

Manchester Civic Quarter Energy Centre and District Heat Network



Implementing infrastructure of national significance

CLIENT

Vital Energi

LPA

Manchester City Council

STATUS

Complete

SERVICES

Planning, Heritage and Townscape, Economics, EIA, Strategic Communications

Our role

- The Manchester Civic Quarter Heat Network (MCQHN) originated as part of the Greater Manchester heat network programme, which was created to encourage the development of efficient, cost-effective district heat networks across the ten Local Authorities of Greater Manchester, to support carbon and energy policy commitments both locally and nationally.
- The project comprises a combined heat and power energy centre including a dispersion flue, known as the 'Tower of Light'; and a network of insulated heating pipework to connect to some of the civic buildings within Manchester city centre.
- We provided expert advice on Planning, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), Heritage and Townscape, Strategic Communications and human health matters.

Results

- We have secured planning permission and listed building consents for the project.
- Delivery of the project is a strategic priority in the city council's carbon reduction programme.
- Its delivery is supported by international, national, sub-regional and local planning and environmental policies relating to climate change and the need to reduce the level of emission of carbon dioxide.
- The design of the project has followed an iterative process which began with a national architectural competition. The result is a unique building of contemporary architectural design which reflects the city council's commitment to a low carbon future.
- This will become a land-mark feature at the western gateway into the city centre, and will support the ongoing physical regeneration of this area.