

**COMMITTEE:** Resources and Governance Overview and Scrutiny Committee  
**DATE:** 21 June 2007  
**REPORT OF:** Chief Executive  
**SUBJECT:** Manchester Partnership

### **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To enable the Committee to comment on the structure of thematic partnerships within the Manchester Partnership.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Committee's views be considered by the Public Service Board in its review of partnership structures and reported to the Manchester Board when it considers the outcome of the review on 17 July 2007.

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### **FINANCIAL CONSEQUENCES FOR THE REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGETS**

None.

### **BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Community Strategy. Manchester Partnership Team, Town Hall Extension.  
Minutes of the MIPS Board and Public Service Board

### **WARDS AFFECTED**

All.

## **IMPLICATIONS FOR:**

### **Anti-Poverty**

### **Equal Opportunities**

### **Environment**

### **Employment**

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 In July of last year the Council approved the new Community Strategy for Manchester for 2006-2015. The strategy was also approved by the key agencies responsible for public services in the City. This means we have agreement from all of the key agencies to the Council's strategy for the city. The key issue is, of course, delivery of the strategy.
- 1.2 The Manchester Partnership is the city's Local Strategic Partnership responsible for delivery of the Community Strategy. To ensure that the Manchester Partnership is fit to deliver the new strategy, the Manchester Board and the Manchester Public Service Board (PSB) have been created. The role and membership of both were approved by the Council and reported to the last meeting of this Committee. The Manchester Board is chaired by the Leader of the Council who is accountable to the Executive. The Board comprises non-executive representatives of key agencies and sectors.
- 1.3 The PSB brings together the lead officers of the key public sector agencies in the City to focus on delivery of the Community Strategy. The PSB is accountable to the Manchester Board. One of the initial actions of the PSB has been to review the partnerships that sit within the Manchester Partnership structure to ensure that they are fit for purpose with a clear focus on delivery of the Community Strategy.
- 1.4 At its meeting on 24 May, the Committee asked that proposals from the review in relation to the membership of individual thematic boards be reported to this meeting so that the Committee could express views to the Manchester Board. Whilst the review has not been completed there are emerging conclusions. These will be discussed further at the PSB on 3 July and proposals will then be submitted to the Manchester Board on 17 July. This report, therefore, provides the Committee with information about the direction of travel of the review and the principles which should underpin its conclusions.
- 1.5 The Committee's views can be considered within the review and reported to the Manchester Board when it considers the outcome on 17 July. The Committee may wish to return to the issue once the review is finalised.

## **2. DIRECTION OF TRAVEL**

- 2.1 The existing structure of the Manchester Partnership is based on thematic partnerships which reflect the seven objectives of the old Community Strategy: Economy and Local Employment; Children and Young People; Health; Sustainable Neighbourhoods; Crime and Disorder; Transport; and Culture. Within that structure, some partnerships have created smaller, more focused Boards which take responsibility for performance management

against specific targets within the Community Strategy, decisions on partnership work and the allocation of additional funding. For example, the Crime and Disorder Partnership has established a Crime and Disorder Performance Board. Similarly, the Children's Board has been created to take responsibility for the achievement of the outcomes for children set out in the Community Strategy and the Children's Plan. These more streamlined partnerships have proved to be capable of more robust performance management and have been effective in building strong relationships between the partners that are responsible for delivery.

- 2.2 To continue this direction of travel the thematic partnerships were asked earlier this year to review their structures working towards the principle that there should be a small number of core partnerships that have clear responsibility for delivery of specific targets within the Community Strategy; for the allocation of additional resources and for performance management of partnership working. It is also a principle that the relevant Executive Member of the Council will be a member of each core partnership so that they can fulfil the responsibilities of their portfolios for which they are accountable through the Executive to Council and are subject to scrutiny by the appropriate Overview and Scrutiny committee.

### 3. **EMERGING PROPOSALS**

- 3.1 The PSB have discussed a structure based on the following core partnerships:-

- Economic Development Board – responsible for economic growth, employment, skills, transport and culture. The transport and culture thematic partnerships would continue to engage stakeholders from those sectors but feeding into the Board.
- Crime and Disorder Performance Board – responsible for crime and disorder reduction, improving perceptions of crime and disorder, respect, youth offending and drug and alcohol issues.
- Children's Board – responsible for the Children and Young People's Plan.
- Sustainable Neighbourhoods Board – responsible for neighbourhoods of choice, environment and development of effective neighbourhood working across key public sector bodies.
- Adults, Health and Wellbeing Board responsible for adult social care, health and wellbeing within the changing context of personal responsibility, control and self-directed care. This is subject to discussion with stakeholders in July.

- 3.2 These are not final proposals. There will be further work by the PSB and, in some cases, further discussion with the relevant Executive Member before proposals are submitted to the Manchester Board in July.

3.3 The membership of each board will comprise the senior representatives of the agencies that are directly responsible for delivery of the relevant part of the Community Strategy.

3.4 A wider range of organisations will continue to be engaged through wider consultative forums.

#### 4. **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY**

4.1 The Finance and General Purposes Committee last year considered the potential impact of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill which will require specified public sector partners to co-operate with the Council in agreeing targets within new statutory Local Area Agreements and to have regard to those targets in the delivery of their functions. The Bill, if passed, will also require the specified partners to provide information to Overview and Scrutiny Committees and respond to reports issued by Committees. Partners have agreed, through the Manchester Board, to be subject to Overview and Scrutiny on a voluntary basis in advance of the statutory requirements coming into force.

4.2 Anticipating the Bill, which is expected to come into force in 2008, the Finance and General Purposes Committee made a series of recommendations putting in place a framework for more effective overview and scrutiny of partnerships. Those recommendations were endorsed by the Executive on 14 March and are now being implemented. The recommendations included the restructuring of Overview and Scrutiny Committees to ensure that they are appropriate to scrutinise the partnerships in place in the City. The structure of core partnerships currently being considered would still fit well with the structure of Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

4.3 In its role of overview of the Manchester Partnership as a whole, the Committee may wish to consider at a future meeting the extent to which Overview and Scrutiny Committees are engaging the key partnerships.