

Manchester City Council Report for Resolution

Report to: Constitutional and Nomination Committee – 31 March 2021
Council – 31 March 2021

Subject: Proposed changes to the remit of Scrutiny Committees

Report of: The City Solicitor

Summary

This report details proposed changes to the remits of the Council's Scrutiny Committees following consideration of a petition entitled "*Respond to climate change with more democracy and more money*" by the Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee in February 2021.

Recommendation – Constitutional and Nomination Committee

The Constitutional and Nomination Committee is requested to recommend that Council agree the proposed changes to the remits of the Council's Scrutiny Committees as set out in Appendix 2.

Recommendations – Council

The Council is recommended to:

1. Agree and adopt the proposed changes to the remits of the Council's Scrutiny Committees as set out in Appendix 2 with immediate effect.
 2. Authorise the City Solicitor to make any amendments to the Council's Constitution that are consequential to the changes to the remits of the Council's Scrutiny Committees.
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Wards Affected:

All Wards

Environmental Impact Assessment - the impact of the issues addressed in this report on achieving the zero-carbon target for the city

Addressing the Council's Climate Emergency declaration is a core cross-cutting issue which is to be considered as a matter of course by all committees of the Council

Our Manchester Strategy outcomes	Summary of how this report aligns to the OMS
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A thriving and sustainable city: supporting a diverse and distinctive economy that creates jobs and opportunities	
A highly skilled city: world class and home grown talent sustaining the city's economic success	
A progressive and equitable city: making a positive contribution by unlocking the potential of our communities	
A liveable and low carbon city: a destination of choice to live, visit, work	
A connected city: world class infrastructure and connectivity to drive growth	

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Background documents (available for public inspection):

None

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This report details proposed changes to the remit of some of the Council's Scrutiny Committees, following consideration of a petition entitled "*Respond to climate change with more democracy and more money*" by the Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee in February 2021.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 An online petition was submitted to the Council on 10 February 2020, via the Council's website, entitled "*Respond to climate change with more democracy and more money*". The petition asked the following of the Council:-

"We the undersigned petition the Council to Establish a permanent "Climate and Environment Scrutiny Committee", of equal standing to the existing 6 scrutiny committees and Make strenuous efforts to secure additional funding for climate action, including the use of some of its strategic reserves."

- 2.2 The online petition closed on 10 November 2020 and received 771 signatories of support. In addition, the Petition organiser also submitted a physical petition to Council Offices containing a further 989 signatories of support. This totalled 1760 signatures.
- 2.3 In accordance the Council's petition scheme, the petition was considered by the Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee as the two aspects of the petition related to Council financial and non financial resources.

3.0 Outcome of Consideration of the petition at Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee

- 3.1 The points raised by the petition and comments made by the petition representative at the Scrutiny Meeting were in the main, supported by both the Council's Executive and the members of the Scrutiny Committee.
- 3.2 It was acknowledged that the Council only accounted for approximately 2% of the city's emissions and had no statutory powers to require other parts of the city to act or scrutinise them. It was also noted that it was the responsibility of every part of the Council to make a contribution to tackle climate change.
- 3.3 It was recognised that the demands on the current Neighbourhood and Environment Scrutiny Committee were too high to allow sufficient consideration of climate emergency. Appendix 1 details the current remit of the Council's Scrutiny Committees.
- 3.4 Accordingly, it was proposed and endorsed that the balance of the Council's Scrutiny Committee remits should be reviewed, in order to free up capacity for Neighbourhoods and Environment Scrutiny Committee to give more time to scrutiny of climate change and zero carbon. Appendix 2 details the proposed revised remit of the Council's Scrutiny Committees .

- 3.5 It was envisaged that these proposals would negate the need to establish a 7th Scrutiny Committee.
- 3.6 It was also suggested that in addition to the realignment of scrutiny remits, the Council renamed the current Neighbourhood and Environment Scrutiny Committee to Environment and Climate Change Committee, which would be the main committee to scrutinise issues such as environmental integrity, climate change, biodiversity and flooding.
- 3.7 It was also recognised that tackling climate change continues to be a cross-cutting priority for the Council and all of its committees, and that other Scrutiny Committees should continue to scrutinise climate change issues in relation to matters that fall within their terms of reference.

4.0 Recommendations

- 4.1 The recommendations are set out at the beginning of this report.

Appendix 1 – Current Scrutiny Committee remits

SECTION E: RESPONSIBILITY FOR SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

Pursuant to Article 6 of Part 2 of this Constitution, the Council has established 6 Scrutiny Committees to discharge the functions set out in Section 9F of the Local Government Act 2000 and in Article 6.

The Scrutiny Committees, membership and the specific remit of each committee is as set out below:

Committee	Membership	Remit
Children and Young People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ At least ten elected members of the Council ▪ One representative of the Diocese of Manchester ▪ One representative of the Diocese of Salford and Shrewsbury ▪ Three elected parent governor representatives ▪ Two teacher representatives as non-voting co-opted members 	<p>To exercise scrutiny functions in relation to the Council's Children's Services functions and other matters affecting children and young people, including –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ School Standards and Improvement ▪ Children and Families ▪ Early Years (0-5's) and Play ▪ Children with Special Educational Needs ▪ Safeguarding Arrangements ▪ Education and Skills Development (for ages 0-15) ▪ Disabled Children ▪ Valuing Young People
Communities and Equalities (the designated Crime and Disorder Committee)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ At least ten elected members of the Council 	<p>To exercise scrutiny functions in relation to matters concerning citizenship and inclusion, including –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Community Cohesion ▪ Respect Agenda ▪ Equality and Inclusion ▪ Older People ▪ Information and Advice Services ▪ Youth Offending/Disorder ▪ Domestic Violence/Abuse ▪ Crime and Policing ▪ Culture, Libraries and Theatres ▪ Leisure and Sport ▪ Voluntary Sector <p>To review and scrutinise decisions or actions taken in</p>

		<p>connection with the discharge by the responsible authorities of their crime and disorder functions, namely-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reduction of crime and disorder (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment) ▪ Combating the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances and reducing re-offending
Neighbourhoods and Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ At least ten elected members of the Council 	<p>To exercise scrutiny functions in relation to matters concerning communities and neighbourhoods, including –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Waste ▪ Street Management ▪ Carbon Emissions and Climate Change ▪ Planning ▪ Highways ▪ Housing ▪ Neighbourhood Working ▪ Flood Management ▪ Environment
Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ At least ten elected members of the Council 	<p>To exercise scrutiny functions in relation to matters relating to the economy, employment and skills, including –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Economic Growth ▪ Strategic Transport ▪ Employment ▪ Regeneration ▪ Tourism ▪ City Region ▪ Core Cities ▪ Skills Development (aged 16+) ▪ Worklessness
Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ At least ten elected members of the Council 	<p>To exercise scrutiny functions in relation to any matter relating to the planning, provision and operation of health services in Manchester, to issues affecting the health and well-being of the community, including -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Adult Social Care

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Aspiration and Well-being ▪ Health Services ▪ Health Inequalities ▪ Health Protection and Safeguarding ▪ Public Health and Healthy Living ▪ Mental Health and Well-being ▪ Patient and Public Involvement ▪ CQC Inspections of Health and Social Care Provision ▪ Any matter relating to health or social care services or providers referred by Healthwatch
Resources and Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ At least ten elected members of the Council 	<p>To exercise scrutiny functions in relation to resources and governance including those not falling within the remit of the other Scrutiny Committees and -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Finance and Budget Setting ▪ Capital Programme ▪ Procurement & Commissioning ▪ Property Management ▪ Human Resources ▪ Corporate and Partnership Governance ▪ City Region Governance ▪ Revenue and Benefits ▪ ICT

Appendix 2 – Proposed Scrutiny remits (changes highlighted in bold)

SECTION E: RESPONSIBILITY FOR SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

Pursuant to Article 6 of Part 2 of this Constitution, the Council has established 6 Scrutiny Committees to discharge the functions set out in Section 9F of the Local Government Act 2000 and in Article 6.

The Scrutiny Committees, membership and the specific remit of each committee is as set out below:

Committee	Membership	Remit
Children and Young People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least ten elected members of the Council • One representative of the Diocese of Manchester • One representative of the Diocese of Salford and Shrewsbury • Three elected parent governor representatives • Two teacher representatives as non-voting co-opted members 	<p>To exercise scrutiny functions in relation to the Council's Children's Services functions and other matters affecting children and young people, including –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Standards and Improvement • Children and Families • Early Years (0-5's) and Play • CAMHS • Children with Special Educational Needs • Safeguarding Arrangements • Education and Skills Development (for ages 0-15) • Transition at 16 • Disabled Children • Valuing Young People
Communities and Equalities (the designated Crime and Disorder Committee)	At least ten elected members of the Council	<p>To exercise scrutiny functions in relation to matters concerning citizenship and inclusion, including –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Cohesion • Respect Agenda • Equality and Inclusion • Older People • Information and Advice Services • Youth Offending/Disorder • Domestic Violence/Abuse • Crime and Policing • Culture, Libraries and Theatres • Leisure and Sport • Voluntary Sector

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homelessness • Compliance (excl planning) • To review and scrutinise decisions or actions taken in connection with the discharge by the responsible authorities of their crime and disorder functions, namely- • Reduction of crime and disorder (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment) • Combating the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances and reducing re-offending • To review the provision of services to homeless people within the City and to consider services provided to rough sleepers
<p>Environment and Climate Change</p>	<p>At least ten elected members of the Council</p>	<p>To exercise scrutiny functions in relation to matters concerning Environment and Climate Change (communities and neighbourhoods,) including –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental issues concerning the city • The Climate Change Strategy • Waste • Street Management • Carbon Emissions (and Climate Change) • Neighbourhood Working • Flood Management • Planning policy and related enforcement • Parks and Green Spaces

Economy	At least ten elected members of the Council	<p>To exercise scrutiny functions in relation to matters relating to the economy, employment and skills, including –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic Growth • Strategic Transport • Employment • Regeneration • Tourism • City Region • Core Cities • Skills Development (aged 16+) • Worklessness • Street Management • Highways • Housing
Health	At least ten elected members of the Council	<p>To exercise scrutiny functions in relation to any matter relating to the planning, provision and operation of health services in Manchester, to issues affecting the health and well-being of the community, including -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult Social Care • Aspiration and Well-being • Health Services • Health Inequalities • Health Protection and Safeguarding • Public Health and Healthy Living • Mental Health and Well-being • Patient and Public Involvement • CQC Inspections of Health and Social Care Provision • Any matter relating to health or social care services or providers referred by Healthwatch

Resources and Governance	At least ten elected members of the Council	To exercise scrutiny functions in relation to resources and governance including those not falling within the remit of the other Scrutiny Committees and - <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Finance and Budget Setting• Capital Programme• Procurement & Commissioning• Property Management• Human Resources• Corporate and Partnership Governance• City Region Governance• Revenue and Benefits○ ICT
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