
EXTERNAL ORGANISATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

13 SEPTEMBER 2007

Hollick (Vice Chairman), Bashir-Ismail, Burrows, Gradwell, Hamilton, Hayes, Hornby, Murray, Rushton, J.Walsh and Williamson.

Councillor Morris	-	Vision Steering
Group Representative		
Councillor Spencer	-	Greater Manchester
Fire and Civil		
		Authority Nominated
Spokesperson		
		For Bolton Council.

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Mr. S. Harriss	-	Chief Executive
Mr. D. Grogan	-	Assistant Director of
Legal and		
		Democratic Services
Ms.C. James	-	Head of Strategic
Projects		
Mr. J. Addison	-	Scrutiny Support
Manager		
Ms. C. Latham	-	Bolton CVS

Councillor Hussain in the Chair

Apologies for absence were submitted from Councillors P. Brierley and Chadwick

7 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 19th July, 2007, were submitted.

In relation to Minute 4 Issues in Relation to Joint Authorities, Councillor Hayes requested that clarification

be sought from the Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Authority in relation to a recent amendment to that body's Scheme of Allowances.

In relation to Minute 5 Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill, Councillor Walsh requested an update on the current position in relation to the abolition of the North West Regional Assembly.

Resolved – (i) That the minutes be approved as a correct record.

(ii) That the issues raised above be included on the Committee's Decision Monitoring Report

Attached Reports:

[Minutes](#)

8 MONITORING OF SCRUTINY COMMITTEE DECISIONS

The Director of Legal and Democratic Services submitted a report that informed members of the progress of decisions taken and issues raised by the Committee.

Resolved - That the report be noted.

Attached Reports:

[Decision Monitoring item](#)

9 WORK PROGRAMME OF THE COMMITTEE

The Director of Legal and Democratic Services submitted a report which provided members with suitable criteria to aid in the selection of topics for scrutiny and outlined the Committee's work programme.

Members views and comments were sought in relation to any further items and issues that they wanted including on the Committee's work programme.

Resolved – (i) That the report be noted.

(ii) That presentations from the representatives of the joint authorities be scheduled into the work programme.

Attached Reports:

[Committee Work Programme](#)

10 CITY REGIONS

The Chief Executive submitted a report the purpose of which was to update the Committee:-

- (a) on city region developments within the Greater Manchester area; and
- (b) on national developments related to the City Region.

The report advised that the issue of the city region and associated governance arrangements had provoked a great deal of discussion over recent years. The Association of Greater Manchester Authorities (AGMA) had been working with partners across the region to develop a business case for developing stronger city region governance and delivery arrangements in Greater Manchester.

On a national level, there had been much work undertaken within central government over the past 18 months in delivering the new Prime Minister's agenda for economic development and regional competitiveness.

The following documents were appended to the report:-

- a letter from Lord Peter Smith, Chair of AGMA, and attached discussion paper which sought to update and engage with partners across the Greater Manchester region on AGMA's developing arguments and business case for more devolved governance at a sub-regional level. The paper sets out AGMA's vision and short term priorities for the city region, as well as some initial proposals for the working arrangements necessary to deliver this agenda;
- a paper prepared by the Local Government Information Unit entitled "Review of Sub-National Economic Development and Regeneration". The review focused on defining and strengthening roles and relationships at a regional and sub-regional level, in order to deliver economic development and regional competitiveness key economic

outcomes; and

- a report submitted to the AGMA Executive setting out a response to the review on behalf of Greater Manchester and proposals for further work.

The Chief Executive also gave a presentation which highlighted the salient points in his report.

- During the ensuing discussion, the following issues/points were raised by members and answered by the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council:-

- the role of the Council, this Scrutiny Committee and the effect on the Local Strategic Partnership in regard to the City Region agenda;
 - what was being done to ensure that the benefits of the City Region would be for all AGMA authorities and not just those at the regional centre;
 - the anticipated impact on the Local Strategic Partnership and the Council's Local Area Agreement;
 - whether there would have to be unanimity between the AGMA authorities when signing up to all multi area agreements/collaborative arrangements or whether there would be a process which allowed for majority agreement;
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- the impact on multi area agreements if one or more authorities decided to opt out;

- whether AGMA “associate” members (Warrington, Blackpool and Blackburn) could opt into Greater Manchester for these purposes;
- the governance arrangements which would be put in place to oversee the collaborative working and how this would be supported and funded;
- would the City Region agenda increase the likelihood of an elected Mayor for Greater Manchester;
- whether the City Region agenda was a method for recreating the former Greater Manchester Council; and
- the need for robust procedures to be in place to ensure the effective scrutiny of the Regional Development Agency.

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Resolved – (i) That the report of the Chief Executive in relation to City Region Governance in Greater Manchester be noted.

(ii) That the Committee receive reports as and when appropriate on significant developments on the City Region agenda.

(iii) That the Chief Executive, discuss with the three Group Leaders, the most appropriate mechanism, possibly a Policy Development Group, to ensure that Bolton enjoyed the maximum benefit from the City Region agenda.

Councillors Bashir-Ismail and Murray declared personal interests in the next following item.

Attached Reports:

[City Regions](#)
[City Regions](#)
[City Regions](#)
[City Regions](#)
[City Regions](#)

11 BUILDING THE ROLE OF THE VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR IN BOLTON

The Chief Executive submitted a report which outlined the work currently being undertaken to enhance the infrastructure of the voluntary and community sector in Bolton and, in particular, to develop the future role of these sectors in Bolton.

In support of the report, Carol James, Head of Strategic Projects and Carol Latham, Community Network and Partnership Strategy Officer with Bolton CVS gave a presentation which outlined the following salient points:-

- the national context and developments;
- the local context and developments; and
- the future role of the voluntary sector in Bolton.

During the ensuing discussion, the following points were raised by Members:-

- that the data base of voluntary organisations in the Borough would be extremely useful if searches on a ward by ward basis could be carried out;
- issues around training needs should include both the public and private sectors;
- that, although establishing new voluntary groups

was important, it was vital to ensure their sustainability;

- the key role of the CVS in establishing voluntary groups; and

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- the possibility of utilising the Area Forums to publicise the existence and work of voluntary groups at a local level.

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Resolved - That the report be noted.

Attached Reports:

[Building the Role of the Voluntary and Community Sector in Bolton](#)

[Building the Role of the Voluntary and Community Sector in Bolton](#)

12 ISSUES IN RELATION TO JOINT AUTHORITIES

The Director of Legal and Democratic Services submitted a report advising of the appointments made by the Council to the joint authorities and any decisions taken by the joint authorities since the last meeting which impacted on the authority.

In relation to the Greater Manchester Police Authority, it was reported that the new charges for the provision of various police services had become effective from 1st September, 2007, and that a number of applications from Bolton based organisations had been successful in attracting awards from the Police Property Fund Act. A copy of the terms of reference of the Police Authority's Scrutiny and Oversight Committee had also been circulated to Members.

In relation to the Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue authority, the Committee received a copy of the 1st Quarter Performance Statistics.

Members were advised of a number of appointments made by both the Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Authority and the Greater Manchester Waste

Disposal Authority.

Resolved – (i) That the Committee continue to receive reports on the issues in relation to joint authorities in the current format.

(ii) That the Council's representative on the Greater Manchester Police Authority be requested to attend the next meeting of the Committee to outline the procedures followed for allocating awards from the Police Property Fund Act.

(The meeting started at 2.00pm and ended at 4.05pm)

Attached Reports:

[Issues in Relation to Joint Authorities](#)