

**Manchester City Council
Report for Information**

Report to: Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee – 5 December 2019

Subject: Peterloo Massacre 200th Anniversary Programme

Report of: The Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods)

Summary

Report to provide an overview of events which marked the 200th anniversary of the Peterloo Massacre in 2019.

Recommendations

The Committee is asked to note the report.

Wards Affected: All

Environmental Impact Assessment - the impact of the issues addressed in this report on achieving the zero-carbon target for the city

The Peterloo 2019 programme has been developed and delivered in a way that considers the climate crisis and promotes environmental sustainability through the event production, promotion and marketing activities.

In the Peterloo Anniversary Event production, 'From the Crowd', a piece of political theatre inspired by the spirit of Peterloo, the climate crisis was interwoven as a key theme in the performance.

Manchester Strategy outcomes	Summary of how this report aligns to the OMS
A thriving and sustainable city: supporting a diverse and distinctive economy that creates jobs and opportunities	Arts and culture play an important role within the city's growth strategy by attracting investment, raising the profile of the city, creating employment opportunities and contributing to the city's tourism offer.
A highly skilled city: world class and home grown talent sustaining the city's economic success	Engagement in arts, culture and heritage events, activities and exhibitions enable local residents to learn new skills, learn about the past and participate in creative programmes including volunteering.
A progressive and equitable city: making a positive contribution by unlocking the potential of our	Engagement in arts and culture enables local residents to improve their health and wellbeing, to develop confidence and resilience, to learn new

communities	skills and above all enjoy and celebrate great arts and heritage activities.
A liveable and low carbon city: a destination of choice to live, visit, work	Creative, artistic and heritage opportunities generate commissions, productions and performances which attract national and international visitors as well as engage local residents.
A connected city: world class infrastructure and connectivity to drive growth	The city's cultural organisations have international reach and increasingly produce digital artistic products which support connectivity with other places. The digital platforms and content produced for Peterloo 2019 have enabled the project to achieve an international reach.

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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.

Please refer to Appendix 1 for a list of links to further information.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Peterloo 2019 was a commemorative programme organised to mark the bi-centenary of one of the most important episodes in the history of Manchester. The Peterloo Massacre is widely acknowledged as a significant event in the history of public protest, democracy, universal suffrage and is a part of Manchester's radical tradition.
- 1.2 The regional and national significance of the anniversary of Peterloo presented an enormous opportunity to engage residents and reach wider audiences through arts, culture, history and heritage activities. A programme of special events from June - August 2019 was led and delivered by Manchester Histories.
- 1.3 Manchester Histories is a growing and dynamic charity that works collaboratively with people, organisations, and partners to reveal, share and celebrate Greater Manchester's diverse histories and heritage. The organisation works throughout the year delivering projects, training, exhibitions, events, networks and works with communities to recognise, explore and value histories. It also organises the annual Manchester Histories Festival.
- 1.3 Manchester Histories led the Peterloo 2019 programme in partnership with a wide range of over 46 different cultural organisations, groups and people including Manchester City Council.
- 1.4 The Peterloo 2019 programme was underpinned by three central themes: Protest, Democracy, Freedom of Speech. It explored issues of contemporary relevance linked to the events 200 years ago, including democracy, political participation and citizenship.
- 1.5 Manchester Central Library was the hub of Peterloo activity and played a pivotal role; launching the commemorations with Manchester Histories Festival in June 2019 and hosting a number of exhibitions, talks, and events, including four 'Guardian Live' debates, a photography exhibition by artist Red Saunders and People's Landscapes by the National Trust.
- 1.6 Manchester Art Gallery created an exhibition inspired by Peterloo called 'Get Together and Get Things Done' that was developed with community groups and constituents to explore the wider theme of 'the crowd' through international historic and contemporary art - with group activity that enabled the exhibition to be shaped by the crowds who used it.
- 1.7 The city council also commissioned events to commemorate the day of the 200th Anniversary, supported the communications strategy for the Peterloo 2019 programme and worked with Manchester Histories, Read Manchester and the British Council on an educational project and resource called Radical Read.

2 Participation and Engagement Approach

- 2.1 In the spirit of Peterloo, the Peterloo 2019 Programme's themes were of Protest, Democracy and Freedom of speech. The content of the programme and even the visual identity for the Peterloo 2019 were developed in collaboration with partners, community groups and interested individuals. From the outset there was an ambition for Peterloo 2019 to be an inclusive programme, with a digital and marketing infrastructure to support and act as an umbrella for diverse events and activities across the city.
- 2.2 Peterloo 2019 was a 'people's project'. The programme was co-created and promoted over a four year period by a wealth of cultural and community partners and a number of networks and steering groups used successfully to support collaborative programming, partnerships and to inform decision-making.
- 2.3 Manchester Histories facilitated and developed a network of partners and individuals with steering groups as decision making mechanisms to guide the development of the programme.
- The project's Public Steering Group had close to 100 members of the public. Peterloo Network Meetings were held quarterly to share news of events and ideas and to consult with plans.
 - A Cultural Steering Group comprised of over 46 heads of services from cultural institutions across Greater Manchester such as People's History Museum, Manchester Museum, Manchester Art & Craft Centre, Manchester Art Gallery, John Rylands Library, Ahmed Iqbal Ullah Race Relations Resource Centre, University of Manchester and Manchester Metropolitan University
 - The network ratified and selected spokespersons for a smaller, Central Steering Group that combines representatives from both public and cultural networks into one decision making body. The Central Steering Group started meeting in February 2018.
- 2.4 The identified aims of Peterloo 2019 set out a vision to create a fitting commemoration for this once in a lifetime opportunity to mark this significant anniversary of the Peterloo Massacre in 2019. The programme, special projects and engagement strategy were all designed to:
- Create a fitting, meaningful and high-profile response, that reflects the significance of the event 200 years ago.
 - Raise the profile of the Peterloo Massacre as a key historical event of local and national importance.
 - Get to the truth of the events - with research and a review of the archives to understand Peterloo today and by building learning tools that act as a legacy for future generations.
 - Invoke the spirit of those who gathered in Peter's Field in 1819 and respect and honour those that lost their lives.
 - Challenge people to assess the health of democratic processes today.

- Engage partners, residents, community groups and descendants in the co-creation of a programme that is inclusive and achieved in a way that embodies the project principles of Protest, Democracy and Freedom of Speech.

3 Peterloo 2019 Events Programme

- 3.1 The collaborative efforts towards a fitting programme started in 2014, gained national Lottery Heritage funding support in 2017 with a development grant secured by Manchester Histories and People's History Museum. With a further National Lottery Heritage Fund award in 2018, Manchester Histories went on to create the digital and marketing platform and led with partners several key strands of activity.
- 3.2 Between June and September 2019, over 180 events and activities were presented and produced by 46 cultural partners and 50 community groups, including Manchester Art Gallery, Manchester Libraries, Manchester International Festival, The People's History Museum, John Ryland's Library, Manchester Metropolitan University, University of Manchester, Manchester Craft & Design Centre and library services across Greater Manchester.
- 3.3 The programme featured exhibitions, talks, tours, debates exploring all aspects of this important event in Manchester's history and understanding the tragic event's contribution to the creation of democracy in the UK. And Peterloo 2019 was a Greater Manchester wide programme, mirroring the significance of the story across the city region. Key highlights from the programme are featured in a printed brochure.
- 3.4 With funding support from the National Heritage Lottery Fund Manchester Histories also directly delivered with partners a number of key strands of work.

4 Learning Resources

- 4.1 Manchester Histories partnered with the People's History Museum, Historic England, the Politics Project, UK Parliament, Age of Revolution, RECLAM, Read Manchester, Manchester City Council to develop and deliver a range of learning resources for Peterloo 2019. Working together to co-produce new learning resources and tools for schools and co-producing youth led animations and resources aimed at young people.

"I am delighted that the new Peterloo Learning Resources have been produced. It's really important that children and young people are taught about social and radical history in our schools and in any educational or community setting. Hidden histories, like the Peterloo Massacre, are significant moments that have shaped contemporary Britain as we know it. Future generations need to know this. The new learning resources will help to ensure that we never forget what happened on that fateful day of 16th August 1819." **Mike Leigh, Director of Peterloo** (film)

5 Participation, Engagement & Volunteering

5.1 'My Family Tree' - A Peterloo Descendants Story:

Working in partnership with the Manchester & Lancashire Family History Society and Michala Hulme, a leading oral historian and genealogist based at Manchester Metropolitan University, Manchester Histories unearthed descendants from Peterloo with the help of volunteer researchers from across GM. This project has created a toolkit for the training and support of people who want to research their own family tree.

5.2 In partnership with The Manchester Centre for Public History and Heritage at Manchester Metropolitan University, independent filmmaker Mat Johns and genealogist Michala Hulme filmed six modern day descendants, inviting them to tell their stories of their Peterloo family connections.

"Many thanks to you both for the hospitality, organisation and kindness, I had a wonderful time, talked to so many amazing folk, and am only just coming down from all the aftermath. Did you see my bit in The Guardian on Saturday? A full page, no less!" **Sue Stennett, Peterloo Descendant**

5.3 Peterloo Ambassadors - Volunteer Training Programme:

Manchester Histories trained a team of 30 'Peterloo Ambassadors' for the commemorations in 2019. The volunteers were representatives of the ten boroughs of Greater Manchester and supported the commemoration activity in 2019. The programme provided an enjoyable, meaningful, values-led experience for all volunteers rooted in the spirit of Peterloo. It provided skill sharing and training opportunities for volunteers ensuring practical knowledge of Peterloo Massacre and opportunities for self directed learning. Some of the ambassadors had never volunteered before but were initially attracted to taking part because of the offer of learning more about Peterloo. These ambassadors are now eager to volunteer more and for a variety of different causes in the future.

"I enjoyed manning the desk in the library... it gave me an opportunity to chat with a wide range of the public, both local and visitors from the UK and abroad.....helping them with a greater understanding about Peterloo and its circumstances." **Peterloo Ambassador**

5.4 HOME / BFI Film Academy:

The BFI Film Academy was a youth led film project involving the production of a new fictional short film inspired by the themes of Peterloo. It was created by 18 young people from across Greater Manchester exploring how protest, democracy and freedom of speech relate to their daily lives in Greater Manchester. Taught by experts from the film industry and historian Professor Robert Poole, the young film-makers were shown how to produce and edit moving image, learning valuable new skills and the opportunity to be part of the future of the film industry in the UK.

"This film is genuinely incredible. Shot with realism but with a sprinkling of hope. Congratulations to all. What an amazing thing to be part of." **Jason**

Wood, Artistic Director of Film at HOME & Professor of Film at Manchester Metropolitan University

5.5 SOAPBOX:

Manchester Histories Soapbox was designed and constructed by Architecture and Art & Design students from Manchester Metropolitan University and the University of Manchester and supported by Laing O'Rourke. A 'take-over' at All Saints Park on Oxford Road created Manchester's own Hyde Park corner to enable different artists, performers and poets to have their say. SOAPBOX has since been out on tour including; The King's Street Festival Manchester, Oldham Parliament Square and for the day at the Peterloo anniversary weekend at HOME where audiences were invited to take part in a Peterloo Picnic.

"Soapbox gave speakers the opportunity to have a platform from which to voice their creative responses to the events and themes of Peterloo. What was particularly powerful to see was the presence of young people sharing their views, hopes and aspirations for the future in such an insightful and moving way. Really made you think and reflect on society today". **Naomi Whitman Creative Producer**

5.6 Protest Music with RNCM & Streetwise Opera:

In partnership with the Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester Histories used archive materials relating to protest and offered contemporary artists and students at RNCM the opportunity to reinterpret archival material and the story of Peterloo in the form of 21st Century protest music. Protest Music brought together a community of Manchester-based creative artists – including MC Fox (Levelz, Swing Ting), che3kz, performers from arts and homelessness charity Streetwise Opera, electronic composer/producer Mandy Wigby (aka Architects of Rosslyn), composer Katie Chatburn and the Ignition Orchestra to create brand-new, original protest music and perform together on the RNCM's main stage.

"Participating in Protest Music was a total joy. The Streetwise Opera performers in Manchester are very proud citizens of their city, and the project felt like an excellent opportunity for them to dive into a key moment in Manchester's history, in a way that felt both deeply creative and highly informative.

From an organisational perspective, it was the first time that we had worked with Manchester Histories; they brought a real level of historical depth to the project (augmented by an excellent talk from Historian Robert Poole) and deftly brought multiple partners together to commemorate the Peterloo bicentennial anniversary with heart, power and skill. We are very thankful to have been invited to take part in the project, and we would love to work with them again." **Marigold Hughes, Head of Programme, Streetwise Opera**

6 Identity, Digital Platform and Marketing Strategy

- 6.1 The unified brand and communications strategy provided a single digital platform for all events information and public engagement in the Peterloo story developed by Dinosaur, a communications agency based in Manchester. The work was supported by a Digital Assets Steering Group including academics, developers, advisors and Manchester Histories staff.
- 6.2 Manchester Histories commissioned a 'go to' online platform for all Peterloo related activities, events and information for regional, national and international audiences. It was developed to provide an accessible, informative and dynamic user experience to engage public audiences in the causes, events, consequences and impacts of the Peterloo Massacre.
- 6.3 The website became a popular resource for audiences looking for things to do during the Peterloo 2019 programme. As well as featuring listings for the 2019 programme it features an interactive story which was profiled by BBC News and featured on the 6pm News in August 2019. There were 45,982 visitors to the website between June and August 2019 with over 138,000 pages viewed. Notably 9% of visitors were from overseas, including 4% from the USA.
- 6.4 The website will continue to be a living archive to the 2019 commemorations and will be managed by Manchester Histories for the next 5 years, and includes resources such as a timeline of events leading up to and after the Massacre, a digital archive of information, eyewitness accounts from 1819, a map of where victims were from in the city and beyond and accessible learning resources for schools.
- 6.5 Manchester Histories worked with Fido PR and design company Imagine to deliver the brand identity for Peterloo 2019 which was deployed across the programme and by all partners. The brand identity for Peterloo 2019 was developed through public consultation and co-production sessions with over 120 residents of the city region.
- 6.6 From banners on the columns at Manchester Central Library, to 'clean graffiti' in St Peters Square, the brand was also featured on pin badges, used in pamphlets, through social media and with the support of the city council's communication team, on digital screens and billboards.
- 6.7 Manchester Histories and Fido PR also worked together to release all the key press releases for the programme, and set up a Marketing & Communications steering group consisting of officers from Manchester City Council, Manchester Central, and Marketing Manchester to promote and profile work.
- 6.8 Manchester Histories and Fido PR established good working relationships with key media partners including The Guardian, BBC Radio Manchester, MEN, BBC North West Tonight, Granada Reports, BBC Radio 4, Channel

Four News, and local stations such as Manchester TV and ALL FM to ensure the story of Peterloo reached different audiences.

- 6.9 Marketing Manchester played a key role, working with Manchester Histories they connected visitors to this story. Marketing Manchester commissioned a short film starring actor Neil Bell, who had had a starring role in Mike Leigh's *Peterloo* feature film.
- 6.10 The short film encouraged day visits to Manchester by highlighting the significance of Peterloo within the context of the modern city. Broadcast in its entirety by Granada Report on ITV, the film targeted potential visitors in the North West and the film sat at the heart of an integrated digital media and PR campaign that achieved a mass market audience. Marketing Manchester's film also reached 2800 people via Marketing Manchester's and Manchester Histories' YouTube presence and reached 14,836 people via Marketing Manchester's Facebook page with 4,200 video views.

7 200th Anniversary Events - Friday 16th August 2019

- 7.1 It was felt important that the day of the 200th anniversary of Peterloo should be marked in a significant way. Manchester City Council commissioned Manchester Histories with Brighter Sound and Walk the Plank to produce a major outdoor performance event called 'From the Crowd' and other performances including the 'Reading of the Names' to mark the moment when the massacre took place 200 years ago.
- 7.2 Situated outside Manchester Central, close to the original site of St Peter's Field, the performance 'From the Crowd' was a piece of politically inspired theatre and music led by Common Wealth Theatre and composer Robin Richards of the Dutch Uncles. Volunteer 'Laurels' performed and supported participation so the 'crowd' became part of the event and guest composers, musicians, singers, beatboxers and a volunteer choir all joined forces to create a moving and immersive performance.
- 7.3 The production included authentic voices of people protesting today about subjects including disability access, LGBT+ rights, homelessness and climate change and was interwoven with the voices of the past including verbatim accounts of the massacre.
- 7.4 A section of the day entitled Rebel Karaoke provided a platform for hundreds of people to take to the stage outside Manchester Central to perform. Including Streetwise Opera and Commoners Choirs, performer poets and artists such as Aziz Ibrahim, and Cheetham Hill Poet.
- 7.5 At 1.30pm, the time of the massacre 200 years ago, this poignant moment was marked by a powerful poem written and performed by one of the city's most exciting up-and-coming poets, Jardel Rodrigues. His piece introduced the 'Reading of the Names' of the dead and a digital screen takeover across the city centre at 1.30 pm to help to amplify the moment.

- 7.6 The Reading of the Names has become a tradition over the last 15 years in the lead up to the bicentenary as a focal point for campaigns to raise the profile of Peterloo and its social and political significance. Those invited to take part in this solemn and moving part of the event included, film directors Danny Boyle and Mike Leigh, Peterloo volunteer ambassadors, the Mayor of Manchester, representation from the Peterloo Memorial Campaign Group and one of the descendants of those who died in the massacre had travelled from the USA to take part.

"It was very beautiful to see a kind of commemoration that was not just something that you stood and watch but where people were encouraged to join in, to speak parts of it. There was a great spoken-word guy - Jardel Rodrigues, he was excellent, really good. And there was a girl, Olivia [McFadden] who read one of the names and at the mayor's speeches. She did a story of a woman, who her and her child were killed, and she was brilliant - absolutely brilliant.

It was a privilege to be part of it and to read one of the names. I read the name of Joseph Whitworth from Hyde who was 19 and was shot by infantry at New Cross on August the 18th..." **Danny Boyle, participant in the Reading of the Names, Film Director and Patron of HOME in an interview with the Manchester Evening News**

- 7.7 A civic reception was also held and guests were invited see part of the performance, and in particular the Reading of the Names. Descendants from those present at the Peterloo massacre were the council's guests of honour and to accompany the speeches there were performances by school girl Olivia McFadden, who had written the winning entry of the Radical Read project, and young musicians from the Brighter Sound and the People's History Museum's 'Disrupt' residency .

- 7.8 Over 5,000 audience members participated and attended on the day despite torrential rain. Shortly after the event an on-line evaluation survey was sent to all audiences members who had signed up for online advance tickets by an external evaluator. Key findings from the evaluation report:

"What took people by surprise was the quality, scale and level of ambition of the production; the level of care and authenticity created in the engagement / participation process; the mixing of historic and contemporary; the emotional reactions of the crowd / audience; and the diversity and camaraderie of the participants.

The project has inspired people to find out more about Peterloo; volunteer more / again; join a political party; cherish the memory; research their family background; continue new found friendships; participate in more history / arts activities; campaign; see current issues in a longer historical / political context; learning British Sign Language; have better resources for teaching Peterloo in school; collaborate more." **Sally Fort Interim Evaluation Report**

8 Peterloo Weekend Friday 16th to Sunday 18th August

The day of the anniversary of the massacre on Friday 16th August also marked the start of a Peterloo Weekend with a wealth of events and activities, talks and performances taking place across the city. A targeted communications and marketing campaign also reached out to visitors and residents to the city.

9 Manchester Art Gallery

9.1 The *Get Together and Get Things Done* project ran from 17th May to 29th September 2019 as part of the city-wide Peterloo 2019 programme.

9.2 A project group from across the gallery's learning and curatorial teams worked together to test new ways of exhibition-making to explore the meaning and importance of crowds and collective action, and general usership of the gallery as a public space. The exhibition used works from the collection combined with works on loan and by contemporary artists/designers, to explore new contexts for public collections and artworks. Interpretation was crowd-sourced as a way of bringing wider social and political thoughts and meaning into the exhibition and relating these to the artworks on display.

9.3 Gallery 17 and Studio One at the gallery were used as bookable spaces for not-for-profit groups to gather. This revealed the strong need for a free public space in the city, and the legacy of the project has been to continue to offer Studio One as an open bookable space beyond the end of the exhibition. The team at Manchester Art Gallery has continued to develop relationships with groups who have used the studio, and this will influence and enhance the future gallery programme.

10 Radical Read

10.1 Radical Read is a project aimed at 14 – 18-year-olds, and is a lasting resource developed by the city council for use in schools, colleges and other youth settings. Radical Read forms part of the Read Manchester initiative and aims to promote the enjoyment of reading.

10.2 Inspired by Manchester's commemoration of the Peterloo Massacre, Radical Read is a flexible reading and learning resource, designed to be used in and out of the classroom. The online pack contains 15 themes exploring the involvement of young people in peaceful protest. Powerful stories of how young people have used protest and collective action to promote democratic rights frame the pack and encourage its readers to understand, examine and articulate the themes more broadly.

10.3 To pilot Radical Read, a competition was developed inspiring young writers in schools to write short stories or poems. The winning entrant received a prize and the opportunity to work with an editor to hone their work. Olivia McFadden, a year 9 student at Barlow RC High School penned the winning

entry and with fellow pupils Olin Byrne and Niamh Burn, the three finalists were invited to read their work at the Peterloo Network Meeting at the People's History. All three gave confident engaging readings to the packed audience and received trophies from Councillor Rahman, Executive Member for Schools, Culture & Leisure.

- 10.4 Olivia McFadden was also asked to perform her work at Manchester Art Gallery and at the Civic Reception held to mark the day of the 200th anniversary. She also joined descendants and dignitaries to read one of the names of the dead outside Manchester Central.

11 Peterloo inspired events and projects in Manchester International Festival - MIF19

11.1 Rise Like Lions:

At Manchester International Festival in 2019, the Guardian newspaper marked 200 years since the Peterloo massacre with a special commission: a visual celebration of the rallying cries from a history of unrest and commemorating how Peterloo led to the founding of the Manchester Guardian. The film by 'Greenaway & Greenaway' was premiered to a packed audience at Festival Square with other readings and performances and also at the Anniversary Event outside Manchester Central.

11.2 THE ANVIL: ANU:

MIF marked the 200th anniversary of Peterloo with an extraordinary day of performance, poetry and music on 7th July. Theatre company ANU created a series of 15 artistic interventions in Manchester city centre, all completely free. From theatre and dance to soundscapes and visual art, this day-long immersion is inspired by those who died at Peterloo – but also by the lives, stories and concerns of those living in Manchester today, from zero-hours contracts to climate change, forging a vital new connection between 1819 and our 21st-century city. Performances took place in settings including the Town Hall Extension customer services area, on a side street by Friends Meeting House and in a hotel board room.

11.3 THE ANVIL: An elegy for Peterloo with Emily Howard, Michael Symmons Roberts and BBC Philharmonic:

The Festival premiered a major new piece of music by composer Emily Howard and writer Michael Symmons Robert at the Bridgewater Hall. Commissioned by Manchester International Festival, the BBC Philharmonic and BBC Radio 3 and performed by the BBC Philharmonic and a huge massed chorus featuring the BBC Singers and three Hallé choirs, it was both an elegy to the fallen and a celebration of our city.

12 Cathedral Service

Manchester Cathedral held a service to commemorate the Peterloo Massacre on Sunday 7th July. The multi faith service included Christian, Jewish, hindu, Muslim and Sikh readings and prayers and readings of accounts of the terrible events of 16th August 1819.

13 Role of Manchester Central Library as a Hub for Peterloo 2019

- 13.1 Manchester's flagship Central Library was the perfect location as the Peterloo Hub. Since reopening in 2014 the library has become a key component part of all major events and festivals which place in the city and is now firmly positioned as the heart of the cultural ecology. The performance spaces and Archives+ were used for a wide range of events attracting new audiences as well as bringing Peterloo to the attention of library customers and people visiting the library - engaging them in a number of 'open' activities on the ground floor of the library. The library and Archives+ contain numerous stories relating the history of the city, available in print, digital, film and sound. It is a natural fit as a museum of Manchester from which visitors can be signposted to other social history institutions and organisations across Greater Manchester and beyond.
- 13.2 The library provided a central and accessible space for people to put on their own events and activities supported by Manchester Histories 'Open Call' model of engagement. This meant a host of different groups and organisations had the opportunity to use the performance spaces, often for the first time, to have their say, perform, debate, question, be more aware of, and acquire shared knowledge about the Peterloo Massacre and the world we live in today. 6,168 free tickets booked for Manchester Histories events at Manchester Central Library.

"The contribution of the space in the heart of the city and library staff time was crucial in making the Peterloo 2019 programme a real success." **Karen Shannon, Chief Executive Manchester Histories**

- 13.3 Attendance figures suggest that the Peterloo events programmes and exhibitions included the 'The Hidden Project - Peterloo Massacre Tableaux' by photographer Red Saunders helped to attract people to the Central Library over the summer 2019. It is notable that in August 2018 the city also benefited for the Manchester Bee trail which also boosted visitor numbers to the Library.

Manchester Central Library Visitors Figures

	2019	2018	2017
June	155 192	120 893	130 766
July	185 113	138 400	124 327
August	172 923	195 409	121 514

September	171 462	161 937	123 560
Total	<u>684 690</u>	<u>616 639</u>	<u>500 167</u>

14 Conclusion

- 14.1 The partners have been delighted with the response by the public and media to the Peterloo 2019 programme. As a unique opportunity to plan a commemorative programme in an inclusive and collaborative way, Peterloo 2019 has been regarded as a resounding success. The best practice developed and learning from the project will feed and inspire future initiatives and programmes.
- 14.2 In addressing those ambitions listed in 2.4 of the report, Manchester Histories and its partners feel the year's commemorations have successfully increased awareness of the story of Peterloo and its significance for Manchester and UK political history. With a series of learning resources and online information, Manchester Histories and its partners are in a position to support and inspire school children and the wider public for years to come.
- 14.3 The Peterloo programme and events held on the day of the anniversary successfully created a fitting, meaningful and high-profile response, that reflected the significance of the event 200 years ago. The programme, whilst honoring and respecting the sacrifice of the 18 people who lost their lives and over 700 people injured on the 16th August 1819, it also challenged people to assess the health of democratic processes today, connected to contemporary protests such as climate change and social justice campaigns across the world.
- 14.4 The timely release of a new feature film directed by Mike Leigh that premiered in the city at HOME in November 2018, and was screened as part of Peterloo 2019 programme also helped to further raise the profile and awareness of the story.
- 14.5 There was significant media coverage, especially in the week of the anniversary, with several features in national newspapers including The Guardian, Independent and Mirror, as well as broadcast coverage on ITV's News at 10, BBC North West, BBC Radio 4.
- 14.6 Particular praise should go to Manchester Histories for having devised and developed such an impressive collaborative project. Thanks also to all the cultural partners, community groups, historians and passionate residents of Manchester who have come together to mark the 200th Anniversary of the Peterloo Massacre in a moving and inspiring tribute to the courage of those that fought for democracy in 1819.