



**MANCHESTER**  
CITY COUNCIL



**Sir Richard Leese**  
*Leader of the Council*  
*Labour member representing the*  
*Crumpsall Ward*

Sir Michael Lyons  
Lyons Inquiry into Local Government  
Room 3/12  
1 Horse Guards Road  
London  
SW1A 2HQ

Town Hall  
Manchester M60 2LA  
Tel: 0161 234 3004  
Fax: 0161 234 3356  
e-mail: [r.leese@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:r.leese@manchester.gov.uk)

31<sup>st</sup> August 2006

Dear Sir Michael,

**MANCHESTER CITY COUNCIL RESPONSE TO THE LYONS INQUIRY INTO LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

Manchester City Council welcomes the opportunity to respond to this most important inquiry into the future function and funding of local government.

Your interim reports have so far made some very helpful and positive recommendations. We are particularly encouraged with the recognition that local government should play a wider role and be given the appropriate powers and flexibilities, in order to make a real difference to local prosperity.


We do, however, consider that Government would miss a huge opportunity if we are to review the future function of local government effectively, without fully taking into account the opportunities and benefits that city regional governance will bring. We firmly believe that a new approach to governance at the city region level will help Manchester realise its potential to shape the city to be globally competitive and world class, with a vibrant and dynamic economy, delivering opportunity for all our communities.

I have enclosed more detailed comments in response to your questions on what local government should do and what needs to be changed. I have also taken this opportunity to outline our governance proposals for the Manchester City Region.

I do hope that you find our comments helpful as you conclude your findings and recommendations over the coming months.

Please do not hesitate to contact me as I would be pleased to discuss any of the issues mentioned above in more detail.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sir Leese', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Sir Richard Leese  
Leader, Manchester City Council