

OuRLeague Life FAQs

What is the Rugby Football League?

It is the National Governing Body (NGB) for Rugby league in England.

What is OurLeague Life?

OurLeague Life is the name given to the RFL's proposed series of learning and development 'hubs' across the north of England and in time, possibly nationwide.

OuRLeague Life hubs will offer:

- education courses;
- returning to work and employability courses;
- professional development education (for example CPD for Match Officials, coaches and volunteers in sport; and
- a wide range of Rugby League and sport-related education and development programmes.

The first and main facility in east Manchester will also provide central services to the wider network of hubs.

Why Manchester?

Rugby League is a way of life for many communities in northern England, where the sport makes an enormous and positive social impact. There are significant skills gaps in many of these communities and the RFL is well-placed to help bridge the divide. We already deliver some community engagement activities within the Manchester area.

The RFL is currently based at Salford Quays and in early 2022 will be moving its national headquarters to the Etihad Campus. It makes sense for us to locate the main OuRLeague Life hub both nearby and within a community that will benefit from this kind of facility.

Where exactly is the site?

Off Grey mare Lane, to the rear of the former Beswick Local Shops buildings

Who are we consulting with?

Who do we intend to consult with and in what order?

- Local residents
- Local councillors
- Local community groups, organisations and businesses

- Any other interested parties via accessible information on the RFL's website and via our extensive social media channels

How are we consulting?

- Via a face-to-face drop in session at Beswick Library on Thursday 21 October, between 3pm and 7pm.
- Online – visit rugby-league.com/ourleaguelife and via social media channels

There will also be as formal planning application to be submitted in November, on which the planning authorities will invite people to have a say before it goes to planning committee for consideration in the New Year.

When does the consultation close?

On 29 October, at midnight

What will be the opening hours?

The facility will be open on weekdays from 8am until 9pm and at the weekends for the delivery of community sport. Events will be planned to ensure that there will be no clash with events at the Etihad Stadium or the Co op Arena, or any large events held across the Etihad Campus more widely.

Is this a stadium?

No. There is already significant other stadium provision nearby. The proposed 900-seat stand is an educational and training facility with the capability to provide the 'big match' environment as a learning experience for the community and for learners who access the facility for educational purposes.

What will the site be used for?

The site will be used for the delivery of skills, education and training, whilst also hosting local community and schools sporting events.

What will be the effects on local traffic and travel?

A review of highway safety around the site shows that any existing safety issues are unlikely to be affected by the proposed development.

Our review also shows that the site is accessible by sustainable modes of transport. Walking and cycling facilities nearby are excellent, and public transport routes are within a convenient walking distance.

Planned parking provision consists only of the 50 spaces in the adjacent public car park for everyday activities.

An assessment of possible weekday/weekend highway impacts of the proposals at the Grey Mare Lane/Alan Turing Way junction demonstrate no severe impact.

Will there be floodlighting?

Yes, but this will not be intrusive to local residents and will not be in use after 9pm.

The LED floodlights will be designed to minimise direct glare, have a well-controlled beam and comply with statutory guidance on the lighting of sports pitches.

The lights will also be dimmable to ensure only the correct level of lighting is achieved.

In addition there is also a natural buffer between the edge of the pitch and the south western edge of the site, and the existing landscaping and trees will also provide an element of screening.

Use of the pitch will be strictly limited, as it consists of real – not artificial – turf. Sport England recommend a maximum adult use of six hours per week.

Floodlights will be mounted on columns that will be between 15-20m in height, with dimmable LED lights mounted at the top. The existing landscaping and trees to the south western edge of the site will also provide an element of screening from the lighting and sight of the columns.

Who will use the facility?

It will be used by people from Rugby League and other sports, including elite athletes, plus people from Beswick and east Manchester for training and skills development.

As well as offering a new facility for local people, this will be a key educational facility for all the England Rugby League squads such as our Men's, Wheelchair and Women's teams.