

## **MANCHESTER CITY COUNCIL REPORT FOR RESOLUTION**

**Report to:** Resources and Governance Overview and Scrutiny Committee

**Date:** 21 May 2009

**Author:** City Solicitor

**Title:** Information and Overview Report

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### **1. Purpose of Report**

To provide information about relevant issues affecting the Committee's remit to aid Members to manage and develop the work programme.

### **2. Recommendation**

The Committee is requested to consider the topics highlighted in the report and either:

- Note the information
- Request a briefing note to provide further details
- Add the item to the Committee's Work Programme

### **3. Contact Officer:**

Courtney Brightwell, Scrutiny Support Officer

Tel: 0161 234 3376  
c.brightwell@manchester.gov.uk

### **4. Suggestions for the Work Programme**

No suggestions have been received this month.

## **5. Forward Planning**

The Executive Forward Plan lists key decisions to be taken by the City Council within the next four months.

A key decision, as defined in the Council's Constitution is an executive decision which is likely:-

To result in the Council incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the Council's budget for the service or function to which the decision relates, or

To be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards in the area of the city.

The Council Constitution defines 'significant' as being expenditure or savings (including the loss of income or capital receipts) in excess of £500,000 providing that is not more than 10% of the gross operating expenditure for any budget heading in the in the Council's Revenue Budget Book, and subject to other defined exceptions.

Relevant extracts from the Executive Forward Plan are attached to this report to enable members to incorporate scrutiny of key decisions into its work programme. (See Appendix 1)

## 6. Monitoring Previous Recommendations

Date	Item	Recommendation	Action	Contact Officer
5 February 2009	RG/09/09 Legal Services Business Plan	To request that analysis be carried out and reported back to the Committee identifying the reasons behind significant fluctuations in the numbers of cases opened at particular times by particular client groups.	This information is provided in section 7 of this report.	Liz Treacy, Head of Legal Services
5 February 2009	RG/09/13 Town Hall Complex Programme – Part B	To note the current position in the contractual negotiations and to request that final details of the agreement be reported to the Committee at the appropriate time	An update is included under item 11 of this meeting's agenda.	Helen Jones, Head of Corporate Property
9 March 2009	RG/09/20 LAA Quarterly Performance Report – Quarter 3 2008/9	To request that the Communities and Neighbourhoods Overview and Scrutiny Committee look at the target for Net Additional Homes as part of their work programme for next year.  To request further information relating to how partnerships were working to improve performance for target NI 192, Household Waste Recycled or Composted.	This request will be referred to the Communities and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committee.  This information will be provided to the Committee.	Carolyn Whewell, Governance and Scrutiny Support  Rachel Christie, Head of Street Management and Enforcement
9 March 2009	RG/09/22 Neighbourhood Funding Strategy (NFS)	To establish a member working group to review the operation of the Neighbourhood Funding Strategy and make recommendations about it can be strengthened.	An information update on the work of the member group is included in section 7 of this report. A report with the findings of the sub group will be submitted to the next meeting.	Maria Boylan, Strategy Leader

9 March 2009	RG/09/23 Working in Partnership with the Manchester Community-Securing the Outcomes of the Community Strategy	To note the report and to agree to look at how partners' efficiency programmes are releasing savings for reinvestment in priorities as part of the work programme for next year.	This item has been added to the work programme.	Courtney Brightwell, Scrutiny Support

## 7. Items for Information Only

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Legal Services – Analysis of Peak Periods</b>
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Liz Treacy, Head of Legal Services Tel: (0161) 234 3339 Email:l.treacy@manchester.gov.uk

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Members asked for further information to explain apparent discrepancies in the number of files opened for specific clients during the year January – December 2008.

The information is as follows:-

Catering – 44 files opened in June 2008

41 of these files were new leases granted to the occupiers of market stalls in the new Gorton Market. Stallholders operating from indoor market stalls must have a more formal lease agreement with the Council whereas stallholders operating from outdoor stalls do not require a formal lease.

Chief Execs – 115 files opened in September 2008

The majority of these files were new F.O.I requests. This was due to a backlog of files which had been dealt with, but needed to be opened given a reference number and archived.

Education – 119 files opened in August 2008

The majority of these files were part-time pension cases. This work is now almost complete, the files were historic and were opened, given a reference number and archived. There are still 24 active part time pension cases.

Operational Services – 102 files opened in August 2008.

Many of these file were former G.M. Waste Issues. In February 2008 GM Waste ceased to operate and the Litigation Section inherited the cases which were not settled by 1<sup>st</sup> Feb 08.

Social Services – 492 and 368 files opened in January and February 2008.

The majority of these files were old files in storage that were opened to be allocated a reference number and archived.



future years. The quality of responses was variable and in some cases it was unclear to Members whether the proposal was being supported or not.

- Need to ensure that proposals were linked to the Ward Plans and if successful, clearly linked into the Business Planning process.
- Lessening the bureaucracy and the amount of paper work generated around the scheme.
- Setting up a monitoring system to look at how priorities in 2008/09 have been actioned
- Have a clear timetable for 2009/10 so that Members can know when to expect responses.

There is a further meeting of the sub group on 26<sup>th</sup> May and officers will report back on how to take on board the suggestions made above and present a further report to this committee.

**EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN - SUMMARY OF KEY DECISIONS**

<u>Decision Reference</u>	<u>Subject Area for Decision</u>	<u>Anticipated date of decision</u>	<u>Decision Taker (Executive or Chief Officer)</u>
	<b>Capital Expenditure Approvals</b>		
	Beswick Housing Renewal	Apr 09 – Aug 09	City Treasurer
	Corporate Asset Management and DDA Works	Apr 09 – Aug 09	City Treasurer
	Spend to Save Schemes	Apr 09 – Aug 09	City Treasurer
	Surestart Children's Centre Programme	Apr 09 – Aug 09	City Treasurer
	Building Schools for the Future including Academies	Apr 09 – Aug 09	City Treasurer
	NDS Devolved Capital 2008/09	Apr 09 – Aug 09	City Treasurer
	Housing Market Renewal	Apr 09 – Aug 09	City Treasurer
	Heaton Park Regeneration	Apr 09 – Aug 09	City Treasurer
	Primary School Re-building Programme 2008/09	Apr 09 – Aug 09	City Treasurer
	Wythenshawe Town Centre	Apr 09 – Aug 09	City Treasurer
	Maine Road Remediation	Apr 09 – Aug 09	City Treasurer
	Cheetham District Centre	Apr 09 – Aug 09	City Treasurer
	Town Hall Service Centre	Apr 09 – Aug 09	City Treasurer
	Sustainability	Apr 09 – Aug 09	City Treasurer
	Church Street Car Park	Apr 09 – Aug 09	City Treasurer
	Local Transport Plan – Maintenance (bridges Assessment and strengthening, strategic road and footway maintenance)	Apr 09 – Aug 09	City Treasurer
	Retained HRA and Northwards Housing Programmes 2009/10	Apr 09 – Aug 09	City Treasurer
	Private Sector Housing Programme 2009/10	Apr 09 – Aug 09	City Treasurer
	Any recent additions to the Capital Budget that may require Capital Expenditure Approval Key Decision	Apr 09 – Aug 09	City Treasurer

		<b>Revenue Budget</b>		
		Allocations from Central Contingency	Apr 09 – Aug 09	Executive
		Requests for Funding from the Development Fund	Apr 09 – Aug 09	Executive
		Allocations from the Service Improvement Fund	Apr 09 – Aug 09	Chief Executive/ City Treasurer
		Final accounts 2008/09 – approval of contributions to provisions and reserves, decisions on treatment of carry forward of under/overspending	Apr 09 – Aug 09	City Treasurer
		Final Accounts 2008/09 – statutory determination of funding of capital expenditure	Apr 09 – Aug 09	City Treasurer
		<b>Disposal of Land</b>		
		Property 68-70 Newton Street, Manchester	Apr 09 – Aug 09	Chief Executive
		Land at Bury New Road, Cheetham	Apr 09 – Aug 09	Chief Executive
		Land at Altrincham Road, Baguley	Apr 09 – Aug 09	Chief Executive
		Land at Dean Lane, Newton Heath	Apr 09 – Aug 09	Chief Executive
		Land at Wayland Road, Gorton	Apr 09 – Aug 09	Chief Executive
		Five sites in Moston/Harpurhey	Apr 09 – Aug 09	Chief Executive
		<b>Part disposal of Longley Lane Depot, Sharston</b>	Apr 09 – Aug 09	Chief Executive
		Crown Square, Manchester (Spinningfields)	Apr 09 – Aug 09	Chief Executive
		Nuthurst Road, Moston	Apr 09 – Aug 09	Chief Executive
		Great Western St/ Upper Lloyd St, Moss Side	Apr 09 – Aug 09	Chief Executive
		Land at Sheffield Street NCP	Apr 09 – Aug 09	Chief Executive
		Land at Pollard Street, Ancoats - GMPTE	Apr 09 – Aug 09	Chief Executive
		Land at Sport City, Beswick - GMPTE	Apr 09 – Aug 09	Chief Executive
		<b>Acquisition of an interest in land</b>		
		Crossley Works, Pottery Lane	Apr 09 – Aug 09	Chief Executive
		<b>Tender Acceptance</b>		
		Insolvency and Bankruptcy Legal Services	Apr 09 – Aug 09	City Solicitor

	Catering Services (Concessions)	Apr 09 – Aug 09	City Treasurer
	Mechanical Road Sweepers	Apr 09 – Aug 09	City Treasurer
	Great Manchester Run	Apr 09 – Aug 09	Chief Executive
	Paralympic World Cup 2009 and 2010	Apr 09 – Aug 09	Head of Leisure
	Refuge Centres for Domestic Abuse	Apr 09 – Aug 09	Director of Housing
	Banners, Signs and Flags	Apr 09 – Aug 09	City Treasurer
	Parking / Bus Lane Enforcement Services	Apr 09 – Aug 09	City Treasurer
	Framework One (2009). Design and Build construction projects £500k to £10m plus	Apr 09 – Aug 09	City Treasurer
	Waste Recycling Strategy	Apr 09 – Aug 09	City Treasurer
	Swimming Transport Services	Apr 09 – Aug 09	Head of Leisure
	Cleaning & Waste Separation at New Smithfield Market	Apr 09 – Aug 09	City Treasurer
	Delivery of Social Care and Health Equipment	Apr 09 – Aug 09	Director of Adult Social Care
	Provision of Weedkiller	Apr 09 – Aug 09	Strategic Director of Neighbourhood Services
	Construction and operation of fibre to the premises (Oxford Road FTTP)	Apr 09 – Aug 09	Chief Executive
	Framework contract for mechanical and electrical engineering consultancy services	Apr 09 – Aug 09	City Treasurer