

Manchester City Council Report for Information

Report to: Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee – 10 October 2019

Subject: Archives+ 5 Years On

Report of: The Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods

Summary

The purpose of the report is to provide the Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee an overview of the Archives+ Partnership, five years on from the reopening of Manchester Central Library, where the partners operate.

The report provides information on participation and engagement with Manchester residents and provides insight into each of the partners and examples of the partners working together for the benefit of Manchester residents.

Recommendations

The Committee is asked to note the contents of the report.

Wards Affected: All

Alignment to the Our Manchester Strategy Outcomes (if applicable)

| Manchester Strategy outcomes | Summary of how this report aligns to the OMS |
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| A thriving and sustainable city: supporting a diverse and distinctive economy that creates jobs and opportunities | Archives+ provides volunteering opportunities for Manchester residents, increasing their employability. |
| A highly skilled city: world class and home grown talent sustaining the city's economic success | Archives+ provides volunteering opportunities for Manchester residents, increasing their employability. |
| A progressive and equitable city: making a positive contribution by unlocking the potential of our communities | Archives+ partners engage with communities helping them to uncover and understand the history of their communities. The partnership increases pride in Manchester and its communities. |
| A liveable and low carbon city: a destination of choice to live, visit, work | The partnership increases pride in Manchester and its communities. It ensures that Manchester Central Library is a regional, national and international visitor attraction |
| A connected city: world class | The Archives + has used digital and technology to |

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| infrastructure and connectivity to drive growth | improve the visitor experience and signpost residents and visitors to the wider city history whilst also celebrating some the “firsts” that made Manchester a leading world class city. |
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Background documents (available for public inspection):

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

- Manchester Central Library and Archives+ – two years on - Communities and Equalities Committee 20th July 2016
- Archives+ - One year on - Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committee - 26 May 2015

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The Archives+ partnership operates from Manchester Central Library. Manchester City Council is the lead partner, as the operator of the Greater Manchester County Record Office (GMCRO), on behalf of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority. GMCRO houses over 4 miles of archives, and identifies, collects, preserves, and promotes the widest possible public access to the documentary heritage of Greater Manchester. Manchester City Council also provides its own citywide archives and local history service, collecting the records of Manchester's communities, societies, organisations places of worship, businesses, local government, local history books and photographs. Central Library also houses exceptional rare and early print books, and fascinating special collections.
- 1.2 Central Library reopened following transformation, five years ago. The transformation provided the opportunity to celebrate and showcase Manchester's archives, allowing us to tell the story of Manchester's people through Archives plus and an interactive, dynamic exhibition area. Thousands of Manchester's records are under one roof, and as many as possible are available in either their original or digital form.
- 1.3 The transformation also brought the opportunity to bring various Archives partners together to form the Archives+ partnership all delivering their services from Central Library. The Archives+ partners are:
- Manchester City Council – Libraries and Archives
 - Greater Manchester County Record Office
 - North West Film Archive at Manchester Metropolitan University
 - Ahmed Iqbal Ullah Race Relations Resource Centre (The University of Manchester)
 - Manchester and Lancashire Family History Society.
 - British Film Institute Mediatheque
 - Manchester Jewish Museum have temporarily relocated to Central Library earlier this year and are therefore also temporary members of the Archives+ partnership.
- 1.4 Archives+ was in receipt of £1.55 million Heritage Lottery Funding from 2013-17, to establish the exhibition area and deliver an engagement programme for residents and visitors. The evaluation report produced in 2018 at the end of the HLF funding is attached as an appendix. Since 2017, this engagement programme has been mainstreamed and continues to be extremely effective. Further external funding has been gained by Archives+ partners:

In 2018, The Ahmed Iqbal Ullah Race Relations Resource Centre (The University of Manchester) was awarded £357,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund for the Coming in from the Cold project from 2018 to 2021.

Manchester Libraries and Archives has been awarded £485,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund to be the North West hub of the British Library's Unlocking the UK Sound Heritage. The project runs from 2019 to 2022. As

part of this project, we will work in partnership with the MMU's Manchester Voices project which has recently been awarded £700,000 by the Arts & Humanities Research Council, £50,000 of which is being used to repurpose 2 of the pods in the Archives+ exhibition area.

2.0 Archives Exhibition Area - telling the story of Manchester's people

- 2.1 The Archives+ interactive exhibition at Central Library is considered nationally to be best practice. It is located directly at the main entrance to the library and provides a celebration and education into the history of Manchester and its people. Stories are told in an engaging way to maximise relevance to the lives of today's residents. Due to its location, the majority of the annual 2 million visits will experience Archives+.
- 2.2 The exhibition is a perfect vehicle for class visits, to help the education of Manchester's young people. Thousands of school children each year learn about the history of Manchester's people through class visits. One staff Member has said "It is not easy to explain what an archive is in outreach; the digital exhibits really help with this."
- 2.3 The last twelve months have witnessed two of the most innovative and well received use of the exhibition space.

For the first few months of 2019, the Archives+ exhibition area benefited from a Frank Sidebottom takeover. The Frank Sidebottom / Chris Sievey archives have recently been deposited in Central Library. A selection of the of the archives were exhibited in an innovative and fun way. The exhibition, entitled Bobbins, proved immensely popular with people travelling from all across the country to visit. The North West Film Archives uploaded a large volume of new material from the Sievey archive into the film viewing pods. The number of views of this material was record breaking – 7000 across the two-month exhibition. The previous highest number of views on record was on the opening month of the library in 2014, when there were 2000 views.

16th August marked 200 years since the Peterloo Massacre. Manchester Histories co-ordinated the large scale commemorations. Manchester Central Library was the hub for the commemorations with hundreds of talks and activities plus exhibitions being held throughout the library, including the Archives+ exhibition space.

- 2.4 Comments we have received include:

"The Central Library is an iconic building in the heart of Manchester City Centre. It is a fascinating place to visit with a wonderful archive.

It has a great selection of interactive audio-visual displays along with books, DVD's and other material. We especially love the picture archive and maps which show how Manchester developed and living conditions changed through the years." TripAdvisor review.

“This has become my favourite place in Manchester.” Customer

“We stopped in here after hearing about a tv archive that they have inside. I loved walking around the library and seeing all the different little areas they had inside. They have this brilliant feature where you can book their archive software. I had a date snuggled up in one of their pods watching old Captain Scarlet episodes. It is a great little place to come in and shelter from the rain!” TripAdvisor review.

“At the War Museum they told me that I may find some information in this library. My Granddad had been with the Durham infantry in the WW1. The people here directed me to books which helped me understand that as he was injured he would have been brought back to England then by train to Manchester. Here people with carts or any mobile vehicle would have taken the injured to the makeshift hospitals It was likely that Granddad was cared for at the old boys school. Just like him the people of Manchester helped me also. Thank-You.” TripAdvisor review.

3.0 The Archives+ Partners, engaging with Manchester’s residents

3.1 Each of the Archives+ partners has a positive impact upon residents of Manchester. Not only does Central Library receive 2 million visits per year, the partners also engage residents in their own communities and schools, in outreach activities. The service has a positive impact upon educational attainment, health and wellbeing, skills and employability (e.g. through volunteering opportunities), pride in Manchester and understanding of different cultures within the city.

Here is some information on each of the Archives+ partners

3.2 Manchester Libraries and Archives (including GMCRO)

Manchester Libraries and Archives delivers an archives service across the city’s 22 libraries, with the hub being at Archives+ within Manchester Central Library. We also operate the Greater Manchester County Record Office (GMCRO), on behalf of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority. We are an accredited Place of Deposit with The National Archives. We achieved accredited status in 2015, and re-accredited in 2018. We deliver an enquiry service and develop and maintain archives collections, making them available to customers. The service is considered to be a model of best practice nationally.

Examples of significant projects over the last five years led by Manchester Libraries and Archives include:

3.2.1 Deposit of the archive of the Greater Manchester Coalition of Disabled People (GMCDP). This collection is probably the most significant archive of a disabled people’s organisation in the UK. We have been working in partnership with GMCDP to make the archive accessible to the public.

GMCDP have allocated an Archive Officer to the project and set up a steering group to guide the work. The Archive Officer works for two days a week on the archive, usually in the archive search room, to catalogue and organise the archive. The archive officer also organised a special archive launch event on 19 June which was attended by over 150 people. This collaboration is led by GMCDP to ensure that disabled people are calling the shots on how their history is preserved and managed - support is provided by GMCRO staff but ultimately, decisions about the collection are made by GMCDP. This is a new model for collaboration and has been a successful example of genuine co-production. More information is available at <https://www.gmcdp.com/archive-development-project>

- 3.2.2 Burnage: A Place Called Home is a National Lottery Heritage Fund project exploring and celebrating the rich heritage of social housing in south Manchester. As Manchester Archives, we have provided strategic support as a heritage partner, sitting on the project steering group and working with the project team. We have delivered research training sessions, provided copies of archives and photographs for the project to use, and are providing space in Central Library for an exhibition, symposium and launch event in 2020. The project website, <http://www.burnagehome.co.uk/stories/>, includes a range of fascinating blogs about Burnage's history, and lots of exciting information about building Burnage in Lego!
- 3.2.3 We have continued to work in partnership with the LGBT Foundation on their archive which is deposited with us. The archive volunteers are currently working on a pilot project to conduct oral history interviews with LGBTQ+ people aged 70 and older as part of the Pride in Aging initiative. The time is right for a piece of work like this, as this is the last generation who will remember a time before and after the partial decriminalisation of homosexuality in 1969. We were asked to present on our work on LGBTQ archives at the conference of the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP) in July as our work is seen as exemplary.
- 3.2.4 We have been awarded £485,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund to be the North West hub of the British Library's Unlocking the UK Sound Heritage. The project, which runs from 2019 to 2022, is now fully underway with the three staff beginning in post in February 2019. We are digitally preserving and making available thousands of at risk sound recordings, many of which are part of the North West Sound Archives held in Manchester Central Library. Collections of sound archives held across Greater Manchester and the North West are incorporated within this project. Many of these recordings are oral histories, providing a fascinating insight into the lives of residents of Manchester and the North West, increasing awareness and pride in our communities. We will improve access by making it easier for people to find and listen to audio archives, engage the public in audio archives through events and activities and provide opportunities for residents to volunteer as part of the project.

3.3 North West Film Archive at Manchester Metropolitan University

3.3.1 The NWFA is part of Library Services Special Collections at Manchester Metropolitan University, and is located as a key member of the Archives+ partnership in Central Library. Set up in 1977, the Archive preserves moving images made in or about Greater Manchester, Lancashire, Cheshire, Merseyside and Cumbria and offers a variety of access services to users in the public, academic and commercial sectors.

3.3.2 As part of the Archives+ exhibition area, selections from the NWFA archive are available from three screens in two viewing pods. Over 80,000 films from the NWFA have been watched over the last five years. The NWFA also manages ticketing for the BFI Mediatheque pods.

In 2018/19, NWFA were involved in 64 screenings and events, with an audience of 6,500. Most of this activity is outside the City of Manchester, and it provides Archives+ with regional, national and international impact.

In addition to making the films available at Central Library, the NWFA is involved in partnering and collaborating on others' projects, as well as delivering their own. Some examples of recent NWFA projects are:

3.3.3 **Returning Home** - In 1948, 238 'delicate children' from Manchester and Salford travelled to Switzerland, at the invitation of the Swiss government, to enjoy three months holiday – a post-war gesture of thanks to the British. The children lived with Swiss families and enjoyed the fresh air and open spaces, good food and comfortable homes – in great contrast to the crowded and dirty cities they came from, with poor housing and nutrition. A film of the children's return journey to Manchester's Mayfield Station in June 1948 prompted an attempt to find some of the children on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the trip. A thorough study of the Manchester City Council Education Committee Minute Books from the period revealed a wealth of detail of their selection and their journey in March 1948, and a trawl of newspaper holdings revealed some names and clues to identify some participants, including the officials involved. A media campaign was launched and 20 families came forward, having recognised someone in the film, or with stories about the visit – their own or their relatives. On the exact 70th anniversary, an emotional reunion screening was held at No.70 Oxford Road, with 80 people attending, including 10 of the (now elderly!) 'delicate children' and their families, plus relatives of others no longer with us. The Swiss Consul and his wife were also in attendance. The project is now the subject of further academic research at Manchester Metropolitan University, focussing on how such opportunities impacted on the children in later life.

3.3.4 **Calling Blighty** – servicemen and women send messages home from the Far East in WW2. Beginning in 2015, the NWFA set out to find veterans and relatives of those serving who had sent a filmed message home, to be screened in their local cinema to an invited audience of families and friends. Research in local newspaper holdings was particularly useful in identifying venues and dates. A special reunion screening was held in November 2015

for 230 people, and this was filmed for a Channel 4 documentary about the films and the NWFA's work, aired in June 2016. Further screenings were held, including in the Performance Space. These emotional messages – delivered directly into the camera in the authentic voices of the (mostly) men – have a huge impact on the families, seeing their father/husband/brother as a young man, reassuring them that they are “in the pink”. Many had no idea that a film existed. The surviving local issues of the 'Calling Blighty' series of films are available to view in the Pods in Archives+, as well as on a dedicated website, where people can search a database of 943 messages for their relatives. Since 2015, we have taken the project to Sheffield, Birkenhead, and Brighton and have made 146 connections so far.

3.4 Ahmed Iqbal Ullah Race Relations Resource Centre (The University of Manchester)

- 3.4.1 The Ahmed Iqbal Ullah Race Relations Resource Centre is an anti-racism library and archive that collects material about race, ethnicity and migration. The mission is to support world-leading research around race, ethnicity and migration alongside engaging in meaningful ways with local community groups and schools. Since relocating to Central library as part of Archives+, over 820,000 students, pupils, teachers, academics, visitors, community members and partners have attended events, activities and exhibitions. The Archives+ interactive exhibition and digital displays act like a shop window for the Centre's collection. Highlights of our joint Archives+ events have included Peterloo Massacre commemorations and in 2018, celebrations of the 70th anniversary of the arrival of the Windrush generation.
- 3.4.2 The library collection has 15,000 titles covering topics such as history, culture and identity, arts, politics, and local studies. The Centre also publishes its own books and teaching resources for schools and young readers, created in partnership with Manchester schools and community groups to support multicultural education. They include folk tales written and illustrated by local children, biographies, personal stories and local histories. The folk tales we publish are illustrated by children within their classrooms, and they also tell their own stories enabling their heritage and identity to be reflected in the books they read – often for the first time. In the last five years, 8 books have been co-authored with 301 pupils from 9 different schools.
- 3.4.3 The historical archive is a rich resource for researchers. Collections focus on local BAME community history, significant national collections such as Commission for Racial Equality papers and the Institute of Race Relations papers and oral histories. The oral histories are especially valuable in preserving the voices of those who have traditionally been hidden from history. Training is offered to community groups in collecting oral histories and how best to disseminate and share the material. AIUET supports groups to develop their project ideas and funding applications, and provides training, advice on GDPR, help with publicity and free access to activity /exhibition space.
- 3.4.4 Highlights of activity over the last five years include:

Coming in From the Cold (CIFC) is a three-year project funded by National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) that aims to increase the representation of Black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) communities in archival collections in Greater Manchester. We support community groups to explore and preserve their own heritage, in addition to collecting material for our own extensive archives. We help community groups by building their capacity to be able to lead their own projects and archive their own collections, while at the same time promoting national discourse around race, ethnicity and migration. Since inception CIFC has worked with 59 different community groups (over half of which are from Manchester), many of which whose heritage are not represented in the 'official archives' or the collections of the Ahmed Iqbal Ullah Race Relations Resource Centre. These include those who identify as Armenian, Irish, Zimbabwean, Malawian, Kashmiri and Kurdish. CIFC has provided volunteering opportunities for 35 volunteers, this has included regular volunteering slots for older people helping to reduce social isolation and building capacity with community volunteers to access employability skills. Three BAME archive and library traineeships have been created to attempt to address the lack of diversity in the heritage workforce by providing opportunities for young people to learn skills, gain experience and a qualification in a supportive learning environment.

Youth engagement and anti-racism activity, includes working with young people in schools and communities to support national awareness campaigns such as Holocaust Memorial Week, Refugee Awareness Week and Black History Month by delivering events and activities both here in Central Library and in schools across the city. Numerous volunteer opportunities have been produced and 19 opportunities provided for internships and placements. A recent Year 10 placement student wrote *"I appreciate the centre for making me feel like part of the team and for giving me an opportunity to try out and learn what the centre has to offer. I have gained many transferable skills such as initiative, communication etc. and would prompt anyone looking for a similar experience to go for it."* Another young person said of her placement: *"The trust has taught me the importance of preserving local BAME history, which has helped to shape Manchester as a culturally diverse city. The role has also greatly improved my written and verbal communication skills, archiving skills, digital and marketing skills – all of which look great on a job application."*

In 2017 the Diversity Champions project was launched as an initiative that works with Manchester's youth to raise awareness of many aspects of prejudice and discrimination. There is now a cohort of 6 schools participating, each recruiting two year 8 students to undertake training to equip them with the skills, confidence and knowledge to challenge prejudice faced by a number of marginalised groups in society. The champions will receive training from experts in partner organisations to improve their knowledge and understanding around mental health, equality and diversity, LGBT rights, conflict resolution and bystander roles and responsibilities. The Diversity Champions project has also now grown to become a group that tackles hate crime issues in Manchester. In addition to the 30 principal pupils selected to become Diversity Champions, the project has reached over 1500 pupils over 3 years through the Diversity Champions recruitment assemblies and

workshops that take place at each school since initiation.

3.5 Manchester and Lancashire Family History Society

- 3.5.1 MLFHS was formed in 1964 and is now one of the largest family history societies in the world. Their 30 volunteers operate Central Library's Family History Help Desk for 25-hour per week – approximately 24,000 volunteer-hours over five years. The value to the Council of this work is £56,600 (25 hours x 4 volunteers at £11.32 per hour (this is an accepted figure used for calculating value of volunteers). Free research guidance is provided to members and non-members alike. The service is sustained by 22 four-page printed research guides and a web-based support system. These are continually updated and added to and include current hot-topics including DNA Profiling and tracing Peterloo Ancestors. The numbers receiving the service has grown massively over recent years assisting 350 people in 2008, 3000 in 2015 and now over 4,000 visitors annually. MLFHS volunteers have also recently held a programme of visits to a number of branch libraries in the city, and we will be expanding this over the next couple of years. There are very few examples of family history helpdesks, being delivered by volunteers to this level elsewhere in the country.
- 3.5.2 Over the past five years, the Society has developed its traditional programme of meetings and exhibitions to reach out to members and visitors alike to promote the joys of family history research. 20 all-day Quarterly Meetings have been held with a variety of specialist speakers covering subjects as diverse as War Memorials, the Co-operative Movement, Representation of the Peoples' Act, the Women's Suffrage Movement and the Peterloo Reform Meeting. These meetings have attracted an average of 60 visitors each, some as many as 90. Other activities include 45 Anglo-Scottish branch meetings, a programme of 35 Beginners Talks, seminars on researching War Memorials, Peterloo ancestors, Irish and Scottish records, all held in Central Library. Such meetings together with Handling Sessions and visits by community groups [U3A, schools, fellow family history societies] attract a further 1,000 more visitors per year into the Library.
- 3.5.3 We have worked in partnership with other Archives+ members on other initiatives including Saturday Spectaculars, Grand Days Out, Get Online Week, Caribbean Family History Workshop, the commemoration of the Battle of Manchester Hill and Peterloo commemorations.
- 3.5.4 MLFHS volunteers have also worked on a number of other projects that benefit Manchester's residents. For example they have been transcribing, indexing and digitising local material to preserve records and aid family history research. Millions of records have been produced. Many of these records are shared with our Archives partners and made freely available to the public to inform family history research by means of the public area of the society website.

- 3.5.5 A major initiative throughout 2018 was a series of eleven monthly postings on the Archives+ Blog web-pages to commemorate and celebrate the centenary of the passage of the Representation of the Peoples Act into law in 1918.
- 3.5.6 Inspired by the temporary relocation of Manchester Jewish Museum into the Library, the Society will be seeking opportunities for collaborative activity in the coming year. The Society is working with the Seashell Trust to publish and exhibit material relating to the activities of the Royal Manchester School for the Deaf on the occasion of its bi-centenary in 2023.
- 3.5.7 Engagement with the Archives+ Partnership has encouraged the Society to develop in so many ways to the mutual benefit of all partners. The synergy experienced will be strengthened in the years to come as the partnership continues to grow.

3.6 Manchester Jewish Museum

Manchester Jewish Museum have received £2.9 million to transform their museum in Cheetham Hill. Since July 2019 and until 2021 the Jewish Museum is located within Central Library. The 'Wandering Museum' was officially launched by Sir Richard Leese on 15th July. It is housed within Central Library, and enables visitors to see highlights of their collection. The museum is receiving higher numbers of visits than at its permanent home. The majority of visitors have little previous knowledge of the museum. Most have limited understanding of Jewish faith, history and culture - so being in the library is significantly increasing awareness of the museum. The majority of visitors are 'young adults', which is an age group that traditionally, the museum struggles to attract.

4.0 Archives+ Partners working together

- 4.1 In addition to each service individually delivering services from Central Library, each organisation truly works in partnership with each other. The Archives+ partners all sign up to a partnership charter and have a governance structure including a Board, Steering Group and Working Parties. There are numerous examples of the partners working together for the benefit of residents. A couple of examples are listed below.

4.2 Windrush - 70th anniversary celebrations - 2018

Manchester enjoys a diverse population and this includes many residents with Caribbean connections who make a fantastic contribution to our city. The Ahmed Iqbal Ullah Race Relations Resource Centre (AIU RRRC), organised an exhibition in Manchester Central Library to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the MV Empire Windrush docking at Tilbury. This was supported by the other archive partners. There have been a large number of community-led projects to capture their individual histories and the larger history of the community. We are lucky to hold some of these collections in our archives. The exhibition featured items from the AIU RRRC collection, including information about notable Mancunians of the Windrush generation including

Louise Da-Cocodia who was an anti racism campaigner and former Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Manchester who was the first black senior nurse in Manchester, reproductions of National Archive records of passenger logs from MV Empire Windrush, printouts of historical newspapers carrying both positive and negative interpretations of Windrush. A small group from Women's Footprints did a digital session, collecting articles and images on ipads for their IT course at Brunswick church and three young volunteers spoke to visitors and shared what they have learnt about Windrush when researching for their blogs. A blog about Windrush was published every day on the AIU RRRC blog for three days over the anniversary.

4.3 Cheetham Festival 2019

To celebrate Manchester Jewish Museum's temporary move into Manchester Central Library, the Archives+ partners held a special Cheetham Festival event in the building in September 2019. The day featured activity from all Archives+ partners in a joint programme of events. The day featured archive handling sessions, family activities and behind the scenes tours of Manchester Central Library on 21. This provided the Cheetham Festival with its only city centre event, and encouraged more people to attend the festival, promoting one of the city's most vibrant and diverse neighbourhoods.

5.0 Collections Development

- 5.1 One of the aims of Archives+ is to ensure its collections reflect contemporary Manchester, and make as many of these collections available either digitally or in 'hard-copy'. Significant collection development within Archives+ over the last five years include
- 5.2 LGBT Collections - The Library and Archive of the Lesbian and Gay Foundation alongside the library's existing LGBT History collections trace the development of the Gay Village and LGBT politics, culture and services in the city region from the 1960s to the present day.
- 5.3 Building Control Archives - the records of the Council's Building Control dating back to 1890 are now held in Archives+ They were previously stored in the Town Hall Extension basement. The archive is of architectural and historic significance. Part of this collection is the Town Hall Photographer collection which is currently being digitised by a large number of volunteers and the photographs being made available on Flickr.
- 5.4 The Greater Manchester elements of the North West Sound Archive were transferred to Archives+ in 2015. Parts of this Archive will be digitised and made available by the British Library Unlocking The UK Sound Heritage Project, described in 3.2
- 5.5 Cooper Street Tower, Sewer Plan archives - the Cooper Street of the Town Hall contained a complete archive for underground Manchester. A team from archives worked in partnership with the Our Town Hall project team to decant

the collection to Deepstore as part of the Our Town Hall transformation project.

5.6 Frank Sidebottom / Chris Sievey Archive - this collection was deposited with GMCRO by the Sievey family after the completion of the Being Frank documentary film directed by Steve Sullivan. A unique archive documenting a singular talent, the collection formed the basis of the hugely successful Bobbins exhibition.

5.7 Manchester Together Archive

We have been working with Manchester Art Gallery and the University of Manchester on the Manchester Together Archive. This project (supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund) aims to develop a digital archiving platform to support the digitisation, development and interpretation of more than 10,000 items that were left in the spontaneous memorials in St Ann's Square and elsewhere in Manchester after the Arena attack on 22nd May 2017.

5.8 Many archives collections now exist in digital form. Greater Manchester Lives is the current web portal and one-stop shop for Archives in Greater Manchester. Archives+ is currently procuring a new replacement web portal to improve access to archives catalogues and digitised collections. This will be launched in 2020.

6.0 Greater Manchester Archives and Local Studies Partnership

6.1 The Greater Manchester Archives and Local Studies Partnership (GMCRO) was formed of the 10 GM Local Authorities, led by GMCRO. It is held in high regard nationally as a model of best practice, and enables each of the 10 authorities to deliver better Archives services than if we were working in isolation.

6.2 An example of GMALSP work that has benefited Manchester's residents includes its focus on volunteering. Volunteering has been a key workstream in all the GMALSP action plans. Several hundred volunteers have been actively engaged with archives work in Greater Manchester archives services, over the last five years. The majority of those have been in Manchester within Archives+. The volunteers have enabled services to be developed and delivered and projects to happen - including digitisation. Without volunteers, archives would not be available to the public as extensively as they are. Volunteering also has major benefits to our residents. Many of our younger volunteers have found work as a result of their volunteering, and they have generally gained confidence. Volunteering has proved a lifeline to many of our residents who were previously suffering loneliness or social anxiety. GMALSP has assisted us with this through developing volunteering policies, creating projects that provide volunteering opportunities and through organising the annual GMALSP volunteering awards, where Manchester residents have had great success on receiving awards.

7.0 Future priorities of the Archives+ Partnership

- 7.1 The Archives+ Partners are committed to continuing to develop and deliver archives services that improve the lives of Manchester residents, and meet the priorities of the city. We will be focussing on services that improve residents health and wellbeing, educational attainment, and civic pride. Future specific priorities include:
- 7.2 Income / Commercialisation. there has been success in creating new income streams through retail, the café, licensing / reproduction, and family history research. In particular we have seen an increase in reproduction requests and income for the use of old photographs in redevelopment and regeneration projects. However we are currently exploring further avenues for commercialisation and raising income for Archives+ and Central Library.
- 7.3 Fundraising - The Archives+ partnership has been very successful in attracting external funding, and each Central Library partner are continuing to explore a range of fundraising opportunities, including the National Lottery Heritage Fund. The Central Library Development Trust has attracted significant contributions from a range of funding bodies which are otherwise unavailable to our organisations.
- 7.4 Neighbourhood Focus - Continue to develop strategies through digitisation and engagement that allow Central Library's archives and collections to be taken out to communities and neighbourhoods across Manchester.
- 7.5 Cultural and events programme. Support the Arts Council funded Library Live programme at Central Library, holding high profile joint Archives+ partner events, to attract 1000s of people from all ages, and engaging residents with the Archive collections in innovative, engaging ways.
- 7.6 Digital access to collections. Continue the digitisation of collections, and make them available via an archives web portal that will replace GM Lives, for example our current project to digitise family history resources in partnership with FindMyPast which will make rate books and electoral registers from across Greater Manchester available online up to 1939, opening up a whole new area for research.
- 7.7 Work with community groups, building capacity within communities. Evaluation to date of Coming In From the Cold project has highlighted the community-focused approach to heritage used by AIU RRRC. This presents a real opportunity to develop new models of community working across the Archives+, ensuring the legacy of this National Heritage Lottery Fund project is fully embedded in working practices and influences collections development and engagement work.