



Overview and Scrutiny: Tackling your Concerns

Annual Report



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Dear Manchester Resident,

Overview and Scrutiny Committees are your eyes and ears. As your councillors, we represent you, and through these committees we make sure that the services provided for you are the best they can be.

We use our local knowledge to represent your interests on issues that are important to you. These can be your concerns on climate change, education, or safety on your streets – anything that you tell us is relevant to you and your community. We also represent you by making sure that Manchester City Council's budget is spent effectively.

This Annual Report is a summary of just some of the work we have done, and some of our key successes this year. More importantly, it tells you how we have made a difference to the services you use.

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It is our purpose to make differences that benefit the lives of the people of Manchester. Some examples of things we have done that affect you in the last year are:

- Establishing a process with the NHS and the Manchester Local Involvement Network (LINK) that guarantees the involvement of the Committee and the LINK as representatives of patients and carers in making decisions about changes to NHS services.
- Making sure that there was a new consultation process for the Council to involve residents on its budget proposals. This system has led to more responses, and confirmed that the Council is focusing on those services that residents need and value the most.
- Ensuring that groups which help young people at risk of becoming involved with gang activity are working effectively to confront negative attitudes towards women and girls, with particular focus on effectively addressing sexual exploitation.
- Insisting that more work is done to raise awareness of the Conditions Management Programme, a voluntary national programme to help people on incapacity benefits understand and manage their health condition better and enable them to become ready for employment. Take up of this programme has already increased.

- Cultivating links with the trans community in Manchester and offering advice and guidance to the Trans Resource and Empowerment Centre (TREC), which has led to a successful bid for funding for a project to increase reporting of transphobic hate crime.
- In response to the requests of residents to make improvements to Rochdale Canal, facilitating a closer working relationship between the Council, British Waterways and community groups such as Friends of Rochdale Canal. The ongoing work has so far made the canal a cleaner, more family-friendly place.

We are grateful to those who have helped us in our work and who have taken the time to give us information or advice. We would also like to thank all Overview and Scrutiny committee members for their hard work and commitment over the past year.

Best wishes,



Councillor
John Cameron



Councillor
John Flanagan



Councillor
Mary Watson



Councillor
John Bridges



Councillor
Alistair Cox



Councillor
Sue Cooley

The rest of this report gives more insight into the work of each of Manchester's six Overview and Scrutiny Committees and details of who has been involved. On page 33 you can find information on how to contact us to tell us what you think, or give us ideas on what you think we should look at.

What is Overview and Scrutiny?

Overview and Scrutiny is a process by which the people who make decisions that affect public services can be held to account by the people of Manchester through their elected representatives. The committees do not make decisions, but try to influence those who do by considering the major issues affecting the city and making recommendations about how services can be improved.

Overview and Scrutiny Committees play an important role in making the Council more responsive in the way it provides services. They also oversee the work of the Manchester Partnership, which brings together the Council, Greater Manchester Police, the NHS and other major service providers and voluntary organisations to deliver a shared vision about how to make Manchester a better place to live and work.

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Overview and Scrutiny Committees are not restricted to looking at Council services; in fact, they can look at any issue that has an impact on the quality of life of Manchester residents. The committees have a number of different roles, including:

- representing the views and wishes of Manchester residents about the services they receive
- holding the Council's decision-makers to account
- scrutinising the work of the Manchester Partnership and how it is delivering the Community Strategy – our goals for improving the city
- helping to develop new policies and revise existing ones
- monitoring the performance of the Council and other public agencies.

The six Overview and Scrutiny Committees are:

- Children and Young People
- Citizenship and Inclusion
- Communities and Neighbourhoods
- Economy, Employment and Skills
- Health and Wellbeing
- Resources and Governance

The committees are made up of between 10 and 20 councillors of all political parties representing wards across the city. Committees meet ten times every year and meetings are open to the public.



Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Over the past year we have continued to support the improvement of services that affect the lives of children and young people across the city and monitor how well they are provided.

We have spent a lot of time investigating how effectively we look after Manchester's children and young people. One of the things we have tried to improve has been the way that agencies work together. Representatives from the Council, Greater Manchester Police, the NHS, Connexions, voluntary organisations and schools have attended our meetings and answered questions. We have also heard regularly from the Manchester Safeguarding Children Board, whose job is to co-ordinate these agencies and monitor how well children are protected. As a result, we believe sharing information between agencies is now more efficient and productive, and referring children to the correct agency has become easier to do.

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During the year our attention was drawn to the increasing problem of sexual exploitation of teenage girls due to their involvement in gang culture. We met with a range of youth workers who are seeking to address this problem and the risk of girls becoming involved in gang and gun violence. We have highlighted the safeguarding issues and have recognised that the agencies involved (voluntary and statutory) are working hard to address these problems. We commended them for their work and have stressed the need to ensure that this work with young women is properly resourced. In addition, we have recommended that specific work is undertaken with young men to increase their sense of responsibility towards young women.

This year we have continued the work of our two subgroups: the small groups of committee members that look at specific issues in more detail. Our Ofsted Subgroup has continued to review and monitor Ofsted inspection reports for Manchester schools to find out what individual schools are doing that works well. In Manchester, attainment and attendance are strongly linked and are consistently below the national average, so we wanted to make sure that everyone is working towards improving them in the most effective way possible. We looked in detail at research on how to raise attainment, and heard directly from teachers



who had significantly improved attendance at their schools. We have urged everyone involved to share good practice across the city and have stressed the importance of young people enjoying their education. We are glad to note that Manchester is making steady improvements in addressing both attainment and attendance.

Our Engagement Subgroup has looked at how children and young people can communicate their opinions and concerns to decision-makers. As part of that it focused on the development of youth forums and school councils across Manchester. It also met with young people who attended the European Children's Summit in Germany, and has asked Council officers to consider how best to implement the Summit's recommendations.

Through the work of this subgroup, we heard directly and forcibly from young people that they are unhappy with the stereotypes and negative perception of young people, particularly as presented in the media. We wanted to challenge these negative stereotypes, so we invited young people to address representatives from the media about the positive things they have done and the contributions they have made to local communities.

Groups came from all over the city to a prestigious event in Manchester Town Hall. We heard powerful presentations from poets, musicians, sportswomen, disabled young people, looked after children, delegates to the European Children's Summit and representatives from ethnic minority communities in the city. Young people also took the opportunity to question a panel of representatives from the media, the Director of Children's Services and the Councillor Chair of the Scrutiny Committee. The event was extremely successful and received wide and positive coverage in the local press. Longer-term commitments were made to involve young people in how they are portrayed in the media, and to scrutinise this through an annual high profile event.

This year we have also:

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- Scrutinised a proposed reconfiguration of the city's educational needs provision, which would mean, where appropriate, children with Special Educational Needs are placed in mainstream education with full support and resources. We visited a range of schools affected by these changes and talked with children, parents and teachers. As a result we supported the proposals and agreed that a small group of councillors would take an in-depth look at the impact of the changes on the young people affected.
- Reviewed regularly the quality of services for Manchester's Looked After Children. We recognise that these are among some of Manchester's most vulnerable young people. In particular, we have continued to monitor the implementation of the Service Improvement Programme for the Family Placement Service.
- Investigated the changes being made to provisions for young people through the new Youth Offer. We have identified this as a crucial issue requiring further detailed scrutiny as the plans become clearer.

You can find out more about our work on the internet at www.manchester.gov.uk where you can look at the reports we have received and the minutes of our meetings.

Membership

The following councillors took part in scrutiny work in 2009/2010:

Alistair Cox (Chair), Sameen Ali, Paul Ankers, Mike Carmody, Henry Cooper, Martin Eakins, Helen Fisher, Brian Harrison, Tommy Judge, Joyce Keller, Maryam Khan, Mary Murphy, Tony Parkinson, David Sandiford, Rita Tavernor, Lianne Williams.

The Committee also has a number of members representing teachers, school governors and faith groups, known as co-opted members:

The following co-opted members took part in scrutiny work in 2009/2010:

David Arnold, Reverend Canon Roy Chow, Marian Gadian, Reverend Father Tim Hopkins, R Kennedy, Linda Lundy, Steve Marciniak, Julie Reid, Tayyauba Sheikh.



Citizenship and Inclusion Overview and Scrutiny Committee

As members of the Citizenship and Inclusion Overview and Scrutiny Committee we look at and make recommendations on the work to reduce crime undertaken by the Council, Greater Manchester Police and Fire Services, the Probation Service and the NHS. We also look at how public services are aiming to create cohesive communities in Manchester, where people from different backgrounds get on well with one another.

The group of public services with responsibility for addressing crime meet as the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership. We act as the Council's Crime and Disorder Committee and have a statutory duty to examine the work of the Partnership and comment on how they are delivering services that meet the needs of Manchester residents. To develop this relationship we met early on in the year and had a full and frank discussion about the Partnership's programme for the year ahead. We then looked in detail at some areas of that programme, including prostitution, domestic abuse and the operation of Neighbourhood Watch schemes. In particular, we have strengthened support for Neighbourhood Watch schemes both financially and by putting the organisers of new schemes in touch with their local councillor who can help them to make the scheme more effective and more sustainable.

The current financial climate means it is more important than ever to ensure that public services take a tough stance on loan sharks and irresponsible lenders, and to make sure that Manchester residents have access to good sources of credit and advice. We have had discussions about this with providers of advice services and Manchester's Credit Union. We discussed with the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) how their guidance for creditors on irresponsible lending could be used to tackle some of the unfair lending practices that occur in Manchester. We have established a relationship between the OFT and the Council to tackle irresponsible lending and we will carry on our work in this area next year through discussions with the Government's Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, particularly looking at the use of extremely high rates of interest.

We were grateful to equality experts in the fields of gender, race and disability for attending our Committee meeting in October and discussing the Council's equality schemes in these areas with us. These schemes show how the Council monitors equalities and how it will take them fully into account in all services it delivers. Following these discussions we urged the Council to strengthen its gender equality scheme to fully address the discrimination women continue to face.

We have been challenging a number of departments across the Council to demonstrate in their operational plans how they will ensure the services they deliver are made more equally accessible. Where we have felt that the plans do not show this, we have requested they be redrafted so that they do.

We arranged a meeting with a number of people from the trans community to tell us about the discrimination they faced and how the Council, law enforcement agencies and the voluntary and community sector can support them. It is clear that the trans community faces significant discrimination in employment, housing and in accessing public services. We feel that the Council is doing some pioneering work to address this and we will continue to oversee how this is supporting the trans community next year.



This year we have also:

- Met with the new Chief Constable of Greater Manchester Police to discuss his priorities for policing in Manchester.
- Discussed the Council's work to monitor and improve levels of cohesion in communities and will return next year to look at the tools it is using to do this.
- Looked at the Council's work with religious leaders across the city as part of its stance to develop resilience in communities and to prevent violent extremism from taking place in Manchester.

In addition to our work in the Committee, we set up a joint subgroup with the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee to run a detailed investigation into how public services were working together to address alcohol misuse. We made a number of recommendations to service providers and regional authorities, including requesting that the Government should be lobbied to introduce a minimum price per unit for alcohol. We requested that discussion groups with supermarkets should be set up to address irresponsible promotions on alcohol, and that care plans for dependent drinkers should be extended to support them not only to abstain from alcohol but then to enter into productive employment or training.

You can find out more about our work on the internet at www.manchester.gov.uk where you can look at the reports we receive and minutes of our meetings.

Membership

The following councillors took part in scrutiny work in 2009/2010:

John Bridges (Chair), John Cameron, Abid Latif Chohan, Abu Chowdhury, Paul Fairweather, June Hitchen, Veronica Kirkpatrick, Brian O'Neil, Martin Pagel, Nilofar Siddiqi, Mavis Smitheman, Lynne Williams.



Communities and Neighbourhoods Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The Communities and Neighbourhoods Overview and Scrutiny Committee is responsible for looking at many issues that affect the lives of individuals and communities in Manchester. We have concentrated on investigating issues that residents have told us are important to them.

We have taken a particular interest in how the Council prioritises roads and pavements for maintenance and repair. One thing we wanted to do was to make sure that local councillors understood how roads are maintained so they can contribute to this process and make sure the issues that matter locally are addressed. All councillors have now been provided with a detailed breakdown of the condition of roads within their wards and are now able to feed back problems identified by their constituents to make sure they are addressed.

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Historically, canals were at the heart of the development of industrial Manchester and provided a means for goods to be transported in and out of the city. The restoration of the canals has been central to the regeneration of the city. Local residents have told us there are some problems with litter, antisocial behaviour and the condition of the towpaths, particularly along sections of Rochdale Canal. We visited Rochdale Canal to see for ourselves and as a result have worked with the Friends of Rochdale Canal community group, British Waterways and the Council to see if there was a way we could all work together to improve the appearance and condition of sections of the canal. All partners have participated in a successful 'community clean-up' event and are now working together better. Bids have been made for further funding, and we recognise this is only the start of what needs to be done. We will continue to review the progress made and how we can make similar improvements to other canals in Manchester.

Manchester's Library Service has pioneered innovative ways to attract people and involve them in their services. We have examined their work closely, particularly the pilot of the 'Living Libraries' project, where young people were able to borrow a 'human book' to talk to them about their life experiences. The pilot was very popular and we have requested that there

should be 'Living Books' in future events that are knowledgeable about and representative of their community in order to help young people find out about their local area.

Over the past year we have also:

- Monitored the progress of the Manchester Day Parade following a recommendation from our Community Events Subgroup in 2008. We asked the Council to establish an event representing all local communities that would celebrate the cultural diversity of Manchester. The Manchester Day Parade will take place in June 2010.
- Looked at progress in improving allotments and community gardens in Manchester. We have welcomed the increased opportunities for residents to grow their own food and to set up community vegetable patches.
- Continued to oversee the development of the Climate Change Action Plan, which sets out how the Council will work with partners to improve the quality of the environment and raise awareness about climate change issues.
- Monitored the progress made towards achieving the target for home ownership set in the Local Area Agreement (LAA), paying close attention to the effect of economic circumstances on the housing market.

In addition to the work of the Committee, two smaller groups of members looked at a specific issue in detail. The first is the Housing Subgroup, which has focused on how the Council and its partners can help support young people with housing, particularly those leaving care. We have emphasised the need for the Council to continue to provide as much support, advice and training for vulnerable people as possible. We also examined the provision of social housing for retired armed forces personnel in relation to the new Allocations Policy. We have recommended the policy should take into account that armed forces personnel may find it difficult to demonstrate they have a local connection to the area.

Last winter, as we all know, Manchester suffered a period of very bad snow and ice. In response to this, we set up a second subgroup to look at how the Council and partners can make sure that we respond to occurrences of severe weather in the future. We have made some recommendations to improve the service we provide, such as asking for more grit bins for residents and making sure that roads near schools are gritted. We are now looking at how we can put these recommendations into practice and we will continue with this work next year.

You can find out more about our work on the internet at www.manchester.gov.uk where you can look at the reports we have received and the minutes of our meetings.

Membership

The following councillors took part in scrutiny work in 2009/2010:

John Flanagan (Chair), Paul Ankers, Ken Barnes, Sandra Bracegirdle, Abid Latif Chohan, Basil Curley, Wendy Helsby, Rodney Isherwood, Pat Karney, Norman Lewis, Mick Loughman, Edward McCulley, Eddy Newman, Damien O'Connor, Luthfur Rahman, David Royle, Bernie Ryan, Lianne Williams.



Economy, Employment and Skills Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Our main priority as members of the Economy, Employment and Skills Overview and Scrutiny Committee is to look at the issues that affect the city's economic wellbeing and to ensure that Manchester residents benefit from the economy as much as possible. This year we have looked at a range of issues, including the economic downturn, employment and training, transport and regeneration plans to see how they affect Manchester residents.

We have kept a close eye on how the Council and local partners have responded to the recession, in particular how we are providing employment and training opportunities for residents. We have welcomed the pilot Residents Wages Project, a piece of work that assists Manchester residents to increase their household incomes through raising their ambitions and skills and preparing them to gain employment and to progress once employed.

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In addition to this, the Committee has carried out an in-depth investigation into what the Council, the NHS and Jobcentre Plus are doing to break down barriers to employment for disabled people and people with mental health problems. We also looked at the role of Jobcentre Plus in supporting people into work or training, particularly those who have been unemployed for a long time, those aged over 50, and young people – in particular school-leavers. At the end of our investigation, we said that more work was needed to improve the take-up of the Conditions Management Programme, a national programme to help people on incapacity benefits understand and manage their health condition better and enable them to become ready for employment. The take-up of this scheme was low in parts of Manchester. As a result, more work was done to raise awareness of the programme, and to date figures for this year have seen a significant increase.



We have looked at the work to support new businesses in Manchester by the North West Development Agency (NWDA). The NWDA funds a scheme to provide advice, training and support to new businesses. The Council also targets additional advice and training about setting up a business to people most in need, such as those who have been made redundant from work or who live in more disadvantaged areas of the city. We have asked that the Executive Member for Employment and Skills urges the NWDA to allow their money to be used to support new businesses most in need in Manchester.

Some residents have told us that delays in finishing building sites across the city had caused problems for public safety. We wanted to make sure that the Council and other agencies were doing everything possible to get these sites going again and have taken action to make sure they are safe. We looked at the Kickstart programme, a Government scheme that aims to fund developments affected by the recession, which would otherwise not be completed. We think this programme is important for showing that Manchester is still economically active and providing jobs in the construction industry.

There are some changes to transport networks that will benefit residents across Greater Manchester. We have contributed to the consultation on the Transport Strategy for the city centre. We anticipate there will be an increasing demand for public transport, and this strategy will co-ordinate improvements to the Metrolink and bus services, and introduce better cycling routes and parking throughout the city. We have emphasised the importance of making sure that local residents are consulted on any changes that affect the services they use. This consultation is now underway and we will continue to monitor this as the strategy develops.

We have also taken a keen interest in regeneration schemes across the city. We have looked at progress with regeneration programmes in east Manchester, Levenshulme, and Chorlton. We have listened to the views of councillors representing their local constituents about the challenges that face these areas and how they can be addressed. We will continue to pursue the regeneration of the city's deprived areas.

This year, we also:

- Examined the role of independent retail in creating thriving district centres and the support the Council can give to combat the effects of the recession on independent retail in Manchester.
- Looked at the importance of business parks to economic growth and attracting investment into the city. When we were concerned that some business parks might cause disruption for local communities, we recommended that local members worked with business parks to address the concerns of residents.
- Reviewed how tourism activity in Manchester was supported and the relocation of the Visitor Information Centre. We looked at examples of promotional material for Manchester and how this encouraged visitors to explore the city.
- Considered the progress of the City Region Pilot, a plan that asks all authorities in Greater Manchester to work together to deliver economic benefits to all the residents of Manchester.

You can find out more about our work on the internet at www.manchester.gov.uk where you can look at the reports we have received and the minutes of our meetings.

Membership

The following councillors took part in scrutiny work in 2009/2010:

John Cameron (Chair), Hugh Barrett, Tony Bethell, John Bridges, Joanne Green, Mark Hackett, Eddy Newman, Tony Parkinson, Jon-Leigh Pritchard, Nilofar Siddiqi, Mavis Smitheman, Roy Walters.



Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee

It is the role of the Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee to review health and social care services provided for the residents of Manchester.

There are a number of challenges facing public finances over the next few years and it is important that health and social care providers are prepared to meet these challenges. In the past year, we have worked with NHS colleagues to look at the 'Securing Our Shared Future Programme', which tells us how the NHS will use their available resources wisely to meet greater demand for healthcare services. We have also looked at how healthcare providers are working together to jointly deliver services and resources across the city to provide better care for Manchester residents at a lower cost. By doing this work, we can make sure that Manchester is in a position to provide our residents with a range of good-quality services in a cost-effective way.

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As part of this programme, the emphasis of care is shifting away from hospitals to community settings, which means that people will be provided with care closer to their homes. The Government has asked the NHS to consider how community care services will be provided in the future, and these changes will take place over the next few years. We have kept a close eye on these developments to make sure that the changes are focused on making the services better to meet the healthcare needs of Manchester residents. A big part of our work next year will be to continue to influence how community care services are developed and to monitor how they are put into practice.

Working closely with the Manchester Local Involvement Network (LINK) has given us the opportunity to listen to a wide range of patient views and experiences. We have strengthened this relationship by reaching an agreement with the Manchester LINK, which describes how the Committee and the LINK work together to improve health and social care services across Manchester. An example of how this relationship has benefited Manchester residents is the new method we have established for dealing with major changes to health services. This agreement with the NHS and Manchester LINK guarantees the involvement of the Committee and the LINK as



representatives of patients and carers at the early stages of the decision making process.

We formed a joint subgroup with members from the Citizenship and Inclusion Overview and Scrutiny Committee to look at how public services in Manchester are working together to address the effects of drinking too much alcohol. We made several recommendations, which included the need to develop comprehensive care plans for individuals to extend support for the patient back into employment, education or training. Capacity to manage care plans will be increased from April 2010 and we hope that the introduction of these care plans will improve the care provided for individuals.

We have looked at teenage pregnancy and conception rates and recommended that councillor representatives on school governing bodies should take a lead role in encouraging schools and parents to provide confidential sexual health advice for young people. We recommended that there should be a consistent approach to providing advice about sexual health

matters in schools and colleges across the city. Personal, Social and Health Education will become a compulsory subject for all ages in September 2011. Advice will be issued to local schools following the publication of national guidelines to ensure that they are taking a consistent approach.

We have now finished the work of the Mental Health Services Subgroup, a small group of members who investigated how to improve mental health services in Manchester. We recognise there is still a long way to go for mental health services to reach the standard that Manchester residents deserve and this will remain a priority area of work for the Committee next year. We have said that everyone who uses mental health support services should have a say in how services are provided. We also know that mental health services in Manchester are very complex and some people may find it difficult to know where to start looking for help if they need it. We have asked the NHS to put together a directory that tells people how to find the services they need. This directory is currently being developed and will be available for residents in 2011.

Over the past year, we have also:

- Proposed that the focus of the next 'Don't be a Cancer Chancer Campaign' should have a broader age range and should include a push for the removal of age restrictions on cancer screening and raise awareness of the symptoms of cancer.
- Supported the proposals to raise awareness of the organ donation campaign for Council staff.
- Suggested that cardiovascular checks should not be limited to a particular age group. We also recommended that groups representing older people should be provided with clear information that people over the age of 75 can access vascular health checks through their GPs.

You can find out more about our work on the internet at www.manchester.gov.uk where you can look at the reports we have received and the minutes of our meetings.

Membership

The following councillors took part in scrutiny work in 2009/2010:

Sue Cooley (Chair), Elaine Boyes, Alec Cowan, Basil Curley, Ken Dobson, Helen Fisher, Rodney Isherwood, Thomas Judge, Joyce Keller, Harry Lyons, Mary Murphy, Tom O'Callaghan, Damien O'Connor, Barbara O'Neill, Neil Swannick, Anna Trotman.

This Committee also has two members representing the Manchester Local Involvement Network (LINK): Mr Mike Kelly and Mrs Angela Young.



Resources and Governance Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Our role as members of this Committee is to take an overview of the approach the Council is taking to ensure that it uses its resources effectively and efficiently to deliver the services Manchester residents need most. We also look at the governance arrangements of the Council and its partners in the public sector to ensure that the views of local residents are reflected in the decisions they take.

It is very likely that funding for public services will be restricted over the next few years and so we have taken particular interest in how the Council is preparing for this. As many banks and building societies have collapsed or needed public support, we have examined how the Council invests and manages its resources, and are assured that its approach is appropriate for the current economic climate.

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We have challenged a number of departments within the Council to demonstrate how their operational plans for the future will support them to be more efficient and to continue to deliver important services with reduced resources. We also recognised that it was more important than ever that Manchester residents have every opportunity to see the Council's budget proposals for next year and comment on them. We requested the introduction of a new consultation system, and this has led to greatly increased responses, and confirmed that the Council is focusing on those services that residents need and value the most.

After a local resident brought his experience of bad practices by a bailiff company in Manchester to our attention we, with his help, examined the relationship the Council had with bailiff companies. Following a long discussion we asked the Council to explore a number of issues to make sure that bailiffs under instruction from the Council operate in a fair way and fully take people's financial circumstances into account. We will come back to look at this further next year.

It is becoming increasingly important that public services work together to make sure that they are pulling in the same direction, and the Manchester Partnership has been set up to ensure this happens. It is important that

the Partnership reports its work to elected councillors in the same way the Council and other public services do, so this year we have adopted a focus on looking at how public services are collaborating. This has involved looking at how the major public services, such as the Police, Fire, Council, NHS and transport, are sharing good practices in managing risks, making efficiency savings and learning lessons from audit inspections. We have received regular performance reports on the targets public services are working towards and asked the Partnership to demonstrate how public services are working together to make sure they achieve their targets.

Planning regulations allow for some money from a development to go towards making improvements in that neighbourhood. We requested that the Council introduces a system to consult councillors on how money from these planning agreements should be spent. We requested this so that your local representatives have the opportunity to ensure that funds from these agreements are directed to those parts of the neighbourhood most in need.

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We have also looked at:

- The development of a new relationship between councils in Greater Manchester (the City Region) and the Government, which will allow councils new freedoms and flexibilities. We discussed with the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council how this will work in practice and how they are making sure it will benefit residents of Manchester as much as possible.
- How the Council is strengthening its ICT resources and making sure it supports Council staff to work in new and more efficient ways, which is becoming more and more important given the current financial challenges.
- The operation of the Neighbourhood Funding Strategy, a process that allows local councillors to attract funding to resolve local concerns with their wards. We conducted an evaluation of the first year of the Strategy and made recommendations on how it can be strengthened.

In addition to our work in the Committee, we have set up two subgroups, which involve a smaller group of councillors looking at matters in more depth. One of these subgroups has been looking at the human resources policies of the Council and has focused on temporary staffing arrangements, particularly among social workers for children and adults. We have looked at how the Council has developed a more stable workforce in these areas to serve service users more effectively.

The other subgroup focuses on governance. It has been looking at how the programme of activities developed to improve monitoring and control of financial resources is being implemented and how ward councillors can make sure the Manchester Partnership is focusing on local residents' concerns through the scrutiny committees.

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You can find out more about our work on the internet at www.manchester.gov.uk where you can look at the reports we receive and minutes of our meetings.

Membership

The following councillors took part in scrutiny work in 2009/2010:

Mary Watson (Chair), Faraz Bhatti, Mark Clayton, Charles Glover, Brendon Jones, Emily Lomax, Edward McCulley, Peter Morrison, Paul Murphy, Tony Parkinson, David Sandiford, Neil Swannick, Anna Trotman.



Have your say

We want more people to feel they have the opportunity to influence the decisions that matter to them. Whether they involve policing, health services or education, overview and scrutiny committees can look into all these areas and many others. One of our main priorities over the next 12 months is to give more people the chance to contribute to our work.

We'll be looking at improving the way we work so we can hear directly from more of our residents. There are a number of ways you can get involved:

- Suggest a topic for scrutiny

Overview and Scrutiny Committees have work programmes that list the topics they are going to be looking at in the near future. The work programmes are reviewed throughout the year to make sure that the committees are working on topics they can influence. If there is an issue or service you think councillors should consider, please use the form attached in this booklet to tell us about it.

- Come along to a meeting

Committees meet at least ten times a year, either at the Town Hall or in different venues across the city. Apart from in exceptional circumstances, our meetings are open to the public. At the back of this booklet there is a pull-out guide of meeting dates and times of scrutiny committee meetings next year.

- Tell us what you think

If you have a particular interest in a topic a committee is looking at, the committee would like to hear from you. If you would like a copy of a work programme, please contact a scrutiny officer using the details below.

You can find out more about Overview and Scrutiny by visiting the Council's website: www.manchester.gov.uk

Alternatively, you can contact a scrutiny officer directly:

Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit
Room 405
Town Hall
Manchester
M60 2LA

Telephone: **0161 234 3241**

email: **scrutiny@manchester.gov.uk**





Overview and Scrutiny

Topic Suggestion Form

Name:	
Organisation or member of the public:	
Tel:	
Email:	

1. What do you want Overview and Scrutiny to look at?

--

2. Can you give us some background information on this topic?
What is the current situation/problem?

--

3. What would you like Overview and Scrutiny to do? How do you think
Overview and Scrutiny can make a difference by looking at this issue?

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Thank you for your suggestion

We will make every effort to look at your topic as thoroughly as possible. We will prioritise the topics we feel we can contribute to, and where they will benefit Manchester residents.

FREEPOST MR1514

Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit

Room 405

Town Hall

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Manchester

M60 2LA

Your pull-out guide

Dates of Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings at a glance

		2010						2011		
	May	June	July	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Children and Young People	Tues 25 10am	Tues 22 10am	Tues 20 10am	Tues 7 10am	Tues 19 10am	Tues 16 10am	Tues 14 10am	Tues 11 10am	Tues 8 10am	Tues 8 10am
Communities and Neighbourhoods	Tues 25 2pm	Tues 22 2pm	Tues 20 2pm	Tues 7 2pm	Tues 19 2pm	Tues 16 2pm	Tues 14 2pm	Tues 11 2pm	Tues 8 2pm	Tues 8 2pm
Economy, Employment and Skills	Wed 26 10am	Wed 23 10am	Wed 21 10am	Wed 8 10am	Wed 20 10am	Wed 17 10am	Wed 15 10am	Wed 12 10am	Wed 9 10am	Wed 7 10am*
Citizenship and Inclusion	Wed 26 10am	Wed 23 2pm	Wed 21 2pm	Wed 8 2pm	Wed 20 2pm	Wed 17 2pm	Wed 15 2pm	Wed 12 2pm	Wed 9 2pm	Wed 7 2pm*
Resource and Governance	Thurs 27 10am	Thurs 24 10am	Thurs 22 10am	Thurs 9 10am	Thurs 21 10am	Thurs 18 10am	Thurs 16 10am	Thurs 13 10am	Thurs 10 and Mon 28 10am	Thurs 26 10am
Health and Wellbeing	Thurs 27 2pm	Thurs 24 2pm	Thurs 22 2pm	Thurs 9 2pm	Thurs 21 2pm	Thurs 18 2pm	Thurs 16 2pm	Thurs 13 2pm	Thurs 10 2pm	Thurs 10 2pm

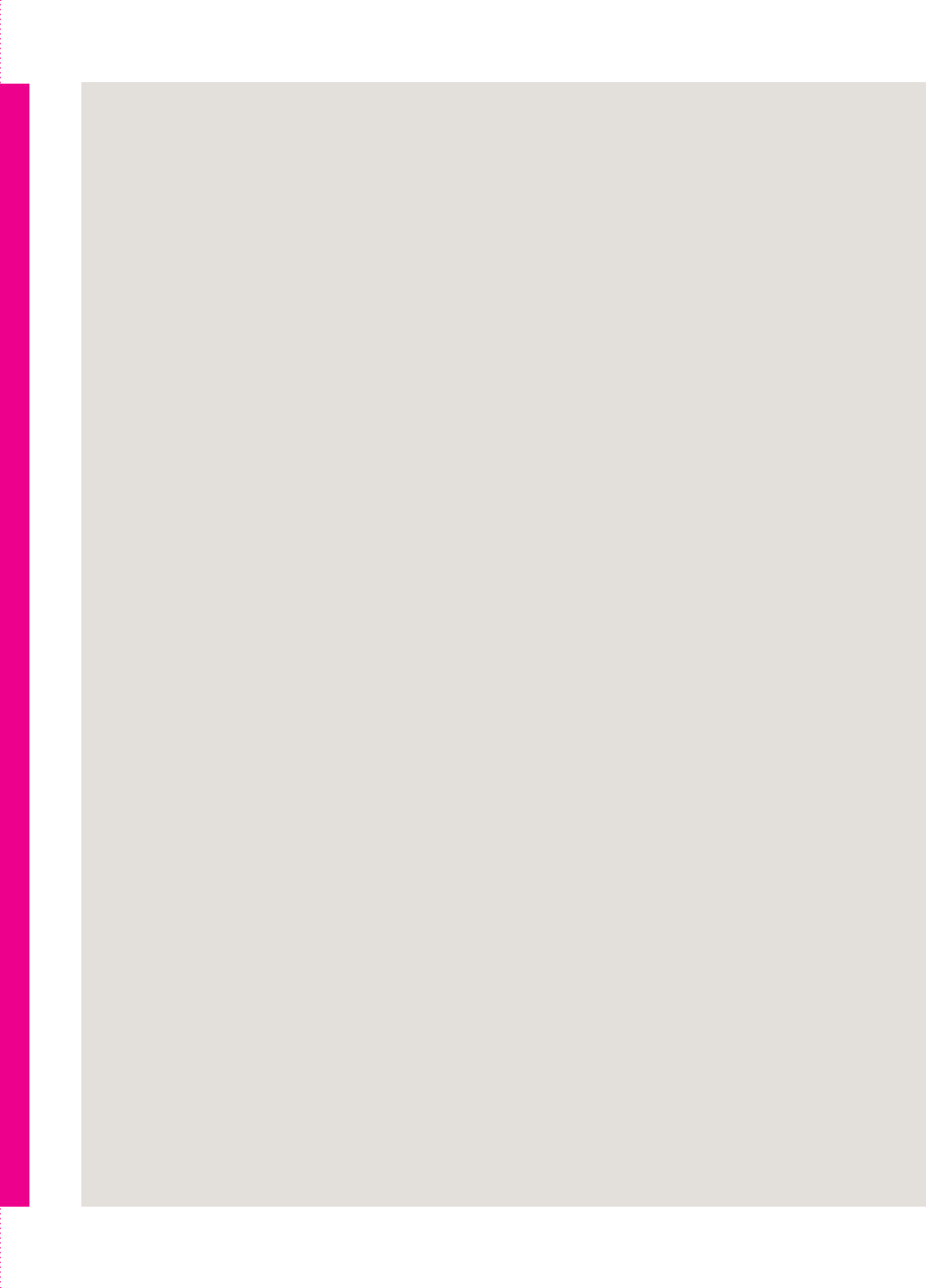
Papers for all our Committees are published on the internet one week before the meeting. You can find these papers at www.manchester.gov.uk

Pull-out guide

Dates of Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings at a glance



MANCHESTER
CITY COUNCIL





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