable taxi pick up/drop off point need to be agreed. A travel plan and operations plan should be agreed.

The provision of electric vehicle charging points is welcomed. It is recommended that further cycle spaces are provided and monitoring takes place and should there be demand further spaces provided. An on-site car club bay should be provided and a servicing/waste management strategy should be agreed.

Traffic calming measures on Great Marlborough Street and Lower Ormond Street (speed cushions from Whitworth Street to Chester Street and restrict vehicle access from Whitworth St into Great Marlborough Street) should be agreed and conditions. Public realm works to the highways would be required including reinstatement works. A construction management strategy should be agreed.

**Network Rail** there is a list of asset protection measures which require consideration.

**Environmental Health** recommends conditions regarding hours for deliveries and servicing, plant, fume extraction, construction management plan, lighting and control of glare, glazing specifications and acoustic insulation of the accommodation. The waste management strategy has been reviewed and is acceptable. The air quality assessment is acceptable. Further ground gas monitoring and agreement of the remediation strategy for the grounds conditions should form a condition of the

planning approval including a verification regarding contamination should be submitted on completion of the development.

**Flood Risk Management** details of a surface water drainage scheme shall be submitted for approval together with a management regime and verification report.

**Environment Agency** no objection in principle. The flood risk assessment demonstrates that the development would not be at an unacceptable risk of flooding or exacerbate flood risk elsewhere. The development must be built in accordance with the flood risk assessment together with the mitigation measures identified.

The public realm and the area around the culvert inset to the River Medlock should be kept clear of structures or street furniture that would impede access to the culvert and river channel.

The previous use of the site as a Cotton Mill presents a medium risk of contamination that could be mobilised during construction to pollute controlled waters. Controlled waters are particularly sensitive in this location because the development site overlies a Principal aquifer and is adjacent to the river Medlock, which culverts under the site.

A site investigation has shown that the made ground is not significantly impacted by leachable contamination, and there are no groundwater quality issues with the perched water or the deeper aquifer. In addition, significant amounts of made ground would be removed to form the basement, and will encapsulate the site in hardstanding, this minimising leachate generation. A condition should be imposed that should any unexpected ground conditions be found these are investigated further.

**Greater Manchester Ecology Unit (GMEU)** there are no ecological constraints. The MSCP was assessed for bat roosts and had negligible roosting potential. Prior to any demolition it should be checked that there are no nesting birds. A method statement should be produced to minimise the impact on the River Medlock during construction.

**Historic England** no objection to the proposal. The development would affect the setting of the grade II\* listed Principal Hotel, a building of high architectural significance.

Perspectives suggest that the development would be visible along the Oxford Road/Street corridor and from Oxford Road Station. While very tall, the proposed building appears to be reasonably well positioned and the location of the site back from the main road frontage mitigates its impact on views in which the grade II\* hotel is experienced. The form and mass together with the architectural approach suggests a distinctive design, appropriately drawing its inspiration from the mill chimney on Cambridge Street, yet one that would not compromise the setting and status of the listed hotel and its striking clock tower.

Elsewhere within the adjacent conservation area, the highly enclosed streets mean that the proposal would only be visible in certain locations. Where visible it would not

be inappropriate given the highly urban character of this city centre location, with a number of other towers nearby built or with planning permission and which would form a cohesive group.

Similarly, given the distances involved there would be no harmful impact on views from Manchester's Civic Quarter, including the Town Hall

**Greater Manchester Archaeology Advisory Service (GMASS)** the archaeology assessment demonstrates that the site is unlikely to retain any below ground archaeological interests or heritage assets of significance and no further archaeological work is necessary.

**Aerodrome Safeguarding** the proposal could affect the RADAR. A condition should agree a scheme of mitigation to minimise the impact on any interference.

**Design for Security at Greater Manchester Police** the development should be carried out in accordance with the submitted Crime Impact Statement and this should be a condition.

## **Policy**

### **The Development Plan**

The Development Plan consists of:

- The Manchester Core Strategy (2012); and
- Saved policies of the Unitary Development Plan for the City of Manchester (1995)

The Core Strategy Development Plan Document 2012 -2027 is the key document in Manchester's Local Development Framework. It sets out the long-term strategic planning policies for Manchester's future development.

A number of UDP policies have been saved until replaced by further development plan documents to accompany the Core Strategy. Planning applications in Manchester must be decided in accordance with the Core Strategy and saved UDP policies as directed by section 38 (6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

The relevant policies within the Core Strategy are as follows:

Strategic Spatial Objectives - The adopted Core Strategy contains Strategic Spatial Objectives that form the basis of its policies, as follows:

**SO1. Spatial Principles** The development would be in a highly accessible location and reduce the need to travel by private car and therefore support the sustainable development of the City and help to halt climate change.

**SO2. Economy** The scheme would provide jobs during construction along with permanent employment in a highly accessible location. These jobs would support the

City's economic performance, reduce economic, environmental and social disparities, and help to create inclusive sustainable communities.

**S05. Transport** The development would be highly accessible, reduce the need to travel by private car and make the most effective use of public transport. This would promote the use of sustainable transport and help to enhance the functioning and competitiveness of the city and provide access to jobs, education, services, retail, leisure and recreation.

**S06. Environment** The development would be consistent with the aim of seeking to protect and enhance both the natural and built environment of the City and ensure the sustainable use of natural resources in order to:

- mitigate and adapt to climate change;
- support biodiversity and wildlife;
- improve air, water and land quality; and
- improve recreational opportunities;
- and ensure that the City is inclusive and attractive to residents, workers, investors and visitors.

**Policy SP1 Spatial Principles** one of the key spatial principles is the emphasis on the creation of neighbourhoods of choice, providing high quality accommodation for all housing needs in the city. New development should maximise the use of the City's transport infrastructure, in particular promoting walking, cycling and the use of public transport. The proposal would contribute towards meeting needs for student accommodation in the City. Consideration has been given to minimising the impact on local residents along with protecting the historical context.

**Policy EC3 The Regional Centre** states that housing would be appropriate within the Regional Centre and should complement mixed use employment areas and higher density development is appropriate. The proposal would provide a dense student accommodation building contributing to a need for student accommodation close to higher education provision.

**Policy CC6 City Centre High Density Development** - The proposals would be a high-density development and use the site efficiently.

**Policy CC7 Mixed Use Development** – The proposal would create an active ground floor to Hulme Street and provide accommodation for SMEs.

**Policy CC8 Change and Renewal** - The proposal would create employment during construction.

**Policy CC9 Design and Heritage** - The development would be of a high quality. It would have an impact on the settings of nearby listed buildings. This is discussed in more detail later in the report.

**Policy CC10 A Place for Everyone** – The proposals would complement the ongoing regeneration of the Oxford Road Corridor. It would be fully accessible and 9% of the

studios could be adapted for wheel chair users. An on street disabled parking bay would be provided on street.

**Policy T1 Sustainable Transport** The site is close all forms of public transport modes and is accessible by cycling, car sharing and car clubs. Parking for existing lease holders would be provided within the multi storey car park.

**Policy T2 Accessible areas of opportunity and needs** This is a highly sustainable location, close to all forms of public transport. The impact on the impact highway network would be acceptable.

**Policy EN1 Design principles and strategic character area** This would be a high quality scheme in terms of its design and appearance that would enhance the regeneration of the area.

**Policy EN2 Tall Buildings** must be of excellent design quality, appropriately located, contribute to sustainability and place making and bring regeneration benefits. They must complement the City's built assets and make a positive contribution to the evolution of a unique, attractive and distinctive City, including its skyline and approach views. Suitable locations include sites within and immediately adjacent to the City Centre with particular encouragement given to non-conservation areas and sites which can easily be served by public transport nodes. This high quality development would have a positive impact on views into the City and the regeneration of the area.

**Policy EN3 Heritage** proposals for development that complements and takes advantage of the distinct historic and heritage features of the City Centre are encouraged. They must preserve or enhance the historic environment, the character, setting and accessibility of areas and buildings of acknowledged importance, including scheduled ancient monuments, listed buildings, registered parks and gardens, conservation areas and archaeological remains. The proposal has been designed to preserve the setting of the adjacent Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas and this is discussed in more detail below.

**Policy H12 Purpose Built Student Accommodation** the provision of new purpose built student accommodation will be supported where the development satisfies the criteria below. Priority will be given to schemes which are part of the universities' redevelopment plans or which are being progressed in partnership with the universities, and which clearly meet Manchester City Council's regeneration priorities.

1. Sites should be in close proximity to the University campuses or to a high frequency public transport route which passes this area.
2. The Regional Centre, including the Oxford Road Corridor, is a strategic area for low and zero carbon decentralised energy infrastructure. Proposed schemes that fall within this area will be expected to take place in the context of the energy proposals plans as required by Policy EN 5.
3. High density developments should be sited in locations where this is compatible with existing developments and initiatives, and where retail facilities are within

walking distance. Proposals should not lead to an increase in on-street parking in the surrounding area.

4. Proposals that can demonstrate a positive regeneration impact in their own right will be given preference over other schemes. This can be demonstrated for example through impact assessments on district centres and the wider area. Proposals should contribute to providing a mix of uses and support district and local centres, in line with relevant Strategic Regeneration Frameworks, local plans and other masterplans as student accommodation should closely integrate with existing neighbourhoods to contribute in a positive way to their vibrancy without increasing pressure on existing neighbourhood services to the detriment of existing residents.

5. Proposals should be designed to be safe and secure for their users, and avoid causing an increase in crime in the surrounding area. Consideration needs to be given to how proposed developments could assist in improving the safety of the surrounding area in terms of increased informal surveillance or other measures to contribute to crime prevention.

6. Consideration should be given to the design and layout of the student accommodation and siting of individual uses within the overall development in relation to adjacent neighbouring uses. The aim is to ensure that there is no unacceptable effect on residential amenity in the surrounding area through increased noise, disturbance or impact on the streetscene either from the proposed development itself or when combined with existing accommodation.

7. Where appropriate proposals should contribute to the re-use of Listed Buildings and other buildings with a particular heritage value.

8. Consideration should be given to provision and management of waste disposal facilities, that will ensure that waste is disposed of in accordance with the waste hierarchy set out in Policy EN 19, within the development at an early stage.

9. Developers will be required to demonstrate that there is a need for additional student accommodation or that they have entered into a formal agreement with a University, or another provider of higher education, for the supply of all or some of the bedspaces.

10. Applicants/developers must demonstrate to the Council that their proposals for purpose built student accommodation are deliverable.

The proposals are in accordance with this policy and this is discussed in detail below.

**Policy EN6 Target Framework for CO2 reductions from low or zero carbon energy supplies** - An Energy Statement sets out how the proposals would meet the requirements of this policy.

**Policy EN8 - Adaptation to Climate Change** - A Sustainability Report identifies measures to ensure the proposal would minimise its impact on climate change.



**Policy EN14 Flood Risk** - development should minimise surface water run off, and a Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) is required for proposals on sites greater than 0.5ha within critical drainage areas. A scheme would be agreed which minimises the impact from surface water run off.

**Policy EN15 - Biodiversity and Geological Conservation** – The site is not considered to be of high quality in ecology terms. The proposals include extensive measures to improve the biodiversity across the site including new planters and landscaping which would create new habitats and bat and bird boxes.

**Policy EN16 - Air Quality** - The proposal would be highly accessible by all forms of public transport and reduce reliance on cars and minimise emissions from traffic generated. It would not compromise air quality. The overall number of parking spaces in the MSCP would be reduced by 290 spaces and one of the existing on street bays would be converted for disabled use. The secured cycle storage would encourage cycling. Dust suppressions measures would be used during construction.

**Policy EN17 – Water Quality** – An assessment of the site’s ground and groundwater conditions shows that subject to specific measures being adopted it is unlikely that the development would cause contamination to surface watercourses and it is considered that any impact water quality can be controlled through a condition.

**Policy EN18 - Contaminated Land and Ground Stability** - A desk study identifies possible risks arising from ground contamination and any impact of the development can be controlled through a condition.

**Policy EN19 Waste** - The development would be consistent with the principles of waste hierarchy and a Waste Management Strategy details measures to minimise waste production during construction and in operation. The onsite management team would ensure the waste streams are appropriately managed.

**Policy DM1 Development Management** - Careful consideration has been given to the design, scale and layout and functioning of the building (particularly waste management, deliveries/taxis and access to amenities or students) to minimise impacts on residential and visual amenity together with ensuring that the development meets overall sustainability objectives.

**DM2 ‘Aerodrome safeguarding’** – The proposal could the Radar and planning condition would secure mitigation.

**PA1 ‘Developer Contributions’** states that where needs arise as a result of development, the Council will seek to secure planning obligations. A financial contribution has been agreed for off site infrastructure which would be secured by a legal agreement.

For the reasons given above, and within the main body of this report, it is considered that the proposal is consistent with the policies contained within the Core Strategy.

## **The Unitary Development Plan for the City of Manchester (1995)**

The Unitary Development Plan for the City of Manchester was adopted in 1995. However, it has now been largely replaced by the Manchester Core Strategy. There are some saved policies which are considered relevant and material and therefore have been given due weight in the consideration of this planning application. The relevant policies are as follows:

**Saved policy DC18 ‘Conservation Areas’** states that the Council will give particularly careful consideration to development proposals within Conservation Areas. This is discussed in detail below.

**Saved policy DC19 ‘Listed Buildings’** - the Council will have regard to the desirability of securing the retention, restoration, maintenance and continued use of such buildings and to protecting their general setting. This is discussed in detail below.

**Saved policy DC20 Archaeology** states the Council will give particular careful consideration to development proposals which affect scheduled Ancient Monuments and sites of archaeological interests, to ensure their preservation in place. This is discussed in detail below.

**Saved policy DC26, Development and Noise**, states that the Council intends to use the development control process to reduce the impact of noise on people living and working in the City. In particular, consideration will be given to the effect of new development proposals which are likely to be generators of noise. Conditions will be used to control the impacts of developments.

The proposal has been designed to minimise the impact from noise sources and further mitigation will be secured by planning condition.

For the reasons given below, it is considered that the proposal is consistent with the policies contained within the UDP.

### **Other material policy considerations**

#### **The Guide to Development in Manchester Supplementary Planning Document and Planning Guidance (Adopted 2007)**

This document provides guidance to help develop and enhance Manchester. In particular, the SPD seeks appropriate design, quality of public realm, facilities for disabled people (in accordance with Design for Access 2), pedestrians and cyclists. It also promotes a safer environment through Secured by Design principles, appropriate waste management measures and environmental sustainability. Sections of relevance are:

Chapter 2 ‘Design’ – outlines the City Council’s expectations that all new developments should have a high standard of design making a positive contribution to the City’s environment;

Paragraph 2.7 states that encouragement for “the most appropriate form of development to enliven neighbourhoods and sustain local facilities. The layout of the scheme and the design, scale, massing and orientation of its buildings should achieve a unified form which blends in with, and links to, adjacent areas.

Paragraph 2.8 suggests that in areas of significant change or regeneration, the future role of the area will determine the character and design of both new development and open spaces. It will be important to ensure that the development of new buildings and surrounding landscape relates well to, and helps to enhance, areas that are likely to be retained and contribute to the creation of a positive identity.

Paragraph 2.14 advises that new development should have an appropriate height having regard to the location, character of the area and specific site circumstances. Although a street can successfully accommodate buildings of differing heights, extremes should be avoided unless they provide landmarks of the highest quality and are in appropriate locations.

Paragraph 2.17 states that vistas enable people to locate key buildings and to move confidently between different parts of the neighbourhood or from one area to another. The primary face of buildings should lead the eye along important vistas. Views to important buildings, spaces and landmarks, should be promoted in new developments and enhanced by alterations to existing buildings where the opportunity arises.

Chapter 8 ‘Community Safety and Crime Prevention’ – The aim of this chapter is to ensure that developments design out crime and adopt the standards of Secured by Design;

Chapter 11 ‘The City’s Character Areas’ – the aim of this chapter is to ensure that new developments fit comfortably into, and enhance the character of an area of the City, particularly adding to and enhancing the sense of place.

**Manchester Residential Quality Guidance (2016)** The City Council’s Executive has recently endorsed the Manchester Residential Quality Guidance. As such, the document is now a material planning consideration in the determination of planning applications and weight should be given to this document in decision making.

The purpose of the document is to outline the consideration, qualities and opportunities that will help to deliver high quality residential development as part of successful and sustainable neighbourhoods across Manchester. Above all the guidance seeks to ensure that Manchester can become a City of high quality residential neighbourhood and a place for everyone to live.

The document outlines nine components that combine to deliver high quality residential development, and through safe, inviting neighbourhoods where people want to live. These nine components are as follows:

- Make it Manchester;
- Make it bring people together;
- Make it animate street and spaces;

Make it easy to get around;  
Make it work with the landscape;  
Make it practical;  
Make it future proof;  
Make it a home; and  
Make it happen.

**City Centre Strategic Plan 2015-2018 (March 2016)** On the 2 March 2016 the City Council's Executive approved the City Centre Strategic Plan which seeks to provide an up-to-date vision for the City Centre within the current economic and strategic context along with outlining the key priorities for the next few years for each City Centre neighbourhood. This document seeks to align itself with the Manchester Strategy (January 2016) along with the Greater Manchester Strategy. Overall the City Centre plan seeks to "shape the activity that will ensure that the City Centre continues to consolidate its role as a major economic and cultural asset for Greater Manchester and the north of England".

The report recognises 'Corridor Manchester' as a unique area of the City, and the most economically important in Greater Manchester.

The plan identified that there has been strong population growth over the last 20 years and demand for city centre living is rapidly increasing. It also reflects on the scale of development in the 'Corridor Manchester' area which include the delivery of initial phases of the University of Manchester Campus Masterplan, new facilities for Manchester Metropolitan University and new City labs which are bespoke built biomedical facilities.

The strategy identified the continuing development of the University of Manchester and Manchester Metropolitan campus masterplans to create high quality learning environments that enhance the student experience.

### **Manchester Strategy (January 2016)**

The strategy sets the long term vision for Manchester's future and how this will be achieved. An important aspect of this strategy is the City Centre and how it will be a key driver of economic growth and a major employment centre. Furthermore, increasing the centre for residential is fundamental along with creating a major visitor destination.

The strategy identifies the importance of the Universities in the City (and region) and recognises their established reputation in the science, research and development sector. This attracts and retains students in the City. The strategy also recognises the importance of education, particularly to degree level and the importance of apprenticeships. It seeks to ensure all children have access to high quality education and seeks to retain and grow the high quality Universities.

Amongst other matters, the vision includes:

- Have a competitive, dynamic and sustainable economy that draws on our distinctive strengths in science, advanced manufacturing, culture and creative and digital business – cultivating and encouraging new ideas;
- Possess highly skilled, enterprising and industrious people;
- Be a place where residents from all backgrounds feel safe, can aspire, succeed and live well;
- Be clean, attractive, culturally rich, outward looking and welcoming.

**Corridor Manchester** Corridor Manchester is a strategically important economic contributor and a key growth area within the city. The Corridor Manchester Strategic Spatial Framework is a long term spatial plan for the Corridor which recognises that there is an inadequate pipeline of space for businesses and institutions within the Corridor to properly grow and realise its potential. This is evidently a constraint to the realisation of the Corridor Manchester vision. The Framework seeks to strengthen the Corridor as a place to live, visit and work for students and knowledge workers from across the world. The strategy recognises that for the area to continue to be successful there needs to be a focus on the development of a cohesive, inclusive area. The development programme plans to deliver over 4 million sq ft of high quality commercial, leisure, retail, and residential space.

Corridor Manchester already contains one of the largest higher-education campuses in the UK with nearly 70,000 students studying at the University of Manchester, Manchester Metropolitan University and the Northern College of Music. These educational institutions are world renowned and Manchester is recognised as a destination of choice for students across the globe.

Both the UoM and MMU have put in place growth plans. This includes the UoM's £1 billion capital investment programme to deliver the 'world class estate' needed to support its 2020 vision to be one of the leading universities in the world by 2020. MMU has a ten year Estates Strategy with strategic investment proposals of c£300m. This concentration of students is a key part of the success of the Corridor. It underpins and supports the research activities of the educational institutions, whilst the large population living, working and spending time in the Corridor give the area its vibrancy and contribute significantly to its large economic output.

However, Manchester is operating in a highly competitive higher education market. The City must continue to look to enhance the student experience if it is to maintain its position on the world stage and realise its growth aspirations for the Corridor. As at present, the future success of Manchester as a student destination will, in part, underpin the realisation of the Council's aspirations for Corridor Manchester. This requires continued investment in the infrastructure which supports the student population and ensures the student experience remains world renowned. This requires investment in educational facilities but also extends to transport infrastructure, retail and leisure facilities and, critically, high quality and accessible residential accommodation. Consideration must be given to the whole student experience.

**Oxford Road Corridor Strategic Spatial Framework (March 2018)** The Oxford Road Corridor is an economically important area, with more job creation potential than anywhere else in the region. The area generates £3 billion GVA per annum,

consistently accounting for 20% of Manchester economic output over the past five years. The area has more than 60,000 jobs over half of which are within knowledge intensive sectors, including health, education and professional, scientific and technical sectors.

The Strategic Vision highlights the need to support committed future investment and the future growth potential of its institutional partners in delivering research, innovation, commercialisation, skills, academic excellence and incubation facilities.

It also highlights the need to support the private sector in terms of high value added and high growth companies, something that clearly has the scope to be realised on a significant scale within Oxford Road Corridor.

The spatial framework has been prepared to help guide development and investment activity in the area in order to achieve the vision for the area. The document was endorsed at the City Council Executive in March 2018.

The framework highlights that the Oxford Road Corridor may also need to accommodate further student accommodation. The document stipulates that this must be controlled in line with the City Council's Core Strategy policy H12 and led by institutional partners with the wider city regeneration objective in mind. It should be in with evidenced demand.

*There is scope for further student accommodation; however, this should continue to be controlled in line with the City Council's Core Strategy Policy H12 and led by institutional partners with the wider city regeneration objectives in mind. It should be in line with evidenced demand and be in locations that are within a reasonable walking distance to the heart of the universities. This will include an upgrade of existing stock that is reaching the end of its life as well as additional provision. New student accommodation must incorporate a range of price points and be of a quality in terms of product, management and pastoral care that will safeguard the student experience, particularly for first year and overseas students"*

This proposal is in line with the objective of the framework. The proposal has been assessed against policy H12 and meets the criteria. The proposal is in walking distance of the main university campuses and the transport corridor of Oxford Road, has the support of MMU with regards to meeting student accommodation demands, exceeds carbon reduction targets outlined by the Core Strategy, has a strategy to deal with deliveries, servicing and taxi pick up as well as encourage students to cycle, walk and use public transport, would contribute positively to the ongoing regeneration of the area with a high quality development, is safe and secure and has a wellbeing strategy to support the students along with amenity areas within the building, waste can be managed and the scheme is deliverable in its current form by an experienced operator.

**Executive Report (9 December 2020) Purpose Built Student Accommodation in Manchester** The report aims to guide the decision-making process in advance of the review of the Local Plan. The document is a material consideration but does not change existing planning policy.

Key considerations alongside the consideration of policy H12 are as follows:

- Supporting Regeneration Objectives: The starting point for all student residential schemes is that they should deliver regeneration objectives; support employment growth, graduate and talent retention, place making and the city's international reputation.... Student accommodation should, therefore, be in the right locations, in appropriate numbers, and only where it supports wider growth.

The proposed development is within walking distance of the main university campuses and the Oxford Road transport corridor. It would redevelop a site and provide 853 high quality studios and amenity areas along with 786 sqm of SMEs which support job creation for small businesses.

- Affordability: Manchester is one of the most expensive cities in the UK for purpose-built student accommodation (PBSA). A more diverse pipeline of new PBSA is now needed to help stabilise rental growth. New accommodation would need to adhere to the quality criteria, including adequate room sizes, storage and social spaces. However, more studio-style accommodation, may provide examples of how more affordable PBSA could be delivered.

The proposal would provide studio accommodation which exceeds space standards adopted by other recent PBSA schemes. There are significant ancillary amenity areas within the development together with a wellbeing strategy. Whilst the price point of the development has not yet been decided, the applicant has indicated that it would be competitive.

- Quality: The overall quality of Manchester's PBSA stock is poor compared to other cities. Accommodation is considered to be less sustainable where:
  - 1. It is a greater than 20 minute walk to campus
  - 2. Room quality is below average
  - 3. There is below average quality common space

For Manchester to remain competitive as a world class education hub, with an accommodation offer to match, the current level accommodation needs to be addressed. New stock in appropriate locations should deliver an improved student experience, which better reflects Manchester's institutions and its educational reputation, and also helps to contribute to sustainability targets.

All PBSA must be of a high quality, providing a high standard of living, close to the city's higher education institutions. To ensure the delivery of student accommodation that is high quality and highly accessible, with strong and sustainable connections to the city's universities, all future PBSA should be within or immediately adjacent to Oxford Road Corridor. Design should allow sufficient facilities to cater for the overall wellbeing of students, including, for example, generous living space, communal spaces for students to socialise, and public realm, which contributes to the quality of place. PBSA design must also be sufficiently flexible to allow for re-purposing as demand varies.

- The proposal would be a short distance from Oxford Road and the University campuses and would cater for the wellbeing of students.
- Wellbeing, Safety and Security: purpose built accommodation should consider the welfare and wellbeing of students as a major factor, in both design and management.
  - The proposal has a clear wellbeing strategy with has the support of Manchester Metropolitan University. The proposal would meet secured by design accreditation.
- Density: Density of student accommodation will be essential to deliver the level of new high quality accommodation needed within the context of scarce land availability both in the Oxford Road Corridor area and the wider city centre.
  - The proposal would represent a dense form of development. The localised impacts have been considered and would not give rise to impacts that would warrant refusal of this application. This is considered in further detail within this report. The impact on the residential character is also considered and there are also other developments taking place in the area which would help ensure a balanced and sustainable community.
- Location: purpose built student accommodation should be located in the areas immediately adjacent to the core university areas, principally the Oxford Road Corridor area.
  - The proposal meets the criteria.
- Sustainability: The requirements driving quality in new PBSA will ensure that all new accommodation meets the highest standards of sustainability, to meet the Council's zero carbon policies.
  - The proposal would exceed the Council targets and see a 43% reduction in carbon on current Part L building regulations. The proposal is car free and would be supported by a robust travel plan to ensure students take advantage of the location.
- Mix of uses: It is essential that the Oxford Road Corridor, and the city centre as a whole, is able to maintain the right balance of commercial, educational, residential, cultural and leisure use, in order to ensure that it can maximise its contribution to the economic growth of the city.
  - The proposal would include 786 sqm of SME floor space which would also be utilised by the students to support start-up businesses within the Oxford Corridor area.



## National Planning Policy Framework (2019)

The revised NPPF adopted in July 2018 and re-issued in February 2019 states that the planning system should contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. It clarifies that the 'objective of sustainable development can be summarised as meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs' (paragraph 7). In order to achieve sustainable development, the NPPF states that the planning system has three overarching objectives – economic, social and environmental (paragraph 8).

Section 6 '*Building a strong and competitive economy*' states that planning decisions should help create the conditions in which businesses can invest, expand and adapt. Significant weight should be placed on the need to support economic growth and productivity, taking into account both local business needs and wider opportunities for development (paragraph 80). This major development would support the ongoing regeneration of the Oxford Corridor and provide significant investment and job creation during construction and offer flexible accommodation for small business in the form of the SME space.

Section 8 '*Promoting Healthy and Safe Communities*' states that *planning policies and decisions should aim to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places* (paragraph 91).

The proposal has been carefully designed to be safe and secure. Wellbeing and support facilities are an integral part of the development to support the students welfare. Cycle provision is well catered for at the site and no on site parking would be provided for the students.

Section 9 '*Promoting Sustainable Transport*' states that '*significant development should be focused on locations which are or can be made sustainable, through limiting the need to travel and offering a genuine choice of transport modes. This can help to reduce congestion and emissions, and improve air quality and public health*' (paragraph 103).

In assessing applications for development, it should be ensured that:

- a) appropriate opportunities to promote sustainable transport modes can be – or have been – taken up, given the type of development and its location;
- b) safe and suitable access to the site can be achieved for all users; and
- c) any significant impacts from the development on the transport network (in terms of capacity and congestion), or on highway safety, can be cost effectively mitigated to an acceptable degree (paragraph 108).

Developments should only be prevented or refused on highways grounds if there would be an unacceptable impact on highway safety, or the residual cumulative impacts on the road network would be severe (paragraph 109).

Within this context, applications for development should:

- a) give priority first to pedestrian and cycle movements, both within the scheme and with neighbouring areas; and second – so far as possible – to facilitating access to high quality public transport, with layouts that maximise the catchment area for bus or other public transport services, and appropriate facilities that encourage public transport use;
- b) address the needs of people with disabilities and reduced mobility in relation to all modes of transport;
- c) create places that are safe, secure and attractive – which minimise the scope for conflicts between pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles, avoid unnecessary street clutter, and respond to local character and design standards;
- d) allow for the efficient delivery of goods, and access by service and emergency vehicles; and
- e) be designed to enable charging of plug-in and other ultra-low emission vehicles in safe, accessible and convenient locations. (paragraph 110)

All developments that will generate significant amounts of movement should be required to provide a travel plan, and the application should be supported by a transport statement or transport assessment so that the likely impacts of the proposal can be assessed (paragraph 111).

The site is well connected to a range of public transport modes which would encourage sustainable travel to the site. There would be no unduly harmful impacts on the traffic network with physical and operational measures put in place to promote alternative non car travel to the site. A travel plan and operational management would be secured as part of the conditions of the approval.

Section 11 '*Making effective use of land*' states that '*planning decisions should promote an effective use of land in meeting the need for homes and other uses, while safeguarding and improving the environment and ensuring safe and healthy living conditions*' (paragraph 117).

Planning decisions should:

- a) encourage multiple benefits from urban land, including through mixed use schemes and taking opportunities to achieve net environmental gains – such as developments that would enable new habitat creation;
- b) recognise that some undeveloped land can perform many functions, such as for wildlife, recreation, flood risk mitigation, cooling/shading, carbon storage or food production;
- c) give substantial weight to the value of using suitable brownfield land within settlements for identified needs, and support appropriate opportunities to remediate despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated or unstable land;
- d) promote and support the development of under-utilised land. (paragraph 118)

Decisions should support development that makes efficient use of land, taking into account: the identified need for different forms of development, and the availability of land suitable for accommodating it; local market conditions and viability; the availability and capacity of infrastructure and services – both existing and proposed – as well as their potential for further improvement and the scope to promote sustainable travel modes that limit future car use; the desirability of maintaining an area's prevailing character and setting or of promoting regeneration and change; and the importance of securing well-designed, attractive and healthy places. (Paragraph 122)

The site is close to sustainable transport infrastructure. A travel plan, together with enhancement measures, would encourage workers to use public transport, walking and cycle routes to the site.

No onsite parking would be provided as part of the overall sustainable transport strategy, with the overall objective being to reduce car journeys to the site.

Section 12 '*Achieving Well Designed Places*' states that '*the creation of high quality buildings and places is fundamental to what the planning and development process should achieve. Good design is a key aspect of sustainable development, creates better places in which to live and work and helps make development acceptable to communities. Being clear about design expectations, and how these will be tested, is essential for achieving this*' (paragraph 124).

Planning decisions should ensure that developments: will function well and add to the overall quality of the area, not just for the short term but over the lifetime of the development; are visually attractive as a result of good architecture, layout and appropriate and effective landscaping.

In determining applications, great weight should be given to outstanding or innovative designs which promote high levels of sustainability, or help raise the standard of design more generally in an area, so long as they fit in with the overall form and layout of their surroundings (paragraph 131).

The design for the building would be highly quality and complement the distinctive architecture within this part of the city centre. The building would be designed to a high level of sustainability resulting in a low carbon building and biodiversity and water management measures included within the public realm.

Section 14 '*Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change*' states that the planning system should support the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate, taking full account of flood risk and coastal change. It should help to: shape places in ways that contribute to radical reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, minimise vulnerability and improve resilience; encourage the reuse of existing resources, including the conversion of existing buildings; and support renewable and low carbon energy and associated infrastructure (paragraph 148).

The buildings fabric would be highly efficient and it would predominately use electricity. The landscaping scheme would include trees, planting, green screens and other planting. Efficient drainage systems would manage water at the site.

Section 15 '*Conserving and Enhancing the natural environment*' states that planning decision should contribute and enhance the natural and local environment by protecting valued landscapes, minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, preventing new and existing development from contributing to unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability and remediating contaminated land.

The high performing fabric of the building would ensure no unduly harmful noise outbreak on the local area. Biodiversity improvements, where possible, would be provided.

Section 16 '*Conserving and enhancing the historic environment*' states that in determining applications, Local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the asset's importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary. Where a site on which development is proposed includes, or has the potential to include, heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation (paragraph 189).

In determining applications, local planning authorities should take account of:

- a) the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation;
- b) the positive contribution that conservation of heritage assets can make to sustainable communities including their economic vitality; and
- c) the desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness. (Paragraph 192)

In considering the impacts of proposals, paragraph 193 states that the impact of a proposal on the significance of a designated heritage asset, great weight should be given to the asset's conservation (and the more important the asset, the greater the weight should be). This is irrespective of whether any potential harm amounts to substantial harm, total loss or less than substantial harm to its significance.

Paragraph 194 goes on to state that any harm to, or loss of, the significance of a designated heritage asset (from its alteration or destruction, or from development within its setting), should require clear and convincing justification.

Paragraph 196 states that where a development proposal will lead to less than substantial harm to the significance of a designated heritage asset, this harm should be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal including, where appropriate, securing its optimum viable use.

The effect of an application on the significance of a non-designated heritage asset should be taken into account in determining the application. In weighing applications that directly or indirectly affect non-designated heritage assets, a balanced judgement will be required having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset (paragraph 197).

The proposal would result in some low level harm to the surrounding historic environment. This low level harm is considered to be less than substantial and outweighed by the significant regeneration benefits associated with this development.

Paragraphs 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14 of the NPPF outline a “presumption in favour of sustainable development”. This means approving development, without delay, where it accords with the development plan and where the development is absent or relevant policies are out-of-date, to grant planning permission unless any adverse impacts of doing so would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits when assessed against the NPPF.

### **Planning Policy Guidance (PPG)**

The PPG provides additional guidance to the NPPF and the following points are specifically highlighted.

*Air Quality* provides guidance on how this should be considered for new developments. Paragraph 8 states that mitigation options where necessary will be locationally specific, will depend on the proposed development and should be proportionate to the likely impact. It is important therefore that local planning authorities work with applicants to consider appropriate mitigation so as to ensure the new development is appropriate for its location and unacceptable risks are prevented. Planning conditions and obligations can be used to secure mitigation where the relevant tests are met.

Examples of mitigation include:

- the design and layout of development to increase separation distances from sources of air pollution;
- using green infrastructure, in particular trees, to absorb dust and other pollutants;
- means of ventilation;
- promoting infrastructure to promote modes of transport with low impact on air quality;
- controlling dust and emissions from construction, operation and demolition; and
- contributing funding to measures, including those identified in air quality action plans and low emission strategies, designed to offset the impact on air quality arising from new development.

*Noise* states that local planning authorities should take account of the acoustic environment and in doing so consider:

- whether or not a significant adverse effect is occurring or likely to occur;
- whether or not an adverse effect is occurring or likely to occur; and
- whether or not a good standard of amenity can be achieved.

Mitigating the noise impacts of a development will depend on the type of development being considered and the character of the proposed location. In general, for noise making developments, there are four broad types of mitigation:

- engineering: reducing the noise generated at source and/or containing the noise generated;
- layout: where possible, optimising the distance between the source and noise-sensitive receptors and/or incorporating good design to minimise noise transmission through the use of screening by natural or purpose built barriers, or other buildings;
- using planning conditions/obligations to restrict activities allowed on the site at certain times and/or specifying permissible noise levels differentiating as appropriate between different times of day, such as evenings and late at night, and;
- mitigating the impact on areas likely to be affected by noise including through noise insulation when the impact is on a building.

*Design* states that where appropriate the following should be considered:

- layout – the way in which buildings and spaces relate to each other
- form – the shape of buildings
- scale – the size of buildings
- detailing – the important smaller elements of building and spaces
- materials – what a building is made from

*Health and wellbeing* states opportunities for healthy lifestyles have been considered (e.g. planning for an environment that supports people of all ages in making healthy choices, helps to promote active travel and physical activity, and promotes access to healthier food, high quality open spaces and opportunities for play, sport and recreation);

*Travel Plans, Transport Assessments in decision taking* states that applications can positively contribute to:

- encouraging sustainable travel;
- lessening traffic generation and its detrimental impacts;
- reducing carbon emissions and climate impacts;
- creating accessible, connected, inclusive communities;
- improving health outcomes and quality of life;
- improving road safety; and
- reducing the need for new development to increase existing road capacity or provide new roads.

## **Other legislative requirements**

Section 66 Listed Building Act requires the local planning authority to have special regard to the desirability of preserving the setting of listed buildings. This requires more than a simple balancing exercise and case law has considerable importance and weight should be given to any impact upon a designated heritage asset but in particular upon the desirability of preserving the setting with a strong presumption to preserve the asset.

S149 (Public Sector Equality Duty) of the Equality Act 2010 requires due regard to the need to: Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act. The Equality Duty does not impose a legal requirement to conduct an Equality Impact Assessment. Compliance with the Equality Duty involves consciously thinking about the aims of the Equality Duty as part of the process of decision-making.

**Whitworth Street Conservation Area Declaration** The development of the textile industry and cotton trading within the conservation area focused on both major thoroughfares and smaller side streets and alleyways, with a mix of grand Victorian warehouses on primary and secondary routes throughout the area.

The primary character of the area is the 'canyon' like streets, which contain tall imposing warehouse buildings of a monumental scale to either side, which tower above the pavement, giving a distinctive quality which is only to be found in this part of Manchester.

The tall and ornate clock tower of the Grade II\* Palace Hotel is a highly important local landmark, which forms the south-west corner of the Conservation Area.

The conservation area largely retains most of its historic built form and street pattern, with the exception of the large cleared site at the junction of Princess Street and Whitworth Street, which is currently being developed, which will return the historic sense of enclosure and built form in the area.

**Environmental Impact Assessment** The applicant has submitted an Environmental Statement in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017 and has considered the following topic areas:

- Construction methodology and programme;
- Consideration of alternatives;
- Townscape and visual impact assessment;
- Built Heritage;
- Noise and Vibration;
- Sunlight, daylight and overshadowing;
- Traffic and transport;
- Flood risk, drainage and water resources;
- Wind microclimate;
- Air quality;
- Ground conditions and contamination;

- Socio-economic assessment;
- Human health; and
- Climate change.

The Proposed Development is an “Infrastructure Project” (Schedule 2, 10 (b)) as described in the EIA Regulations. An EIA has been undertaken covering the topic areas above as there are judged to be significant environmental impacts as a result of the development and its change from the current use of the site as a car park.

The EIA has been carried out on the basis that the proposal could give rise to significant environmental effects.

In accordance with the EIA Regulations, this ES sets out the following information:

- A description of the proposal comprising information about its nature, size and scale;
- The data necessary to identify and assess the main effects that the proposal is likely to have on the environment;
- A description of the likely significant effects, direct and indirect on the environment, explained by reference to the proposals possible impact on human beings, water, air, climate, cultural heritage, townscape and the interaction between any of the foregoing material assets;
- Where significant adverse effects are identified with respect to any of the foregoing, mitigation measures have been proposed in order to avoid, reduce or remedy those effects; and
- Summary, in non-technical language, of the information specified above.

It is considered that the environmental statement has provided the Local Planning Authority with sufficient information to understand the likely environmental effects of the proposals and any required mitigation.

## **Issues**

**Principle of the redevelopment of the site and contribution to regeneration** The contribution that a scheme would make to regeneration is an important consideration. The City Centre is the primary economic driver in the Region and is crucial to its longer-term economic success. The City Centre must continue to meet occupier requirements and the growth and maintenance of the higher education function, and the infrastructure required to support it, is critical to economic growth. There is an important link between economic growth, regeneration and the provision of a range of residential accommodation.

The scheme would bring a high-quality building to ‘The Corridor’ which would respond positively to the local environment and not unduly harm the setting of nearby listed buildings. A key objective in the Corridor is to deliver the accommodation and infrastructure needed to attract students to Manchester and which matches its reputation as a world class place to study. This would ensure that Manchester remains competitive on a global higher education stage.



The proposal would require the partial demolition and reconfiguration of the existing MSCP which contains 391 spaces of which 100 are on a long lease hold arrangement to residents who live in Macintosh Village. 290 spaces would be lost and the remaining 101 would be retained and would be available both during construction and once the development becomes operational to the lease holders.

The lease holders have raised a number of objections on the grounds that the any grant of planning permission in this case would interfere with their legal rights to park/rights of way afforded to them in their lease arrangement. The objections go on to state that the lease arrangements do not permit redevelopment of the car park in a way which would reduce the number of car parking space potentially available to the leaseholders who are 999 year leaseholders.

The residents that utilise a parking space in the MSCP do so by way of right. This interest, and whether any rights afforded to the leaseholders could preclude the implementation of this scheme, is not a material planning consideration in the determination of this application. Should the leaseholders believe that their legal rights would be affected by any grant of planning permission, they would need to pursue these rights separately from the planning process.

It is understood that since the applicant purchased the car park the rights of the residents to park in the car park have been retained. The rights would be maintained should planning permission be granted. The appropriate number of car parking spaces would be retained and made available during construction and when the redevelopment works have been completed.

Any commercial parking rights at the MSCP have either expired or have been surrendered. A restrictive covenant lies outside of the applicant's ownership and is not affected by this planning application.

The estimated construction costs are in the region of £130 million. 1,289 construction jobs would be created over the 3-year construction period. This increases to 3,130 jobs when combined with the indirect jobs from the wider supply chain. Jobs would be targeted at Manchester residents through local labour commitments which would form a condition. The presence of construction workers is likely to have a positive impact on local expenditure. During the 3-year construction period it is estimated that £958,729 would be spent locally.

Once the development becomes operational, it is expected that 15 jobs would be created from the development plus supporting SMEs who would occupy the workspaces (which students would also be able to access).

Students would generate their own expenditure with the 850 students likely to spend around £6,431,100 per year in the region. Graduates also make an important contribution to the city's economy with over 50% of those who graduate from Manchester's Universities staying here to work, the second highest level of graduate retention behind London. This high level of graduate retention is vital to the growth and retention of businesses in the City.

Objectors believe that this development would fundamentally change and diminish the residential character of this part of the city centre. There are high-density student accommodation buildings nearby at Liberty Heights and 1-5 New Wakefield Street. However, alongside the existing residential accommodation around Macintosh Village, other substantial residential developments are taking place at Circle Square which would bring up to 1000 new homes to the Corridor Area. In addition, there are expected to be 6,300 homes created in and around Great Jackson Street. This will create a substantial amount of homes and a varied population in the area between Castlefield and Circle Square.

The development would be consistent with the regeneration frameworks for this area including the City Centre Strategic Plan and The Corridor Manchester framework. The proposal would complement and build upon the City Council's current and planned regeneration initiatives. The proposal is therefore considered to be consistent with sections 1 and 2 of the National Planning Policy Framework, and Core Strategy policies H1, SP1, EC3, H12, CC1, CC3, CC4, CC7, CC8, CC10, EN1 and DM1. As such, it is necessary to consider the potential impact of the development.

**Consideration of alternatives** A statutory requirement when considering EIA developments is the need to consider alternatives in the development of a proposal. In this instance, alternative sites were discounted as they failed to be located in such close proximity to the University campuses and offer the regeneration opportunities that will be delivered by this proposal in line with the Oxford Spatial Framework.

**Principle of Student accommodation and compliance with Policy H12** Whilst the proposal would deliver key outcomes and objectives within the Oxford Road Corridor Spatial Framework, consideration must be given to policy H12 'Purpose Built Student Accommodation'. In addition, it is material to consider the proposal against the Executive report in December 2020 on Purpose Built Student Accommodation in advance of the Local Plan review. Policy H12 outlines key criteria which must be addressed.

The site is located close to Oxford Road which is the main north south arterial road linking the University campuses with the City Centre and is therefore well connected to and in close proximity to the University Campuses. It would be an energy efficient development and achieve a 43% reduction in CO2 against Part L (2010).

A wide variety of amenities and services are within easy walking distance. Students would have access to all forms of public transport and travel planning would monitor this and promote sustainable forms of travel.

The proposal would support the objectives of the Oxford Corridor Manchester strategic spatial framework. It would re-use a brownfield site and create a high quality landmark building adjacent to a major public transport interchange. The area is undergoing significant change as a result of investment by the universities and the private sector at St Peters Square, the Civic Quarter, First Street, Circle Square and Great Jackson Street. This is a crucial component of the economic growth and

development of the City and the region and this proposal would make a major contribution to that process.

The proposal is acceptable in principle in this location. The product would be particularly attractive to international students, who seek high end living, in addition to the benefits of living within a well-managed student community. The accommodation is also enhanced by the SME workspace which the students would have access to in order to work alongside SME professionals.

Comments from the University's have sought clarification on the applicant's wellbeing strategy given the nature of the self-contained studio accommodation. The strategy highlights that careful consideration is given to the welfare of the students. The studios are purposefully designed with an efficient layout and large windows to maximise natural light. Private study rooms, booths and shared co-working spaces are provided in the communal amenity areas to encourage interaction and collaborative working. A social calendar of events would encourage students to socialise. There would be an on site staff presence 24/7 to support the students and their needs together a enhanced support for those with disabilities.

Waste management arrangements would meet the requirements of the users and would encourage recycling and is considered in detail in this report.

The need for a development of this nature is reinforced in correspondence from MMU expressing their support. There is identified demand for accommodation such as this and their support demonstrates this and is required to comply with policy H12. The applicant has indicated that, subject to planning permission, they would commence on site and be operational following a 3-year construction period. 1-5 New Wakefield Street was promptly implemented following planning permission and is now ready for occupation.

Finally, policy H12 discusses the importance of schemes being deliverable. As detailed above, the applicant is one of the largest student accommodation providers in the UK. As a result, it has extensive experience in developing and managing large student residential schemes together with in depth knowledge of the market and type of products students are looking for. The applicant is committed to delivering this proposal and, subject to planning permission, intent to commence work at the site.

It is considered that the proposal complies with the requirements of policy H12 in full together with the detailed criteria within the December 2020 Executive report. Therefore, the principle of developing this site for purpose-built student accommodation is considered to be acceptable. In addition, the proposal complies with the aspirations of Corridor Manchester Spatial Framework which seeks to increase the supply of purpose built student accommodation within walking distance of the University Campuses.

**Climate change, sustainability and energy efficiency** The building would be low carbon, energy efficient and in a highly sustainable location with excellent access to public transport. It would develop a brownfield site and sustainability would be embedded into the design, construction and operational aspects of the building.

The construction process would use good practice to: source materials and labour locally where possible; reduce vehicle emissions and dust; manage water; improve biodiversity and social value, to minimise impacts on climate change. The building would be energy efficient and minimise its impact on air quality, waste and recycling where possible.

The building would have high performance fabric and air tightness and highly efficient services. Highly efficient gas fired boilers and all electricity would be from zero carbon sources meaning the building would be minimise its carbon emissions.

Policy EN6 of the Core Strategy requires developments to achieve a minimum 15% reduction in CO2 emissions (i.e. a 15% increase on Part L 2010). Since the Core Strategy was adopted, Part L 2010 has been superseded by Part L 2013 which has more stringent energy requirements. The 15% requirements translates as a 6% improvement over Part L 2013. An Environment standards statement states that the CO2 emissions from the development is targeting a 43% reduction in carbon over Part L. The proposal therefore exceeds the Core Strategy target.

There would be no on-site car parking for the student accommodation with the exception of a loading bay for servicing and pick up and drop off and the conversion of one of the existing on street bays to a disabled/car club bay.

The changes to the MSCP would remove 290 spaces and 20% of the reaming 101 would be fitted with an electric vehicle charging point. There would be 262 secure cycle spaces with 60 freely available bikes for hire. 64 cycle spaces would be created within the MSCP for use by lease holders.

These initiatives would reduce car journeys and vehicle emissions and impact positively on local air quality conditions. The development would be supported by a travel plan to inform and support green travel choices.

There would be limited opportunity for biodiversity and green infrastructure improvements at the site. The provision of street trees or planters on Hulme Street and Great Marlborough Street would help green the local street scene and provide air quality benefits.

Social value would be derived during the construction and operational phases of the development. The estimated construction costs are in the region of £130 million. 1,289 construction jobs are expected to be created over the 3 year construction period. This increases to 3,130 jobs when combined with the indirect jobs from the wider supply chain. Jobs would also be targeted to Manchester residents through local labour commitments which would be a condition. It is estimated that the construction workers would spend £958,729 locally during the 3 year construction period.

Once the development becomes operational, it is expected that 15 jobs directly associated with the development would be created plus supporting SMEs who would occupy the workspaces (which students would also be able to access).

The 850 students are likely to generate expenditure in the region of £6,431,100 per year. Students and graduates make a wider and valuable contribution to the City. Manchester has the second highest level of student retention (behind London) with over 50% who graduate from Manchester's Universities staying and working in the City. This high level of graduate retention means the City benefits significantly from the skills that they have rather than losing it to other City's.

The development would be accessible and inclusive to all with the studios being adaptable to meet the needs to the students with 9% of the studios being accessible to those in a wheelchair.

The local community would have out of hours access to the gym and use of the 54<sup>th</sup> amenity area and co-working spaces.

**Tall Building Assessment including impact on townscape** A computer modelling process has provided accurate images that illustrate the impact on the townscape from agreed views on a 360 degree basis which allows the full impact of the scheme to be understood.

A Visual Impact Assessment (VIA), which forms part of the Environmental Statement, has assessed where the proposal could be visible from, its potential visual impact on the streetscape and the setting of designated listed buildings. The assessment utilises the guidance and evaluation criteria set out in the *Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (3<sup>rd</sup> Edition) 2013*,

24 key viewpoints were considered in the townscape assessment as follows:

Viewpoint 1: Oxford Road;  
Viewpoint 2:Wilmot Street;  
Viewpoint 3:Charles Street;  
Viewpoint 4:Whitworth Street;  
Viewpoint 5:Lower Ormond Street;  
Viewpoint 6: Station Approach;  
Viewpoint 7:Oxford Street;  
Viewpoint 8:Manchester Central;  
Viewpoint 9: St Peters Square;  
Viewpoint 10:Whitworth Street;  
Viewpoint 11: Brook Street;  
Viewpoint 12: Pritchard Street car park;  
Viewpoint 13: Canal Street;  
Viewpoint: 14: Rochdale Canal;  
Viewpoint 15: Whitworth Street West;  
Viewpoint 16: Great Bridgewater Street;  
Viewpoint 17:Whitworth Street West;  
Viewpoint 18:Castlefield basin;  
Viewpoint 19:Chester Road roundabout;  
Viewpoint 20:Mancunian Way;  
Viewpoint 21:Medlock Street;  
Viewpoint 22:Hulme Park;  
Viewpoint 23:Streford Road; and

Viewpoint 24:Oxford Road.

Detailed assessment on the impact on the following Strategic character areas has been undertaken:

- E) Corridor Manchester
- F) The Village
- H) Central Business District
- N) Petersfield
- O) Castlefield
- P) Southern Gateway
- Q) Hulme

The effect of the development on the above zones, through an assessment of relevant viewpoints, can be summarised as follows:

#### *Zone E Corridor Manchester*

This zone is characterised by dense educational buildings focused around Manchester Metropolitan University but also with elements of buildings associated with Manchester University. Liberty tower, at 34 storeys, and 1-5 New Wakefield Street, at 32 storey, are the principal landmark buildings close to Oxford Road station. It also includes Whitworth Street Conservation Area. The nature of the urban grain would provide views of the proposal. The zone includes the development at Circle Square with multiple tall buildings. A 10-storey development has also been constructed at York Street. The overall effect on townscape character on this zone is one of substantial developments with height.

Viewpoint 1 'Oxford Road' is beneath the Mancunian flyover with an uninterrupted view. It is dominated by modern buildings associated with MMU and the Manchester Technology Centre and are no more than 5 storey. The 32 storey tower of 1-5 New Wakefield Street is now complete. The top of the Liberty Heights development can be seen as well as the clock tower of the refuge assurance tower. The library and Town Hall complex provide significant listed landmarks at the end of the street providing a mixture of old and new developments.



***View point 1 – Oxford Road (existing)***

The proposal would be a major new landmark in the view. It would rise above and obscure Liberty Heights and be taller than 1-5 New Wakefield Street. The modern nature of the proposal would be clearly different from the Refuge Assurance Tower ensuring limited harm. The views of the library and Town Hall are not impeded. Given the relatively low townscape value of this view due to its character and location, it is not considered that there would be any unduly harmful impact on the character of the view or the listed buildings. Indeed, the building complements the existing and emerging verticality in the area around this section of Oxford Road.



***View point 1 – Oxford Road (proposed including cumulative view)***

Viewpoint 3 is at the intersection between Charles Street and Princess Street. There are a combination of older buildings such as the Lass O' Gowre (grade II listed) and modern developments such as the Holiday Inn and developments at Circle Square.





***Viewpoint 3 – Charles Street (existing)***

The dominance of Circle Square now provides a different context for this view. The view is experienced in transit and the development does not negatively impact on its surroundings. It would appear as a slender addition to the townscape. The impact on the conservation area and listed buildings would be low level and is considered elsewhere within this report.



***Viewpoint 3 – Charles Street (proposed including cumulative impacts)***

Viewpoint 11 'Brook Street' has altered since this image was taken with the developments at Circle Square now well advanced. Notwithstanding this, the view demonstrates the dense urban form in this location and the height and scale provided by buildings such as Liberty Heights, Owen Street and Beetham Tower which dominate the skyline and townscape.



***Viewpoint 11 – Brook Street (existing)***

Impact of the development would be relatively low given its position on a busy road and the effects of committed development. The proposal would be marginally viewed above Circle Square and be consistent with the emerging character and other tall buildings. Nevertheless, the proposal would rise above these buildings and be the highest building in the view. This would not impact on any sensitive buildings or areas..



***Viewpoint 11 – Brook Street (proposed including cumulative impacts)***

Viewpoint 24 is dominated by modern buildings associated with the University and the Royal Northern College of Music which give it its value in townscape terms. The view, however, is largely only appreciated in transit.



***Viewpoint 24 – Oxford Road (existing)***

The proposal would be a slender vertical element amongst the modern buildings and add to the quality of buildings on this section of Oxford Road. It would not dominate the view and provides a high quality addition to the street scene with a cluster of modern buildings. It would be of moderate benefit to the city townscape.



***Viewpoint 24 – Oxford Road (proposed including cumulative impacts)***

### *Zone F The Village*

This is a compact area of the city with a mixture of leisure, commercial and residential uses set amongst historic buildings arranged in a traditional grid street pattern with limited modern intervention. The scale and mass of buildings varies with views focused along the narrow grid pattern. Canal Street forms the main spine of this zone alongside the Rochdale Canal. Whitworth Street and Princess Street are the main road in this zone and the Whitworth Street conservation area also extends into this zone.

Viewpoint 10 is dominated by Victorian red brick buildings and limited new development and the potential impact of the development is considered against a historic townscape in the centre of Manchester.



***Viewpoint 10 - Whitworth Street (existing/proposed)***

The proposal would not be visible and has no impact on the setting of the view and the buildings within it.

Viewpoint 12 provides a close up view from the east of the site and highlights the dominance of the red brick Victorian buildings which contribute positively to the conservation area. The most notable building in this view is the Refuge Assurance Tower. Since this was taken, a 32 storey building has been completed at 1-5 New Wakefield Street and provides a new backdrop to the Refuge Assurance Tower.



***Viewpoint 12 – Pritchard Street car park (Existing)***

The view now contains developments of scale with Liberty Tower and 1-5 New Wakefield Street. This is a sensitive view in the conservation area view listed buildings visible. However, it is on a quiet side street off Princess Street and is viewed across a car park. The proposal would be a further modern building taller than Liberty Tower and 1-5 New Wakefield Street. Its slender form adds to the character and variety of building heights in this area and it is distinguishable against the Refuge Assurance Tower. The development complements other buildings in the view and its high quality design could make a positive contribution to the view.



***Viewpoint 12 – Pritchard Street car park (proposed including cumulative impact)***

Viewpoint 13 'is a niche view along the tree lined Rochdale Canal. The buildings in the view are red brick of no more than 4 storey. The proposal would have no perceptible impact on this view.



***Viewpoint 13 – Canal Street (existing/proposed)***



### *Zone H Central Business District*

This area contains many old and new office buildings and a heavily used tram stop. The Town Hall (grade I) including its historic spire and Albert Square form an important civic space. Other important buildings are the City Art Gallery (grade II\*), Central Library (grade II\*) and Midland Hotel (grade II). The St Peter's square conservation area covers the central part of this area and there views down Oxford Road.

Viewpoint 9 is at the south eastern corner of St Peter's Square and provides a clear view down Oxford Road illustrating the high quality nature of the townscape.



***Viewpoint 9 St Peter's Square (existing)***

The townscape value of this view is high due to the cluster of historic buildings created around this civic space. The view is also experienced by a high number of visitors to this space. There are no tall buildings but the proposal would be in the distance and fit into the skyline and the main features remain dominant and legible. The proposal would not be detrimental and the impact on the heritage assets considered to be low.



***Viewpoint 9 – St Peter's Square (proposed including cumulative impacts)***

*Zone N Petersfield*

This area includes Manchester Central, Bridgewater Hall and the Great Northern Warehouse (grade II\*) and new squares and plazas providing an open spacious quality. Modern developments are also evident including the Beetham Tower, Axis and Owen Street.

Viewpoints 4 and 15 provide the opportunity to explore the impact of the development on the emerging character in this area created by developments such as HOME. The railway viaduct which runs parallel to the street provides an historic horizontal features amongst some of the vertical forms of architecture.



**Viewpoint 4 – Whitworth Street (existing)**



**Viewpoint 15 – Whitworth Street (existing)**

The proposal is within a cluster of tall buildings and is highly visible rising above Liberty Heights. The development would contribute positively to the townscape and emerging character of this area.



***Viewpoint 4 – Whitworth Street (proposed including cumulative impacts)***



***Viewpoint 15 – Whitworth Street (proposed including cumulative impacts)***

Viewpoint 6 is the closest to the site, directly outside station entrance. It is currently dominated by Liberty Tower and Holiday Inn and railway infrastructure is evident.



***Viewpoint 6 – Oxford Road Station (existing)***

It is not a sensitive view with the capacity to absorb new development. The townscape assessment considers the view to be incoherent, unbalanced and fragmentary and the development adds value. The impact is substantial and would reinforce the sense of enclosure created by the other tall buildings to the south of the railway. The high quality architecture and slender profile would add character and enhance the view.



***Viewpoint 6 – Oxford Road Station (proposed)***

Viewpoint 7 looks south down Oxford Street and Historic buildings dominate such as the Palace Theatre, St James’s Building and the Corner House. Modern buildings such as the Holiday Inn and the 1-5 New Wakefield Street (at 32 storeys) (which has been constructed since the image was taken) dominate the view and demonstrate that the view has been subject to recent change.



***Viewpoint 7 – Oxford Street (existing)***

The view is in the conservation area with surrounding listed buildings and is sensitive. The proposal would be the tallest in the view above 1-5 New Wakefield Street and the Liberty Heights. It would have a significant impact but would sit amongst other tall buildings and form part of the setting to the Refuge Assurance Tower. It would be a new focal in a cluster of tall buildings and enhance the townscape. The architecture would be high quality.



***Viewpoint 7 – Oxford Street (proposed including cumulative impacts)***

Viewpoint 8 is from a major civic space outside conference and exhibition venues. It includes Chepstow House and more modern developments including Liberty Heights.



***Viewpoint 8 – Manchester Central (existing)***



The proposal would form an important, but background, component to the townscape with the full width of its elevation to be visible. The use of brick complements the warmer tones found at Manchester Central and the proposal would complement the character of the area and allow the public square to remain legible and understood.



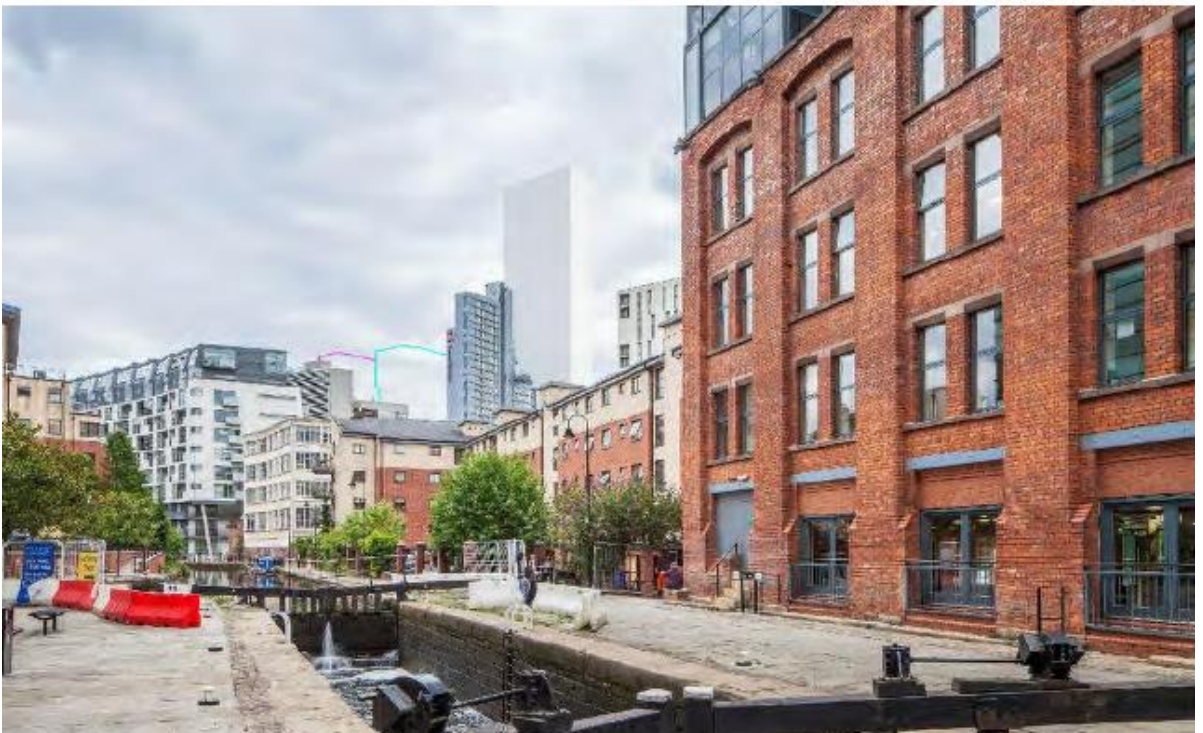
***Viewpoint 8 – Manchester Central (proposed)***

Viewpoint 14 The proposal be visible from the canal as well as residential properties. This view marks one of the few locations along the canal network where the development would be visible. The canal is of historical significance, however, the view is characterised by modern developments including Liberty Heights.



***Viewpoint 14 – Rochdale Canal (existing)***

The proposal would become the principal feature within the view and would be higher than Liberty Heights and 1-5 New Wakefield Street. The cluster of modern developments ensures that the proposal would have a minor impact on the townscape with no unduly harmful impacts on the character of the view.



***Viewpoint 14 – Rochdale Canal (proposed)***

Viewpoint 16 is down Great Bridgewater Street and is heavily influenced by the Beetham Tower with Liberty Heights on the skyline.



**Viewpoint 16 – Great Bridgewater Street (existing)**

Deansgate would remain the dominant feature. The transitional nature of the view means that visitors would only experience the view fleetingly or glimpsed. The Beetham Tower dominates the view and the proposal would have a negligible impact.



***Viewpoint 16 – Great Bridgewater Street (proposed including cumulative impacts)***

Viewpoint 17 is on the footbridge from Deansgate Castlefield to Deansgate Stations above Whitworth Street West. The view offers elevated, open views of central Manchester. Transport infrastructure heavily dominates this view.



***Viewpoint 17 – Whitworth Street West (existing)***

The proposal would contribute to the cluster of tall buildings in this part of the city. The view would still be dominated by the road network and would provide a balancing effect with the Axis tower. In the cumulative scenario the proposal would be obscured by committed development.



***Viewpoint 17 – Whitworth Street West (proposed including cumulative impacts)***

### *Zone O Castlefield*

The area is the terminus for the world's first industrial canal: the Bridgewater canal and the world's first passenger railway terminated near by in 1830. It also includes remaining sections of a Roman Fort. Castlefield conservation area covers this area. The visual character of the area is varied. The many viaducts that pass through the it provide panoramic views of the city but also encloses the spaces below. These strong horizontal features contrast with the chimneys and towers associated with the industrial character of the area. Historic fabric is evident in Castlefield.

Viewpoint 18 'Castlefield Basin' is taken from the ramped entrance path down into the basin from the pedestrian bridge over the Bridgewater canal. Apart from the Merchants Warehouse, there are no historic buildings in the view. Notwithstanding this, the Castlefield Basin has high townscape value. The skyline is far from uniform and contains an eclectic mix of historic and more recent towers (Owen Street).



***Viewpoint 18 - Castlefield Basin (existing)***

The towers at Owen Street dominate the view reducing the impact of any building in the background such as this development. The proposal would be too distant to have any material impact and in any event is obscured in the cumulative scenario.



***Viewpoint 18 - Castlefield Basin (proposed)***

## *Zone P Southern Gateway*

This area forms the major gateway into the City Centre from South Manchester and the proposal is in this zone. There are cleared sites used as temporary car parks. The railway viaduct and arches provide a strong horizontal feature punctured by the older mill buildings of Macintosh Village namely the chimney of Chorlton Mill, Dunlop and Macintosh Mill buildings. There is major regeneration activity in the eastern part of the zone: HOME with further development activity taking place there with buildings of significant scale.

Viewpoint 2 is an area dominated by the Dunlop buildings which have been converted into residential uses and have largely retained their historic exterior providing high townscape quality. Vertical emphasis is provided in this area by the Chorlton Mill chimney and Liberty Heights which is a feature behind.



***Viewpoint 2 - Wilmott Street (existing)***

The townscape is of high quality and high value with historic mill buildings and tight urban grain and the area is sensitive to change. Due to the nature of the viewpoint, only the lower part of the building would have any real influence on the view. Notwithstanding this, the proposal would be substantially taller than the established scale and pattern of development. The magnitude of the impact on this view is minimised to some extent by its high-quality architecture providing a contemporary contrast to the historic buildings.



***Viewpoint 2 - Wilmott Street (proposed including cumulative impacts)***

Viewpoint 5 'provides a close up view of the site on a street which is already dominated by a tall building: Liberty Heights. The view demonstrates the mixed character of the area from the historic former mills to new apartment buildings.





***Viewpoint 5 – Lower Ormond Street (existing)***

The view highlights the older mill buildings on the west side of the street and the newer modern buildings to the east. The impact of the development should be measured against the impact of Liberty Heights which is a building of scale on the east side of the street. The proposal would obscure Liberty Heights and provide a well detailed masonry building complementing the historic buildings. The full scale of the building cannot be full appreciated from this view but provides a robust development to the street edge reinforcing the grid pattern of the area.



***Viewpoint 5 – Lower Ormond Street (proposed)***

Viewpoint 20 is taken from the footbridge over the Mancunian Way and provides a key view from which to appreciate the changing Manchester townscape. The Owen's Street towers are in the foreground and frame numerous residential and office buildings. The bridge forms an important pedestrian link between Hulme and the city centre and offers elevated views.



***Viewpoint 20 – Mancunian Way (existing)***

The Mancunian Way dominates the view and has a negative impact on townscape character. The view shows that the proposal would rise above Liberty Heights and become a prominent. When considered against the cluster of taller buildings at Owen Street the overall effect on the townscape would be low with a minor beneficial impact to the skyline.



***Viewpoint 20 – Mancunian Way (proposed)***

Viewpoint 21 provides a view of the site from the west. Liberty Heights is prominent as are the historic buildings of Hulme Street and Cambridge Street. However, the First Street developments are the buildings which dominate the view.



***Viewpoint 21 – Medlock Street (existing)***

The townscape value is considered to be low as the emerging First Street regeneration development rise up obscuring the historic buildings. The proposal, when considered in the context of the other tall buildings in this area, is considered to complement the cluster of development. Although taller than the other buildings, the slender nature of the building provides an elegant addition to the skyline with a positive impact on the overall townscape.



**Viewpoint 21 – Medlock Street (proposed including cumulative impacts)**

**Zone Q Hulme**

There has been a considerable amount of regeneration in recent years and a large area of low-rise housing has been built. The area contains one the largest public open spaces close to the city centre, Hulme Park. Princess Road cuts through this zone with footbridges providing views into the city centre.

Viewpoint 19 'is a view of the site on the townscape from a more distant perspective. The view is dominated by the Owen Street development.



***Viewpoint 19 - Chester Road roundabout (existing)***

The dominance of the Owen Street development, Axis tower, the Beetham Tower and other emerging development in the cumulative scenario means the views can absorb new development without causing significant harm or impact on the townscape. The proposal features in a minor way and is dwarfed by the Owen Street development.



***Viewpoint 19 - Chester Road roundabout (proposed including cumulative impacts)***

Viewpoint 22 'Hulme Park' is a popular green space to the south of the city centre. Its wide-open aspect offers views of the city centre skyline above the tree line.



***Viewpoint 22 – Hulme Park (existing)***

The proposal is distant and offers a slender profile. Whilst the open nature of the site has an impact on the area, the distance of the application and the characteristics of the view dominated by trees, it is considered that any impacts a minor.



***Viewpoint 22 – Hulme Park (proposed including cumulative impacts)***

Viewpoint 23 'Stretford Road (Bridge over Princess Road) provide a viewpoint on the edge of a densely populated residential area of Hulme. Liberty Heights is visible above HOME. The bridge over Princess Road is the dominant feature in the foreground and mature trees soften the view.





***Viewpoint 23 – Stretford Road (existing)***

The proposal is distant, offers a slender profile and provides a new landmark feature.



***Viewpoint 23 – Stretford Road (proposed)***

The development would be significant in some of the views identified above but, in most cases, would improve the skyline through its architecture, scale, massing and materiality. There are instances where it would change the setting of listed buildings, conservation areas and non-designated heritage assets. However, this would be mitigated by the benefits of the proposal through the addition of new accommodation, place making and high-quality architecture. These benefits would be considered in further details elsewhere within this report.

### **Layout, scale, external appearance and visual amenity**

The main entrance to the building would be from Hulme Street with a separate access for the bin storage area as well as a designated entrance to for students to access the cycle store together with entrance to the SME space.

The ground floor would also contain the secure bike store which would be accessed via a separate entrance adjacent to the main entrance. The first floor also accommodates the SME space in the eastern part of the building providing a large open plan space with individual desks and break out areas.

Communal areas for the students are on the first, second and third floor providing active windows over Great Marlborough Street. The incubation spaces associated with the SME also occupy these levels overlooking Hulme Street.

The third and fourth floors also contain studio accommodation. Levels 5 -11 have 24 studios per floor including one adaptable studio. At levels 12-26, the floor plate reduces and accommodates 16 studios, including one adaptable studio, with two lift cores. Levels 27 and 29-53 all follow the same arrangement as the lower levels with the exception that a second adaptable studio is introduced. At level 28, the floor plate accommodates 10 studios including two adaptable studios with the remainder of the floor plate being used for plant. Level 54 is a double height space that would be used as a common area for students as well as study, break out and common spaces. The roof of the building would be used for plant.

The exterior would be red brick providing a reference to the sites red brick context. The slender nature of the building also makes reference to the scale, form and nature of the nearby former mill chimneys.

A consistent floor to ceiling height has allowed a rhythm to the window arrangement to be established. Façade brick panels to Great Marlborough Street would provide pattern and depth and deep window reveals would be created along Hulme Street. The overall effect creates a continuous surface to the building replicating the regular facades found on the older buildings in the area.



***Window arrangement to Hulme Street elevation***

Aluminium louvres are required for the mechanical ventilation system and openable windows would be screened by an aluminium screen. Window would also be aluminium and a colour would complement the brick.



***Main entrance off Hulme Street including patter brick work to Great Marlborough Street***

Natural surveillance would be provided at street Hulme Street by the main entrances to the student accommodation, SME space and views through to the reception area. Great Marlborough Street would overlooked by the 4 storey amenity block which would have windows overlooking the street. This together with the public art on this elevation would be interest to this elevation.

At 55/11 storeys the proposal would be substantial in the area as well as being seen from key viewpoints across the city. It would be the tallest building in this area exceeding Liberty Heights at 37 storeys and 1-5 New Wakefield Street at 32 storeys.

The building would form part of a cluster of tall buildings and whilst this would be the tallest, it would help to bring some cohesion with the other tall building. The building would be a slender addition to the skyline, particularly when viewed along Great Marlborough Street and long-range views along Hulme Street.



***Great Marlborough Street – showing the narrow, slender elevation and deep panel reveals***



***Hulme street elevation – showing deep regular window pattern and double height window to the crown of the building***

Local residents are concerned about the overall scale of the building considering it to be an overdevelopment of the site, resulting impacts on the wind environment, loss of light/overshadowing and loss of privacy. These local impacts are covered in detail in the report.

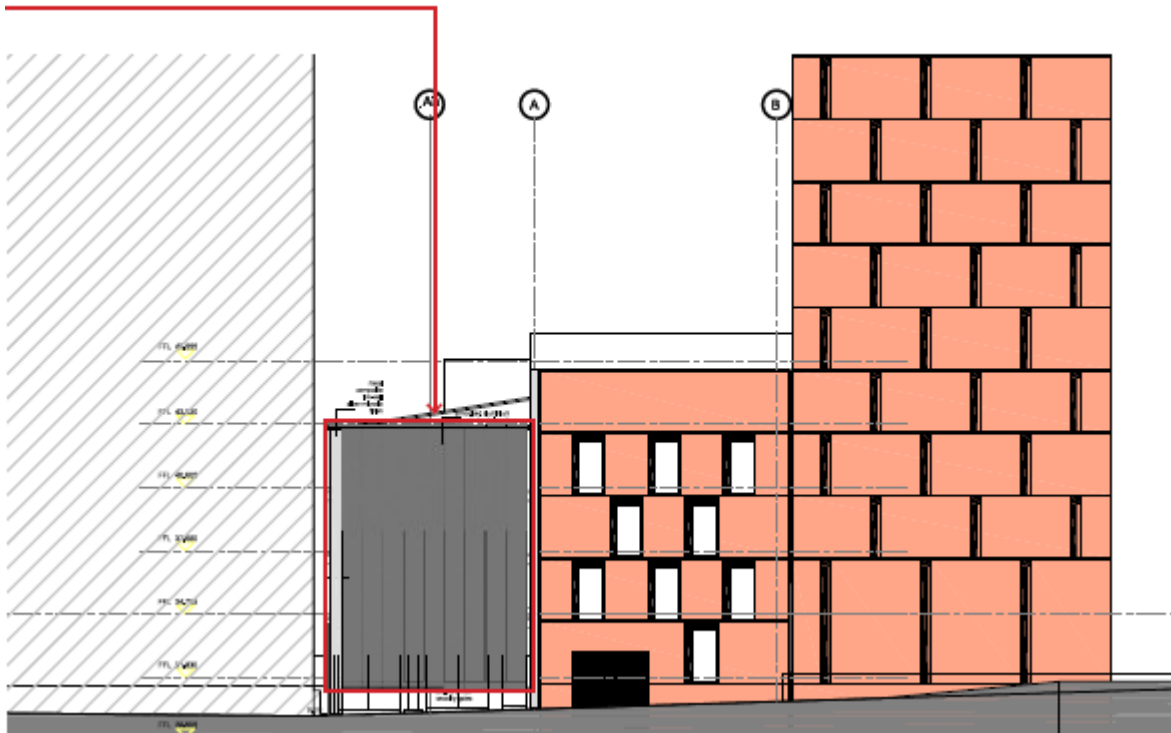
The development is close to Oxford Road Station and within The Corridor and would form a cluster with other tall buildings in the area. Whilst this development would be the tallest building in the immediate locality, it would meet the required standards in terms of design, materiality, sustainability and realise regeneration benefits as required by the Core Strategy's tall building policy (EN2).

Part of the MSCP would be demolished to provide two way access ramps to the north of the existing building. The car park would remain operational throughout the construction period with phased arrangements.

The new MSCP would be 3 storeys with the main elevation to Great Marlborough Street fitted with a mesh system for ventilation. A large portion of the MSCP would be concealed behind the proposed tower, and it would be a relatively subservient element in the street scene. The east elevation would be treated in a ribbed material. The choice of materials for the building allow the car park to be natural ventilated.



with the car park



**Car park façade to Great Marlborough Street**

Overall, the design would be high quality and distinctive. A tall building would be acceptable here and the materials would deliver a simple and effective façade treatment. Conditions of the planning approval would ensure that the materials are appropriate and undertaken to the highest standard.



***The proposed development forming a cluster with Liberty Towers (37 storeys) (and now 1-5 New Wakefield Street at 32 storeys)***

### **Credibility of the Design**

Proposals of this nature are expensive to build so it is important to ensure that the standard of design and architectural quality are maintained through the process of procurement, detailed design and construction. The design team recognises the high profile nature of the proposed use.

The applicants acknowledge that the market is competitive and the quality of the development is paramount. A significant amount of time has been spent developing and carefully costing the design to ensure that the scheme as submitted can be delivered.

The proposed materials have been selected following detailed research and discussions with contractors and suppliers to establish the cost parameters, maintenance requirements and to understand weathering characteristics, to ensure that they can be delivered within the cost parameters and are of appropriate quality and longevity.

The development team have experience of delivering high quality buildings, including residential schemes, in city centre locations. They recognise the high profile nature of the site which has ensured that the design response is appropriate for this strategically important site.

The proposal has also been the subject of a Places Matter! review.

### **Impact of the historic environment and cultural heritage**

The site is not within a Conservation Area but there are a number of Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas in close proximity to the site. The proposal would have an impact on the surrounding historic environment and on key views across the City. The listed buildings near the site are: Dance House Theatre (Grade II), Chatham Mill (Grade II), Oxford Road Station and Platforms (Grade II), Former Refuge Assurance Building (Principal Hotel) (Grade II\*), Chorlton Old Mill (Grade II), Chorlton New Mill (Grade II), Ritz Dance Hall (Grade II), Palace Theatre (Grade II), Tootal, Broadhurt and Lee Building (Grade II\*), St James Building (Grade II), 61 Oxford Street (Grade II), 127-133 Portland Street (Grade II), Mill Chimney (Grade II), Cotton Mill (Grade II) and Manchester South Junction and Altrincham Railway Viaduct (Grade II). The site is not within a conservation area, however, the Whitworth Street Conservation Area is close to the site.

Legislation and planning policy seek to preserve or enhance the character, appearance, and historic interest which heritage assets possess. Sections 16, 66 and 72 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 ("P(LBCA)A 1990") require that 'special regard' be paid in taking decisions affecting listed buildings and their settings and conservation areas.

Whilst a number of listed buildings have been identified, the key listed and heritage assets affected by the proposal are:

The Former Refuge Assurance Company Offices (now known as the Principal Hotel) (Grade II\*) is a distinctive landmark building along Oxford Road whose tower is prominent in views across the City. The building is four storeys plus basement and attics and together with the decorative features outlined above. The building contains distinctive element: the elongated tower element, the elevations to Oxford Street with square four light 17th Century inspired mullioned window openings and the Baroque entrance. The brickwork to the principal Oxford Street elevation appear darker than the orange tower with the contrasting white-grey stone entrance.

It would be seen in the same context as the proposal. The proposal is set back from Oxford Road and this would reduce its impact on the setting of the listed building and allow it to be appreciated and experienced in its current context. The proportions of the proposal, together with the high quality façade and materials would provide a high quality and distinctive building within the setting of the listed building. Historic England conclude that the proposal would not compromise the setting and status of the listed hotel and its tower.

Manchester Oxford Road Station (Grade II) is a post war railway station and has a unique and striking design. It is constructed of laminated timber shells supported on a cruck like frame. Its unusual shape, design and use of timber cladding create a striking addition to the street scene. The station is located to the north of the site. Views of the Station would be retained because of its elevated position above New Wakefield Street. It is therefore considered that there is no impact on it as there is no physical or visual relationship with the station and the site.



The Dancehouse Theatre (Grade II) is a former cinema built between 1929-30. It is four storeys over nine bays, with a white faience principal façade with brick rear elevations and retains its internal layout of double auditoria over a first floor restaurant and waiting halls, foyer and shops. The building is located south of the site between Hulme Street and Chester Street. There would be long range views of the proposal behind the listed building when looking towards the City Centre. However, there is a degree of physical separation between the listed building and the site and it would not adversely impact on its setting or how it is appreciated and viewed in the street scene.

The Dalton Statue in forecourt of Dalton College (Grade II) is a statue of the Chemist and Physicist John Dalton and dates to 1854 by William Theed the Younger. It is cast in bronze on a sandstone plinth with cut lettering and is located on Charles Street to the east of the site. Given the physical separation of the structure to the proposal, it would continue to be unaffected within the setting of John Dalton College which it forms part of.

Chatham Mill (Grade II) is a six storey mill constructed in brown red bricks. It consists of six storey rectilinear block of 17 bays, with engine house against the gable wall to the southwest. The mill dates from 1820 and is a good example of an early 19th Century mill. It is located on Chester Street and is physically separated from the site. Given the scale of the proposal, there is potential for some long range views of it from the listed building. However, it is not considered that this would result in any harmful impacts on the listed building, its setting or the understanding of its importance.

Chorlton Old Mill (Grade II) is a former cotton spinning mill, converted to residential accommodation in 1993. The earliest mill on the site was built in 1795, considerably extended c1810, and then largely rebuilt in 1866. Brick with slate roof and is 6 storey in height. The mill is physically separated from the site and whilst the building would be seen in the same context of the site (from long ranging views along Hulme Street) the listed building would remain legible and understood in the street scene.

Chorlton New Mill and chimney (Grade II) is a former cotton spinning mill converted into residential accommodation. It is constructed of red brick with a slate roof and is 8 storeys (with two below street level) with small rectangular windows. The building has an associated chimney which dates back to 1852 constructed of brick with iron bands in an octagonal form. The mill is physically separated from the site and whilst it would be seen in the same context, particularly its chimney, the significance of the listed building would remain legible and understood.

Cotton Mill (Grade II) for cotton spinning mill converted into residential accommodation. It is constructed of red brick with a slate roof and is 5 storeys. The mill is physically separated from the site and whilst it would be seen in the same context the significance of the listed building would remain legible and understood.

There are other listed building and a number of non-designated heritage assets in close proximity to the site, namely the former picture house cinema, textile finishing works, hotspur press (former Medlock Mill) and Kingston Public House. These

buildings hold some historical value reflecting a way of life during their time of construction and intended use. Whilst there would be views of the proposal within the same context as these buildings, it is not considered that there would be any unduly harmful impacts in this regard and are considered as part of townscape and visual impact assessment.

A heritage assessment has considered the impact of the proposal on the historic environment within the context of the key viewpoints as required by paragraph 189 of the NPPF.

The scale of the impact, together with the impact on the significance of the heritage asset, has been judged to be either low beneficial, negligible or neutral in most cases together with there being instances where the proposal improves the visual amenity of the area thus being beneficial.

In this instance, the main viewpoints which impact specifically on the heritage assets are views 1-10 which are considered in detail below.

Viewpoint 1 is a view along Oxford Road and one of the principal views of the proposal. It contains a number of listed buildings including the Refuge Assurance building and its tower, the Library and Town Hall and views of the Conservation Areas.

The proposal would be highly visible. However, it would be set back from the street so would not visually intrude on the enclosed views along Oxford Road. It would provide some verticality to the strong horizontal form of the lower buildings in the view. When considered alongside the other tall buildings in the area, namely 1-5 New Wakefield Street, it is concluded that the overall effect on the historic environment is negligible.

Viewpoint 2 is experienced looking east along Hulme Street, at the junction with Cambridge Street and illustrates the industrial character of the area with views of the Grade II listed Chorlton Old Mill to the left side of the view and the Grade II Chorlton New Mill to the right which are appreciated and understood in the view. The proposal would be seen as the backdrop to the listed buildings, however, the harm caused would be minimised as the development would clearly be read as contemporary form of development with contextual references from its materials and articulation. The overall effect is concluded to be negligible given the other large scale developments at 1-5 New Wakefield and Circle Square.

Viewpoint 3 highlights the current fragmented urban form of the area. Circle Square now screens views of the Dance House Theatre. Modern development such as the Holiday Inn and 1-5 New Wakefield Street are also visible. The assessment judges the heritage value in this view to be low. The proposal would appear slender in form and in the background and add some visual interest. The impact on the significance of the heritage assets would be neutral, particularly when viewed in the context of other committed developments and that under construction.

Viewpoint 4 highlights the dominance of modern tall buildings contrasting against the horizontal form of the Grade II listed. Due to the length of the viaduct, its setting is

vast thereby being understood and appreciated as part of the wider urban form. The proposal would be part of a cluster of tall developments and form a cohesive urban skyline and provide visual interest. There would be limited impact on the heritage assets and the historic environment remains legible and understood.

Viewpoint 5 'Lower Ormond Street' illustrates a wider variety of height, form and materiality. The Grade II Chatham mill is visible. The assessment concludes that the building would give greater articulation to the junction of Great Marlborough Street and Hulme Street and the use of brick would give greater cohesion to the urban form. Accordingly, there would be a minor beneficial impact on the setting of the Grade II Chatham Mill.

Viewpoint 6 is a view in front of the Grade II listed Oxford Road station currently dominated by Liberty Heights. The view highlights the enclosed nature of the station which limits the appreciation of the heritage asset. It is concluded that the proposal would provide some variety to the view and would be neutral in heritage terms.

Viewpoint 7 'Oxford Street' demonstrates the dominance of Liberty Heights and the concealed nature of Oxford Road Station. The Grade II\* Refuge Assurance Building is to the left and the unlisted former Corner House Cinema forms the junction with Oxford Road. The proposal would be highly visible and add to the variety and interest in the view. The form, articulation and materials contrast to other modern buildings in this area and provide a contextual reference to the wider historical industrial character of the area. The development would form a cluster with the other tall buildings in the area and minimise the impact on the historical environment.

Viewpoint 8 provides the view from the public realm outside of the Grade II\* Manchester Central Building. The roofline and chimney of the Grade II listed Chepstow House can be seen above the entrance ramp in the foreground and illustrates the low-medium significance of the setting of the Grade II\* listed Manchester Central building. The proposal would be seen to the right of 101 Barbirolli Square, behind Liberty Heights and would add interest and variety to the wider city-scape, illustrating the continuation of the city beyond. The proposal would have a neutral effect on the significance of the identified heritage assets.

Viewpoint 9 is outside the entrance to the Grade II\* listed Central Library building. The Grade II listed St Peter's Cross is seen in the middle of the public realm whilst No.1 St Peter's Square marks the southern side of the square. St Peter's Square provides a formal setting to the nationally important group of civic buildings (the Grade II\* Central Library, the Grade II\* Town Hall Extension and the Grade I Town Hall), however, this viewpoint does not best represent this. Consequently, this view illustrates the medium significance of the setting to the identified heritage assets. The proposal would be a backdrop to Peter House and the wider setting of St Peter's Square. Consequently, it would have a neutral effect on the significance of the identified heritage assets. Where the proposal is considered alongside other committed developments, the effect would remain neutral; the New Wakefield Street development would act as a terminus to the view.

Viewpoint 10 illustrates the character and appearance of the Whitworth Conservation Area at the junction of Princess Street and Whitworth Street. The proposal would not

be visible from this location. This development would be seen in the same context of a number of heritage assets. The current low-rise nature of the existing building at site has, at best, a neutral impact on the local area and the assets identified above.

The building would be visible on Oxford Road/Street corridor, from within the Whitworth Street Conservation, in the setting of the listed buildings, Oxford Road Station, viaduct and Chorlton New and Old Mill and Chatham Mill. Whilst tall, the building is set back from Oxford Road, and its proportions, slender form and architecture mitigates against any significant harm on these heritage assets. The proposal would form a distinctive piece of architecture providing appropriate and well-conceived references to the historical environment without unduly compromising the historical environment.

There is local concern about the impact on the nearby former mill buildings, both individually and their group value. The tight urban grain means that proposed building is only visible in certain location and when viewed with other tall buildings it would not be considered to be unduly harmful to warrant refusal. The level of harm is low and would be outweighed by the public benefits set out below.

It is considered that there would be some low-level impacts on the surrounding listed buildings. This would be less than substantial harm, as defined by paragraph 196 of the NPPF, to the setting and significance of the identified heritage assets.

Notwithstanding this low level of harm, the significance of heritage assets would remain legible and understood with only a low-level harm to their wider setting. Any harm would be outweighed by the substantial regeneration benefits that this development would bring. It is considered that this would provide the public benefits required by the paragraph 196 of the NPPF which outweighs any harm which arises. These public benefits will be considered in detail below.

### **Assessment of Heritage Impact**

The changes to the setting of the Whitworth Street conservation area, Refuge Assurance building, Oxford Road Station, Manchester south junction and Altrincham Railway Viaduct, Chorlton Old and New Mill, Cotton Mill and Chatham Mill would result in instances of low level of harm which would be less than substantial harm within the NPPF.

It is therefore necessary to assess whether the impact of the development suitably conserves the significance of the heritage assets, with great weight being given to the asset's conservation. The more important the asset, the greater the weight should be (paragraph 193 NPPF). The harm should be outweighed by the public benefits that would be delivered in accordance with the guidance provided in paragraph 196 of the NPPF. In considering whether the public benefits outweigh any harm, consideration has been given to paragraph 8 of the NPPF which outlines the three dimensions to achieve sustainable development: economic, social and environmental.

The site would be redeveloped and provide 853 purpose-built student accommodation units. There is identified need and support from Manchester

Metropolitan University in close proximity to the Oxford Road Corridor. 786 sqm of SME accommodation would provide flexible workspace supporting start-ups and SMEs.

The proposal represents £130 million of investment and 1,289 construction jobs are expected to be created over the 3 year construction period. This increases to 3,130 jobs when combined with the indirect jobs from the wider supply chain. Jobs would also be targeted to Manchester residents through local labour commitments which would form part of the condition.

Once the development becomes operational, there would be 15 jobs directly associated with the development. 52-79 jobs would be created with the SMEs workspaces, which students would also be able to access.

Local business would benefit from expenditure during the construction period which is estimated to total £958,729 for the 3 year period. Once the development becomes operational, students are likely to generate expenditure in the region of £6,431,100 per year.

Manchester has the second highest level of graduate retention after London. Graduate retention is an essential component of economic growth and prosperity.

The visual and heritage assessment demonstrates that low level of harm would be caused where the development would be viewed in the same context as the listed buildings/structures and to the Whitworth Street conservation area. The level of harm is low as, in most instances, the significance of the heritage assets would remain legible and understood both individually and where there is group value.

Mitigation and public benefits are derived from the continued regeneration of the Oxford Road Corridor. The proposal would also be high quality in terms of its architecture, which would also bring its own heritage benefits. The buildings would be highly sustainable, using low carbon technologies and a highly efficient building fabric.

Whilst there would be some heritage impacts, this would be at the lower end of less than substantial harm with the significant public benefits associated with this development more than outweighing this low level of harm.

It is considered, therefore, that, notwithstanding the considerable weight that must be given to preserving the setting of listed buildings as required by virtue of S66 of the Listed Buildings Act, and paragraph 193 of the NPPF, the harm caused to the listed buildings and the Whitworth Street conservation area would be less than substantial and would be outweighed by the public benefits of the scheme and meet the requirements set out in paragraph 196 of the NPPF.

**Impact on Archaeology** GMAAS accept the conclusions of an archaeological assessment that there are unlikely to be any retained below ground archaeology of any interest or heritage significance and no further archaeological requirements are necessary.

### **Impact on the highway network/transport/car parking issues/sustainable travel**

The site is accessible by a range of transport modes and is close to amenities and services. The site is close to Oxford Road station with many bus routes along Oxford Road. The student accommodation would have a minimal impact on the surrounding highway network. The development is car free and students would be encouraged to walk, cycle and use public transport. A travel plan would be prepared to help support the students travel choices and this should be a condition.

Servicing, waste collections, taxi pick up/drop off and food/online deliveries would take place from a loading bay created outside of the main entrance on Hulme Street. The creation of this loading bay would retain the existing parking, traffic calming and two-way vehicle movement along Hulme Street but would require a modification to the highway and existing traffic regulations order.

The on-site facilities management team would manage the loading bay to ensure that it remains clear and available at all times. This is particularly important in order to manage taxi and food/online delivery services which have become particular characteristic of student accommodation and can cause disturbance locally. It is recommended that a management strategy for this loading bay is agreed in order to minimise the effects of taxis and food deliveries which are likely to be attracted to this development.

Highway Services recommend the provision of an on street car club/disabled bay to service the development (which would require the conversion of one of the on street parking bays). The location and final details should be agreed by planning condition.

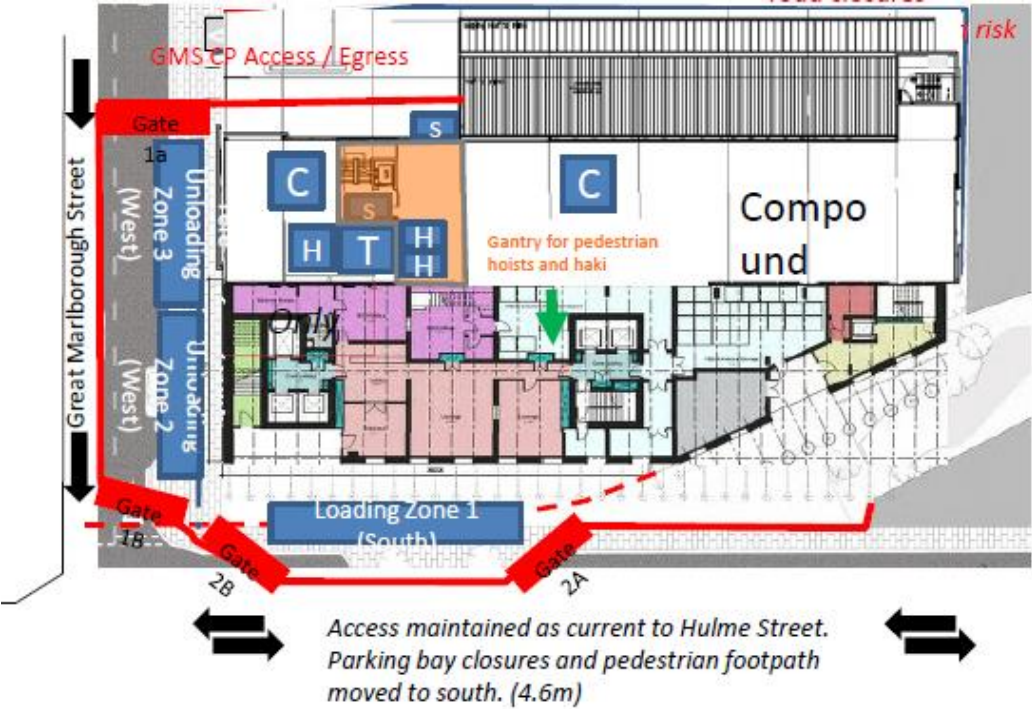
262 secure cycle spaces would be provided for students and 4 space for the SME workspace on the ground floor along with secure locker space. The applicant would provide 60 bikes which would be freely available for students to book. Cycle provision would be monitored as part of the travel plan and increased storage provided if required.

The MSCP would be modified to facilitate the development. There are 391 spaces within the car park of which approximately 100 spaces are the subject of long leases by residents who live in Macintosh Village. The number of spaces would be reduced to 101 spaces of which 5% would be disabled. The car park is relatively underutilised with the exception of the long lease holders. Given the desire to reduce parking in the city centre in favour of more sustainable travel patterns, it is not considered that the loss of parking in this instance is significant. The lease holders provision would be retained during construction and when the development becomes occupied.

The access to the car park from Great Marlborough Street would be retained including during the construction period, albeit with temporary arrangements in place during this time. As part of the overall improvements to the car park for the lease holders, the applicant intends to improve CCTV and install electric vehicle charging points to 20% of the spaces. In addition, a 64 space cycle store would be created behind the secure boundary line of the car park for the sole use of the lease holders.

A construction management plan should be agreed to minimise the impact of these activities on the local highway network and local disturbance to residential amenity. This includes management of HGV activities to ensure no waiting on the local highway network around the site.

The applicant has provided indicative details for how construction impacts would be managed. Great Marlborough Street would temporarily be made one way for the duration of the works. Whilst the footway immediately outside of the site on Hulme Street would need to be temporarily closed, two way traffic along Hulme Street would be retained. Final arrangements would be agreed by planning condition.



**Indicative logistics plan**

A series of highways would be required to be agreed as part of the proposal, this includes traffic calming measures on the surrounding road network to reduce traffic speeds at appropriate locations around the application site.

The development would not have an unduly harmful impact on the local highway network. Travel planning would help the students take advantage of the sustainable location of the site including enhance cycle provision. The long lease holders with the MSCP would see improved provision in the form of electric car charging and cycle provision providing greener travel options within the safety of the car park. Servicing and construction requirements can also adequately met at the site subject to clear operational management plans. The proposal therefore accords with policies SP1, T1, T2 and DM1 of the Core Strategy.

**Accessibility** The principle entrance to the building is via a continuous pavement along Hume Street together with step free access to the building. The loading bay associated with the site is located outside of the main entrance to the building which can also be utilised for taxi pick up and drop off. Access to the loading bay would be

managed by the on-site facilities management team who would be able to assist in the management of this area to ensure it remains available at all times.

All floors of the building are accessible by lift. A number of studio apartments are capable of being adapted to meet specific needs of a disabled user depending on the nature of their disability. Adaptable units are available on each floor equating to 9% of the studio. The studios are converted on a demand basis and can be made fully accessible to wheel chair users with an accessible bathroom.

**Ecology** An ecological appraisal considers the impact of the development on bats, birds, other species and habitats together with the proximity to the river Medlock. GMEU concur with the results and recommend an informative to advise that if bats and birds are found during the works all work should cease until an assessment has been made by a suitably qualified individual. They also recommend a method statement should be submitted to protect the River Medlock from spillages, dust and debris.

### **Contribution to Improving Permeability, Public Spaces and Facilities and Provision of a Well Designed Environment**

The footways around the site would be improved with street trees or planters on Hulme Street and Great Marlborough Street.

The proposal would also include art work to the brick on the lower floors of the Great Marlborough Street elevation to provide visual interest.



#### ***Indicative view of the proposed art work to Great Marlborough Street elevation***

The development would provide communal areas as part of the student wellbeing strategy to encourage interaction with a schedule of events and small break out spaces. The main space would be on the 54<sup>th</sup> floor with panoramic views of the city.

### **Effect of the development on the local environment and existing residents**

(a) Sunlight, daylight, overshadowing and overlooking



An assessment of the impact on the daylight and sun light received by surrounding properties has been undertaken. Consideration has also been given to any instances of overlooking which would result in a loss of privacy.

The following residential properties were assessed:

- River Street apartments;
- 9 Hulme Street;
- 7 Hulme Street;
- 2 Lower Ormond Street;
- Quadrangle (Hulme Street/Chester Street);
- Shell House, Oxford Road;
- 7/9 New Wakefield Street; and
- Block A and B Lockes Yard, Great Marlborough Street.

In determining the impact of the development on available daylight and sunlight, consideration should be given to paragraph 123 (c) of section 11 of the NPPF which states that when considering applications for housing, a flexible approach should be taken in terms of applying policies or guidance relating to daylight and sunlight, where they would otherwise inhibit making efficient use of a site (as long as the resulting scheme would provide acceptable living standards).

The BRE guidelines provide the requirements governing daylight to existing residential buildings around development sites. The light available to a window depends on the amount of unobstructed sky that can be seen from the centre of the window. The amount of visible sky and amount of available skylight is assessed by calculating the vertical sky component (VSC) at the centre of the window. The guidelines advise that bathrooms, toilets, storerooms, circulation areas and garages need not be analysed. They also suggest that distribution of daylight within rooms is reviewed although bedrooms are considered to be less important.

If VSC is greater than 27% then enough skylight should still be reaching the windows. If reduced to less than 27% and less than 0.8 times its former value, occupants would be affected. As such, if 27% VSC cannot be achieved a reduction of up to 0.8 times its former value would not be noticeable.

The BRE guidelines also sets out a more detailed tests that assesses the daylight conditions in rooms. These include the calculation of the Average Daylight Factors (ADF) which determines the level of illumination with the standard recommended being a minimum of 2% for kitchens, 1.5% for living rooms and 15 for bedrooms.

The non sky line or daylight distribution (DD) shows the extent of light penetration into a room at working plane level, 850mm above floor level. If a significant element of the room area does not receive direct daylight penetration then the distribution of light within the room may look poor. As with the VSC assessment, if the reduction in daylight is within 0.8 times its former value there would not be a notable reduction in daylight and would not therefore be considered material.

Where a VSC result show that a room would be adversely impacted, an ADF and/or DD analysis should be prepared to enable a more informed view to be taken as to

the overall impact on daylight levels. In terms of the magnitude of the impact the effects can be negligible, minor, moderate or major.

A negligible impact occurs when the VSC is at or above 27% (for half of the windows to a room/area) and/or a VSC reduction of less than 20% (for more than half the windows to a room/area) and/or a ADF at or above 1% (bedroom) or 1.5% (lounge) and/or DD to over 80% of room area and/or reduction of less than 20%.

A minor impact occurs when the VSC is between 20-27% (for more than half the windows to a room/area) and/or a VSC reduction between 20-25% (for more than half the windows to a room/area) and/or an ADF between 0.75-1% (bedrooms) or 1-1.5% (lounge) and/or DD between 60%-80% of the room area and/or a DD reduction of between 20-30%.

A moderate impact occurs when the VSC is between 15-20% (for more than half the windows to a room/area) and/or VSC reduction between 25-30% (for more than half the windows to a room/area) and/or ADF between 0.5-0.75% (bedroom) or 0.75-1% (lounge) and/or DD to 40%-60% of the room area and/or a DD reduction of between 30-40%.

A major impact occurs when the VSC is below 15% (for more than half the windows to a room/area) and/or VSC reduction above 30% (for more than half the windows to a room/area) and/or ADF below 0.5% (bedroom) or 0.75% (lounge) and/or DD below 40% of the room area and/or a DD reduction above 40%

For sunlight, there is a requirement to assess main windows which face within 90 degrees due south. Windows which do not face within 90 degrees due south do not get direct sunlight. The guidelines consider kitchens and bedrooms to be less important when considering sunlight. A good level of sunlight to a window is 25% annual probable sunlight hours, of which 5% should be in winter months. Where sunlight levels fall below this level a comparison with the existing condition is made and if the reduction is within 0.8 of its former value the loss would not be noticeable.

In terms of the magnitude of the impact on sunlight the effects can be negligible, minor, moderate or major.

A negligible effect occurs when APSH is above 25% (including at least 5% winter months) and /or a reduction of less than 20% in total APSH.

A minor effect occurs when APSH is between 20% and 25% (including at least 4% winter APSH) and/or a reduction of less than 30% in total APSH and/or less than 20% reduction to winter APSH and/or 5% winter APSH.

A moderate effect occurs when APSH is above 10% (including at least 2% winter months) and/or a reduction of less than 50% in total APSH.

A major effect occurs when APSH is below 10% and/or a reduction of more than 50% in total APSH and/or less than 2% winter APSH.

A summary of the impacts is detailed below:

**River Street Apartments** 15 windows were tested for daylight to 5 lounge/living room areas and 5 bedrooms. All of the lounge/living room areas have 2 windows. Currently, only one bedroom window (at the top/5<sup>th</sup> floor) achieves a VSC at or above 27%.

The development would result in 5 of the lounge/living windows having a VSC of less than 10% with the remaining 5 lounge/living windows showing a reduction ranging from 20.2% (at the 5<sup>th</sup> floor) to over 70% at both first and second floors. The VSC reductions in excess of 70% arise primarily on account of the windows having existing very low VSC (below 3%). All 5 bedroom areas show VSC reduction below 20%.

The ADF results show that 1 lounge/living room area achieves 1.5% ADF with the development in place, 2 achieve 1% and 4 achieve 0.75%.

The DD analysis shows that all lounge/living room areas achieve DD to over 80% of the relevant area with the proposal in place, less than 20% from the existing situation.

None of the bedroom areas currently achieve 1% ADF. The DD results show that currently 3 of the bedrooms DD is less than 50% of the relevant area. As a result of the development, 2 of these bedrooms achieve DD to over 75% of the relevant area with the reduction to these areas being less than 11% of their current condition. The DD reductions to the remaining bedrooms range from some 24% to 54% and are, to a large extent a function of their current low DD.

The impact on the identified lounge/living room windows in the River Street apartments is therefore considered to be negligible as all retain over 80% of DD/VSC reduction to half windows below 10%. The impact on the bedroom areas is also negligible with VSC reductions below 20%.

10 windows were assessed for sunlight and only 3 windows, one each at the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> floor levels currently achieve at least 25% APSH with at least 5% APSH (winter). With the development in place, the windows at the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> floors retain 25% APSH whilst the windows at the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor level show a reduction to 23% APSH (but no reduction to the winter APSH).

The other windows assessed in this property show only comparatively minor reduction to the current winter APSH levels with the reduction ranging from 33.33% at the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> floors to 6.67% at the 5<sup>th</sup> floor level.

The impacts on sunlight at the River Street apartments are predominately negligible or minor with 3 windows having a moderate adverse impact to available sunlight. For a city centre context this is considered acceptable as the impacts which would arise are not unusual or harmful to the extent that would warrant refusal.

**7/9 Hulme Street** 67 windows (20 in 9 Hulme St and 47 in 7 Hulme St) were assessed for daylight to 31 lounge/living room areas (11 in 9 Hulme St and 20 in 7 Hulme St).

Currently, none of the windows in 9 Hulme St achieve a VSC at or above 27% and only 6 windows achieve 27% VSC in 7 Hulme St. No windows in either property would achieve 27% VSC. However, the reduction in VSC from those currently are significantly below 20% - the highest reduction being 16%.

The ADF results show that 18 room areas would achieve above 1.5% ADF with the development in place. The DD analysis shows no reduction from the current position to the 16 rooms, with 9 rooms showing a reduction of 1% with the remaining 6 rooms showing reductions of less than 5%.

The magnitude of the effects on 7 and 9 Hulme Street are considered to be negligible.

**2 Lower Ormond Street** 42 windows were assessed for daylight to 7 lounge/living room areas (3 windows each) and 21 bedrooms (one each). The total number of rooms assessed was 28 (four at each level ground and 6 upper floors).

Currently, none of the windows below the third floor achieve a VSC at or above 27% with the range in VSC for these windows being 12.59% to 24.03%. 12 windows at and above the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor currently achieve 27% VSC with a further 10 achieving VSC between 20% and 27% and the remaining 2 achieving VSC of 16.6% and 18.77%.

The proposal would result in all but 3 of the windows below the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor having a VSC reductions above 20% (the range being 21.6% to 26.14%). At and above the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, 3 windows would retain over 27% of VSC and a further 5 show VSC reductions below 20%. The remaining windows show VSC reductions above 20% (ranging between 21.85% to 34.94%).

The ADF results show that all 7 of the lounge/living room areas achieve over 1.5% ADF with the lounge/living room areas at the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor level and above (5 in total) achieving over 2% with the development in place.

The ADF range for the bedrooms is currently 0.81% to 1.47% (13 bedrooms achieving at least 1% ADF). With the development in place, the ADF range is 0.68% to 1.22% (with 6 bedrooms achieving at least 1% ADF and 11 achieving over 0.9% ADF).

The relatively small daylight reduction to the bedroom areas in the ADF analysis are reinforced by the results of the DD analysis which show that 14 bedrooms show DD reductions of below 7% and only a single bedroom shows a DD reduction above 20% - the relevant figure being 20.51% and exceeds the 'target' 20% reduction by a negligible amount. The DD analysis results for the lounge areas show that all retain DD to over 90% with the proposal in place with minimal reductions – the reduction range being 0.00% to 2.12%.

The overall the impacts are considered to be negligible in respect of daylight impacts. 12 bedroom windows would suffer minor impacts but this is considered acceptable within the city centre context and the harm would not warrant refusal.

**Quadrangle development** 422 windows were considered for daylight to 119 lounge/living rooms and 214 bedrooms, 333 in total. The majority of rooms have a single windows with those with multiple windows on the ends/corners of elevations. The windows and rooms are best considered in two distinct groups – the Hulme Street (site) facing group (Group A) and the Courtyard facing group (Group B). Group A comprises 169 windows to 37 lounge/living rooms and 62 bedrooms and Group B comprises 253 windows to 82 lounge/living rooms and 152 bedrooms. Currently, the Group A VSC ranges between 1.10% to 39.02%. This changes to 0.10% - 38.31% with the development in place. The higher VSC figures relate to the windows at the ends/corners at each level of the Hulme Street elevation which generally show only a minimal reduction in VSC levels. 116 Group A windows (68.63%) show VSC reductions of at least, and in the majority of cases significantly above, 40%. These windows serve 26 lounge/living rooms and 48 bedrooms. Within Group A the majority of the rooms with windows showing VSC reductions above 40% are bedrooms which the BRE Guide recognises are less sensitive to daylight levels.

Currently, the Group B VSC ranges between 3.29% to 32.06%. With the development in place, this changes to 3.29% - 30.33%. The higher VSC levels (over 27%) are only achieved at floors 6 and above. The VSC reductions to Group B are less than the corresponding reductions to Group A with 178 windows (70.35%) showing reductions of less than 20% and 12 (4.75%) showing reductions of over 40%. In Group B the rooms served by windows showing VSC reductions above 40% are located at lower levels in the courtyard facing elevations and the relevant windows generally have low VSC levels currently which result in small numerical reductions being expressed as “high” VSC reductions in percentage terms.

It is important that the Group A VSC analysis results are considered in the context of a City Centre development. The BRE Guide was developed to assist in the design of low density, mainly suburban, residential developments. The BRE Guide recognises its limitations and the numerical guidelines need to be interpreted flexibly. The majority of the windows and rooms assessed in all neighbouring properties do not achieve, and are often significantly below, the BRE “target” VSC, ADF and DD figures currently.

The ADF and DD analysis results for the relevant lounge/living room areas and bedrooms follow the VSC analysis results. The Group A rooms sited in the central part of the Hulme Street elevation show generally low ADF values and large reductions to DD from the Baseline Conditions. The Group B rooms opening to the Courtyard show generally acceptable ADF values and either minimal/minor or no reductions to DD.

The daylight analysis results for Quadrangle show that the impact to the majority of rooms will be either negligible or minor although some rooms, principally those rooms sited in the central section of the Hulme Street elevation show moderate and/or major impacts. When considered on an overall basis the adverse effects on daylight levels to Quadrangle are predominately negligible and/or minor. There will be instances of moderate and major adverse effects although mainly to bedrooms.

The impacts on the Quadrangle need to be considered in the city centre context with medium and high-density developments nearby. It is not unusual for developments

in locations such as this to have impacts on neighbouring buildings. The harm caused would not warrant refusal of the proposal.

14 windows were assessed for sunlight. The windows at floors 2-6 is one of several windows which serve the relevant area at each level of the building. None of these windows show a reduction in winter APSH levels with the windows at the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> floors all retain 25% APSH and show no reduction to winter APSH.

**Shell House, Oxford Road** 18 first floor windows were assessed for daylight serving 5 bedrooms and 3 lounge/living rooms. The 3 lounge/living areas and 2 of the bedrooms have at least 2 windows. This property was assessed in order to assess any cumulative impacts as a result of the development at 1/5 New Wakefield Street.

Currently, only one window achieves a VSC at or above 27% (with the VSC range being 16.18% to 27.51%). The VSC reductions are below 20% with several windows showing no VSC reduction. The reduction range is 0.00% to 5.55%.

The VSC results are reinforced by the ADF and DD analysis results which show only a minimal impact to daylight and are considered negligible.

17 windows were assessed for sunlight. 8 show no reduction in ASPH and 6 show total APSH reduction of less than 20% with no reduction in winter APSH.

3 windows show total APSH reduction of less than 20% but with winter APSH reductions of 25%, 33.33% and 100% respectively. The reduction to the window of 100% only has 1% winter APSH currently.

**7/9 New Wakefield Street** 32 windows were assessed for daylight to 13 bedrooms and 9 lounge/living rooms. A single lounge/living area has 3 windows with the remaining lounge/livings each having 2. All bedrooms have a single window.

Currently, none of the windows below the 5<sup>th</sup> floor achieve a VSC at or above 27% with the VSC range for these windows being 7.82% to 24.69%. 4 windows achieve over 27% at 5<sup>th</sup> floor level, 3 windows achieve VSC between 20% and 27% with the remaining 4 windows achieving VSC between 16.46% to 18.57%.

1 window would retain a VSC above 27% and 5 show either no or minimal VSC reductions below 1%. The remaining windows all show reductions in excess of 20% (the range being 29.48% to 71.15%).

The ADF results show that a single lounge/living room area achieves over 1.5% ADF with 4 windows achieving 1% ADF and the remaining 4 achieving over 0.75% ADF.

The current ADF range for the lounge/living rooms are 0.93% to 2.33%. With the development in place, the ADF range would be 0.75% to 1.52%.

The current ADF range for the bedroom areas are 0.30% to 2.44%. With the development in place the range would be 0.25% to 1.36%. Currently, 7 bedrooms achieve over 1% ADF, 4 between 0.5% and 1% ADF and 2 have ADFs below 0.5%.

With the development in place, 4 windows achieve over 1% ADF, 4 between 0.5% to 1.00% ADF and 5 below 0.5% ADF.

The results of the DD analysis show DD reductions of less than 20% to 7 lounge/living areas (5 showing reductions of less than 10%). 2 lounge/living areas and 6 bedrooms show DD reductions in excess of 20%. 8 bedrooms show DD reductions below 20%.

The proposal would have a moderate impact on 1 lounge/living room and 9 bedrooms and a minor impact to 7 lounge/living rooms and 4 bedrooms and a negligible impact on 1 lounge/living area.

Given the city centre context and as the most significant impacts are to bedrooms the level of harm would not warrant refusal with the rooms retaining a reasonable amount of daylight.

26 windows were assessed for sunlight which are situated immediately due north of the application site. 17 windows currently achieve 25% APSH with at least 5% winter APSH, 3 achieve at least 20% APSH with over 5% winter APSH, 5 achieve over 15% APSH with over 5% winter APSH and a single window received 19% APSH with 2% winter APSH.

Due to orientation, it is inevitable that the impacts would show APSH reductions. 21 windows show a total APSH reduction of over 50% and 3 show a total APSH reduction of over 40%. The remaining 2 windows show reductions in APSH of 36.84% and 25%.

6 windows do retain 5% winter APSH, 12 retain levels between 4% and 2% and 6 show winter APSH below 2%. 14 would retain summer APSH levels of at least 10% or above with the remaining windows all retaining at least 5% summer APSH.

The impact on sunlight would be moderate to minor with 3 instances of major effects. On balance, these impacts are considered to be acceptable in a city centre context and the more significant levels of harm are associated with a low number of windows.

**Blocks A and B Lockes Yard** 147 windows were assessed for daylight to 20 bedrooms and 17 lounge/living room areas across 2 accommodation blocks. All the lounge/living areas and 10 of the bedrooms have at least 2 windows.

Currently, only 8 windows achieve a VSC at or above 27% (one in block A and 7 in block B) within the remaining windows having a range of 0.36% to 27.45% for block A and 5.57% to 28.49% for block B.

The VSC reductions would be significantly below 20%. There are, however, several windows showing no VSC reduction or small gains. 5 windows retain over 27% VSC. The combined VSC reduction range for blocks A and B is -0.27% (a small gain) to 35.28%. Only 17 windows show VSC reductions above 20% and all serve bedrooms which have multiple windows which would minimise the impact.

The VSC results are reinforced by the ADF and DD results which both show a minimal impact to daylight. The ADF analysis results show only minimal changes between the current conditions and with the development in place. The DD analysis also indicate minimal impact on daylight and also demonstrate a small improvement to some of the windows like the VSC result.

The impact on these properties is therefore considered to be negligible when considered against the current conditions.

**Overlooking** The only windows in the Great Marlborough Street elevation are in the 4 storey element. Great Marlborough Street is a restively wide road which provides a degree of separation between buildings. It is therefore considered that there would not be an impact on privacy from overlooking to properties on the western side of the road, particularly the residential building of Lockes Yard A and B.

The Hulme Street elevation would contain a significant number of windows at all levels. All buildings along Hulme Street including The Quadrangle and 2 Lower Ormond Street are at back of pavement line. The carriageway is narrow and reflects the tight grid network which is evident throughout Macintosh Village.

There are windows and balconies on the Hulme Street elevations of the Quadrangle and 2 Lower Ormond Street that would directly face the proposal. However, this same relationship exists in other tight grid networks within the city centre and is not unusual. Similar levels of impact would occur if a lower scale building was to be progressed at the site. The loss of privacy which would arise from overlooking would not be unusual and would not warrant refusal.

The rear of the building would contain a significant number of windows which would face the rear elevation of 7/9 New Wakefield Street. These properties have a relatively open outlook over the car park. The relationship between the proposal and these properties would generate some overlooking. The gap between them is similar to that of other developments within Macintosh Village where there is also a degree of overlooking between properties. Any impact on privacy would be acceptable in this context.

The other properties in the study area are considered to be sufficiently far away from the application site to not result in any loss of amenity from overlooking.

#### (b) TV reception

A TV reception survey has concluded that there is likely to be minimal impact on digital television services or digital satellite television services but should any arise it could be mitigated through antenna upgrade or realignment of the transmitter. A condition would require of a post completion survey to be undertaken to verify that this is the case and that no additional mitigation is required.

#### (c) Air quality

The site is within an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) where air quality conditions are known to be poor as a result of emissions from the road network. An



assessment has considered the impact on air quality during the construction and operational phases.

Dust would be inevitable during construction but there is limited demolition with works mainly associated with earthworks and above ground construction activities. Good on site practices would ensure dust and air quality impacts are not significant. This should remain in place for the duration of the construction period and should be a condition.

The impacts on air quality once the development is complete would be negligible. The only car parking would be two on street bays for disabled people. Students would be encouraged to cycle and there is 30% on site provision 60 on site bicycles provided by the operator. The applicant would improve opportunities for green travel within the multi-storey car park by providing 64 secure cycle for local residents and fitting 20% of the spaces within an electric car charging point. Given the proximity of the Universities to the application, a large number of students would walk or use public transport.

In light of the mitigation measures proposed above, it is considered that the proposal will comply with policy EN16 of the Core Strategy, paragraph 8 of the PPG and paragraph 124 of the NPPF in that there will be no detrimental impact on existing air quality conditions as a result of the development.

#### (d) Wind environment

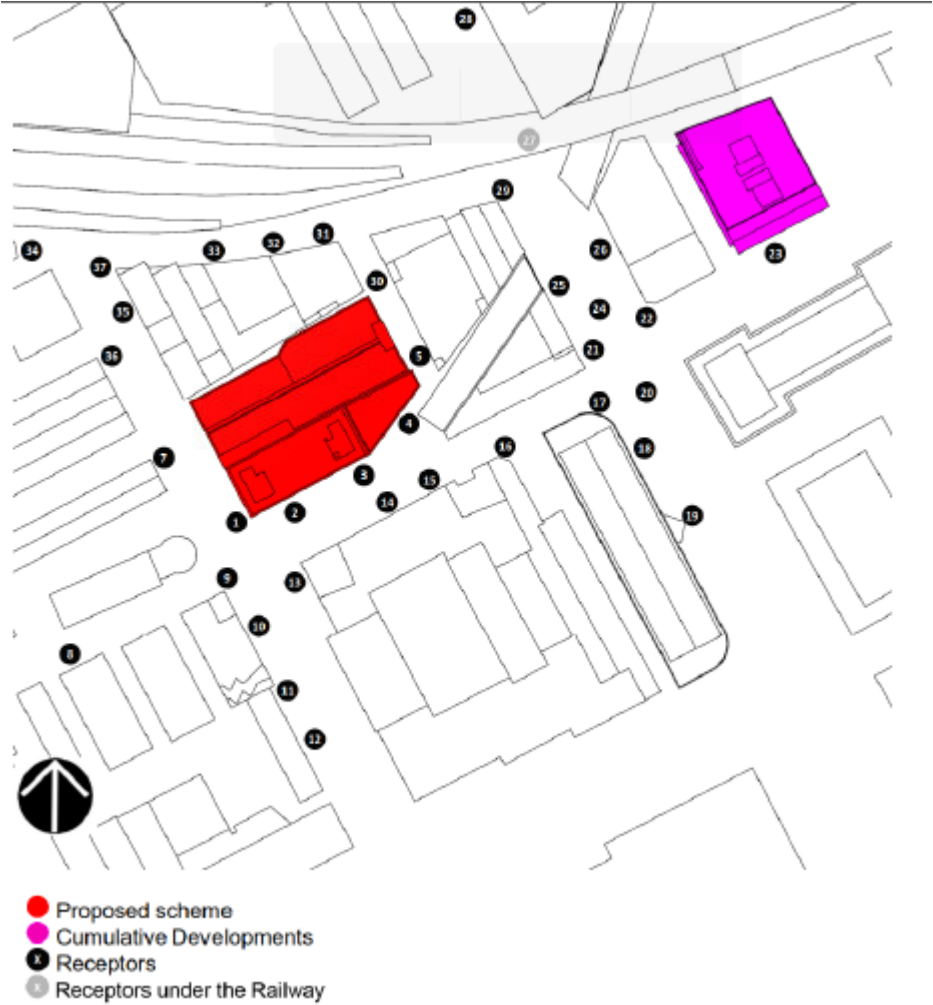
A wind assessment has examined the potential effects in and around the site. In particular, it considered the wind flows that would be experienced by pedestrians and the influence on their activities. A study area of 500 metre diameter around the was established. Effects beyond this area are considered insignificant in line with best practice guidance.

The technical methods used to assess the impact of wind include a wind tunnel analysis and Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) analysis. This considered the effects of the development on existing wind conditions, the conditions with the development in place and the cumulative scenario with other committed developments. Considering the proposal against these methodologies follows the most up-to-date guidance for assessing wind impact for buildings over 100 metres.

The wind assessment takes into account the season and expected activity based on a number of criteria: -

- Outdoor amenity and seating areas: Sitting during the summer season
- Building entrances, bus stops, drop off areas: Standing throughout the year;
- Pedestrian circulation routes: Leisure walking during windiest season;
- Pedestrian thoroughfares (minor pedestrian routes: Business walking during windiest season;
- Areas reporting winds within uncomfortable classification are preferably to be avoided because of their association with occasional strong winds (safety concerns)

37 sensitive receptors were identified and all pedestrian circulation routes, building entrances, bus stops within the site and the surroundings (500m) have been assessed. The magnitude of changes from the existing situation to the conditions with the development in place is assessed on a scale of major, moderate, minor, negligible or no change.



***Receptors identified within the wind assessment***

The assessment indicates that the proposal is likely to modify the local wind environment and create some localised wind accelerations at pedestrian level. However, in the majority of cases there would be little to no change on the suitability of the receptors for use when compared to the existing conditions, with the effects being the same or with only minor or negligible changes.

Currently, the areas immediately around the site are deemed to be safe for all pedestrians within relatively calm conditions. There are, however, areas of increased windiness further away from the site along New Wakefield Street and Oxford Road.

The wind conditions when assessed for pedestrian comfort are currently largely suitable for standing throughout the year. Whilst there are areas of increased windiness, particularly during winter months, the conditions are suitable for leisure walking at the north and east areas outside the site.

As a result of the development, the assessment indicates that pedestrian entrances to the proposed building, and those in the surrounding area, would be suitable for standing and therefore suitable for their intended use. There is an exception at receptors 21 to 26 on Oxford Road where wind conditions are higher than recommended, however, this is currently the case and cannot be attributed to the impacts of this development.

The wind conditions at all bus stops at the site, and in the surrounding area, would be suitable their intended use expect for one receptor (27) on Oxford Road where wind conditions would be higher than recommended. This is, however, currently the case and cannot be attributed to this development. The same level of impact would also occur in the cumulative scenario.

Wind conditions for pavements/walkways around the site, and in the wider study area, would remain suitable for intended use as a result of the development and in the cumulative scenario.

The magnitude of change to pedestrian comfort is considered to be neutral with there being no significant change when compared to current conditions.

The impact on the wind conditions, when assessed for pedestrian safety, on the receptors immediately around the site indicate that they would be safe for intended use by pedestrians. Within the wider study area, a small area opposite receptor 37 on New Wakefield Street would exceed the relevant criteria for its use. However, it should be noted that this area is small, is not a pedestrian thoroughfare and is not located along a cycle path. In addition, the size of the impact marginally reduces in the cumulative scenario. As such, the impact of this change is not considered unduly harmful to warrant refusal of the application.

The magnitude of change to pedestrian safety is considered to be negligible with there being no significant change when compared to current conditions.

Local residents have expressed concerns about the impact of the proposal on local wind conditions and believe that the assessment fails to consider the wind conditions of the courtyards of the Quadrangle and Cotton Mill as well as walkways/passageways internal to and in between The Foundry, Lockes Yard, 6/8 Great Marlborough Street, River Street Townhouses and the Green Building.

The wind assessment was updated during the course of the application to ensure that the result were comprehensive and robust. The technical methods used to assess the impact of wind are sufficient to understand the impact on the Quadrangle (and its courtyard) and the passageways/entrances to Lockes Yard, 8 and 6 Great Marlborough Street. The result did not indicate that the proposal would have an unduly harmful impacts on these properties that would warrant refusal of the application with conditions remaining safe for their intended use.

A sensor was placed near the corner of the River Street apartments and 6 Great Marlborough Street to consider if wind accelerations might occur as a result of the development. The result did not reveal any significant impacts would occur in this area or that safety would be compromised.

River Street (the Green Building) and the courtyard associated with Cotton Mill are relatively far away from the site and there are buildings located between these areas which would act as barriers to any down drafts. In addition, these areas are also not in the prevailing wind directions for the site. The wind conditions at these locations were not required to be measured in the assessment based on the relevant assessment criteria as any changes in these locations would not be material.

**Fume extraction** Fume extraction for the commercial operations and kitchen areas could be integrated into the scheme and a condition is recommended.

**Noise and disturbance** A noise assessment has considered the noise insulation requirements for the accommodation. The main sources of noise from the development are from the construction activities and plant. Consideration has also been given to external noise sources on the habitable accommodation.

Noise levels from construction would not be unduly harmful provided the strict operating and delivery hours are adhered to along with the erection of the hoarding with acoustic properties, silencers on equipment and regular communication with nearby residents. It is recommended that such details are secured by a condition.

The proposal is likely to require plant and details are required prior to first occupation and it is recommended that this is included as a condition of the planning approval.

The report also considers external noise sources on the proposed accommodation. The main sources of noise would be from the traffic, and other noise, along Oxford Road and the railway line. The accommodation would have to be acoustically insulated to mitigate against any undue harm from noise sources.

It is anticipated that through the use of mechanical ventilation and appropriate glazing, the necessary noise criteria within the apartment can be met. Further information is required in respect of these measures together with a verification/post completion report prior to the first occupation of the residential and commercial accommodation.

On that basis, provided that construction activities are carefully controlled and the plant equipment and student accommodation is appropriately insulated the proposal is considered to be in accordance with policy DM1 of the Core Strategy, extant policy DC26 of the UDP and the NPPF.

**Waste strategy and management** A development of this nature is likely to generate a significant amount of waste which has to be managed on a daily basis. There are challenges in ensuring efficient waste removal within a tall building including ensuring that waste is recycled.

There is a dedicated waste store on the ground floor measuring 133 sqm and it is expected that waste would be collected 3 times a week (1 Council and 2 private collections). Anticipated waste generation is expected to be around 50,000 litres.

The waste store would accommodate 46 x 1,100 litre Eurobins (including 14 dedicated for recycling) for the student accommodation and 6 x 660 litre bins for the SME space.

Students would be expected to take their own waste to the waste storage area which is next to the main entrance to encourage refuse to be deposited as students leave the building. All students would be issued with guidance on how to manage their waste and encourage them to recycle and they would have separate bins in their studio apartments.

The waste would be collected from Hulme Street from a newly created layby. The on-site facilities management team would move the refuse bins from the store, via doorways directly onto Hulme Street, to the collection point. Once emptied, the bins would be promptly returned to the bin store once collection has taken place.

The refuse arrangements have been carefully considered and are appropriate in principle. Further information has been required by Environmental Health before the final strategy can be agreed. As such, it is recommended that a condition of the planning approval is that the final details shall be agreed.

**Water quality, drainage and flood risk** The site is in flood zone 2 'medium risk of flooding'. As the upper floors of the building are intended to be occupied by students, the development is classified as 'vulnerable'. As such, the sequential and exception test is required.

A flood risk assessment has concluded that the site is at risk of fluvial flooding from the River Medlock. The sequential test requires consideration to be given to alternative, less vulnerable sites. There were no other reasonably available sites identified locally.

The ground and upper floors of the development are set above the 1 in 100 year plus climate change floor level and are therefore considered to be acceptable. The lower ground floor areas are for plant and whilst accessible from ground, would be unaffected during the 1 in 100 year plus climate change event.

The ground floor would flood 1 in 1000 year floor level. There are no habitable rooms on the ground floor and safe refuge above the flood level is available within the communal areas and bedrooms.

Although the development is classified as vulnerable due to its end user within flood zone 2, it would be 500 mm above the 1 in 100 year plus climate change flood event.

The Environment Agency has no objection if the mitigation outlined is implemented which includes raising of the finished floor levels of the building. It is therefore recommended that this forms part of the conditions of any planning approval.

The site is at risk of surface water flooding and is located within a critical drainage area where there are complex surface water flooding problems from ordinary watercourses, culverts and flooding from the sewer network. The flood risk management team have assessed the drainage strategy which details that a series

of measures would be incorporated into the scheme to minimise any incidents of surface water flooding and reduce flow rates. This includes discharging of some of the surface water into the adjacent watercourse (i.e. the Medlock) at an agreed discharge rate.

A detailed drainage scheme would be required through a condition along with a management/verification plan. In order to satisfy the provisions of policy EN14 of the Core Strategy, it is recommended that this floor resilience measures, together with the drainage plan, form part of the conditions of the planning approval.

**Designing out crime** A Crime Impact Statement (CIS), prepared by Design for Security at Greater Manchester Police, recognises that the development would bring vitality to this area and more active frontage. It is recommended that a condition requires the CIS to be implemented in full to achieve Secured by Design Accreditation.

**Impact of rail infrastructure** Network Rail have provided comments on conditions and informative which seek to protect the rail infrastructure from damage and obstruction during construction and conditions are recommended.

**Ground conditions** Previous industrial uses increases the likelihood of land contamination being present that may impact on the water environment. A detailed risk assessment remediation strategy is required together with conditions relating to understanding the methods for piling or other foundation design in order to ensure that there is no unacceptable impact on ground water.

The implementation of the remediation strategy should be confirmed through a verification report to verify that all the agreed remediation has been carried out. This approach should form a condition of the planning approval in order to comply with policy EN18 of the Core Strategy.

**Construction Management** Measures would be put in place to help minimise the impact of the development on local residents such as dust suppression, minimising stock piling and use of screenings to cover materials. Plant would also be turned off when not needed and no waste or material would be burned on site. It would not be possible to site the compound/welfare facilities within the site boundaries due to the restricted size and this would need to be created locally and early indication indicated this would be accommodated on the local highway network.

There is unlikely to be any cumulative impact from the construction elements of the development. Whilst there is a large amount of activity in the local area, the close proximity to major roads will ensure such activities should not have a detrimental impact on the surrounding area.

As recommended by GMEU and the Environment Agency, it is recommended that detailed consideration is given to the impacts of the construction activities on the river Medlock to ensure appropriate mitigation measures are put in place. In addition, and in line with the comments of Network Rail, it is recommended that informatives and conditions are used to protect the surrounding railway infrastructure from an impacts associated with the construction activities.

Provided appropriate measures are put in place the construction activities are in accordance with policies SP1 and DM1 of the Core Strategy and extant policy DC26 of the Unitary Development Plan. However, it is recommended that a condition should require the final construction management plan to be agreed to ensure the process has the minimal impact on surrounding residents and the highway network.

**Public opinion** Objections have been received on the grounds that the principle of development is unacceptable due to lack of demand for student accommodation, impact on the residential character of the area and that the scheme is not deliverable due to the effects on the rights to park by leaseholders.

Objections also contend that the proposal is overdevelopment, excessive in height and scale and would impact on key listed buildings in the surrounding area. Localised impacts on the wind environment, loss of daylight and sunlight, overlooking, generation of crime, inadequate waste management arrangements, impacts of noise and disturbance (from taxis and deliveries) and logistical impacts from the construction process are also highlighted.

This report provides a detailed analysis of those comments and concerns. The principle of development, contribution to regeneration and need for the student accommodation has been tested, meets the required planning policy criteria and guidance and has the support of Manchester Metropolitan University. The application site location close to Oxford Road and the University Campuses makes it suitable. The rights of the car parking space holders are not material to the consideration of this application. The applicant, would maintain these rights and ensure the required number of spaces is available both during construction and when the site has been redeveloped.

The impact on the existing residential neighbourhood in and around Macintosh Village has been considered. Whilst there have been a number of high density student schemes which have been developed in this area in recent years, there have also been a number of residential schemes some of which are still being developed such as Circle Square, First Street and Great Jackson Street. These development would ensure that neighbourhoods in and around the Oxford Corridor are sustainable and meet the needs of mainstream residential accommodation.

It is acknowledged that there may be some localised impacts as a result of the development particularly from change in outlook, impact on daylight, sunlight and wind conditions. In addition, there would be short term but temporary disruption from the construction process. These matters are not considered to be unduly harmful in a city centre context such as this and matters such as construction impacts can be carefully mitigation through a construction management plan.

The operational impacts of the development can also be managed. The student accommodation would be well managed by an experienced operator. A well being strategy would be put in place to support students. Impacts from Waste, online deliveries, servicing and taxis can be managed. The layby on Hulme Street would be utilised for taxis and online deliveries which would be managed by the applicant to ensure that the local highway does not become congested.

The changes in outlook from surrounding residential buildings and changes to day and sunlight are not unusual in a City Centre context and would not warrant refusal.

The proposal would bring significant economic, social and environmental benefits to the city and the local area. This must be given significant weight in the decision-making process as directed by the NPPF.

**Aerodrome safeguarding** There would be an impact on the airport radar which would require mitigation. This would be secured by a condition with an informative about the use of cranes.

**Legal Agreement** This application will be subject to a legal agreement which will secure monies for infrastructure improvements.

**Conclusion** The proposal conforms to the development plan taken as a whole as directed by section 38 (6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and there are no material considerations which would indicate otherwise.

The proposal represents £130 million of investment with the Oxford Corridor.

The proposal is wholly consistent with planning policies for the site (policy H12) and would help realise regeneration benefits and meet demand for student accommodation in a sustainable location. Significant weight should be given to this (paragraph 80 of the NPPF). This investment also comes at a critical time as the City recovers from the economic effects of the Covid 19 pandemic.

The design would set high standards of sustainability (paragraph 131 of the NPPF). A comprehensive travel plan and improvements to the pedestrian and cycling environment would exploit the city centre location and support walking, cycling, tram, rail and bus journeys to the site (paragraphs 103, 105 and 111 of the NPPF).

The site would be car free (except for disabled and servicing provision) which would minimise emissions. The leaseholder spaces would be retained within the MSCP, however, there would be an overall reduction in car parking space in line with Council objectives of minimising the reliance on the car within city centre locations.

Careful consideration has been given to the impact of the development on the local area. There would inevitably be impacts in terms of the use and the scale of the building on light, noise, air quality, water management or wind conditions. However, none of these impacts would be unusual in a city centre context and mitigation measures are in place to help to address them. Waste can be managed with recycling prioritised. Online deliveries and taxis would be managed to minimise impacts on the residential neighbourhood.

There would be some localised impacts on the historic environment with the level of harm being considered low, less than substantial and significantly outweighed by the public benefits which would be delivered as a consequence of the development socially, economically and environmentally: S66 of the Listed Buildings Act (paragraphs 193 and 196 of the NPPF).



**Human Rights Act 1998 considerations** – This application needs to be considered against the provisions of the Human Rights Act 1998. Under Article 6, the applicants (and those third parties, including local residents, who have made representations) have the right to a fair hearing and to this end the Committee must give full consideration to their comments.

Protocol 1 Article 1, and Article 8 where appropriate, confer(s) a right of respect for a person's home, other land and business assets. In taking account of all material considerations, including Council policy as set out in the Core Strategy and saved policies of the Unitary Development Plan, the Director of Planning, Building Control & Licensing has concluded that some rights conferred by these articles on the applicant(s)/objector(s)/resident(s) and other occupiers and owners of nearby land that might be affected may be interfered with but that that interference is in accordance with the law and justified by being in the public interest and on the basis of the planning merits of the development proposal. She believes that any restriction on these rights posed by the of the application is proportionate to the wider benefits of and that such a decision falls within the margin of discretion afforded to the Council under the Town and Country Planning Acts.

**Recommendation    MINDED TO APPROVE subject to the signing of a legal agreement in relation to infrastructure improvements**

#### **Article 35 Declaration**

Officers have worked with the applicant in a positive and proactive manner based on seeking solutions to problems arising in relation to dealing with the planning application. Pre application advice has been sought in respect of this matter where early discussions took place regarding the scheme including height appearance and impact on surrounding receptors. Further work and discussions have taken place with the applicant through the course of the application as a result of matters arising from the consultation and notification process. The proposal is considered to be acceptable.

#### **Reason for recommendation**

#### **Conditions to be attached to the decision**

- 1) The development must be begun not later than the expiration of three years beginning with the date of this permission.

Reason - Required to be imposed pursuant to Section 91 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

- 2) The development hereby approved shall be carried out in accordance with the following drawings and documents:

Drawings

2142-A-L001, 2142-A-L-005, 2142-A-L-010, 2142-A-L-015, 2142-A-L-156, 2142-A-L-202, 2142-A-L-400 and 2142-A-L-401 stamped as received by the City Council, as Local Planning Authority, on the 18 September 2018

PL 10 REV P9 stamped as received by the City Council, as Local Planning Authority, on the 16 November 2018

2142-A-L-105 A, 2142-A-L-106 A, 2142-A-L-107 A, 2142-A-L-108 A, 2142-A-L-112 A, 2142-A-L-113 A, 2142-A-L-114 A, 2142-A-L-125 A, 2142-A-L-126 A, 2142-A-L-127 A, 2142-A-L-128 A, 2142-A-L-130 A, 2142-A-L-154 A, 2142-A-L-155 A, 2142-A-L-200 A and 2142-A-L-203 A stamped as received by the City Council, as Local Planning Authority, on the 21 May 2019

2142-A-L-100 C, 2142-A-L-101 C, 2142-A-L-102 C , 2142-A-L-103 C, 2142-A-L-104 C, 2142-A-L-201 REV C, L1917R-SK01 (D06), L1917R-SK02 (D06), L1917R-SK03 (D06), L1917R-SK04 (D05), L1917R-SK05 (D05), L1917R-SK06 (D05), L1917R-SK07 (D05), L1917R-SK08 (D07), L1917R-SK09 (D04), L1917R-SK10 (D04), L1917R-SK11 (D04), L1917R-SK12 (D02), L1917R-SK13 (D02), L1917R-SK14 (D01), L1917R-SK15 (D01), L1917R-SK22 (D03), L1917R-SK23 (D03), L1917R-SK24 (D03), L1917R-SK25 (D03), L1917R-SK26 (D03), L1917R-SK27 (D03) and L1917R-SK28 (D03) stamped as received by the City Council, as Local Planning Authority, on the 18 September 2020

#### Supporting Information

Design and access statement stamped as received by the City Council, as Local Planning Authority, on the 18 September 2020

Design and access statement stamped as received by the City Council, as Local Planning Authority, on the 18 September 2018

Updated Environmental Statement (including Volume 2 (committed developments) and appendices 9 (overshadowing plans) 10 (Transport Statement/Travel Plan), 11 (letter update Flood Risk Assessment) socio economic), ES Non Technical Summary, Accommodation Schedule, Amenity block design justification, construction plan, Energy Statement, Student Wellbeing Strategy, Waste management, Construction Environmental Management Plan and highways logistics plan stamped as received by the City Council, as Local Planning Authority, on the 18 September 2020

Outline method statement stamped as received by the City Council as Local Planning Authority, on the 21 May 2019

Ventilation report, management plan, market report, planning statement, TV report, Ecology report, ground investigations report, Archaeology report, Crime Impact Statement, Appendices 6 (Townscape Impact Assessment), 7 (Heritage), 8 (Noise), 11 (Flood Risk Assessment and drainage strategy), 13 (Air Quality), 14

(Ground Conditions) of the Environmental Statement stamped as received by the City Council as Local Planning Authority, on the 18 September 2018

Response letters from Deloitte dated 11 January 2021 and 16 September 2020.

Reason - To ensure that the development is carried out in accordance with the approved plans. Pursuant to policies SP1 and DM1 of the Core Strategy.

- 3) Prior to any above ground works, a radar mitigation scheme (RMS) (including a timetable for its implementation during construction) should be submitted for approval in writing by the City Council, as Local Planning Authority. The approved scheme shall then be implemented in accordance with an agreed timetable.

Reason - In the interest of aircraft safety and operations pursuant to policy DM2 of the Manchester Core Strategy (2012).

- 4) a) Prior to the commencement of the development details of a Local Benefit Proposal in order to demonstrate commitment to recruit local labour for the duration of the construction of the development, shall be submitted for approval in writing by the City Council, as Local Planning Authority. The approved document shall be implemented as part of the construction of the development.

In this condition a Local Benefit Proposal means a document which includes:

- i) the measures proposed to recruit local people including apprenticeships
- ii) mechanisms for the implementation and delivery of the Local Benefit Proposal
- iii) measures to monitor and review the effectiveness of the Local Benefit Proposal in achieving the objective of recruiting and supporting local labour objectives

(b) Within one month prior to construction work being completed for each phase of development, a detailed report which takes into account the information and outcomes about local labour recruitment pursuant to items (i) and (ii) above shall be submitted for approval in writing by the City Council as Local Planning Authority.

Reason – The applicant has demonstrated a commitment to recruiting local labour pursuant to policies SP1, EC1 and DM1 of the Manchester Core Strategy (2012).

- 5) No demolition works or vegetation clearance shall take place during the optimum period for bird nesting (March - September inclusive) unless nesting birds have been shown to be absent, or, a method statement for the demolition including for the protection of any nesting birds is agreed in writing by the City Council, Local Planning Authority. Any method statement shall then be implemented for the duration of the demolition works.

Reason - In order to protect wildlife from works that may impact on their habitats pursuant to policy EN15 of the Manchester Core Strategy (2012).

6) (a) The development permitted by this planning permission shall only be carried out in accordance with the approved Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) by WSP (ref: 70035213-FRA-001 dated 11/0/18) and the mitigation measures detailed within section 8 of the FRA stamped as received by the City Council, as Local Planning Authority, on the 13 September 2018 (and update letter dated 18 September 2020):

(b) The mitigation measures hereby approved shall be implemented prior to the first occupation of the development and a verification report shall be submitted, including relevant photographic evidence, that the scheme has been implemented in accordance with the previously approved details.

Reason: To reduce the risk of flooding to the proposed development and future occupants and reduce the impact of flooding on the development pursuant to policy EN14 of the Manchester Core Strategy.

7) (a) Prior to any above ground works, details of the disposal of foul and surface water from the development shall be submitted for approval. This shall include details of any potential impacts on the River Medlock and appropriate mitigation.

(b) The approved details shall be implemented in full prior to the first occupation of the student accommodation element of the development and a verification report shall be submitted, including relevant photographic evidence, that the scheme has been implemented in accordance with the previously approved detail.

Reason: In the interest of the ecology of the River Medlock pursuant to policy EN15 of the Manchester Core Strategy (2012).

8) Notwithstanding the Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) and drainage report by WSP (ref: 70035213-FRA-001 dated 11/0/18) and the mitigation measures detailed within section 8 of the FRA stamped as received by the City Council, as Local Planning Authority, on the 13 September 2018 (and update letter dated 18 September 2020), (a), the development shall not commence (excluding demolition) until a scheme for the drainage of surface water for the new development shall be submitted for approval in writing by the City Council as the Local Planning Authority. This shall include:

- Details of surface water attenuation that offers a reduction in surface water runoff rate in line with the Manchester Trafford and Salford Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, i.e. at least a 50% reduction in runoff rate compared to the existing rates, as the site is located within Conurbation Core Critical Drainage Area;
- Evidence that the drainage system has been designed (unless an area is designated to hold and/or convey water as part of the design) so that flooding does not occur during a 1 in 100 year rainfall event with allowance for climate change in any part of a building;

- Assessment of overland flow routes for extreme events that is diverted away from buildings (including basements). Overland flow routes need to be designed to convey the flood water in a safe manner in the event of a blockage or exceedance of the proposed drainage system capacity including inlet structures. A layout with overland flow routes needs to be presented with appreciation of these overland flow routes with regards to the properties on site and adjacent properties off site;
- Hydraulic calculation of the proposed drainage system for 1 in 2, 1 in 30, 1 in 100 and 1 in 100 + 40% climate change;
- Construction details of flow control and SuDS elements.

(b) The phase shall then be constructed in accordance with the approved details, within an agreed timescale.

(c) Prior to the first occupation of the development a verification report shall be submitted, including relevant photographic evidence, that the scheme has been implemented in accordance with the previously approved details.

Reason - To promote sustainable development, secure proper drainage and to manage the risk of flooding and pollution pursuant to policies SP1, EN14 and DM1 of the Manchester Core Strategy (2012).

9) Notwithstanding the preliminary risk assessment (Great Marlborough Street) prepared by Tier Consult (ref. T/14/1396/PGIR) (Dated 11/09/18) stamped as received by the City Council, as Local Planning Authority, on the 13 September 2018, (a) prior to the commencement of the development (excluding demolition), the following information shall be submitted for approval in writing by the City Council, as Local Planning Authority:

- Provision of the calibration certificate(s) for the gas monitoring equipment to cover the whole monitoring period;
- Provision of findings of any further site investigations to support the preliminary investigations;
- Submission of an updated Risk Assessment and Remediation Strategy in required.

b) When the development commences, the development shall be carried out in accordance with the previously agreed Remediation Strategy and a Completion/Verification Report shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the City Council as Local Planning Authority prior to the first occupation of the development.

In the event that ground contamination, groundwater contamination and/or ground gas, not previously identified, are found to be present on the site at any time before the development is occupied, then development at the affected area shall cease and/or the development shall not be occupied until, a report outlining what measures, if any, are required to remediate the land (the Revised Remediation Strategy) is submitted to and approved in writing by the City Council as Local Planning Authority and the development shall be carried out in accordance with the

Revised Remediation Strategy, which shall take precedence over any Remediation Strategy or earlier Revised Remediation Strategy.

Reason - To ensure that the presence of or the potential for any contaminated land and/or groundwater is detected and appropriate remedial action is taken in the interests of public safety, pursuant to policies DM1 and EN18 of the Core Strategy.

10) If, during the development, contamination or conditions not previously identified as part of the agreed documents within condition 9 are found to be present at the site (or in the monitored vicinity) then no further development shall be carried out in the affected area until a strategy which details how this unsuspected circumstance shall be dealt with has been submitted for approval in writing by the City Council, as Local Planning Authority. The approved strategy shall then be implemented and then verified as required by part (b) of condition 9.

Reason - To ensure that the works to be undertaken do not contribute to, or adversely affect, unacceptable levels of water pollution from previously unidentified contamination sources pursuant to policies EN17 and EN18 of the Manchester Core Strategy (2012).

11) Notwithstanding highways logistics plan stamped as received by the City Council, as Local Planning Authority, on the 18 September 2020, prior to the commencement of development, a detailed construction management plan outlining working practices for the proposed development construction shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

For the avoidance of doubt the construction management plans shall include:

- Display of an emergency contact number;
- Measures to protect the River Medlock from spillages, dust and debris;
- Communication strategy with residents;
- Details of Wheel Washing;
- Dust suppression measures;
- Compound and hoarding locations where relevant;
- Location, removal and recycling of waste;
- Routing strategy and swept path analysis;
- Parking of construction vehicles and staff; and
- Sheeting over of construction vehicles.

The development shall be carried out in accordance with the approved construction management plans for the duration of the demolition and construction parts of the development.

Reason - To safeguard the amenities of nearby residents and highway safety, pursuant to policies SP1, EN9, EN19 and DM1 of the Manchester Core Strategy (July 2012).

12) Prior to the commencement of the development, all material to be used on all external elevations of the development shall be submitted for approval in writing

by the City Council, as Local Planning Authority. This shall include the submission of samples (including a preparation of a sample panel(s)) and specifications of all materials to be used on all external elevations of the development along with jointing and fixing details, soffit details, details of the drips to be used to prevent staining in, ventilation and a strategy for quality control management along with details of Public Art to Great Marlborough Street.

The approved materials shall then be implemented as part of the development.

Reason - To ensure that the appearance of the development is acceptable to the City Council as local planning authority in the interests of the visual amenity of the area within which the site is located, as specified in policies SP1 and DM1 of the Core Strategy.

- 13) Prior to the first occupation of the development hereby approved, details of the implementation, maintenance and management of the sustainable drainage scheme for that phase shall be submitted for approval in writing by the City Council, as Local Planning Authority.

For the avoidance of doubt the scheme shall include the following:

- Verification report providing photographic evidence of construction; and - Management and maintenance plan for the lifetime of the development which shall include the arrangements for adoption by any public body or statutory undertaker, or any other arrangements to secure the operation of the sustainable drainage scheme throughout its lifetime.
- evidence that there will be no impact on the River Medlock from the disposal of water from the development.

The approved scheme shall then be implemented in accordance with the details and thereafter managed and maintained for as long as the development remains in use.

Reason - To promote sustainable development, secure proper drainage and to manage the risk of flooding and pollution pursuant to policies SP1, EN14 and DM1 of the Manchester Core Strategy (2012).

- 14) The development hereby approved shall be carried out in accordance with the Energy Statement prepared by WSP stamped as received by the City Council, as Local Planning Authority, on the 18 September 2020.

A post construction review certificate/statement for the development shall be submitted for approval, within a timescale that has been previously agreed in writing, to the City Council as Local Planning Authority.

Reason - In order to minimise the environmental impact of the development pursuant to policies SP1, T1-T3, EN4-EN7 and DM1 of the Core Strategy and the principles contained within The Guide to Development in Manchester SPD (2007) and the National Planning Policy Framework.

15) (a) prior to the first occupation of the development hereby approved details of a hard and soft landscaping scheme (including appropriate materials specifications and street trees) for the public realm area shall be submitted for approval in writing by the City Council as Local Planning Authority.

(b) The approved scheme shall be implemented prior to the first occupation of the development

Reason - To ensure that a satisfactory landscaping scheme for the development is carried out that respects the character and visual amenities of the area, in accordance with policies SP1, EN9 and DM1 of the Core Strategy.

16) Prior to the first occupation of the development hereby approved, full details of the specification and locations of bat and bird boxes, shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the City Council as Local Planning Authority. The bat and bird boxes shall be installed prior to the completion of the development and therefore be retained and remain in situ.

Reason - To ensure the creation of new habitats in order to comply with policy EN15 of the Manchester Core Strategy (2012).

17)(a) Prior to the occupation of the development hereby approved, details of any externally mounted ancillary plant, equipment and servicing shall be submitted for approval. For the avoidance of doubt, externally mounted plant, equipment and servicing shall be selected and/or acoustically treated in accordance with a scheme designed so as to achieve a rating level of 5 db (L<sub>aeq</sub>) below the typical background (L<sub>a90</sub>) level at the nearest noise sensitive location.

(b) The approved scheme shall be implemented and prior to the first occupation of the development, a verification report will be required to validate that the work undertaken conforms to the recommendations and requirements approved as part of part (a) of this planning condition. The verification report shall include post completion testing to confirm the noise criteria has been met. In instances of non conformity, these shall be detailed along with mitigation measures required to ensure compliance with the noise criteria. Any mitigation measures shall be implemented in accordance with a timescale to be agreed with the City Council, as Local Planning Authority, and thereafter retained and maintained in situ.

Reason - To minimise the impact of plant on the occupants of the development pursuant to policies SP1 and DM1 of the Manchester Core Strategy (2012) and saved policy DC26 of the Unitary Development Plan for the City of Manchester (1995).

18)(a) Prior to the first use of the SME accommodation, as indicated on drawings 2142-A-L-100 C, 2142-A-L-101 C, 2142-A-L-102 C , 2142-A-L-103 C, 2142-A-L-104 C stamped as received by the City Council, as Local Planning Authority, 18 September 2020, a scheme to acoustically insulate the accommodation to limit



the break out of noise in accordance with a noise study shall be submitted for approval in writing by the City Council, as Local Planning Authority.

(b) The approved scheme shall be implemented and prior to the first use of the SME accommodation, a verification report will be required to validate that the work undertaken conforms to the recommendations and requirements approved as part of part (a) of this planning condition. The verification report shall include post completion testing to confirm the noise criteria has been met. In instances of non conformity, these shall be detailed along with mitigation measures required to ensure compliance with the noise criteria. Any mitigation measures shall be implemented in accordance with a timescale to be agreed with the City Council, as Local Planning Authority, and thereafter retained and maintained in situ.

Reason - To safeguard the amenity of the student accommodation pursuant to policies SP1 and DM1 of the Manchester Core Strategy (2012) and saved policy DC26 of the Unitary Development Plan for the City of Manchester (1995).

- 19) (a) Notwithstanding the noise chapter of the Environmental Statement, stamped as received by the City Council, as Local Planning Authority, 18 September 2020, prior to the first occupation of the student accommodation hereby approved, a scheme for acoustically insulating the proposed accommodation against noise from Great Marlborough Street and Hulme Street shall be submitted for approval in writing by the City Council, as Local Planning Authority. There may be other actual or potential sources of noise which require consideration on or near the site, including any local commercial/industrial premises.

Noise survey data must include measurements taken during a rush-hour period and night time to determine the appropriate sound insulation measures necessary. The following noise criteria will be required to be achieved:

Bedrooms (night time - 23.00 - 07.00) 30 dB LAeq (individual noise events shall not exceed 45 dB L<sub>Amax,F</sub> by more than 15 times)

Living Rooms (daytime - 07.00 - 23.00) 35 dB LAeq

Additionally, where entertainment noise is a factor in the noise climate the sound insulation scheme shall be designed to achieve internal noise levels in the 63Hz and 125Hz octave centre frequency bands so as not to exceed (in habitable rooms) 47dB and 41dB, respectively

(b) The approved scheme shall be implemented and prior to the first occupation of the student accommodation, a verification report will be required to validate that the work undertaken conforms to the recommendations and requirements approved as part of part (a) of this planning condition. The verification report shall include post completion testing to confirm the noise criteria has been met. In instances of non conformity, these shall be detailed along with mitigation measures required to ensure compliance with the noise criteria. Any mitigation measures shall be implemented in accordance with a timescale to be agreed with

the City Council, as Local Planning Authority, and thereafter retained and maintained in situ.

Reason: To secure a reduction in noise in order to protect future occupants from noise from the surrounding road and rail network pursuant to policies SP1, H1 and DM1 of the Core Strategy (2007) and saved policy DC26 of the Unitary Development Plan for the City of Manchester (1995).

20) The waste management strategy shall be carried out in accordance with drawing 2142-AL0100 C and strategy stamped as received by the City Council, as Local Planning Authority, on the 18 September. The details of the approved scheme shall be implemented as part of the first occupation of the student accommodation and/or commercial element and shall remain in situ whilst the use or development is in operation.

Reason - To ensure adequate refuse arrangements are put in place for the residential element of the scheme pursuant to policies EN19 and DM1 of the Manchester Core Strategy.

21) Prior to the first use of the SME accommodation, as indicated on drawings 2142-A-L-100 C, 2142-A-L-101 C, 2142-A-L-102 C, 2142-A-L-103 C, 2142-A-L-104 C stamped as received by the City Council, as Local Planning Authority, 18 September 2020 details of the hours of use of the workspace shall be submitted for approval in writing by the City Council, as Local Planning Authority. The approved hours shall then be implemented for as long as the accommodation remains in use.

Reason – In the interest of residential amenity pursuant to policies SP1 and DM1 of the Manchester Core Strategy (2012) and saved policy DC26 of the Unitary Development Plan for the City of Manchester (1995).

22) The development hereby approved shall include a building and site lighting scheme and a scheme for the illumination of external areas during the period between dusk and dawn. Prior to the first occupation of the development, full details of such a scheme shall be submitted for approval in writing by the City Council, as Local Planning Authority. The approved scheme shall be implemented in full prior to the first use of the development and shall remain in operation for so long as the development is occupied.

Reason - In the interests of amenity, crime reduction and the personal safety of those using the building and surrounding area and ensure that lighting is installed which is sensitive to the bat environment the proposed development in order to comply with the requirements of policies SP1 and DM1 of the Core Strategy.

23) If any lighting at the development hereby approved, when illuminated, causes glare or light spillage which in the opinion of the Council as local planning authority causes detriment to adjoining and nearby residential properties, within 14 days of a written request, a scheme for the elimination of such glare or light spillage shall be submitted to the Council as local planning authority and once

approved shall thereafter be retained in accordance with details which have received prior written approval of the City Council as Local Planning Authority.

Reason - In order to minimise the impact of the illumination of the lights on the occupiers of nearby residential accommodation, pursuant to policies SP1 and DM1 of the Core Strategy.

- 24) Deliveries, servicing and collections including waste collections shall not take place outside the following hours:

Monday to Saturday 07:30 to 20:00  
Sundays (and Bank Holidays): 10:00 to 18:00

Reason - In the interest of residential amenity pursuant to policies SP1 and DM1 of the Manchester Core Strategy (2012).

- 26) The SME workspace, as indicated on drawings 2142-A-L-100 C, 2142-A-L-101 C, 2142-A-L-102 C, 2142-A-L-103 C, 2142-A-L-104 C stamped as received by the City Council, as Local Planning Authority, 18 September 2020 can be occupied as offices/workspaces (Use Class B1) and for no other purposes of The Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987 (or any order revoking and re-enacting that Order with or without modification).

Reason – In the interest of retaining the provision of office/employment space within the development pursuant to policies EC1, EC4 of the Manchester Core Strategy (2012).

- 27) The student accommodation element of the development hereby approved shall be used as purpose built student accommodation (Sui Generis) and for no other purpose of The Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987 (or any order revoking and re-enacting that Order with or without modification) (including serviced apartments/apart hotels or similar uses where sleeping accommodation (with or without other services) is provided by way of trade for money or money's worth and occupied by the same person for less than ninety consecutive nights).

Reason - To ensure that the accommodation is used solely for the intended purpose - student accommodation and to safeguard the amenities of the neighbourhood by ensuring that other uses which could cause a loss of amenity such as serviced apartments/apart hotels do not commence without prior approval; to safeguard the character of the area, and to maintain the sustainability of the local community through provision of accommodation that is suitable for people living as families pursuant to policies DM1 and H11 of the Core Strategy for Manchester and the guidance contained within the National Planning Policy Framework.

- 28) The development shall be carried out in accordance with the Crime Impact Statement prepared by Design for Security at Greater Manchester Police stamped as

received by the City Council, as Local Planning Authority, on the 13 September 2018.

The development shall only be carried out in accordance with these approved details.

Prior to the first occupation of the development the Council as Local Planning Authority must acknowledged in writing that it has received written confirmation of a Secured by Design accreditation.

Reason - To reduce the risk of crime pursuant to policies SP1 and DM1 of the Core Strategy and to reflect the guidance contained in the National Planning Policy Framework.

29) The development hereby approved shall be carried out in accordance with the Framework Travel Plan stamped as received by the City Council, as Local Planning Authority, on the 13 September 2020.

In this condition a Travel Plan means a document which includes:

- i) the measures proposed to be taken to reduce dependency on the private car by those living at the development;
- ii) a commitment to surveying the travel patterns of residents/staff during the first three months of the first use of the building and thereafter from time to time iii) mechanisms for the implementation of the measures to reduce dependency on the private car
- iv) measures for the delivery of specified Travel Plan services
- v) measures to monitor and review the effectiveness of the Travel Plan in achieving the objective of reducing dependency on the private car

Within six months of the first use of the development, a Travel Plan which takes into account the information about travel patterns gathered pursuant to item (ii) above shall be submitted for approval in writing by the City Council as Local Planning Authority. Any Travel Plan which has been approved by the City Council as Local Planning Authority shall be implemented in full at all times when the development hereby approved is in use.

Reason - To assist promoting the use of sustainable forms of travel at the development, pursuant to policies T1, T2 and DM1 of the Manchester Core Strategy (2012).

30) Prior to the first occupation of the student accommodation hereby approved, the cycle store and provision of 262 cycle stands (including 60 bookable bikes) as indicated on drawing 2142-A-L-100 C stamped as received by the City Council, as Local Planning Authority, on the 18 September 2020 shall be implemented and made available for the occupants of the development. The cycle store shall remain available and in use for as long as the development is occupied.

Reason - To ensure there is sufficient cycles stand provision at the in order to support modal shift measures pursuant to policies SP1,T1, T2 and DM1 of the Manchester Core Strategy (2012).

30) Prior to the first occupation of the student accommodation hereby approved, the 64 space cycle provision within the Multi Storey Car Park as indicated on drawing L1917R-SK02 (D06) stamped as received by the City Council, as Local Planning Authority, on the 18 September 2020 shall be implemented and made available for the occupants of the development. The cycle store shall remain available and in use for as long as the development is occupied.

Reason - To ensure there is sufficient cycles stand provision at the development and the residents in order to support modal shift measures pursuant to policies SP1,T1, T2 and DM1 of the Manchester Core Strategy (2012).

31) Prior to the first use of the modified multi storey car park hereby approved, final details of the layout of the car park and security measures shall be submitted for approval in writing by the City Council, as Local Planning Authority. This shall includes dimensions of the parking bays, number and location of disabled parking bays, location of a minimum of 20% 7kw electric vehicle charging points, details of CCTV provision and any other security measure.

Reason – In order to ensure that the car layout and function of the car park is acceptable pursuant to policies SP1 and DM1 of the Manchester Core Strategy (2012).

32) Prior to the first occupation of the student accommodation element of the development hereby approved, details of a cycle provision strategy for the development shall be submitted for approval in writing by the City Council, as Local Planning Authority.

The strategy shall include the on cycle provision, and measures to encourage the use of cycling for the development. The approved strategy shall be implemented prior to the first occupation of the student accommodation element of the development and remain in use for as long as the development is occupation.

Reason - To mitigate against the lack of on site car parking is available for the development pursuant to policies SP1, T1, and DM1 of the Manchester Core Strategy (2012).

33) Prior to the first occupation of the student accommodation element of the development, a detailed servicing and deliveries strategy shall be submitted for approval in writing by the City Council, as Local Planning Authority. For the avoidance of doubt this shall include details of the management arrangements for moving in and out times, taxi pick up and drop off and food and online deliveries and any other associated management and operational requirements. The approved strategy, including any associated mitigation works, shall be implemented and be in place prior to the first occupation of the student accommodation element and thereafter retained and maintained in operation.

Reason - To ensure appropriate servicing management arrangements are put in place for the development in the interest of highway and pedestrian safety pursuant to policy SP1 and DM1 of the Manchester Core Strategy (2012).

34) Prior to the first occupation of the student accommodation element of the development hereby approved a scheme of highway works and details of footpaths reinstatement/public realm for the development shall be submitted for approval in writing by the City Council, as Local Planning Authority.

For the avoidance of doubt this shall include the following:

- Improvements to the public realm including the provision of street trees where possible;
- Creation of layby to Hulme Street and associated Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs);
- Creation of a disabled bay/car club bay in close proximity to the development.
- Traffic calming measures (in the form of speed cushions and other associated works) from Whitworth West (under the railway bridge), along Great Marlborough Street, across to Lower Ormond Street terminating at Chester Street together with measures to restrict vehicle access from Whitworth St into Great Marlborough Street.

Improvements to the public realm including details of materials (including high quality materials to be used for the footpaths and for the areas between the pavement and building line) and tree planting and soft landscaping where appropriate.

The approved scheme shall be implemented and be in place prior to the first occupation of the student accommodation element and thereafter retained and maintained in situ.

Reason - To ensure safe access to the development site in the interest of pedestrian and highway safety pursuant to policies SP1, EN1 and DM1 of the Manchester Core Strategy (2012).

35) Notwithstanding the TV Reception Survey, stamped as received by the City Council, as Local Planning Authority, on the 18 September 2018, within one month of the practical completion of the development, and at any other time during the construction of the development if requested in writing by the City Council as Local Planning Authority, in response to identified television signal reception problems within the potential impact area a study to identify such measures necessary to maintain at least the pre-existing level and quality of signal reception identified in the survey carried out above shall be submitted for approval in writing by the City Council, as Local Planning Authority. The measures identified must be carried out either before each phase is first occupied or within one month of the study being submitted for approval in writing to the City Council as Local Planning Authority, whichever is the earlier.

Reason - To provide an indication of the area of television signal reception likely to be affected by the development to provide a basis on which to assess the extent to

which the development during construction and once built, will affect television reception and to ensure that the development at least maintains the existing level and quality of television signal reception - In the interest of residential amenity, as specified in policy DM1 of Manchester Core Strategy (2012).

36) All windows at ground level, unless shown otherwise on the approved drawings detailed in condition 3 shall be retained as a clear glazed window opening at all time and views into the premises shall not be screened or obscured in anyway.

Reason - The clear glazed window(s) is an integral and important element in design of the ground level elevations and are important in maintaining a visually interesting street-scene consistent with the use of such areas by members of the public, and so as to be consistent with saved policy DC14 of the Unitary Development Plan for the City of Manchester and policies SP1 and DM1 of the Manchester Core Strategy (2012).

37) The development hereby approved shall include for full disabled access to be provided to all areas of public realm and via the main entrances and to the floors above.

Reason - To ensure that satisfactory disabled access is provided by reference to the provisions Manchester Core Strategy (2012) policy DM1.

38) Prior to the first operation of the development hereby approved a signage strategy for the entire building shall be submitted for approval in writing by the City Council, as Local Planning Authority.

The approved strategy shall then be implemented and used to inform any future advertisement applications for the building.

Reason – In the interest of visual amenity pursuant to policies SP1 and DM1 of the Manchester Core Strategy (2012).

39) Prior to the first occupation of the development hereby approved, details of scheme to extract fumes, vapours and odours from the development shall be submitted for approval in writing by the City Council, as Local Planning Authority. The approved scheme shall then be implemented prior to the first occupation the development and thereafter retained and maintained in situ.

Reason - To ensure appropriate fume extraction is provided for the development pursuant to policies SP1 and DM1 of the Manchester Core Strategy (2012).

## **Informatives**

1) Under the Habitat Regulation it is an offence to disturb, harm or kill bats. If a bat is found during demolition all work should cease immediately and a suitably licensed bat worker employed to assess how best to safeguard the bat(s). Natural England should also be informed.

2) This development may require a permit under the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016 from the Environment Agency for any proposed works or structures, in, under, over or within eight metres of the River Medlock which, is designated a 'main river'. This was formerly called a Flood Defence Consent. Some activities are also now excluded or exempt. A permit is separate to and in addition to any planning permission granted. Further details and guidance are available on the GOV.UK website: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/flood-risk-activitiesenvironmental-permits>.

3) The developer or crane operator must contact Manchester Airports Control of Works Office at least 21 days in advent of intending to erect a crane or other tall construction equipment on the site. This is to obtain a tall equipment permit and to ascertain if any operating restrictions would be required. Any operating restriction that are subsequently imposed by Manchester Airport must be fully complied with.

4) You should ensure that any external wall treatments approved for planning purposes are discussed in full with Building Control to ensure they meet with the guidance contained in the Building Regulations for fire safety. Should it be necessary to change the external facade treatment due to conflicts with Building Regulations, you should also discuss the changes with the Planning team to ensure they do not materially affect your permission.

5) - With a development of a certain height that may/will require use of a tower crane, the developer must bear in mind the following. Tower crane usage adjacent to railway infrastructure is subject to stipulations on size, capacity etc. which needs to be agreed by Network Rail's Asset Protection prior to implementation. Tower cranes have the potential to topple over onto the railway; the arms of the cranes could oversail onto Network Rail air-space and potentially impact any over-headlines, or drop materials accidentally onto the existing infrastructure. Crane working diagrams, specification and method of working must be submitted for review and agreement prior to work(s) commencing on site.

- Network Rail will need to review and agree all excavation and earthworks to determine if the works impact upon the support zone of our land and infrastructure as well as determining relative levels in relation to the railway. Network Rail would need to agree to the following:

- o Alterations to ground levels
- o De-watering works
- o Ground stabilisation works

Network Rail would need to review and agree the methods of construction works on site to ensure that there is no impact upon critical railway infrastructure. No excavation works are to commence without agreement from Network Rail.

Alterations in loading within proximity of the railway boundary must be agreed with Network Rail.



- Soakaways, as a means of storm/surface water disposal must not be constructed near / within 20 metres of Network Rail's boundary or at any point which could adversely affect the stability of Network Rail's property. Once water enters a pipe it becomes a controlled source and as such no water should be discharged in the direction of the railway.

Storm/surface water must not be discharged onto Network Rail's property or into Network Rail's culverts or drains.

Suitable drainage or other works must be provided and maintained by the developer to prevent surface water flows or run-off onto Network Rail's property. Proper provision must be made to accept and continue drainage discharging from Network Rail's property.

Suitable foul drainage must be provided separate from Network Rail's existing drainage.

Drainage works could also impact upon culverts on developers land. Water discharged into the soil from the applicant's drainage system and land could seep onto Network Rail land causing flooding, water and soil run off onto lineside safety critical equipment / infrastructure; or lead to de-stabilisation of land through water saturation.

- To note are:

The current level of railway usage may be subject to change at any time without prior notification including increased frequency of trains, night time train running, heavy freight trains, trains run at weekends /bank holidays.

Maintenance works to trains could be undertaken at night and may mean leaving the trains' motors running which can lead to increased levels of noise and vibration.

Network Rail also often carry out works at night on the operational railway when normal rail traffic is suspended and often these works can be noisy and cause vibration.

Network Rail may need to conduct emergency works on the existing operational railway line and equipment which may not be notified to residents in advance due to their safety critical nature, and may occur at any time of the day or night, during bank holidays and at weekends.

Works to the existing operational railway may include the presence of plant and machinery as well as vehicles and personnel for project or emergency works. The proposal should not prevent Network Rail from its statutory undertaking. Network Rail is a track authority. It may authorise the use of the track by train operating companies or independent railway operators, and may be compelled to give such authorisation. Its ability to respond to any enquiries regarding intended future use is therefore limited.

- The scope and duration of any Noise and Vibration Assessments may only reflect the levels of railway usage at the time of the survey.

o Any assessments required as a part of CDM (Construction Design Management) or local planning authority planning applications validations process are between the developer and their appointed contractor.

o Network Rail cannot advise third parties on specific noise and vibration mitigation measures. Such measures will need to be agreed between the developer, their approved acoustic contractor and the local planning authority.

o Design and layout of proposals should take into consideration and mitigate against existing usage of the operational railway and any future increase in usage of the said existing operational railway.

- The developer is to submit directly to Network Rail, a Risk Assessment and Method Statement (RAMS) for all works to be undertaken in proximity of the operational railway under Construction (Design and Management) Regulations, and this is in addition to any planning consent. Network Rail would need to be re-assured the works on site follow safe methods of working and have also taken into consideration any potential impact on Network Rail land and the existing operational railway infrastructure. Review and agreement of the RAMS will be undertaken between Network Rail and the applicant/developer. The applicant /developer should submit the RAMs directly to:

- As the proposal includes works which may impact the existing operational railway and in order to facilitate the above, a BAPA (Basic Asset Protection Agreement) will need to be agreed between the developer and Network Rail. The developer will be liable for all costs incurred by Network Rail in facilitating this proposal, including any railway site safety costs, possession costs, asset protection costs / presence, site visits, review and agreement of proposal documents and any buried services searches. The BAPA will be in addition to any planning consent.

The applicant / developer should liaise directly with Asset Protection to set up the BAPA.

For major works / large scale developments an Asset Protection Agreement will be required with further specific requirements.

AssetProtectionLNWNorth@networkrail.co.uk

### **Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985**

The documents referred to in the course of this report are either contained in the file(s) relating to application ref: 121252/FO/2018 held by planning or are City Council planning policies, the Unitary Development Plan for the City of Manchester, national planning guidance documents, or relevant decisions on other applications or appeals, copies of which are held by the Planning Division.

**The following residents, businesses and other third parties in the area were consulted/notified on the application:**

**Planning Casework Unit  
Network Rail  
Environmental Health  
MCC Flood Risk Management  
Highway Services  
Greater Manchester Ecology Unit  
Manchester Metropolitan University  
University Of Manchester**

**Environment Agency  
Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service  
Greater Manchester Police  
Historic England (North West)  
Manchester Airport Safeguarding Officer  
National Amenity Societies  
Transport For Greater Manchester  
Canal & River Trust  
Historic England (North West)**

**A map showing the neighbours notified of the application is attached at the end of the report.**

**Representations were received from the following third parties:**

<b>Relevant Contact Officer :</b>	Jennifer Atkinson
<b>Telephone number :</b>	0161 234 4517
<b>Email :</b>	jennifer.atkinson@manchester.gov.uk

