



PRESS RELEASE

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Green fingered city centre residents plant vegetables

Thirty Northern Quarter residents have signed up for their own vegetable patch in the Piccadilly Basin area of Manchester city centre. They will set to work this Sunday planting fruit and vegetables including heritage varieties in individual wooden Grow Boxes.

A range of produce is to be planted including lettuces, beans, cauliflower, cabbage, courgettes, carrots, tomatoes, peas and strawberries.

Located off Hilton Street on the edge of a car park behind Carver's Warehouse, the 10 Grow Boxes are situated on land owned by investment and development company Town Centre Securities.

This is part of Manchester's first Garden City scheme, which is working to make the city greener. Funding for the project has come from Manchester City Council and Manchester's city centre management company, CityCo.

Manchester Garden City is an independent initiative supported by CityCo, Manchester's city centre management company and Manchester based architect and design practice BDP. It aims to increase the amount of temporary green space on brownfield sites and encourage gardening and sustainable eating.

Gary Ellis, Operations Director at city centre management company, CityCo said: "It's great to hand these Grow Boxes over to residents. The Garden City initiative is all about getting local people involved in making their city greener. The Piccadilly Basin scheme is part of a longer term strategy to bring nature back to the city centre and provide food sources for local residents."

Joe Weeks, organiser and Northern Quarter resident said: "We are very pleased with the response. We've had so much interest in the Grow Boxes that we're currently over subscribed. This scheme is as much about creating community spirit as it is about growing fruit and vegetables. It's really brought like-minded people together which is fantastic."

This Manchester Garden City project at Piccadilly Basin is supported by Town Centre Securities who own the land.

Anyone wanting to volunteer or pledge their support for the Manchester Garden City initiative should email gardencity@cityco.com.

Residents can get more information by visiting www.nqg.org.uk.

For more information on Manchester city centre visit www.cityco.com.

Ends

For further information please contact Roz Hughes on T: 0161 838 3260 or M: 07967 800395

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.

Piccadilly Partnership is managed by CityCo, Manchester's City Centre Management Company. For more information visit www.cityco.com.