

# Overview and Scrutiny

## Newsletter

### Welcome to the tenth edition of the Overview and Scrutiny newsletter

This newsletter provides an update of the public consultation on our work programmes, as well as updates on recent and current scrutiny.

In this issue we discuss the results of our consultation with the public which identify our next big areas of work.

One of the key areas we will focus on will be the perception of crime, through scrutiny of the work, being carried out by the council and its partners to tackle crime and disorder.

Our Community, Health and Social Care Scrutiny Committee will be considering how agencies in the city are working together to ensure services meet the needs of our ageing population.

In the spring we will be looking into the safety and accessibility of public transport.

We are always keen to receive input into the work we do and to make giving your opinion easier we hold a public question time at the start of all our main scrutiny committee meetings.

More information on meetings, publications and the work we do, is available on our website: [www.salford.gov.uk/scrutiny](http://www.salford.gov.uk/scrutiny) or through contacting our Overview and Scrutiny team (please see back page for details).

**Councillor James Dawson**  
Chair, Scrutiny Chairs Group

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# Overview and Scrutiny work programme - feedback from consultation.

The Overview and Scrutiny team would like to thank everyone who took part in this year's annual public consultation exercise to find out what issues people would like Overview and Scrutiny to investigate over the coming year.

To gather people's views, we developed a questionnaire asking people to identify the top three issues they thought we should investigate. Over 2,000 forms were distributed across Salford using various methods:

- Placing forms in council reception areas, sending to community centres, libraries and the Mobile Information Centre.
- Approaching people in person at a number of local shopping centres and supermarkets and at various events including coffee mornings and carers events.
- Posting an electronic version of the questionnaire on the council's website, intranet and on digi-tv.

255 forms were received back and the issues scored according to their priority.

Having considered the findings, the Overview and Scrutiny Chairs Group agreed the work programmes for the coming year. The main three priorities identified were:

- Perceptions of crime - to be reviewed as part of the scrutiny work on crime and disorder. We will analyse the work being carried out by the council and its partners to improve the perceptions of crime and disorder in the city.
- Meeting the needs of an ageing population - the Community, Health and Social Care Scrutiny Committee will be considering how agencies in the city are working together to ensure services meet the needs of our ageing population.
- Safety and accessibility of public transport - this will be reviewed in Spring 2009.



## Regeneration tour of Ordsall and MediaCityUK

Strategy and Regeneration Scrutiny members went on a tour of Ordsall and MediaCityUK to enable them to see first hand the progress that has been made in these two areas.

Areas of particular interest included the new Primrose Hill Community School, the proposed site for a new shopping centre, new build properties, vacant sites and green spaces and how community use of these spaces could be improved.

The tour stopped at the marketing suite of Legendary Property Company (LPC), where its marketing director spoke to members, giving a broad overview of future plans for Ordsall. In addition to housing developments, these plans include new and improved routes for pedestrians and cyclists into and within Ordsall.

Members also discussed the Urban Regeneration Company's (URC) vision for the waterfront along Ordsall, which is currently used as factory space.

It is envisaged that the waterfront will become an attractive place to visit as plans include the clearance of buildings to open up access from the front of Ordsall Hall right up to the water's edge.



The tour continued on to the Pie Factory on the edge of the MediaCityUK development on Salford Quays, where members were able to ask questions about the latest development plans and look at artist impressions of the site.

The Pie Factory was once exactly that, but has been transformed by Peel Holdings into a home to film, television and commercial production.

Ed Burrows, property director for Peel Holdings, welcomed members and led a guided tour of the Pie Factory, followed by a presentation on MediaCityUK.

Peel Holdings, in partnership with the Regional Development Agency, Salford City Council and the URC, are developing what will be the UK's first purpose built media city. It is hoped the presence of the BBC at the quays will help raise the profile of media companies large and small which will also be based there. Companies will be able to work together to make the most of the latest technology, attract talent and encourage creativity.



## Cycling in Salford

Following a request from Salford Cycle Forum and the Environment, Housing and Planning Scrutiny Committee, Overview and Scrutiny requested a short term commission to look into the possibility of creating a dedicated cycling officer for Salford. The commission has since held a couple of meetings to consider what happens in Salford and other local authorities to develop the cycling infrastructure and promote cycling initiatives and activity.

The Salford Cycle Forum is also helping develop a cycling strategy and wants the public to help make Salford more cycle-friendly by offering comments, ideas or contributions.

The draft strategy can be viewed from the forum webpage [www.salford.gov.uk/cycle-forum](http://www.salford.gov.uk/cycle-forum)

If you would like any further information on either piece of work please contact **Peter Kidd** on **0161 793 3322** or email [peter.kidd@salford.gov.uk](mailto:peter.kidd@salford.gov.uk)

## Availability of NHS dentists

Community, Health and Social Care Scrutiny members received information from the Salford Primary Care Trust (PCT) in relation to the availability of NHS dentists in Salford. This was heightened due to national and local press interest concerning patients having difficulties accessing NHS dentists.

Due to concerns raised, members agreed to set up a sub-group to review whether or not there is a lack of NHS dentists available in the Salford area.

A questionnaire has been distributed at various locations across the city, asking people about the availability of NHS dentists and their experiences. This is available online at [www.salford.gov.uk/nhs-dentists-salford](http://www.salford.gov.uk/nhs-dentists-salford)

A report will be made available next year outlining the findings and any recommendations made.

If you require any further information please contact **Linda Sharples** on **0161 793 3324** or email [linda.sharples@salford.gov.uk](mailto:linda.sharples@salford.gov.uk)



## Respect parenting work

The commission group's work started earlier this year with members meeting with a number of officers from both within the council and external agencies to find out what the council is doing to improve parenting in Salford.

Members were informed that as part of the 2006 Child Care Act there is a statutory obligation for all authorities to have a Family Information Service in place. While this service is already in place in our city, a new manager has recently been appointed to drive this forward. The service deals with many aspects including parenting. Work is underway to develop the parenting strategy for Salford and additional funding has been secured thanks to Salford being accepted as part of the Family Pathfinder programme.

Through the work undertaken by the commission, the group has established that whilst good work is currently underway within Salford, it is too early to evaluate the effectiveness of many of the projects. Therefore members have agreed to come together in November 2008 to review all the information gathered to date and draw up a draft report that will include their findings and any recommendations.

If you require any further information please contact **Carole Chapman** on **0161 793 3316** or email [carole.chapman@salford.gov.uk](mailto:carole.chapman@salford.gov.uk)



## Budget consultation

The council is currently consulting with residents about its spending plans and how this will impact on council tax charges for the following financial year.

Members of the public can come along and have their say at a public meeting, which will be held at Salford Civic Centre, Swinton on Wednesday 21 January 2009 at 7.00pm. For further information please contact **Carolyn Haslam** on **0161 793 3057**.

After all the public consultations have been completed, the Budget Scrutiny Committee will be reviewing the results and using them as the basis of the committee's recommendations.

## Fluoridation

The Community, Health and Social Care Scrutiny Committee held a meeting in May 2007 to consider the benefits and risks of the fluoridation of water supplies. Officers from the Primary Care Trust (PCT) attended this meeting, along with representatives who were both for and against the fluoridation of water.

At a recent meeting, members considered the report of the North West Evaluation Group on fluoridation, taking into account cost benefits and feasibility.

Following the meeting a formal response has been sent to Salford Primary Care Trust (PCT) from the Community, Health and Social Care Scrutiny Committee. In this response it is recommended that the PCT should request the Strategic Health Authority to consult with the public on the possible fluoridation of water supplies.

If you require any further information please contact **Linda Sharples** on **0161 793 3324** or email [linda.sharples@salford.gov.uk](mailto:linda.sharples@salford.gov.uk)

# Looking into the issues facing young people with learning difficulties

The Children's Services Scrutiny Committee have been looking into the issues young people with learning disabilities/difficulties (LDD) face when they reach the age where they make the move from children's to adult services.

As part of this work, members attended a meeting at Chatsworth High School to discuss these issues. Members also attended a theatre workshop at Oakwood High School. The workshop provided the opportunity for a group of young people to express their feelings around this topic through drama facilitated by the So Many Words theatre company.

The aim of the session was:

- to provide an opportunity for young people with LDD to communicate their experiences and concerns

- to raise awareness about specific issues in transition e.g. moving to independent living, employment and further education opportunities
- to develop a dialogue between young people and those with responsibility for improving services for disabled people
- to identify opportunities for young people with LDD to influence decision making.

The theatre company used 'theatre of the oppressed' techniques. This is an interactive form of theatre, aiming to find constructive ways for dealing with problems and issues. These techniques encourage debate and empower young people.



# Overview and Scrutiny

The session was a great success with members getting involved with activities. Members said they found the session very useful and were impressed by the willingness of the young people to communicate their issues.

The result of all this work is a report presented to Cabinet in October with recommendations on transition issues, including:

➔ Advising that the 13 - 19 Partnership Board includes the educational needs of young people with LDD as part of the development of the 14 to 19 Education Plan.

- ➔ Encouraging the Learning Difficulty Partnership Board to review its membership to ensure all those with a role in transition are represented at the board and its transition working group.
- ➔ Extending council led initiatives to reduce worklessness to young people with LDD ensuring that employment initiatives undertaken within the council as an employer include provisions for this group of young people.

If you require any further information please contact **Carole Chapman** on **0161 793 3316** or email [carole.chapman@salford.gov.uk](mailto:carole.chapman@salford.gov.uk)

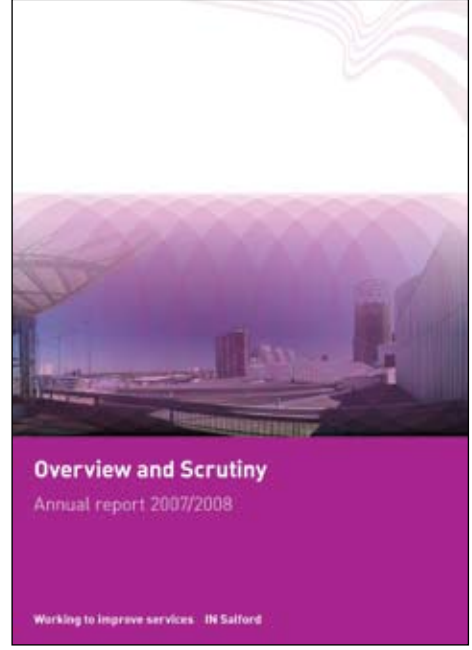


# Annual Report

Our Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report for 2007/08 has now been published.

The report outlines the work of Overview and Scrutiny during 2007/08, including key scrutiny work carried out by scrutiny commissions, work and achievements of the Overview and Scrutiny committees and developments for 2008/09.

You can either go to [www.salford.gov.uk/scrutiny](http://www.salford.gov.uk/scrutiny) and download a copy of the report, or you can contact the **Overview and Scrutiny team** on **0161 793 3530/3515** for a hard copy.



## Contact us

If you have general enquiries about Overview and Scrutiny you can email [scrutiny.support@salford.gov.uk](mailto:scrutiny.support@salford.gov.uk) or call **0161 793 3530 / 3515**.

Alternatively, you can write to **Overview and Scrutiny team, Salford Civic Centre, Chorley Road, Swinton, Salford M27 5FJ**.

[www.salford.gov.uk/scrutiny](http://www.salford.gov.uk/scrutiny)

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如果您有關於本宣傳頁的任何問題，請聯繫 Salford 理事會的 Equalities 團隊，電話號碼為 0161 793 3536

જો આ લીફલેટ સમજવા મોટ તમને મદદની જરૂરત હોય, કૃપા કરી ઇકવાલિટીજ ટીમ સર્કલ્ડ ડાઉસિલનો ટેલિફોન નમ્બર 0161 793 3536 પર સંપર્ક કરો.

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