



Manchester's Northern Quarter is UK's best neighbourhood

Manchester's Northern Quarter beat off stiff competition from other shortlisted nominees including Cathedral Quarter in Belfast and Pollokshields in Glasgow to win the award for the UK's best neighbourhood. Manchester City Council and Cityco, Manchester's city centre management company, picked up the Great Neighbourhood of the Year Award 2011 for Britain and Ireland at the Academy of Urbanism Awards in London.

The awards recognise the best, most enduring or most improved urban environments and are run by The Academy of Urbanism, whose 450 members include industry-leading architects, planners, engineers, developers and designers.

The judges were taken on a tour of the Northern Quarter in the summer by City Council and Cityco representatives and were impressed by its charm and the friendliness of the people they met.

Councillor Pat Karney, Manchester City Council's city centre spokesperson said: "I'm really pleased the Northern Quarter, widely recognised as Manchester's creative quarter, has received this award. This part of the city has evolved organically into one of the most culturally rich parts of the city centre. There's a real community feel to the place. The warmth of the people that live and work here, and the cluster of small business has created a very desirable neighbourhood.

Visitors feel very welcome and this area, with its network of quaint little streets is a huge asset to Manchester."

Vaughan Allen, chief executive of Cityco, Manchester's city centre management company said: "The Northern Quarter has in recent years transformed itself and diversified, creating an eclectic mix of fashion designers, independent shops, bars, cafes and restaurants, creative agencies and private galleries. There is a village-like vibe which makes it truly unique and a great place to live, work and play. It's fantastic that this really special part of the city centre has been recognised in this way."

Commenting on the award, John Thompson, chairman of the Academy of Urbanism said: "Thanks to a long-term programme of development and regeneration, the Northern Quarter has become a vibrant contemporary extension to Manchester City Centre, while retaining its own unique character and charm. The Academy of Urbanism created these awards to recognise places which had helped enhance the quality of life - the Northern Quarter is a wonderful example of this."

The Great Neighbourhood Award was sponsored by Ptarmigan Land.

For more information on Cityco visit www.cityco.com or for more information on The Academy of Urbanism click on www.academyofurbanism.org.uk.

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For further information contact: Roz Hughes at Cityco on 07967 800395 or James Osborne at The Academy of Urbanism on 0207 529 1736.



Notes to editors:

Cityco works in partnership to manage and market city centre Manchester. It is an independent, not-for-profit, company funded by both public and private sector.

The Academy of Urbanism brings together thinkers and practitioners involved in the social, cultural, economic, political and physical development of our villages, towns and cities across Great Britain and Ireland. The Academy was formed to extend urban discourse beyond built environment professionals, and to create an autonomous, politically independent and self-funded learned voice. We aim to advance the understanding and practice of urbanism by promoting scholarship through evidence-based inquiry, providing an inclusive forum for dialogue across all disciplines, sharing knowledge with the community and our peers and nurturing, recognising and rewarding excellence in achievement.