

vision 2030

Oxford
Road
Corridor

vision 2030

The Oxford Road Corridor is a world-class knowledge quarter, that transforms lives through research, innovation, skills and education.

Stretching out south from St Peter's Square in Manchester city centre, the Corridor is a place with a unique concentration of knowledge, business and cultural assets. Within one square mile, there are two of the UK's largest universities, the UK's largest NHS foundation trust, leading cultural institutions and a large cluster of digital, technology and life science businesses.

The area is overseen by a partnership comprising The University of Manchester, Manchester Metropolitan University, Manchester City Council, Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust, Bruntwood, Manchester Science Partnerships, and the Royal Northern College of Music and representation from leading cultural institutions.

It is the longest-standing, formally constituted knowledge quarter partnership operating in the UK. Over the last 15-years partners have aligned investment against a shared strategic vision which has transformed the area creating over 45,000 jobs and increasing annual economic output by c£2.5bn.

This document sets out our achievements to date and our strategic priorities to 2030, which will build on our excellent track record of delivery to drive future sustainable and inclusive growth.



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Vice-Chancellor, Manchester Metropolitan University

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vision **2030**

A place where knowledge business and culture thrive

Oxford Road Corridor is a world-class
knowledge quarter that transforms lives
through research, innovation
skills and education



The story so far...

The Oxford Road Corridor partners have delivered a series of large-scale projects which have transformed the area, helping to create a vibrant and world-class knowledge quarter.

It is now home to one of the largest clinical academic campuses in Europe, with strengths that include cancer, diagnostics, genomic medicine, clinical trials, and digital health. Major R&D assets that build on the translational research and discovery capability at the University of Manchester and Manchester Metropolitan University include the **NIHR Manchester Biomedical Research Centre**, the **Manchester Academic Health Science Centre**, and the recently launched **Christabel Pankhurst Institute for Health Technology**. These R&D assets sit alongside the clinical and research translation excellence of the Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust (MFT), which has five hospitals on the Corridor.

This campus feeds a strong cluster of life science start-ups, scale-ups and global corporates located in **Citylabs 1.0 and 2.0**. Developed by Bruntwood and MFT, Citylabs delivers nearly 200,000 sq. ft of specialist lab and office space to help satisfy growing demand. The life sciences sector is supported by a flourishing local innovation finance market which includes the **GM Life Sciences Investment Fund**, and the recently launched £500m **Northern Gritstone Fund**, which provides

investment capital to grow a new generation of IP-rich university spin-outs.

Digital is a fast-growing strength of the Oxford Road Corridor. Digital Futures at the University of Manchester brings together more than 2,000 academics who are pioneering research into fundamental data science and AI, digital trust and security, digital health, fin-tech and legal-tech. The availability of digital talent generated by the two universities in the area is a major factor in attracting inward investment and growing new digital firms. This offer has been enhanced through the **School of Digital Arts (SODA)** at Manchester Metropolitan University, which is now a leading provider of courses in gaming, AI, sound design, film, UX and more.

Growth in digital is fuelling commercial investment from firms that want to be located within the Oxford Road Corridor ecosystem. Manchester Science Partnerships has invested in a 70,000 sq. ft hub for digital firms at the **Bright Building** on Manchester Science Park. The completion of **Circle Square**, a new mixed-use development on the former BBC North site including the **Manchester Technology Centre**, has created a digital and tech cluster of start-ups, SMEs and multinational corporations. The Oxford Road Corridor partners have been at the forefront of developing Smart Cities and environmental sustainability

technology through the Innovate UK-funded **CityVerve** project and Horizon 2020 **Triangulum** project.

The University of Manchester is a world leader in developing new and existing advanced materials, a programme of investment has been sparked by the discovery of graphene by two of its Nobel Prize winning professors, Andre Geim and Kostya Novoselov. The **National Graphene Institute** (an academic-led research centre developing the new physics of 2D materials) and the **Graphene Engineering Innovation Centre** (which works with industry to rapidly develop and scale up new 2D materials applications), alongside the **Henry Royce Institute for Advanced Materials**, provide an unrivalled set of lab-to-market facilities and a community of leading materials scientists and engineers that attracts investment and innovators from around the globe.

The commercial offer for advanced manufacturing has been enhanced by the addition of the new 91,000 sq. ft **BASE** building on Manchester Science Park, which provides specialist premises for light manufacturing and materials science businesses. Growth in this sector will be fuelled by the new **Manchester Engineering Campus Development (MECD)**, which provides world-class sustainable research facilities, alongside flexible and innovative teaching and learning spaces. It's home to a community

of 8,000 students, researchers, academics and professional services staff. It is the largest concentration of interdisciplinary engineering expertise in any UK university. **Print City** at Manchester Metropolitan University complements the BASE development by providing a 3D additive and digital manufacturing centre of excellence and hub for SME engagement, and Manchester Met are now one of the leading providers of **degree apprenticeships** in the UK, rated outstanding by Ofsted.

Culture has been at the heart of the partnership's approach to place-shaping with significant investment at **Central Library**, **Royal Northern College of Music** and the **Whitworth**. In 2015, **HOME**, a centre for international contemporary art, theatre and film opened following the merger of Cornerhouse and the Library Theatre Company and is the centrepiece of the First Street development. More recently, **Contact** reopened following an extensive refurbishment, and the partnership delivered its first joint large-scale cultural event, **Corridor of Light**, celebrating the Oxford Road Corridor through language, light and ideas. In February 2023, **Manchester Museum** will reopen after a £15m redevelopment.



The story so far...

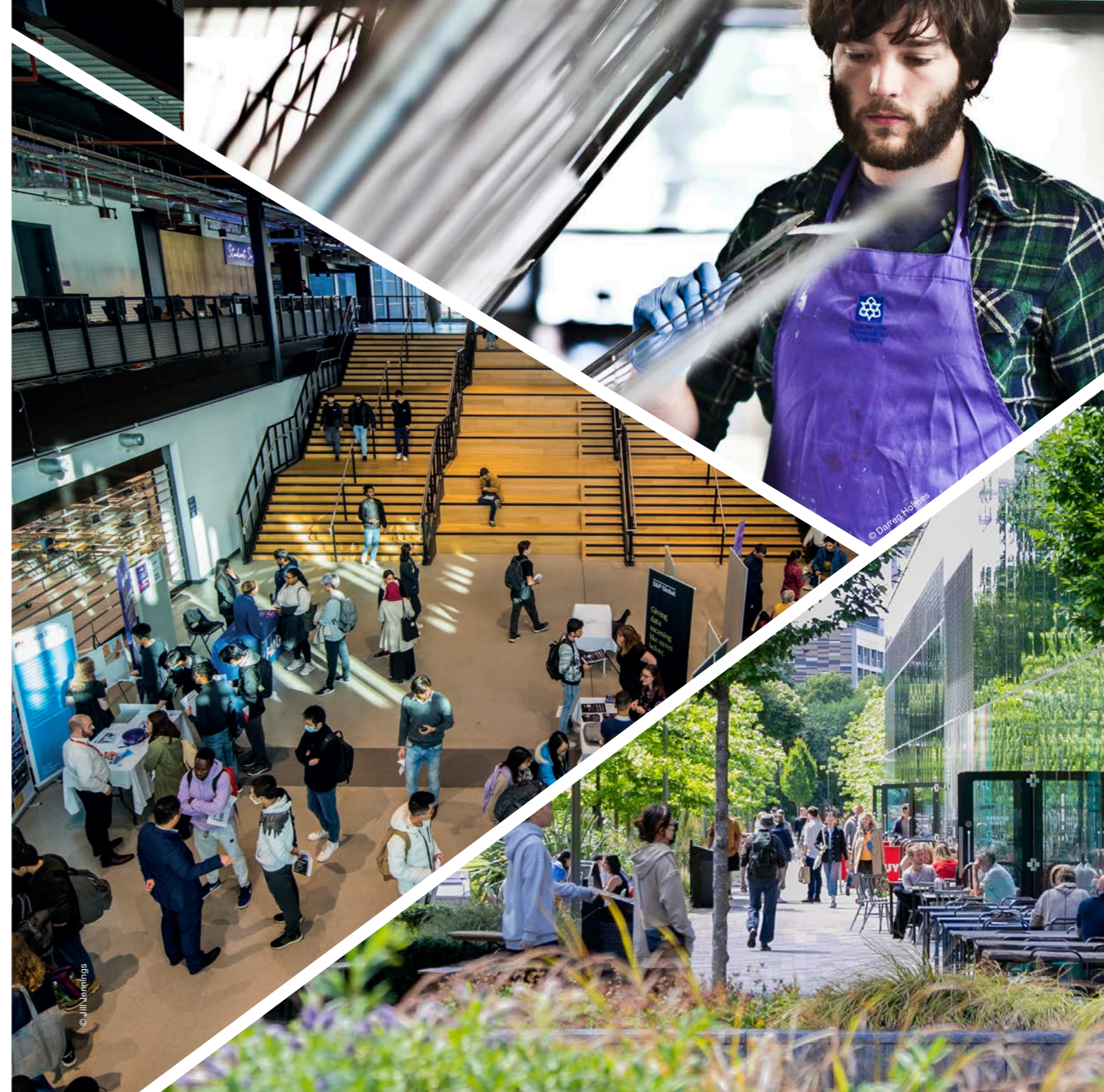
The Corridor partner's capital investment programmes have opened up their estates with a series of flagship projects introducing new high-quality public realm and green space. Manchester Metropolitan University's award-winning **Brooks Building** sits at the heart of the Birley Fields Campus, bringing together the faculties of health and education alongside student accommodation, a green energy centre and 12 acres of public realm and green landscaping.

Other key Manchester Met developments include **Manchester School of Art, Business School, Institute of Sport** and **Grosvenor East**. The latter is situated in a prime location on Oxford Road and is home to the **Manchester Poetry Library** alongside the prestigious Manchester Writing School, and is connected to the Grade-II listed Art School Building – home to The Holden Gallery. The listed portico to **Grosvenor Square** has been re-established as the principal entrance of the new building, which welcomes the public and students.

The development of **Brunswick Park** by The University of Manchester has created the largest green space on campus. The park improves east-west connectivity between Oxford Road and Upper Brook Street with new landscaping, seating areas, and pedestrian and cycle paths.

The Brunswick Park project was made possible by the **Cross City Bus Priority** scheme, delivered by TfGM in partnership with the Oxford Road Corridor partners, which has seen general traffic limited and over 4km of **segregated cycle lanes** developed. The **Alliance Manchester Business School** development included a new hotel and **University Green**, a retail and leisure hub, home to a selection of shops, bars and restaurants, alongside a new high-quality public realm and green space.

Developed by Bruntwood and opened in 2017, **Hatch** is a thriving community of independent food, drink, and retail businesses housed in shipping containers beneath the Mancunian Way flyover. This development, alongside high-profile food, drink and leisure openings at Circle Square, has helped transform the reputation of the hospitality sector in the area. Like Brunswick Park and University Green, Circle Square brings significant new public realm, **Symphony Park**. This new, tree-lined green space is at the centre of Circle Square and has lawns and terraces, forming an outdoor amphitheatre for cultural events.



Impact

Over the last 15-years the impact of the partnership has been significant, outstripping regional and national growth the area now accounts for:

86,000

jobs

£4.8bn

GVA per annum

7,100

businesses

50%

of Manchester's life science businesses

14,750

jobs in life sciences, advanced manufacturing and tech sectors in the Enterprise Zone area

27,500

graduates and post-graduates supplied into the labour market every year. Including 50% in STEM and Design, Creative & Arts subjects.

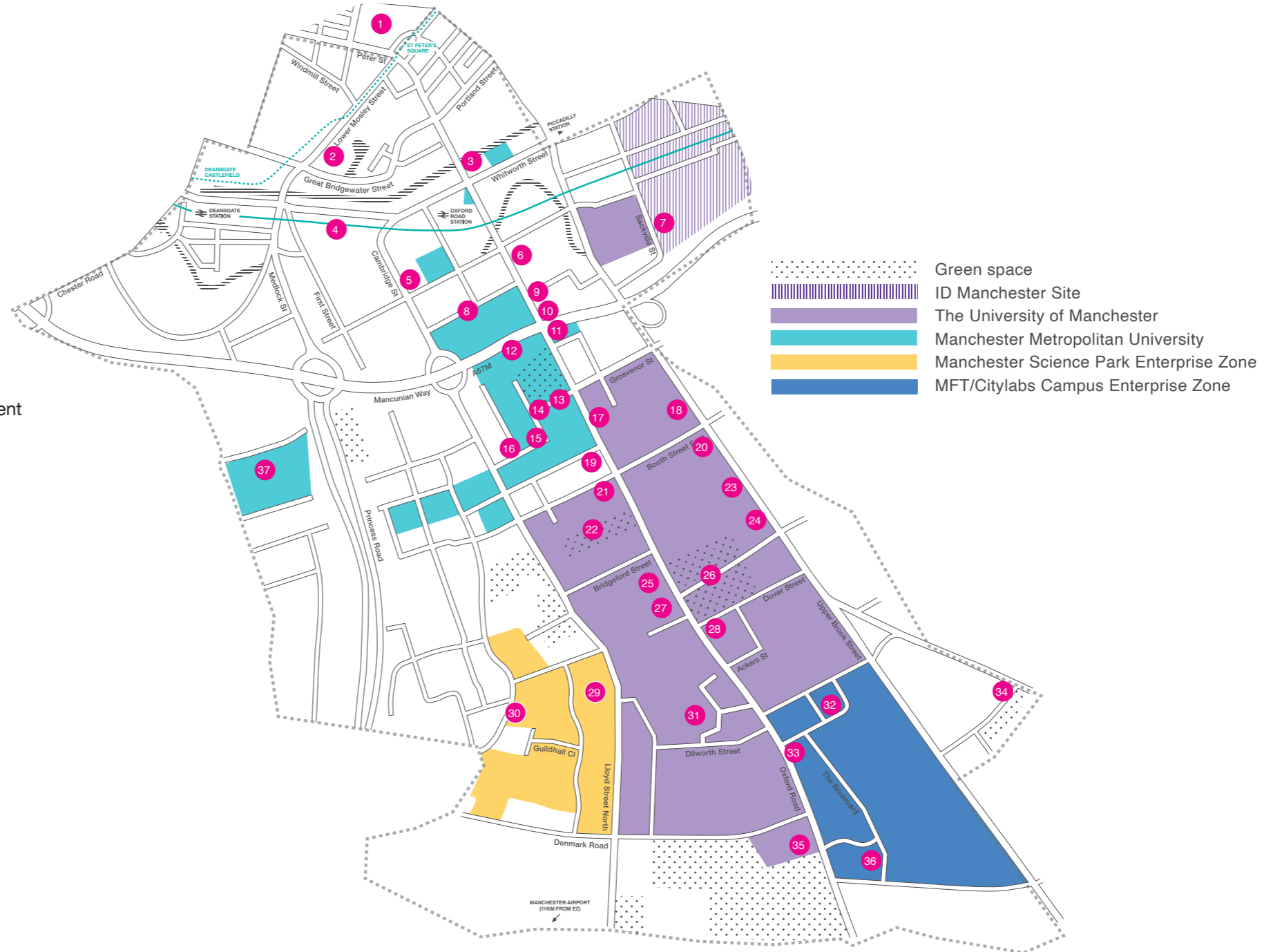
26%

of Manchester's employment in the cultural and creative industries



The Knowledge Quarter

1. Central Library
2. The Bridgewater Hall
3. Palace Theatre
4. HOME
5. International Anthony Burgess Foundation
6. Circle Square
7. Graphene Engineering Innovation Centre
8. Faculty of Science and Engineering
9. Manchester Technology Centre
10. HATCH
11. Manchester Institute of Sport
12. Manchester Metropolitan University
13. Manchester Poetry Library
14. Manchester School of Art
15. Manchester School of Architecture
16. SODA - School of Digital Arts
17. Manchester Aquatics Centre
18. Manchester Engineering Campus Development
19. Royal Northern College of Music
20. National Graphene Institute
21. Alliance Manchester Business School
22. University Green
23. Henry Royce Institute
24. Alan Turing Building
25. Manchester Museum
26. Brunswick Park
27. The University of Manchester
28. The Christabel Pankhurst Institute
29. Bright Building
30. Base
31. Contact
32. The Pankhurst Centre
33. Citylabs 1.0
34. Elizabeth Gaskell's House
35. The Whitworth
36. Citylabs 2.0
37. Birley Fields



Future Priorities

Research and innovation

Oxford Road Corridor is a recognised centre for research, innovation, and commercialisation. A key priority is to strengthen the area's asset base to build on its translational research and discovery capability. The partnership will support the development of Innovation Greater Manchester and the delivery of transformational projects such as ID Manchester, the development of Creative and Cultural Industries, AI commercialisation and the expansion of the Citylabs campus and Manchester Science Park.

Employment and skills

Oxford Road Corridor will undertake a detailed mapping of skills provision and career pathways linked to the opportunities being created in the area. It will bring forward plans to address any gaps ensuring a more diverse and representative workforce.

Zero Carbon and Sustainability

Oxford Road Corridor partners have ambitious plans to achieve net zero by 2038 supporting city-wide and GM targets. The partners hold significant expertise and research capability and are committed to working together to accelerate the delivery of their plans, to communicate innovative interventions and roll out best practice across the area and wider region.

Place-making

Oxford Road Corridor partners have invested heavily in their estates in recent years, transforming the area through new public realm, green spaces and improving permeability. The partnership will bring forward plans which will complement this investment, focusing on the spatial relationship and connections between estates and key gateways. Improving wayfinding and interpreting the area's unique academic and cultural history will help create a better sense of place, encourage greater levels of active travel, and generate the conditions for future innovation.

Place-marketing

Oxford Road Corridor is home to many of the city's most iconic music venues, galleries, theatre spots and high-end cultural offerings such as the Whitworth, HOME and RNCM. The diverse cultural ecology on the Corridor underpins the area's knowledge and innovation strengths. Between the beautiful architecture and landmarks are historic parks and contemporary green spaces and a thriving nightlife with an abundance of cafés, restaurants and bars. The Oxford Road Corridor will improve place marketing to attract more local, national and international visitors and encourage future investment.

Opportunity

The Oxford Road Corridor presents a unique opportunity of national significance to counterbalance innovation led growth in the South East and support the Government's levelling up agenda. An independent assessment of the partnership's plans shows the potential to create an additional 20,000 jobs in key sectors and £1.5bn annual GVA by 2030. The plans are underpinned by world-leading research and a clear long-term strategic vision for the area driven by a mature partnership with a strong track record of delivery.



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