

The Executive

Minutes of the meeting held on 25 June 2008

Councillor R Leese – In the Chair

Councillors Amesbury, Andrews, Battle, Cowell, Curley, S Murphy, S Newman, Priest and Stevens

Also present as Members of the Standing Advisory Panel:

Councillors Ashley, Commons, Donaldson, Fairweather, Grant, Keegan, A. Khan, M. Murphy, Parkinson, Pearcey, Shannon, Shaw and Wheale

Exe/08/89 Minutes

Decision

To approve the minutes of the Executive meeting held on 28 May as a correct record.

Exe/08/90 UEFA Cup Final – 14 May 2008

At our meeting on 28 May we endorsed the proposed review of the hosting of the UEFA Cup Final at the City of Manchester Stadium on 14 May (minute Exe/08/84). The report on the review we have now received has also been submitted to the Communities and Neighbourhoods Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 17 June.

The Cup Final had seen an estimated 150,000 to 160,000 people come to Manchester, most of them Glasgow Rangers fans. This is the largest known migration of football supporters for a single match. The review looked into how the event had been planned by the Local Organising Committee, and the arrangements that had been made to try to accommodate and welcome the huge number of supporters. In conducting the review a wide range of stakeholders, key agencies and partners had been consulted and contributed to the review. The responses from some of the key stakeholders in Manchester and Glasgow were appended to the report. The Council had also received many letters and e-mails following the event, both of complaint and compliment. The views and questions emerging from residents, businesses and visitors had all been considered as part of the review. In addition to considering the planning, management and delivery of the event, the estimated costs and benefits to the city had also been analysed.

The review examined all aspects of the event and, in particular, the lessons to be learned from it. It was clear that whatever steps the Council had taken a vast number of Rangers fans were going to come to Manchester for an impromptu party on the day of the final. There was a significant impact on the City's infrastructure, services and facilities and the unprecedented number of supporters did overwhelm the public services. There had been some anti-social behaviour during the day. Incidents of

public disorder in the Piccadilly area of the city centre marred the event but the heroism of Tom Bardsley during that disorder was praised by Members. Overall, for the great majority of supporters the event was a fantastic experience, with positive feedback from many of the key stakeholders on the quality of the planning and the attention to detail, and with the events at the City of Manchester Stadium deemed to be hugely successful.

Decision

1. To note the successful staging of the UEFA Cup Final match in Manchester on 14th May 2008.
2. To note the findings of the review into the planning, management and delivery of the UEFA Cup Final
3. To endorse the recommendations made by the Communities and Neighbourhoods Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 17 June.
4. To endorse the lessons learnt from this review, as set out in Section 20 of the report, and to request that major event organisers within the city take account of these findings when planning any future large scale events.

Exe/08/91 Transport Innovation Fund (TIF)

The Association of Greater Manchester Authorities (AGMA) and the Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Authority (GMPTA) has submitted a bid to the Transport Innovation Fund for a package of public transport schemes including significant improvements to the bus and rail networks, interchanges and other town centre improvements, extensions to Metrolink and programmes to encourage behavioural change. Part of the bid is a complementary road pricing scheme scheduled to go live in July, 2013 by which time the majority of the public transport improvements must be in place. On the 9 June the Secretary of State for Transport announced in the House of Commons that she had approved the entry of this bid into the Transport Innovation Fund Programme. A report was submitted that identified the detailed terms of the Department for Transport's (DfT) decision, and the basis upon which officers of the GMPTA and the Passenger Transport Executive have agreed with the DfT that the package should be developed and progressed.

The total package secured from the DfT is £2.77bn. The DfT contribution is £1.53bn, an increase of £320m over that sought in the bid. The local contribution will be £1.24bn, which represents a reduction of £170m from the bid. A key adjustment to the bid was an agreement with DfT that rail rolling stock and platform improvements would be funded directly by DfT as part of its high-level output specification (HLOS) procurement programme.

The DfT assessment of the overall package is that it:

- addresses an existing and growing congestion problem, promoting labour market connectivity and supporting both Greater Manchester's ambitions for growth and also the longer term development of road pricing;
- represents high value for money with benefits over four times the costs and includes a package of accompanying public transport measures which while considerable represents in overall terms high value for money and represents a broadly proportionate strategic fit to the pricing scheme;
- is affordable within the funding parameters set for TIF grant and prudential borrowing related to TIF packages and is considered to be deliverable based upon the submitted financial plan and forecast net revenues; and
- has an appropriate approach to risk allocation where financial and delivery risk, except for some rail-related investment, is transferred to Greater Manchester.

The public consultation exercise is to commence on the 7th July and to be completed by the 11th October. The intention is that, subject to the outcome of the consultation, an application for Conditional Approval is made by or around the end of October 2008. The DfT has agreed to respond to a good quality application if at all possible by the end of March 2009.

The Chief Executive explained that the public transport improvements would be implemented before the introduction of road pricing. It was expected that 80% of the improvements would be in place by July 2013, meeting the test set by AGMA that the congestion charge should not be introduced unless public transport had been improved beforehand. As part of the consultation, a detailed prospectus was to be published setting out the investments and improvements schemes, and the operation of the congestion charge.

The package represented an enormous investment in public transport to all parts of the city to create the equal of anywhere else in Europe. Each of the ten local authorities, and the GMPTA, needed to come to a view on the package and the decision to go ahead with the application for Conditional Approval. The Chair explained that there was no mechanism in place that allowed for a single decision to be taken by and for Greater Manchester as a whole. On considering the importance of the package to all of Greater Manchester, and the importance of a decision for the whole area, he had concluded that a single Greater Manchester-wide referendum was needed with all the ten local authorities bound by the outcome. The referendum should take place after the consultation currently planned.

Decision

1. To welcome the announcement of the Programme Entry Decision by the Secretary of State for Transport.
2. To note the outcome of this announcement and its relevance to the continuing work programme of Officers.

3. To request the Chief Executive to report further to the Executive on the detailed proposals, to enable a firm City Council decision to be determined.
4. To agree and support the proposal for a single Greater Manchester referendum, provided that all ten local authorities accept that they will be bound by the outcome.

(Councillor S Murphy declared a prejudicial interest in this item and left the meeting)

Exe/08/92 District Public Service Boards (PSBs)

District PSBs were proposed as a continuation of the previous Public Agency Forums in North and East Manchester, extended to cover the rest of the City. Their core purpose was to ensure delivery of the Community Strategy and the Strategic Regeneration Framework for that part of the City, to support Ward Co-ordination by resolving problems which could not be resolved by individual services or partnerships, and to develop a culture of partnership working across agencies. In December 2007 the Executive had resolved to consider the inclusion of democratically elected Members in the District Public Service Board process (minute Exe/07/154).

A report was submitted explaining that officers had reviewed the proposals for District PSBs and how to ensure that democratically elected Councillors are involved in the identification and ensuring delivery of projects and tasks. Rather than continue with the PSBs in their current form, and instead of including democratically elected Members in the Boards, the report proposed two meetings per year be convened for all Members of the Council in each of the Strategic Regeneration Framework areas. The meetings will be chaired by the Leader and Deputy Leaders of the Council in their positions as lead Members for regeneration areas as follows:

East Manchester: Councillor Jim Battle
North Manchester: Councillor Sir Richard Leese
Central Manchester: Councillor Val Stevens
South Manchester: Councillor Val Stevens
Wythenshawe: Councillor Jim Battle

Attendance by other officers and partners will be determined by the issues on the agenda. The purpose of the meetings will be to receive a general update on delivery of the Community Strategy and Regeneration Framework; to monitor delivery of the specific projects and tasks, to monitor delivery of the LAA targets in the area of the City; to receive an update on key physical projects; and to monitor Ward priorities on the basis of the State of the Wards Report and feedback from Ward Co-ordination.

The report had also been submitted to the Resources and Governance Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 19 June. We noted that report's proposals were commended to us by that Committee.

Decision

1. That the Chief Executive be requested to convene two meetings per year for each of the areas covered by Strategic Regeneration Frameworks for all Members of the Council representing Wards within each framework area for the purpose of monitoring progress on the implementation of Community Strategy, Local Area Agreement (LAA) and Strategic Regeneration Framework objectives in that part of the City.
2. That arrangements for joint work between Council officers and officials from partner agencies be organised on the basis of the projects and tasks which need to be administered to deliver the priorities agreed within the Community Strategy, the LAA and the Strategic Regeneration Frameworks.

Exe/08/93 Post Offices Network Change Programme 2008

A report was submitted to brief Members on the proposed post office closures in Manchester and to set out the proposed programme of work in response to the consultation process to oppose the closures. Post Office Limited had published the Area Plan for Greater Manchester and High Peak on 10th June. The plan proposes to close 5 of the 63 post offices in Manchester:

- Lower Crumpsall PO, 80a Waterloo Street;
- Harpurhey PO, 500-504 Rochdale Road;
- Ladybarn PO, 106 Mauldeth Road;
- Parrswood PO, 841 Wilmslow Road;
- Barlow Road PO, 2 Byrom Parade, 201 Barlow Road

Public consultation on these proposals runs from 10th June until 21st July. In light of the above closures, it was proposed that the Council submit further information on these specific areas and post offices in a further attempt to prevent their closure. So Members would have an opportunity to input to the submission it will then be placed before the Communities and Neighbourhoods Overview Scrutiny Committee on 15th July.

In preparing the draft response, the Chief Executive would consult the Members for the wards where a closure was proposed. These Members would also be sent a copy of the response to be submitted to the Communities and Neighbourhoods Overview and Scrutiny Committee in July.

Decision

1. To note the contents of the report.
2. To delegate authority to the Chief Executive and Deputy Leader to finalise Manchester City Council's response to the Post Office Closure Consultation.

Exe/08/94 General Fund Outturn 2007/08

A report was submitted to inform Members of the final outturn on the General Fund for 2007/08. The budget for 2007/8 contained an assumed contribution from the General Reserve of £3.825m. The actual outturn position is for a contribution to the

General Reserve of £7.564m representing an under-spend across all budgets of just over £11m. We noted that these figures are still subject to audit, so could yet change.

Movements within reserves had been mainly within the figures budgeted. Some further transfers to specific reserves have been made by the City Treasurer to meet potential future costs. These were set out in paragraph 11 of the report:

- a transfer of £1m within Children's Services to the Cleopatra Reserve to help meet potential future claims; and
- £1,475,000 from Adult Services to meet future potential care costs.

Decision

1. To note the outturn position for 2007/8 as identified in the report including the losses on trading activities.
2. To approve that the total of trading losses in 2007/8 be met from the contingency noting that partial provision had been earmarked for this purpose.
3. To approve the proposed transfers into reserves as identified in paragraph 11 of the report.
4. To approve the roll forward of any under-spends against Service Improvement Fund (SIF) schemes in 2007/8, subject to the City Treasurer and Chief Executive reviewing the need for the roll forward on each individual project and agreeing this with the Leader and the Executive Member for Finance and Human Resources as part of the overall review of SIF.
5. To note that a further report looking in more detail at the departmental level overspends and under-spends and consideration of carry forwards will be presented to Executive in July.

Exe/08/95 Treasury Management Annual Report 2007/08

The annual report was submitted to cover the Council's treasury position as of 31st March 2008, the outturn for 2007/08, compliance with treasury limits and prudential indicators, investment strategy and outturn for 2007/08, debt rescheduling, and Housing Large Scale Voluntary Transfers.

We have noted the report and how proactive treasury management during the year has enabled us to reduce the average rate of interest on the Council's overall debt from 6.17% to 5.85%, at a time of generally rising rates.

Decision

To note the report.

Exe/08/96 Capital Programme Increases

A report concerning requests to increase the capital programme was submitted. We agreed to five changes that together will increase the capital budget by £1,797,000 (£1,617,000 in 2008/09 and £180,000 in 2009/10), financed by £1,709,000 contributions and £88,000 ERDF grant.

Decision

To approve these increases:

1. Chief Executive's Transport – Quality Bus Corridors: to increase the capital budget by £244,000 in 2008/09, funded by contribution from GMPTE.
2. Children's Services – Primary School Rebuilding Programme Maine Road: to increase the capital budget by £1,250,000 (£1,070,000 in 2008/09 and £180,000 in 2009/10), funded by £250,000 external contribution and £1,000,000 Section 106 contribution.
3. Chief Executive's – Burnage Environmental Improvements: to increase the capital budget by £115,000 in 2008/09, funded by Section 106 contribution.
4. New East Manchester – Central Business Park: to increase the capital budget by £88,000 in 2008/09, funded by ERDF grant.
5. Chief Executive's Transport – Bridge Assessment, Strengthening and Maintenance: to increase the capital budget by £100,000 in 2008/09, funded from contributions.

Exe/08/97 Housing Capital Programme 2008/11

The Housing Capital Programme supports the Community Strategy through delivery of key projects focussed on a number of core aims including:

- delivering quality and choice in the housing market;
- creating safe and sustainable communities;
- reducing inequalities; and
- delivering modern public services.

The public sector components of the programme focus on projects to deliver the decent homes standard, with the bulk of resources allocated to Northwards, the city's Arms Length Management Organisation. Alongside this are environmental and security works and the provision of equipment and adaptations to enable disabled tenants to live in safe and suitable housing. The private sector elements of the programme focus on market re-structuring by improving the quality and choice in the housing market particularly in the most deprived neighbourhoods where there is an over-supply of pre-1919 terraces and low levels of owner occupation.

The anticipated total resources for the programme for 2008/09 to 2010/11 is £272.11m. This is based on actual allocations to the City, plus a revised forecast estimate of Housing Capital Receipt income adjusted to reflect the current economic slow down in Right to Buy sales.

Total Housing Capital Programme expenditure for the next three years is estimated at £286.794m, leaving a funding shortfall of £14.68m. This funding gap increases to £19.48 million over the five-year programme.

The priority to be given to all projects within the programme has been reviewed to provide a balanced programme based on 90% of the anticipated three year allocation of funds. The proposed programme is projects that have a 1a priority. Priority 1a schemes represent:

- committed Continuation schemes; and
- new start activity in 2008/09 that is seen as a strategic priority and where significant consultation / member engagement has been undertaken and there is an expectation that activities will be delivered.

The measures to address the funding shortfall in the programme are:

- further work on the PFI Programme;
- further analysis of RHP Investments;
- further work on anticipated capital receipts;
- more detailed review of specific HMR investments where there remains uncertainty about delivery within the three-year programme;
- a more detailed analysis of the Public Sector Housing Programme; and
- lobbying in respect of HMR Resources.

Decision

1. To note the situation in respect of the Housing Capital Programme and agree the actions set out in Section 6 of the report to address the shortfall with a view to considering a further report by September 2008 at the latest.
2. To approve an initial HMR investment programme based on projects that have been accorded Priority 1a Status as set out in Appendix 3 of the report.

Exe/08/98 Disposal of Chesshyre Avenue Estate – Holt Town Regeneration

A report was submitted to inform Members of developments regarding Council homes in Holt Town and to seek Members' approval for consultation on a regeneration scheme which will include the disposal of Council land and re-provision of social housing in the area.

In January 2007 the Executive agreed an implementation plan for the area which assumed that the housing at Chesshyre Avenue and Sidwell Walk would be transferred to Eastland Homes (minute Exe/07/06). The continuing development of a master plan underpinning the regeneration proposals has led to a review of the long-term future of the Chesshyre Avenue and Sidwell Walk estate. As part of the master plan it is now proposed that existing Council homes be subject to disposal under the development agreement with Cibitas and current tenants be offered priority

rehousing, with suitable assistance and compensation. It is also proposed that Cibitas will enter an agreement to indemnify the Council in respect of the costs of home loss, disturbance and the costs of obtaining vacant possession of the Chesshyre Avenue/Sidwell Walk area. These proposals require a variation of the development agreement.

It has become apparent that the most appropriate route for achieving decent homes for the existing tenants of Chesshyre Avenue/Sidwell Walk is to demolish the existing stock and reprovide homes within the new development. Therefore, it is proposed that the Council should seek the necessary Secretary of State's consent for a housing redevelopment scheme that will enable the relocation of existing tenants and the regeneration of the Chesshyre Avenue/Sidwell Walk area.

To obtain vacant possession of the housing in Chesshyre Avenue/Sidwell Walk the Director of Housing will formally consult the tenants on the proposed demolition and opportunities to access new social rented housing in Holt Town. The Director of Housing will take into account the response before deciding whether to seek the Secretary of State's consent for a scheme which involves the demolition of existing homes and reprovision within a newly built mixed tenure estate or the alternative of an Eastlands Homes tenancy within the Bradford Ward.

Decision

1. To authorise the withdrawal of properties on Chesshyre Avenue and Sidwell Walk from a proposed stock transfer to Eastlands Homes and note the proposals for further consultation as set out in the report.
2. To authorise the Director of Housing to consult the tenants on the proposal to relocate them into new homes in Holt Town, to consider the responses and to seek the Secretary of State's consent to the scheme.
3. To authorise the Head of Corporate Property following consultation with the Director of Housing to negotiate a variation to the implementation plan approved on 17 January 2007 and conclude a variation of the development agreement with Cibitas Investments Ltd so as to include the Chesshyre Avenue/Sidwell Walk area within the Cibitas proposals for the area without prior transfer to Eastlands Homes .
4. To authorise the Head of Corporate Property, in consultation with the Deputy Chief Executive (Regeneration) and the Chief Executive New East Manchester to keep the implementation plan for Holt Town under review and agree amendments on behalf of the Council.
5. To authorise the disposal of the land at Chesshyre Avenue and Sidwell Walk to Cibitas investments Ltd after the tenants have been rehoused and subject to a condition that the housing will be demolished without being used as housing accommodation.
6. To authorise the Head of Corporate Property to negotiate the voluntary acquisition of 3 former Council properties on Chesshyre Avenue/Sidwell Walk.

7. To authorise the Director of Housing to give HIP priority for rehousing tenants and residents displaced as a result of the proposals and to pay Home Loss and Disturbance Allowance to those tenants.
8. To authorise the Director of Housing from the date of approval of this Executive report to stop letting any vacant properties on Chesshyre Avenue and Sidwell Walk and to suspend the Right to Buy.
9. To authorise the City Solicitor to take all steps necessary and incidental to the achievement of the regeneration scheme and including the variation of the development agreement between Cibitas Investments Ltd and the Council, the conclusion and sealing of all contractual documentations so as to dispose of the land in accordance with the regeneration scheme.
10. To agree the Designated Relocation Area under the Council's Home Loan and Relocation Assistance policy is the Bradford Ward.

(Councillors Ashley, Curley and Priest declared a personal interest in this item)

Exe/08/99 Academies Programme – North Manchester High Schools

As part of the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) and Academies Plan we agreed in October 2007 to initiate the statutory process to bring about closure of both the North Manchester High School for Boys, and the North Manchester High School for Girls, from 31 August 2010, subject to them being replaced by two Creative and Media Academies from 1 September 2010, each with 900 pupil places. During the consultation a number of objections were received during statutory consultation and in response to the closure notice, about the location of the new Academies on the existing North Manchester High School for Boys site.

In March 2008 (minutes Exe/08/69 and Exe/08/70) we decided that, as a direct result of the consultation processes, a second option had emerged that suggested locating the proposed Academies on a different site to that originally proposed. We agreed that the Director of Children's Services should re-consult in accordance with the statutory closure process, on proposals to close both of the High Schools and replace them with two Academies as originally planned, located on either the existing North Manchester High School for Boys site or on a new site adjacent to the Boys site, fronting onto Victoria Avenue East.

A report was submitted to us on the further development of options for the proposed academies. It is now recommended that each single-sex Creative and Media Academy should accommodate 750 places providing a total of 1500 pupil places (a reduction of 300 places). It is further recommended that a 120 full-time equivalent Post 16 co-education facility is provided on the site. These recommendations have been discussed and agreed with the Lead Sponsor (Manchester College).

To accommodate the overall reduction in capacity at the two proposed Academies it is proposed to increase from 900 to 1200 the number of pupils at the new

Communication Academy to be built at the corner of Rochdale Road and Queens Road. Discussions have been held with the Lead Sponsor (BT) for the Communications Academy and they have agreed to the recommended increase to 1200 pupil places.

In March 2008 two sites had been suggested to us for the new Creative and Media Academies. Since then officers have reviewed all possible sites in the school catchment area of Charlestown and Moston Wards. From this, six possible sites had been initially identified:

- 1) North Manchester High School for Boys existing site;
- 2) Land fronting Victoria Avenue East and existing school playing fields;
- 3) Land between a proposed re-aligned public footpath and existing North Manchester High School for Boys playing fields;
- 4) North Manchester High School for Girls existing site and land at Shackcliffe Green;
- 5) Booth Hall Hospital site, Charlestown Road;
- 6) Land at Broadhurst Playing Fields.

Further analysis of these six sites has eliminated sites 4, 5 and 6, and the report set out how the other three sites might be developed. The transitional arrangements will ensure that all existing pupils of the two High Schools will become pupils of the new Creative and Media Academies. Some of the existing buildings of the Boys' High School will need to be retained during the transition to accommodate the higher pupil numbers.

Decision

1. note the report; and
2. on the basis of its contents, agree that the Director of Children's Services should reconult in accordance with the statutory closure process on proposals to close North Manchester High School for Boys and North Manchester High School for Girls and replace them with two Academies, located on the sites identified in the plans attached to the report.

(Councillor Priest declared a prejudicial interest in this item and left the meeting)

Exe/08/100 In Year Fair Access Protocol (IYFAP)

In July 2007 we agreed that the secondary sector In Year Fair Access Protocol be introduced from 1 September 2007 (minute Exe/07/81). A report has now been submitted proposing changes to the Protocol following the annual review. The roll out and implementation of Manchester's first IYFAP has been successful in securing school places for many 'hard to place' children. The protocol aims to ensure fair access for hard to place children and relies upon a partnership approach between the LA and Manchester High Schools. During the year there have been two meetings of the Secondary Heads IYFAP review group. The recommended changes arising from those meetings are:

- the maximum number of expected allocations of IYFAP admissions to schools to be reduced from 3% to 1%; and
- the membership of the IYFAP panel to include a representative from the Pupil Referral Unit.

Decision

1. Agree the proposed changes to the current In Year Fair Access Protocol (IYFAP) protocol.

Exe/08/101 Opening of a new Roman Catholic Voluntary Aided Primary School in Moss Side

Arising from our decisions in September 2005 on the 2005/2006 multi agency Primary School Review (minute Exe/06/158), we initiated the statutory process to bring about closure of St Edward's and Bishop Bilsborrow Roman Catholic Primary Schools and to establish in their place a new 420 place, Roman Catholic, voluntary aided primary school (with a 60-place full time equivalent nursery) from 1 September 2009. This proposal has the full support of the Salford RC Diocesan Education Authority and the governing bodies of both St Edward's and Bishop Bilsborrow schools.

Statutory consultation on the closure proposals was carried out over an eight week period between 29 October and 21 December 2007. As the two closing schools have voluntary aided status, the outcome of statutory consultation was for the existing governing bodies to consider. The following was therefore reported to the St Edward's governors (16 January 2008) and the Bishop Bilsborrow governors (17 January 2008):

- i. details of the consultation exercise, including information about the consultation literature produced;
- ii. a list of all those consulted;
- iii. the format of the consultation exercise ie an opportunity for all consultees to make written comments, plus formal consultation meetings for the parents / carers of pupils, the staff and their trade union representatives and the governing body of St Edward's and Bishop Bilsborrow schools;
- iv. a summary of the comments made during consultation, with the responses of the Deputy Head of School Organisation and Development;
- v. information about the decision required and the next stage of the statutory closure process.

Having considered the report on the outcome of statutory consultation, the governing bodies of each school agreed that the proposal should proceed unchanged to the next stage of the statutory process, ie publication of closure notices.

A copy of the main body of the report to the two governing bodies was submitted to us, along with the proposed statutory closure notices. A summary of the report to the governing bodies has also been made available to the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF), in accordance with Regulations. The statutory closure notices were prepared in accordance with statutory requirements, using a DCSF template. Both draft notices were also scrutinised by DCSF officials to ensure that they provided all relevant information.

One response has been received to the statutory closure notices, raising a number of issues about the size of the proposed school and its potential impact on local housing developments. We noted the answers from the Director of Children's Services to the issues raised in that response.

The Director of Children's Services, the Salford RC diocesan Education Authority, and both of the two governing bodies do not believe that the issues raised in response to the statutory closure notices call into question the fundamental strategic and educational validity of the proposal.

To ensure that we were able to reach an informed decision on the proposal the following documentation was provided in the report submitted to us:

- i. statutory consultation literature;
- ii. a report to the governing bodies of both schools, setting out the outcome of statutory consultation;
- iii. the statutory closure notices;
- iv. letter from the Secretary of State granting exemption from running a competition in compliance with Regulations.

We noted the next steps to be taken by the Director of Children's Services to progress closure proposals. We are aware that the report we have received has also been considered by the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 17 June. We note that the Committee has commended the proposal to us, and has supported the process undertaken with active participation by the Diocese of Salford.

Decision

1. agree that the statutory consultation carried out prior to publication of the closure notice was appropriate;
2. note the comments made and views expressed during statutory consultation;
3. agree that the statutory notices at Annexe 2 conform to statutory requirements;
4. note the comments lodged in response to the public closure notice;

5. agree that this report, its attachments and the statutory consultation literature provide sufficient information on which to reach an informed decision about the proposal, in accordance with statutory guidance;
6. agree that St Edward's and Bishop Bilsborrow Roman Catholic Primary Schools will close on 31 August 2009;
7. agree that a new 420 place, Roman Catholic Voluntary Aided primary school (with a 60 place full time equivalent nursery) be established from 1 September 2009, to replace St Edward's and Bishop Bilsborrow;
8. note that the Secretary of State has granted exemption from running a competition to take control of the school, in compliance with Section 7 of Education and Inspection Act 2006 and The School Organisation (Establishment and Discontinuance) (England) Regulations 2007 (SI: 2007 No 1288);
9. agree that the Director of Children's Services should now engage with the Salford Roman Catholic Diocesan Education Authority to establish a shadow governing body for the new school and to set a timetable for recruitment to the headteacher post.

Exe/08/102 Adoption Financial Support

The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) have developed a model 'means test' for Adoption Financial Support. The model proposed is intended to deliver a standard approach to arriving at adoption support (if not always a standard payment in different local authorities). It does however ensure that prospective carers are treated equitably.

There is no automatic entitlement to financial support and adopters are legally obliged to provide full details of their income and expenditure to the local authority when asking to be assessed for financial support, and, at the obligatory annual reviews. If any prospective adoptive carer is not prepared to provide the required supporting evidence their application should not be considered.

A report was submitted to recommend that we adopt the DCSF Means Test Model. The Council's Internal Auditors have considered alternative 'means test models' and consider the DCSF model to be most effective. The majority of colleague Authorities apply this model and this will standardise our practice in line with other North West local authorities.

However, we agree that the Means Test Model is not applied retrospectively or to applications currently under consideration.

Decision

To introduce a Means Test when the Department for Children, Schools and Families is considering an award of adoption financial support.

Exe/08/103 Northern Quarter

A report was submitted that examined the opportunity for the City Council to invest in three redevelopment schemes in the Northern Quarter: the Church Street multi-storey car park site; The Hive on Lever Street; and Stevenson Square. We considered how all three would make a significant contribution to the ongoing regeneration of the wider Northern Quarter area. We examined the detailed proposals for the schemes, including the case for the Council investing in each. The regeneration of the Northern Quarter remains a high priority for the City Council and the promotion of the redevelopment of the Church Street car park site, The Hive scheme, and the refurbishment of Stevenson Square provide an opportunity to assist that regeneration process. All three schemes should make a significant difference in the area by improving its image, by introducing new uses, and by providing a focus for new activity and inward investment. This should help bolster the economy of the Northern Quarter.

Decision

1. To note the important contribution the Northern Quarter makes to the overall vibrancy of the City centre and how the City Council can assist the regeneration of the area.
2. To agree in principle to the redevelopment of the Church Street car park site to include a mixed use development incorporating a 745 space car park, about 35,000 sq.ft of office space, about 65,000 sq.ft of specialist retail space in one building and a hotel in another, subject to report on the detail of the proposed legal and financial arrangements for its delivery being submitted to the September meeting of the Executive.
3. To request the production of a detailed consultation strategy for the Church Street car park development which provides a framework within which consultation can take place with local residents, businesses and other local stakeholders.
4. To agree to support Argent Group with its proposed The Hive scheme on the site of the former bus station on Lever Street.
5. To note that these decisions are subject to agreeing the proposed financial considerations as set out in the report in the private business of this meeting (minute Exe/08/106).
6. To agree that Stevenson Square should be refurbished in order to create a high quality public space and that this should be the subject of a design competition.
7. To authorise the Chief Executive, in consultation with Chair of the Executive, the Executive Member for Environment and the Executive Member for Finance and Human Resources to determine the details of the Stevenson Square design competition, including finalising the design brief, agreeing the members of the judging panel and the timescales for the competition to take place and for

submissions to be received, together with the detailed budget arrangements for funding the delivery of the competition and the works to the square.

8. To authorise the Chief Executive, the City Treasurer and City Solicitor, following consultation with Chair of the Executive and Executive Member for Finance and Human Resources, to negotiate and execute all necessary contracts, consultants appointments, funding and other agreements that may be necessary to ensure that the proposals for The Hive can be successfully achieved.

(Councillor Cowell declared a personal interest in this item as a Director of NCP Manchester Ltd)

Exe/08/104 Exclusion of the Public

A recommendation was made that the public be excluded during consideration of the next item of business.

Decision

To exclude the public during consideration of the following item which involved consideration of exempt information relating to the financial or business affairs of particular persons, and public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

Exe/08/105 Northern Quarter

(Public and Press Excluded)

We considered a report on the proposed delivery arrangements for the three schemes: the Church Street multi-storey car park site; The Hive on Lever Street; and Stevenson Square. We examined the financial and contractual aspects of the proposals and the other approvals necessary to allow the redevelopment process to move forward. The report set out the level of investment by the Council and the effect on the Capital Programme.

Decision

1. To note the decisions taken in the corresponding item of business dealt with earlier at this meeting (Minute Exe/08/103).
2. In respect of the Church Street car park development, to agree in principle to the development going ahead subject to a report on its viability and on the detail of the proposed legal and financial arrangements for its delivery being submitted to the September meeting of the Executive.
3. In respect of the proposed Church Street car park development, to authorise the Chief Executive, following consultation with the Chair of the Executive and the

Executive Member for Finance and Human Resources, to serve any notices necessary to allow the redevelopment process to move forward.

4. In respect of the delivery of The Hive scheme, to approve the purchase of the freehold of Phase 1 at the cost indicated in the report and subject to the terms set out in the report; and enter into a Development Agreement with the Argent Group to develop and let The Hive, in accordance with the financial arrangements described in the report.
5. In respect of The Hive, to agree that Argent Group and the Council agree appropriate Letting Criteria to cover all future lettings and that Argent Group would not be able to assign all or part of the lease without paying the Council its profit share of surpluses;
6. To authorise the Chief Executive, the City Treasurer and City Solicitor, following consultation with Chair of the Executive and Executive Member for Finance and Human Resources, to negotiate and execute all necessary contracts, funding and other agreements that may be necessary to ensure that the plans for The Hive can be successfully achieved.
7. To recommend that the Council approves an increase to the Council's Capital Programme to cover all the costs related to the land acquisition referred to at 4 above.

(Councillor Cowell declared a personal interest in this item as a Director of NCP Manchester Ltd)