

AGMA Scrutiny Update

National press for Greater Manchester sub-regional scrutiny

The **Centre for Public Scrutiny** is a national organisation which aims to promote the value of scrutiny and accountability in modern and effective government and support non-executives in their scrutiny role through producing guidance, creating networks and



forums and sharing their expertise through seminars, consultancy, training and events.

As one of only a few sub-regions to have established a scrutiny function we were asked to write a short article about the creation and development of AGMA scrutiny. This publication was circulated

nationally across scrutiny units and has helped to increase awareness as to our existence, aims, and functions.

For more information and to read the full article visit <http://www.cfps.org.uk/news/scrutiny-news/local-government/?id=196>

Joint authority budget scrutiny

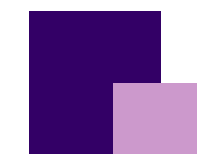
Scrutiny of joint authority budgets is an annual task undertaken by the Leaders of the ten AGMA councils. To assist them in this process the AGMA Scrutiny Pool took a lead role in reviewing the GMWDA (Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority) budget for

2010/11. This was an interesting process that was directed by the Governance, Improvement and Finance Panel and resulted in a paper detailing the areas of enquiry and final recommendations to the AGMA Executive Board. Thanks to those members and

officers who provided a wealth of information that assisted the scrutiny process. The full report can be viewed at http://www.agma.gov.uk/cms_media/files/9dii_scrutiny_pool_gmwda_joint_authority_budget_2010_11.pdf

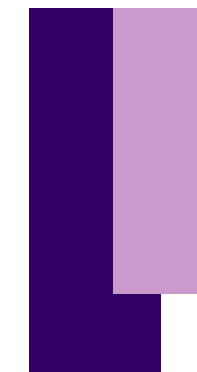
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AGMA Scrutiny Members— developing their role

**Contact your
AGMA
Scrutiny
member ...
find out more
about what
they do.**

It has been over 12 months since the AGMA Scrutiny Pool was first established, and with a new remit and a developing sub-regional governance structure there has been a lot of learning to be done for both officers and members. The AGMA Scrutiny Pool have specifically been involved with the

Manchester City Region Proposals, have met with the majority of emerging AGMA Commissions and been involved in pre-policy scrutiny for those issues that affect the wider Greater Manchester. It is with thanks to the determination, perseverance and input from the thirty

councillors from across the conurbation that we have achieved so much in our first 12 months.

One key emphasis for the coming year is to build stronger links with local authority scrutiny committees to ensure we are adding value locally in addition to our sub-regional remit.



**Cllrs Anthony Connell, Roger Hayes, and John Walsh
Bolton Council**

**Cllrs Jackie Harris, Sam Hurst and John Smith
Bury MBC**

**Cllrs Simon Ashley, John Flanagan and Mary Watson
Manchester City Council**

**Cllrs Dave Hibbert, Alan Roughley, Ann Wingate
Oldham MBC**

**Cllrs Peter Evans, Alan Godson and Rosemary Jones
Rochdale MBC**



**Cllrs Karen Garrido, David Lancaster and Alice Smyth
Salford City Council**

**Cllrs Shan Alexander, Martin Candler and Peter Scott
Stockport MBC**

**Cllrs Joe Kitchen, Peter Robinson and Eileen Shorrocks
Tameside MBC**

**Cllrs Barry Brotherton, Pamela Dixon and Paula Pearson
Trafford Council**

**Cllrs Joan Hurst, John O'Brien and Peter Thompson
Wigan MBC**

The AGMA Scrutiny Pool is member led, topics for scrutiny are selected through members' own research and awareness of issues at a sub-regional level and/or through the utilisation of the AGMA Forward Plan. Members recognise that AGMA scrutiny exists to achieve greater public accountability over decisions made and services delivered for the whole of Greater Manchester, therefore any issue can be approved for the Scrutiny Work Programme as long as it falls within one of their key objectives -

- To hold the AGMA Executive Board to account
- To provide a 'critical friend' to policy and strategy development
- To undertake scrutiny reviews into areas of strategic importance for the people of Greater Manchester

City Region Governance—consultation

The AGMA Scrutiny Pool have been aware of each stage of the City Region Pilot and have been keen to engage in its latest developments and hear about the progress that has been made. Currently AGMA are conducting a consultation as to how the future governance arrangements for the sub-region can support

the aspirations of the City Region. This includes adapting the current transport governance systems to accommodate increased decision making and devolvement of government funding. The AGMA Scrutiny Pool will be contributing to this consultation at their February meeting and

their views will be collated with all other consultees in a report to the AGMA Executive at the end of February.

Full details and the consultation paper can be found at http://www.agma.gov.uk/cms_media/files/agma_city_region_governance_final.pdf



AGMA Scrutiny website launched

Following changes in the AGMA constitution and the creation of the seven Commissions and the Business Leadership Council, AGMA felt that it was a timely opportunity to launch a new corporate identity including a new-look website.

AGMA Scrutiny has its own page which details -

- Information about AGMA Scrutiny
- Information on the role of the AGMA Scrutiny member
- An up to date work programme for the Pool

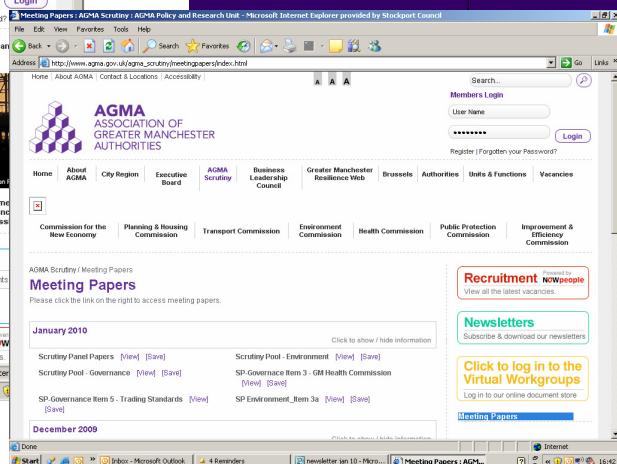
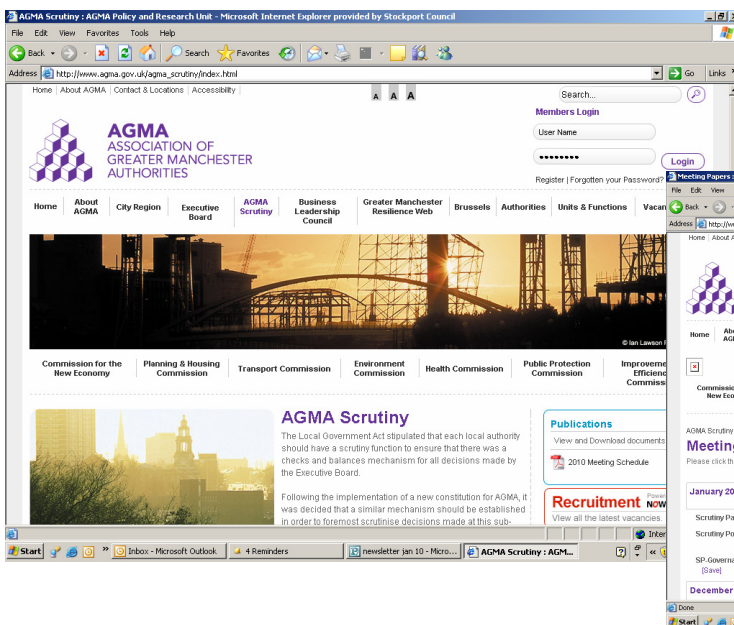
- Meeting papers
- AGMA Scrutiny contacts.

It is also a really useful site for finding out more general information about the wider AGMA association.

www.agma.gov.uk

'The Greater Manchester 10 local authorities are working together with a common objective of ensuring that by 2020 we will be able to confidently call ourselves a world class city region at the heart of a thriving North of England.'

AGMA website

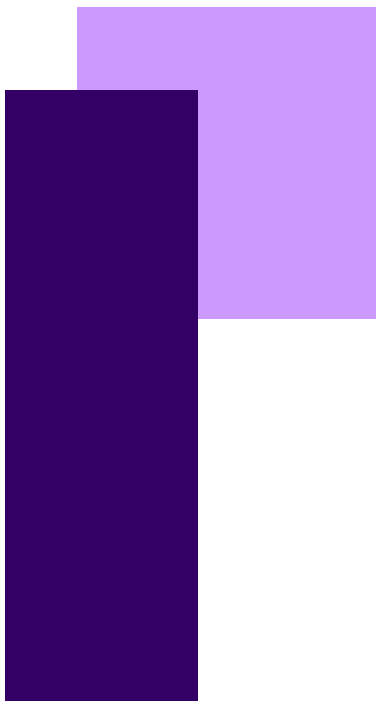




AGMA
ASSOCIATION OF
GREATER MANCHESTER
AUTHORITIES

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AGMA Scrutiny Pool meetings are open to the public, and meet on the 2nd Friday of the month, at 1pm, in Committee Room 11, Manchester Town Hall (unless otherwise advertised)

The AGMA Scrutiny Pool have a rolling work programme that identifies significant items for scrutiny—currently it includes the following—

Month	Agenda/Review items	Relevant scrutiny panel
February 2010	AGMA Forward Plan	AGMA Scrutiny Pool
	Scrutiny Work Programme	
	GM City Region Update and AGMA Governance Consultation	
	Members e-portal	
	Environment Commission paper on Climate Change Agency and Greater Manchester Energy Plan	Environment, Spatial and Economy
	Public Protection Commission Work Programme or progress update	Environment, Spatial and Economy
	AGMA Constitution – governance changes	Governance, Improvement and Finance
March 2010	AGMA Forward Plan	AGMA Scrutiny Pool
	Scrutiny Work Programme	
	GM City Region Update	
	Brussels Office Review	Governance, Improvement and Finance
	Improvement and Efficiency Commission Work Programme	
	Section 48 Grants AGMA Budget	
	Next generation broadband	
April 2010	AGMA Forward Plan	AGMA Scrutiny Pool
	Scrutiny Work Programme	
	GM City Region Update	
	GM Housing Strategy follow up item	Environment, Spatial and Economy
	County Records Office AGMA Budget	Governance, Improvement and Finance