



# CASTLEFIELD

Preserving, improving, living -  
in the heart of our city



## **Relevant Body Supporting Statement**

Castlefield Neighbourhood Area Application

Castlefield Forum

January 2016

Ref: CNP.2016.002a

Castlefield Forum  
Castlefield  
Manchester

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**Castlefield Forum**

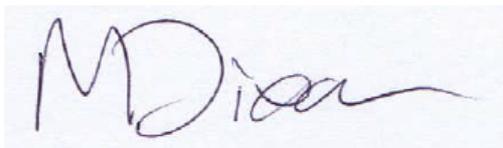
**Castlefield Neighbourhood Area Application**

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**January 2016**

**Ref: CNP.2016.002a**

**Authorised for and on behalf of Castlefield Forum**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M Dixon', on a light blue background.

**Matthew Dixon**  
**Neighbourhood Plan Action Group Leader**

This report takes into account the particular requirements of the Castlefield Forum. It is not intended for and should not be relied upon by any third party. Any such party relies on this report at their own risk.

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# 1. Introduction

1.1.1. This relevant body supporting statement accompanies a neighbourhood area application to Manchester City Council (MCC) by Castlefield Forum.

1.1.2. The neighbourhood area application is for the:

*Designation of a neighbourhood area to be known as 'Castlefield Neighbourhood Area' administered by the Castlefield Forum*

1.1.3. In accordance with the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, 61G (2,b) this relevant body supporting statement demonstrates that the Castlefield Forum is capable of becoming the designated forum for the neighbourhood area being applied for.

1.1.4. A separate application will be made in accordance with the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, 61F to designate Castlefield Forum as the relevant body for the neighbourhood area once the boundary has been determined.

## 1.2. Purpose

1.2.1. Castlefield Forum is a voluntary, community group established with the key aim of making Castlefield a better place for local residents, businesses, workers and visitors. Membership is open to anyone who lives, works or has an interest in Castlefield. Over 280 members receive regular email updates on Forum activities and projects and are invited to meetings and events.

1.2.2. Formally constituted in 2010, the Forum meets quarterly and meetings are open to all. An elected Committee meets every 6 weeks or so and feeds back to the wider Forum. The Committee has an Action Plan with wide-ranging aims, events and activities. A number of Action Groups deliver various elements of the Action Plan. They cover: Events, Marketing and Media, Neighbourhood Plan, Garden Maintenance, Roman Gardens, Pioneer Quay, Plot G and Signage. Social media is also used as an important tool to engage with local residents and businesses with a well used website, Facebook and over 1900 Twitter followers.

1.2.3. Having successfully bid for Neighbourhood Investment Funding (Formerly CASH grant funding) from Manchester City Council over six successive years, the Forum has improved a neglected area of public realm known as The Granary Garden; designed and commissioned replacement and additional interpretation signage; designed and published a leaflet for visitors and improved our website [www.ourcastlefield.co.uk](http://www.ourcastlefield.co.uk).

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- 1.2.4. Regular weeding and litter picking is undertaken whilst community bulb planting leads to some beautiful displays each spring. The Forum has taken part in the Royal Horticultural Society *It's Your Neighbourhood*, part of North West In Bloom, achieving Level 4 'Thriving' on one occasion and Level 5 'Outstanding' on four occasions.
- 1.2.5. Working in partnership with Manchester Garden City, the Forum has established a major project to redesign the Roman Gardens off Liverpool Road. A Masterplan has been produced, wide-spread consultation undertaken and a Crowdfunding campaign raised £19,000 from local businesses and individual residents to fund a robust planning application. Ultimately the Forum plans to apply for Heritage Lottery funding to deliver this project. In the meantime, the Forum has been allocated £35,000 from the Council's Clean & Green fund to undertake some preliminary works in the Roman Gardens.
- 1.2.6. In partnership with Manchester City Council Community Engagement Team, the Forum worked with volunteers during 2015 to build and plant grow boxes of edible and complementary planting in a neglected canalside area known as Pioneer Quay. The Forum has led a multi-agency group to obtain permission for 'meanwhile use' of the site to create a pleasant area for residents and visitors until the long-term use of the site is decided.
- 1.2.7. The Forum worked with local businesses to plan and deliver Castlefield Carnival in August 2013. This was a family-friendly event that attracted over 3000 people over the day. This event has since evolved into the Castlefield Food Festival with the inaugural event held in 2015 in partnership with a local events company. This event focused on local traders, supplemented by Manchester and regional traders and attracted 15,000 visitors over the weekend. A follow-up event for 2016 event is currently being planned and it is anticipated that this will become an annual event.

### **1.3. Summary**

- 1.3.1. Castlefield Forum is for the reasons set out above, capable of being designated the relevant body for the Castlefield neighbourhood area.