

AINA CASE STUDY

SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

Water taxis at Salford Quays



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Interesting water taxi development at the new BBC centre by Salford Quays and Manchester Ship Canal

Sustainable Transport Fund supports transport improvements around Media City

A new water taxi service will link Manchester city centre with Salford Quays and the emerging Media City development. Five stations with pontoons will be built along the Manchester Ship Canal and the River Irwell as part of transport improvements by Salford City Council costing more than £3 million. The plans also include five new cycle routes and the reopening of a footbridge across the Irwell.

It is anticipated the schemes will improve access for commuters to the BBC's new campus at MediaCity and City Council funding (from planning obligations and its capital funding programme) will be supported by almost £2 million from the Department for Transport's Local Sustainable Transport Fund. A private company will operate the water taxis – locally referred to as 'waxis'.

Boats on the canal and the Irwell are currently used for private hire, but it is anticipated that scheduled services will appeal to locals and visitors alike and will make the river an attractive option for commuters and tourists. The water taxi route will help link a number of attractions including Old Trafford, the Imperial War Museum of the North and The Lowry arts centre.

Cycle routes will run from Salford University, with traffic free routes also following main roads between Salford and the waterside. A long-closed footbridge across the Irwell, connecting two parts of the university, will be transferred to the council as part of the long term plans for sustainable travel along and around the watersides.

A water taxi service will open up new investment opportunities along the riverside and it is envisaged that the cleared 'island' between the Ship Canal and the Bridgewater Canal at Pomona could be regenerated with new appealing access from the water. The proposals also complement the successful drive to attract new freight onto the Manchester Ship Canal, which is owned and managed by the Peel Group, and show how options for innovative travel can be developed on the inland waterways.

The photo shows the eye catching waterfront at Media City as part of the ongoing Salford Quays development.