Manchester City Council
Report for Information

Report To: Resources and Governance Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 15 December 2011

Subject: Update on the Review of the Manchester Partnership and Scrutiny Remits

Report of: Jacquie O’Neill, Head of Partnerships and Improvement

Summary

This report is in response to the Committee's request for an update on the review of the Manchester Partnership and how scrutiny contributes to the work of the Manchester Partnership. The structure and arrangements of the Manchester Partnership are being reviewed in response to reducing resources and public sector reform. Overview and scrutiny arrangements to date have been aligned to the thematic arrangements of the Manchester Partnership and further consideration will be given on how this alignment can be continued and strengthened.

Recommendations

Members are asked to note and comment on the report.

Wards Affected: all

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Background documents (available for public inspection):

The following documents disclose important facts on which the report is based and have been relied upon in preparing the report. Copies of the background documents are available up to 4 years after the date of the meeting. If you would like a copy please contact one of the contact officers above.

Report to Resources and Governance Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 20 October 2011: State of the City reports and Manchester Partnership priorities
Report to Citizenship and Inclusion Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 20 May 2009: Implementing the Manchester crime and disorder strategy
1.0 Introduction

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Members on the review of the thematic partnerships of the Manchester Partnership including how Overview and Scrutiny Committees will be able to scrutinise the work of the partnerships and partner organisations.

2.0 Recommendation

2.1 Members are asked to note and comment on the report.

3.0 Background

3.1 The Manchester Partnership is going through a period of review. The last time the partnership was reviewed thematic partnerships were moved from being large bodies discussing broad agendas to become smaller boards with a sharper focus on performance in achieving the priorities for Manchester as set out in the Community Strategy. Building on past experience of reviewing the partnership, in the current financial climate, there is a need to ensure that the partnership is focusing on Manchester’s priorities and the reform of public services. In the changed context securing the commitment of our partners to Manchester priorities will be more important than ever and we are therefore working at Greater Manchester and national levels to remove blockages to delivery through partnership. Our work on community budgets is one example of this.

3.2 As the Committee with responsibility for overview and scrutiny of the Manchester Partnership as a whole, the Resources and Governance Overview Scrutiny Committee may want to ask for future updates on the development of partnership working and the public service reform agenda.

3.3 With significantly less resource there will be a need to find new ways of integrating the delivery of services, new ways of securing investment in outcomes and new ways of developing and deploying skills of the public sector workforce across agency boundaries in order to sustain the improvements in outcomes we have achieved in recent years. In particular, with the end of the Local Area Agreement, a Community Strategy delivery plan has been developed that concentrates on a shorter set of outcome measures able to deliver Manchester’s priorities. This should assist with the scrutiny of partnerships.

3.4 The changes to partnerships are summarised below.

4.0 Structure of the Manchester Partnership

4.1 The Manchester Board continues with the same remit and membership. The Manchester Board drives the building of collaborative leadership for the city, across the public, private, voluntary and community sectors. It is chaired by the Leader of the Council. A non-executive board, the Board provides strategic direction for delivery of the Community Strategy and holds the partnership to
account on delivery. The Boards sets key priorities annually to ensure that delivery is focussed on the elements of the strategy that will make the greatest contribution during the year ahead.

4.2 The Manchester Investment Board replaced the Public Service Board. It is accountable to the Manchester Board for driving and coordinating delivery of the Community Strategy and the Manchester Board’s priorities. It provides strategic leadership and direction to public sector reform, including on integrated commissioning, developing strong and joint leadership across public, private, voluntary and community sector partners. It has been meeting monthly since June 2011 to review the delivery of Manchester Board priorities and the drafting of the new Community Strategy delivery plan, to review progress in Manchester on City Region priorities and public sector reform work, such as the community budget pilots. Every quarter the Manchester Investment Board reviews the overall delivery of Community Strategy priorities focussing on performance challenges and considers future opportunities based on research and evaluation of current activity.

4.3 The thematic partnerships are being reviewed to ensure that each of them remains fit for purpose. The role of the thematic partnerships is to direct and co-ordinate activity that delivers the Community Strategy. They manage delivery, identify opportunities and respond to risks and challenges.

4.4 The Health and Wellbeing Board is now meeting in shadow form ahead of it becoming a statutory board from April 2013. The board has responsibility for health and wellbeing in its broadest sense. There is a clear link between the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Manchester Partnership; the terms of reference include that it will report to the Manchester Board.

4.5 The Children’s Partnership will ensure that children’s matters continue to be looked at holistically by the Children’s Board while working closely with the Health and Wellbeing Board to deliver children’s health outcomes.

4.6 The role of the Sustainable Neighbourhoods Partnership is being updated to provide a strategic forum focussed on the place agenda within the Partnership. Examples include: the implementation of the Neighbourhood Focus Strategy, including learning from the new model of working e.g. co-location, collaboration; learning from spatial pilots such as the Ardwick and Cheetham/ Broughton City Region Pilots and how an integrated approach across a number of disciplines impacts on place; and enabling links with the work of the Environmental Strategy Board in the context of neighbourhoods.

4.7 The Work and Skills Board is continuing with current arrangements which are working well. The updated neighbourhood working arrangements described above will strengthen the delivery of the work and skills agenda at the neighbourhood level.

4.8 The Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships will continue. The structure of working groups has been streamlined. Neighbourhood working is being strengthened by the linkages between Neighbourhood Policing and the
Council’s new Integrated Neighbourhood Delivery Teams and Regeneration Teams.

5.0 Current Overview and Scrutiny arrangements.

5.1 Current overview and scrutiny arrangements reflect the Manchester Partnership structure, with six Overview and Scrutiny Committees aligned to the thematic arrangements of the partnership. A constructive and collaborative relationship has existed between the Scrutiny Committees and the rest of the Manchester Partnership. In the past Overview and Scrutiny Committee chairs have met bi-annually with the theme convenors from the thematic partnerships. They have discussed the work of the thematic partnerships and looked at which areas would benefit most by being brought to scrutiny. This arrangement has maintained the relationship between the Scrutiny Committees and the rest of the partnership and ensured that Scrutiny Committees could provide challenge and support to the partnership.

5.2 A recent example of scrutiny applied to the Manchester Partnership was provided by the Resources and Governance Overview and Scrutiny Committee receiving a report at its meeting on 20 October 2011 describing how the partnership uses the suite of State of the City reports to inform its setting of priorities and management of delivery.

5.3 Another good example was the May 2009 session where members of the Citizenship and Inclusion Scrutiny Committee were introduced to members of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership. Following this the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership gave a full explanation of how they were implementing the Crime and Disorder Strategy, which lead to more detailed scrutiny of particular aspects of the strategy including communication and the role of the Community Force and Home Watch schemes.

6.0 Review of Overview and Scrutiny arrangements.

6.1 The current scrutiny remits are based on the structure of the Manchester Partnership before its review. As a result of changes to the Manchester Partnership and the policy context in which it operates, an accompanying review of overview and scrutiny remits and structures is underway to ensure that it continues to be up to date and reflects the current priorities of the council and its partners.

6.2 The Overview and Scrutiny Coordinating Group agreed that members should be consulted through political groups on proposed amendments to the partnership model for overview and scrutiny to ensure that the links between the committees and the thematic partnerships in the Manchester Partnership are updated to take account of changes. The proposed amendments are marginal and would be subject to discussion at the committees concerned. Under the proposed amendments each of the six Scrutiny Committees would continue to be linked to one of the thematic partnerships and its area of work. The Resources and Governance Overview and Scrutiny Committee would continue with overview of the governance arrangements in place across the
partnership. Any changes to scrutiny committee structures and remits would be submitted for approval at the next annual council meeting.

6.3 It should be noted that, as the review of the Manchester Partnership is ongoing, the detail of which scrutiny committee is linked to which partnership will be reviewed once the changes to the partnership structures have been finalised.

7.0 Opportunities for Overview and Scrutiny

7.1 The proposed amendments to overview and scrutiny would ensure that scrutiny committees have greater opportunity to contribute to the work of the revised Manchester Partnership.

7.2 In addition to the meetings between committee chairs and thematic partnership convenors, an overview and scrutiny committee would receive regular updates from a thematic partnership. The nature and content of these updates could be decided upon by the individual scrutiny committees. The updates could set out the thematic partnership’s priorities and progress in delivery. Updates could also include relevant performance monitoring information where requested by the scrutiny committee. In this way scrutiny committees would identify areas of thematic partnerships’ work that they could contribute to most effectively. This amendment to working arrangements would expand the process of selecting areas of the partnership’s work for scrutiny committees to contribute to.

7.3 Interaction between the overview and scrutiny committees and the non-council members of the Manchester Partnership has been based on co-operation and collaboration rather than reliance on legal provisions. However, both the Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Citizenship and Inclusion Committee continue to hold specific legal powers.

7.4 In relation to health, NHS North, NHS Manchester, GP led Clinical Commissioning Groups and NHS Trusts have obligations to provide information and attend Committee meetings, if required, about the planning, provision and operation of health services to enable the Committee to discharge its functions. These bodies must also consult the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee about the any substantial development or variation in the provision of health services in the local authority’s area. Where the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is not satisfied that the consultation has not been carried out adequately, the Committee may refer the matter to the Secretary of State for Health for further consideration.

7.5 The Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee will have call in powers over any provider of NHS funded health services. The Health and Wellbeing Board and the integration of public health into the local authority’s responsibility provides a new landscape in which Overview and Scrutiny can consider examining decisions that impact on health in the widest sense.
7.6 In respect of crime and disorder, regulations set out the obligations of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership towards the Crime and Disorder Committee (the Council’s Citizenship and Inclusion Scrutiny Committee). The Committee can require the attendance of officers or employees of the persons/bodies who make up the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership to answer questions, and the Committee can make recommendations which require a response.

7.7 Other Overview and Scrutiny Committees have the power, under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, to require certain partner authorities (7.8 below) to provide information relevant to a local improvement target specified in the Local Area Agreement. They also have the power to require partner authorities to ‘have regard to’ any recommendations the Committee makes relating to these targets. Local Area Agreements are no longer in operation, however provisions in the Localism Act 2011 broaden the powers of scrutiny committees so that certain partner authorities will have a duty to have regard to any recommendations the Committee makes that relate to the exercise of their functions within the local authority’s area or affecting its inhabitants. Schedule 2 of the Act, which contains this power, has not yet come into force but is expected to do so in the near future. The Act also states that the Secretary of State may make regulations regarding the provision of information to scrutiny committees by certain partner authorities in the future.

7.8 The relevant partner authorities covered by the 2007 Act to which the Localism Act now applies are:

- County and District Councils
- Police Authorities
- Chief Officer of Police
- Fire and Rescue Authorities
- Passenger Transport Authority
- Joint Waste Authorities
- Joint Waste Disposal Authorities
- Jobcentre Plus
- Probation Trusts, Boards and other local providers of probation services
- Youth Offending Teams
- NHS Health Trusts
- Primary Care Trusts
- NHS Foundation Trusts
- Health and Safety Executive
- The Highways Agency
- The Environment Agency
- Natural England
- Arts Council
- Sport England
- English Heritage
- Any other authority included in future regulations by the Secretary of State