



22 July 2010

### **Northern Quarter Light Tower is re-lit**

A light tower that formed the centre piece of the Northern Quarter public art scheme, has been switched on after nearly 5 years in darkness. Cityco, Manchester's city centre management company, have struck up a deal with NCP to enable the light tower to be powered through their electricity supply to the Church Street multi-storey carpark which the light sculpture sits on top of.

This important piece of public art is made of animated neon light tubes, consists of 76 florescent multi-coloured lights, stands 12 metres high and is positioned on the red tower of the car park. It was created by top British lighting artist, Peter Freeman, commissioned by The Art Department and funded by the Arts Council at a cost of £35, 000. It was first switched on at the Northern Quarter street festival in 1999.

The tower, now owned by Manchester City Council, will be switched on from 9pm until 1am daily.

Vaughan Allen, chief executive of Manchester city centre management company, Cityco said: "We're pleased to have been able to work with Manchester City Council and NCP to bring this well-loved piece of art back into use. We're grateful for the support of both organisations for making this happen."

Councillor Pat Karney, city centre spokesperson for Manchester City Council said: "It's great to see this piece of public art working again. The Northern Quarter is a culturally important part of Manchester city centre and the light tower provides a stunning beacon of light at the heart of it."

Lee Holland, regional director of NCP Manchester said: "The light tower is of great significance for the Northern Quarter and Manchester city centre as a whole. NCP is happy to support Cityco in reigniting such an iconic symbol."

Lighting artist, Peter Freeman, who designed the light tower said: "It's fantastic to have the tower illuminated again. The tower was one of my first big art commissions and it has a great energy and presence"

For more information on Cityco visit [www.cityco.com](http://www.cityco.com) .

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**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 Art Department** was based in the Northern Quarter and run by Liam Curtin, and Wendy Jones of Majolica Pottery and Michael Trainor of Pop Empires.