



# **Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee**

Date: Thursday, 24 August 2023

Time: 10.00 am

Venue: Council Antechamber, Level 2, Town Hall Extension

**A private meeting for committee members only will be held at 9:30am on Thursday, 24 August 2023 in Room 2006, Level 2, Town Hall Extension.**

Everyone is welcome to attend this committee meeting.

## **Access to the Antechamber**

Public access to the Council Antechamber is on Level 2 of the Town Hall Extension, using the lift or stairs in the lobby of the Mount Street entrance to the Extension.

**There is no public access from any other entrance.**

## **Filming and broadcast of the meeting**

Meetings of the Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee are 'webcast'. These meetings are filmed and broadcast live on the Internet. If you attend this meeting you should be aware that you might be filmed and included in that transmission.

## **Membership of the Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee**

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**Councillors** - Simcock (Chair), Andrews, Brickell, Connolly, Davies, Evans, Kilpatrick, Kirkpatrick, Lanchbury, Rowles and Wheeler

## Agenda

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**1. Urgent Business**

To consider any items which the Chair has agreed to have submitted as urgent.

**2. Appeals**

To consider any appeals from the public against refusal to allow inspection of background documents and/or the inclusion of items in the confidential part of the agenda.

**3. Interests**

To allow Members an opportunity to [a] declare any personal, prejudicial or disclosable pecuniary interests they might have in any items which appear on this agenda; and [b] record any items from which they are precluded from voting as a result of Council Tax/Council rent arrears; [c] the existence and nature of party whipping arrangements in respect of any item to be considered at this meeting. Members with a personal interest should declare that at the start of the item under consideration. If Members also have a prejudicial or disclosable pecuniary interest they must withdraw from the meeting during the consideration of the item.

**4. Call In - Extension of Repairs and Maintenance contract for MCC Housing Services**

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The decision of the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer on 24 July 2023 has been called in by Councillors Leech, Good, Kilpatrick, Northwood and Nunney in accordance with paragraph 13.3 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules.

The terms of the Call In are:

- (1) Concern about value for money, and whether this is the best option for tenants, the workforce and Manchester Council tax-payers, and whether the alternatives have been fully considered.
- (2) Concerns from Unite the Union that there continues to be a very high level of Agency and Sub- Contractor still being used on the contract at a substantially higher cost than the cost of employing direct.
- (3) Concerns raised by Unite the Union regarding health and safety, changes to the sickness absence policy, a failure to address accusations of bullying and harassment towards their members, and a lack of trust in the management team to provide and a fair and reasonable process for grievance and disciplinary procedures.

A copy of the Decision Notice is attached.

Members of the Committee are asked to consider all relevant matters, debate the issues and decide which of the resolutions set out below it wishes to adopt.

- i. Support the decision
- ii. Refer back to Decision Taker (with or without recommendations)
- iii. Refer to Council (only applicable if the decision is contrary to the policy framework or contrary to or not wholly in accordance with the budget)

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| <b>4a. Call In Protocol</b>  | 7 - 10  |
| The Council's Call In Protocol is attached for information.                                |         |
| <b>4b. Managing the Call In Process</b>  | 11 - 12 |
| The Council's guide on Managing the Call In process is attached for information            |         |
| <b>4c. Call In Guidance for questioning witnesses</b>                                      | 13 - 14 |
| The Council's Call In guidance is attached for information.                                |         |
| <b>4d. Report - Extension of Repairs and Maintenance contract for MCC Housing Services</b> | 15 - 30 |
| Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer.                                   |         |

This report provides detail on the process for the decision to extend the MCC Housing Services - Equans contract for repairs and maintenance.

## Information about the Committee

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Scrutiny Committees represent the interests of local people about important issues that affect them. They look at how the decisions, policies and services of the Council and other key public agencies impact on the city and its residents. Scrutiny Committees do not take decisions but can make recommendations to decision-makers about how they are delivering the Manchester Strategy, an agreed vision for a better Manchester that is shared by public agencies across the city.

The Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee areas of interest include finances, Council buildings, staffing, corporate and partnership governance as well as Council tax and benefits administration.

The Council wants to consult people as fully as possible before making decisions that affect them. Members of the public do not have a right to speak at meetings but may do so if invited by the Chair. To help facilitate this, the Council encourages anyone who wishes to speak at the meeting to contact the Committee Officer in advance of the meeting by telephone or email, who will then pass on your request to the Chair for consideration. Groups of people will usually be asked to nominate a spokesperson. The Council wants its meetings to be as open as possible but occasionally there will be some confidential business. Brief reasons for confidentiality will be shown on the agenda sheet.

The Council welcomes the filming, recording, public broadcast and use of social media to report on the Committee's meetings by members of the public.

Agenda, reports and minutes of all Council Committees can be found on the Council's website [www.manchester.gov.uk](http://www.manchester.gov.uk).

Smoking is not allowed in Council buildings.

Joanne Roney OBE  
Chief Executive  
Level 3, Town Hall Extension,  
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## Further Information

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For help, advice and information about this meeting please contact the Committee Officer:

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This agenda was issued on **Wednesday, 16 August 2023** by the Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit, Manchester City Council, Level 2, Town Hall Extension, Manchester M60 2LA