



MANCHESTER
CITY COUNCIL

Finance and General Purposes Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: Thursday 19 October 2006

Time: 10.00am

Venue: Committee Room 11, Level 1, Town Hall

**There will be a pre-meeting for members at 9.30am in
Committee Room 1.**

Agenda

1. Urgent Business

To consider any items which the Chair has agreed to have submitted as urgent.

2. Appeals

To consider any appeals from the public against refusal to allow inspection of background documents and/or the inclusion of items in the confidential part of the agenda.

3. Interests

To allow Members an opportunity to [a] declare any personal or prejudicial interests they might have in any items which appear on this agenda; and [b] record any items from which they are precluded from voting as a result of Council Tax/Council rent arrears.

4. Minutes

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 7 September 2006 (enclosed)

ITEMS FOR INVESTIGATION

5. Heating Charges 10.00 – 10.30

The decision of the Executive on 13 September has been called in by Councillors Bethel, Bhatti, Firth, Grant, Lewis and Shaw in accordance with Paragraph 13 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules.

The terms of the call-in are that '*increases of 20% now (Oct 06) and a further 20% in October 07 and 20% in October 08, on top of 40% in 2005 are unacceptable when the HRA out-turn for 2005/6 had a large surplus including some £1.127M unallocated.*

This should be used to mitigate these excessive increases to tenants'.

The report of the Strategic Director of Neighbourhood Services considered by the Executive is attached.

6. Asset Management Plan / Town Hall Strategy 10.30 – 11.20

7. Chorlton Post Office – redevelopment 11.20 – 11.50

Report to follow

8. Exclusion of the public

The officers consider that the following items contain exempt information as provided for in the Local Government Access to Information Act and that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information. The Executive is recommended to agree the necessary resolutions excluding the public from the meeting during consideration of these items.

An appeal process exists for members of the public who wish to appeal against the officers' recommendation for exemption. Anyone who does wish to appeal should contact the Committee Officer as soon as possible (preferably at least 48 hours) before the meeting.

9. Business Plans 2006/2007 11.50

- a. Street Scene Services
- b. Manchester Contracts
- c. Manchester Engineering

Information about Scrutiny Committees

As part of the process of democratic renewal in Manchester the Council has established five Overview and Scrutiny Committees to investigate major and new policy issues and to review specific areas of service delivery. They also have power to review decisions taken by the Executive that have been 'called-in' to Council by the Chair of a Scrutiny Committee or by five members of the Council. These Committees deal with the following areas of interest -

- Children and Young People
- Community Regeneration
- Finance and General Purposes
- Physical Environment
- Social Strategy
- Health and Well-being

It is the Council's policy to consult people as fully as possible before making decisions which affect them. Members of the public do not have a right to speak at meetings but may do so if invited by the Chair. If you have a special interest in an item on the agenda and want to speak, tell the Committee Officer, who will pass on your request to the Chair. Groups of people will usually be asked to nominate a spokesperson.

The Council wants its meetings to be as open as possible but occasionally there will be some confidential business. Brief reasons for confidentiality will be shown on the agenda sheet. Smoking is not allowed in Council buildings. Crèche facilities are available for visitors to the Town Hall by prior arrangement with the St. Peter's Children's Centre (Telephone : 0161 234 3246).

For help, advice and information about this meeting contact -

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