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**Manchester City Council  
Report for Resolution**

**Report to:** Economy Scrutiny Committee – 14 January 2015

**Subject:** Neighbourhood Focus

**Report of:** Head of Regeneration

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**Summary**

This report provides an update in response to questions raised by Members on the Budget Options report presented to Economy Scrutiny in December. Specifically it focuses on the neighbourhood focus.

**Recommendations**

The committee is asked to note the information provided within this report.

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**Wards Affected:**

All wards.

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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.

2015/17 Budget Options – Report to Economy Scrutiny 17 December 2014

2015/17 Budget Options for the Growth & Neighbourhoods Directorate; report to Economy Scrutiny 19 November 2014

2015/17 Budget Options for the Children & Families Directorate: report to Economy Scrutiny 19 November 2014

## **Introduction**

Following the presentation of the 2015-17 budget options report in December 2014, Members raised questions on key aspects of the report. The purpose of this report is to provide further information in response to the specific questions raised on the Neighbourhood focus element of that report. It should be noted that work on the design for the new integrated teams is ongoing and there is more work to be done on the detail. Further updates can be provided at future meetings.

The questions raised by Members at the December meeting were:

- Further detail on the impact that the proposed future model of Neighbourhood Working would have in the city.
- As much understanding as possible of the ways in which residents would be affected by these changes.
- Clarity on how the targeting of particular areas would work and the impact of it.
- Particular focus on the implications of the work and skills elements within this, including consideration of the potential improvements that the centralisation of this work could lead to.

## **Future Model for Neighbourhood Working and Implications for Regeneration**

The focus of regeneration will be on economic and residential growth, with major projects delivered by the Strategic Development Team, which is a citywide service. As projects are developed and delivered, the Strategic Development Team will work closely with the relevant Neighbourhood Team to ensure that residents, members and key stakeholders are consulted, local economic benefit is maximised and major projects are well integrated within their wider neighbourhoods. There will not be a discrete regeneration function within the Neighbourhood Teams but the teams will continue to provide a place leadership role and work with citywide services to meet local priorities from programmed activity.

Work is underway to develop the detail of the new model for the integrated neighbourhood function, which will need to deliver more cost efficiencies and provides maximum flexibility to scale up or down. Neighbourhood priorities will be delivered by a combination of Neighbourhood Teams and citywide services. Citywide services will be responsible for the development of strategy and ensuring that the programmes they deliver meet agreed neighbourhood priorities. They will also ensure that specialist services, e.g. compliance and community safety are efficiently managed and deployed to neighbourhoods.

Neighbourhood Teams will be smaller than they currently are and draw on centrally provided technical support where needed e.g. commercial and contract management. They will lead the development of areas; continue to work with members and residents to ensure that the needs of that place are met; and commission City Council and partner services against local priorities. Opportunities to work with partners in relation to neighbourhood priorities and the potential for them to deliver services will be fully explored and there will be a co-ordinated approach to engagement and building capacity in communities.

## **Impact on Residents and Potential Targeting of Services**

As outlined in the report to December's Economy Scrutiny, the scale of reduction in services and impact on residents and neighbourhoods depends on the level of budget reduction.

Under the current arrangements with Community & Cultural Services, Neighbourhood Delivery Teams and Neighbourhood Regeneration Teams delivering separate services, there is a differential offer across the City. For example the Neighbourhood Regeneration Team covering South Manchester is relatively smaller than other teams, in recognition of the fact that it covers an area with more self-sustaining communities, lower levels of unemployment and poverty and in the past fewer large-scale regeneration opportunities. Conversely, parts of it are a key focus for Neighbourhood Delivery Teams because of the neighbourhood management issues generated by students. Growth and Neighbourhoods as a directorate is undertaking some detailed work mapping key variables (predominance of poor quality private rented properties; levels of economic inactivity; recycling rates; demand for services) to develop a better understanding of how services in the future can be better targeted at a neighbourhood level. This work will be considered as the new model for neighbourhood working is developed.

## **Work and Skills**

For the City, the work and skills agenda is critical to both the growth and reform agendas, to ensure that Manchester residents both contribute to and benefit from the City's growth and that those furthest from the labour market have access to relevant pathways and support to sustain work. The Greater Manchester Devolution Deal, agreed with Central Government in November, gives greater freedom and flexibility to design an FE system that is more relevant to the Greater Manchester economy and to scale up the reform programme building on current initiatives such as Working Well and Troubled Families. Within the City Council, the work & skills agenda is progressed by a number of directorates and services: Growth & Neighbourhoods through the work of the Economic Development Unit and Neighbourhood Regeneration Teams; Strategic Director of Education & Skills – Raising Participation; 14-19 and MAES; Corporate Core – those linked to Reform through Troubled Families and Complex Dependency. Consideration is being given to ways of better co-ordinating work & skills across both the growth and reform aspects of the City's work to maximise the opportunities from Greater Manchester devolution and deliver in priority neighbourhoods. This is being developed alongside the new model for Neighbourhood working and would support that model. Details can be shared with Economy Scrutiny as the model is developed.