

## **Residents BMHC Development Liaison Group (RBDLG) - Purpose Statement**

### **Our Purpose**

Our purpose is to work with the British Muslim Heritage Centre (BMHC) to support them in identifying a vision for the proposed development of the Heritage Centre which is right for both the local residential neighbourhood in which it will sit and for BMHC's future vision and ambition for the centre. In doing this, we also seek to protect and enhance the natural and historic environment of the site for our future generations.

### **Our Aims**

Our aim in working together with the BMHC is to:

- Be supportive of their ambition to build a centre of excellence that meets the spiritual, educational, social and cultural needs of the Muslim community
- Be supportive of their aim to create a centre which builds on community cohesion in the neighbourhood and provides wider opportunities for communities to come together, fostering good relations between Muslims and other faith groups, including non-faith communities
- Ensure that their final development proposal is based on a robust and evidence based approach to sustainability for both the site itself and the surrounding area which demonstrates:
  - Mitigation of any increase in traffic volume to or from the site that might have an impact on the safety and efficiency of the adjacent roads
  - Prevention of any further increase in the annual average air pollution in the neighbourhood in line with Greater Manchester's Clean Air Plan and in support of the City Council's 2038 carbon net zero target
  - Minimising of negative impacts or contribution to soil or water pollution or increase in flood risk
  - Provision of net gains for biodiversity
  - Recognition of the environmental significance of the site within Whalley Range's local conservation area, with conservation and enhancement of the local environment and open spaces at the forefront of any plans including preservation, protection and restoration of natural habitats particularly those used by priority species such as bats
  - Standards for all proposed developments to the site to be built to have a near-zero footprint and minimise the impact on the environment by using recyclable and long-lasting materials, whilst also conserving the site's value as a historic heritage asset
  - Mitigation and reduction to a minimum of any potential adverse impacts on health and quality of life resulting from noise from the new development (both during and after construction)
- Be supportive of their need to explore and identify solutions to the challenges of creating a financially sustainable commercial model for the maintenance and development of the BMHC site that does not negatively impact on the residential neighbourhood in which it sits