



A Commitment to Inclusion

**An Agreement with the Office for
Fair Access (OFFA)**

November 2007

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A Commitment for Social Inclusion

Access Agreement with the Office for Fair Access

1. Background

Manchester Metropolitan University is a successful modern institution with an outstanding record of achievement in its teaching programmes, its research activities and in the high quality of the learning experiences provided for its students. External scrutiny in the form of subject assessment, quality audit, collaborative audit, and accreditation by professional bodies confirm these qualities. It is also an institution which is proud of its long tradition of providing successful routes into Higher Education for those who come from backgrounds without a strong tradition of entry to university. Indeed, the University has a longstanding commitment of dedication to the success of all with the ability and motivation to benefit.

It achieves that goal by employing a diverse range of access arrangements encompassing full-time, part-time, distance learning and mixed modes of study. Additionally, access to programmes is enriched through a comprehensive network of specific access courses that are fully integrated with higher diplomas and degree programmes to which successful students can progress.

The enrolled student population of the Institution reflects our dedication to meeting the needs of all sections of society and our commitment to equal opportunities. Whilst 80% of those are admitted onto undergraduate degrees on the basis of their 'A' level, 'A' level equivalent or higher qualifications, a further 20% enter with foundation, access or other qualifications. Over 20% study as part-time students; the ratio of male to female students is 40:60; mature students number over 50%; over 94% of our students come from state schools; and over 18% come from what are nationally regarded as areas having low participation rates in higher education and over 34% from social classes 4 to 7. Hence the University has a diverse population that enriches the learning experience provided for all students. Unsurprisingly, therefore, the Institution already performs on or above the majority of the national inclusion benchmarks set by the Higher Education Funding Council for England based on its participation statistics.

The University, however, is not complacent about the excellence of its record of social inclusion and is particularly concerned to ensure that students having the greatest financial need are not deterred from entering higher education. Accordingly, it has adopted a policy to ensure that such students will receive a total package of support that not only covers their tuition fees but also makes a further contribution to the expenses they incur as a student. The University's contribution to this will be by means of a cash grant (or 'bursary').

This agreement gives details of what the bursary will amount to for individual students.

2. The Context for this Agreement

The Higher Education Act 2004 gave universities in England the right with effect from the commencement of academic year 2006/07 to introduce tuition fees above the standard level for full-time undergraduate courses. The same Act established the Office for Fair Access (OFFA) to ensure that the introduction of variable tuition fees does not have a detrimental impact on the level of participation by students who are from groups that are under-represented in higher education.

Every university that elects to levy tuition fees above the standard level must have an Agreement approved by OFFA that sets out how it will safeguard and promote access to its

courses, particularly for those students from low income groups, through the use of bursaries, other financial support and outreach activities. This document comprises the Access Agreement for the Manchester Metropolitan University and takes effect for those students who commence programmes of study in 2008/09. The University intends to produce a much more radical agreement for the years 2009/10 and 2010/11 to tie in with the end of the original access agreement timeframe.

This Agreement sets out which of the University's courses will be subject to variable fees, its approach to the determination of student eligibility for bursaries, and what such eligibility will mean in financial terms to students who meet the requirements.

3. Courses falling within the scope of the Agreement

University programmes to which this Agreement shall apply are those for which the University receives income from the Higher Education Funding Council for England or the Teacher Training Agency, which lead to the following awards and attract variable fees.

- all full-time undergraduate degree programmes (including their associated foundation years);
- all full-time foundation degree programmes;
- all full-time programmes that lead to a higher national diploma (Edexcel award), a diploma of higher education or a certificate of higher education;
- programmes that lead to a post-graduate certificate of education;
- programmes that lead to a professional graduate certificate.

Details of the actual subjects which can be studied and which lead to these awards can be found in the University's current prospectus (available on application or via on-line access at <http://www.mmu.ac.uk/courses>).

4. Tuition Fee Limits: Fees for 2008/09

UK and EU students enrolled on full-time undergraduate programmes delivered by and leading to an award of the University covered in the scoping statement in paragraph 3 above will have fees set at either the enhanced fee of £3145 p.a. or at the Standard Fee of £1255 for 2008/09.

5. Bursaries and other financial support available to students

The University will commit approximately one-third of its additional fee income to make available cash bursaries to students and to enhance its outreach arrangements, thereby enabling students to offset the tuition and related costs incurred by full-time attendance at University; this support will be especially targeted at students from the most financially disadvantaged backgrounds.

5.1 Assessment for Eligibility

The University will employ the financial needs assessment undertaken by the Student Loans Company (SLC) for each eligible UK student as the basis of making a determination of the level of a bursary award it will make available to an individual student. The University will consider carefully reports from the SLC on the operation of the bursary scheme to determine any appropriate adjustments. EU Students will not be eligible for bursaries under this scheme.

5.2 The Value of Bursaries for 2008/09

Income Range £	Minimum Bursary £	Additional Bursary £	Total Bursary £
Up to 20,460	310	690	1000
20,461 to 22,550	310	590	900
22,551 to 25,000	310	490	800
25,001 to 26,730	0	700	700
26,731 to 28,825	0	600	600
28,826 to 30,925	0	500	500
30,926 to 33,015	0	400	400
33,016 to 35,105	0	300	300
35,106 to 37,195	0	200	200
37,196 to 39,290	0	100	100

6. Mechanisation of the University Bursary Scheme

The Student Loans Company will be used as the source of information about the assessed financial status of students who apply to the University;

It is the University's intention to continue to contract the SLC to pay the appropriately determined bursary to each student at the scheduled time. To assist students in managing their financial affairs the bursary will be paid in instalments.

7. Students on Collaborative Programmes

The University has collaboration arrangements with a number of further education and sixth-form colleges whereby students can study part of their University course in another location. These arrangements provide an important contribution to the institution's commitment to access and allow such students to progress into the University in a staged way. The fees set in the colleges will not normally exceed those that would apply were the student to take the same programme at the University and, in some cases, may be lower. Access to University bursaries for such students will accord with that for equivalent students who study at the University.

8. Provision of Further Information about Tuition Fees and Bursaries

Information about tuition fees for University courses is contained in the published prospectus, copies of which (in various formats) are available by contacting the University by telephone (0161 247 1055), by email (prospectus@mmu.ac.uk) or by writing to: Manchester Metropolitan University, All Saints, Manchester, M15 6BH. The most up to date reference source is always the electronic document, which can be located at <http://www.mmu.ac.uk/courses>.

Up to date bursaries and their value can be found at: <http://www.mmu.ac.uk/courses/bursaries>, or by contacting the Finance Division (0161 247 1791).

Current information about the University's scheme will also be provided to the Student Loans Company and Local Education Authorities. Both sources can be accessed by prospective students to check their possible eligibility for university bursaries.

The University produces a number of publications that are intended to advise students on financial matters including guidance on how to estimate general living costs associated with their period at the University. The overall aim is to ensure that a prospective student is able to estimate the total aggregated costs associated with their decision to attend the University and,

additionally, to have information about other potential sources of financial aid that may be available beyond any University bursary.

9. Supporting Infrastructure

The University has invested significantly in its learning support infrastructures over a long period of time (averaging an annual capital expenditure of approximately £20M p.a. over the last ten years). Nonetheless, it will use some of the additional fee income to further extend and enhance that infrastructure to the benefit of all students. It will ensure, particularly, that facilities aimed at supporting students from under-represented groups are effective and will include access to open- and distance-learning, counselling and learning support, library and other learning resources.

10. The University's Outreach Work

In the context of this Agreement 'outreach work' refers to a wide range of University activities that are undertaken with the aim of raising aspirations and attainment, encouraging those from groups that are under-represented to apply to join higher education programmes of study and supporting the endeavours of those who actually do so. Hence, it also includes activities undertaken throughout the student life cycle aimed at increasing the likelihood that students from under-represented groups will be more attracted to engaging with higher education and ultimately be successful. Evaluation of such activities within our Foundation Year programme, and through our emerging University Retention Strategy has indicated considerable impact to date in realising these objectives.

The University has a long-standing and very effective record of participation in outreach activities. These take the form of liaison work with schools and colleges, collaborative arrangements with Further Education college providers, pre-entry support and guidance, curriculum enhancement activities, open and visit days, mentoring, University summer schools and many other initiatives. The University's Widening Participation Strategy, its Learning, Teaching & Assessment Strategy and its Equal Opportunities Policy are published on the University website.

Manchester Metropolitan University is a partner in Aimhigher¹ North West, Aimhigher Greater Manchester and Aimhigher Cheshire and Warrington. Additionally, MMU is the lead partner in the Greater Manchester Strategic Alliance Lifelong Learning Network and is a member of the Cheshire and Warrington Lifelong Learning Network. Through these partnerships it works with other higher and further education providers in the region, and with schools to promote opportunities into higher education. The University leads on several regional and sub-regional projects and will continue to commit institutional resources to this work.

Specifically, for 2008/09, the University will:-

- enhance the work of the Greater Manchester Strategic Alliance (or any comparable successor body) in which it works with the other four HE institutions and all post-16 providers in the Manchester region to promote and support opportunities for vocational learners to progress into HE qualification programmes;
- enhance the work of the Cheshire and Warrington FE/HE Consortium and the Cheshire and Warrington Lifelong Learning Network in which it works with all FE Colleges in the Cheshire and Warrington sub-region;

¹ The Department for Education and Skills (now DIUS) promotes a national programme referred to as Aimhigher in which Universities, Colleges and schools work together to identify and support schemes that will encourage and facilitate progression into higher education.

- continue to be an active participant in the Aimhigher work which also seeks to promote greater participation of under represented groups in HE;
- continue to promote opportunities in HE through its liaison work with schools and colleges and support the continuation of a dedicated Widening Participation team within the Collaborative Partnerships Office;
- further develop its pre-entry support and guidance service to underpin confidence building and skills development amongst potential entrants to the University;
- further develop a curriculum enhancement service to complement and support the work of schools and colleges in raising student achievements, particularly within the framework of the new 14-19 diplomas;
- extend work with community groups targeted at raising awareness, offering role models and learning support.

A priority for the University's outreach activities will be to maintain and extend existing, successful initiatives, including those that have previously attracted external funding, and to do so with the current target groups. These groups include:-

- year 5 and 6 pupils in low participation wards in Greater Manchester;
- 13+ year-olds living in wards that are amongst the 20% most deprived nationally;
- 13+ year-olds from families with little or no experience of higher education;
- 16+ year-olds taking vocational courses and modern apprenticeships;
- adult learners on Access to HE programmes;
- learners in the workplace, especially advanced apprentices;
- ethnic minority students, especially Afro-Caribbean and female Bangladeshi;
- looked after children;
- unemployed adults.

Additionally, in consultation with schools, colleges, workforce development providers and with Aimhigher Area Partnerships, it will develop additional initiatives. Some of these, especially, but not solely, with Aimhigher providers, will encourage and enable participation in higher education generally. Others will contribute to applications to MMU itself. Current activity already extends to a substantial range of such work all of which is above and beyond that delivered by the Faculties utilising the HEFCE WP Premium. Table 1 provides details.

11. Milestones and Targets

The introductory section to this document shows that Manchester Metropolitan University is an institution that already performs comfortably above a number of benchmarks that provide indicators of the extent to which its admissions and recruitment activities achieve good social inclusion. As other universities strive to improve their own inclusion performance in future, that could subject MMU to a major challenge - even to maintaining its current profile.

Nonetheless, the University has determined that it will establish targets for its activities that will demonstrate its continuing commitment to the recruitment of an appropriately inclusive population of students. To ensure that the University's objectives for access remain effective, it will monitor its performance and check progress against these targets, with some of the data on which these evaluations take place forming part of the information that the University returns regularly to government or funding bodies.

For the University to be confident in tracking achievements against its targets and milestones, it needs to build up data sets that accurately represent key performance parameters. It also needs to establish the baselines from which progress will be measured. These intentions are reflected in some of the specific targets to be achieved during the period of this Agreement and beyond, namely:-

- (i) Data on ethnic origin of students is critically dependent on willingness to self- ascribe. Typically, hitherto, the rate of return on such data has not been significantly better than 90%. The University's target is to achieve not less than 95% return data on ethnic origin disclosure by 2007/08.
- (ii) Especially for those students in receipt of access bursaries the University will commit to improving progression rates from the first year (i.e. the proportion of enrolled students successfully progressing from stage one of study to the next). Specifically:-

2006/07	Baseline progression rate
2007/08	Baseline plus 3%
2008/09	Baseline plus 5%
2009/10	Baseline plus 8%
2010/11	Maintain or improve.

- (iii) Especially for those students in receipt of access bursaries, the University will commit to improving retention rates. Specifically, using 2005/06 data as the baseline:-

2006/07	Baseline plus 3%
2007/08	Baseline plus 5%
2008/09	Baseline plus 7%
2009/10	Baseline plus 9%
2010/11	Maintain or improve

- (iv) The University will commit to maintaining or improving recruitment from its outreach partners using 2006/07 as the baseline.
- (v) Using 2005/06 as the baseline the University will enhance both learning support and advisory services.
- (vi) Using 2005/06 as the baseline the University will extend the number of active accounts that provide access to electronic learning materials and other support services for students by not less than 12% per annum.
- (vii) Based on existing performance in the current recruitment market the University will strive, for young, full time, first degree students to:
 - meet or exceed a recruitment benchmark from state schools of 94%;
 - meet or exceed a recruitment benchmark from social classes 4, 5, 6 and 7 of 36%;
 - meet or exceed a recruitment benchmark from low participation neighbourhoods of 18%.
- (viii) Attain graduate progression into employment or further study programmes of not less than 90%.

Whilst these targets will form the basis of planned actions and will be subject to regular monitoring, attainment of specific numerical targets is less important than ensuring that over the period of this agreement the institution's overall profile of having an effective policy of social inclusion is maintained.

Where “baselines” are declared in the above schedule of commitments, the University will declare their values to OFFA when we have reached that juncture (either as part of the first monitoring run or, if available, beforehand).

12. Monitoring

The University will assess the extent to which it is fulfilling each of the elements of this agreement. At the same time it will monitor performance against its access measures and targets. Reports will be considered by members of the Directorate, Academic Board and the Board of Governors and a brief annual monitoring review will subsequently be submitted to OFFA.

13. Variation

Using the outcome of the monitoring activities referred to above, the University will annually review and assess the impact and effectiveness of its admissions and access policy. The University intends to make a significant variation to this agreement for 2009/10 and 2010/11 and will submit this to OFFA for approval in due course.

Table 1: Some Outreach Activities

Activity Aspirations and attainment	Target groups	Numbers	Existing/New?
Cross-university attainment raising projects in core subjects: Maths, English, Science and MFL.	Years 9-11 in Greater Manchester Schools located in disadvantaged wards.	Approximately 2000 pupils annually.	Based on existing but extends current activity and incorporates some new.
Programme of department-led taster events, master-classes and curriculum enhancement clubs.	8-13s in Greater Manchester and Cheshire & Warrington schools and colleges for students with families lacking HE background.	50 schools involved annually, approx 750 students.	Existing.
School2Uni project: Working with LEAs to provide ongoing curriculum enhancement progression to MMU for those who complete the programme through years 9 to 13.	Schools and colleges in Greater Manchester and Cheshire for students in socio-economically disadvantaged areas.	12 schools involved annually, approx 40 students.	New activity.
Passport schemes which seek to address social and cultural disadvantage by awarding tariff point equivalence and targeted enhanced bursary support for engagement with curriculum enrichment programmes.	VI form and FE Colleges in Greater Manchester and Cheshire.	200 college students annually.	New activity.
Mentoring activity by MMU students, one-to-one work focused on raising attainment, aspirations, homework completion, self confidence, transition to HE.	[a] Year 9-11s in E. Manchester schools located in disadvantaged wards.	100 school pupils annually.	Existing commitment maintained in East Manchester; new activity in other areas of Greater Manchester.
	[b] Year 13s across Greater Manchester, with families lacking HE background.	100 school pupils annually.	New activity.
	[c] Year 12-13 students with disabilities and with mental health issues, Greater Manchester and S. Cheshire.	40 pupils annually.	Expansion of existing activity.
Support for Higher Futures For You, area primary school project aimed at aspiration raising.	Year 5 and 6 pupils from schools in Greater Manchester in disadvantaged wards.	300 school pupils annually.	New activity.
Projects working with parents	Parents from partner schools and colleges in Greater Manchester.	100 parents annually.	New activity.
Development of new progression routes for vocational learners, especially advanced apprentices and work-based learners and support in accessing the programmes.	Greater Manchester vocational learners.	50 apprentices, work-based learners annually.	New activity.
Multicultural studies programme extended to engage community partners and raise	Adults in MMU community areas, especially Ardwick	200 adults annually.	Existing activity brought into WP team

Activity Aspirations and attainment	Target groups	Numbers	Existing/New?
<p>aspirations among adult learners.</p> <p>Guidance</p> <p>Departments, Educational Liaison Unit and Student Services [inc Careers Service and Learning Support] to provide pre-entry course, applications and careers advice/ guidance and skills support to potential HE applicants.</p> <p>Continuation of enhanced pastoral and academic workshop support programme for students from under-represented groups, inc. work on study and research skills, financial management, peer mentoring activity, online programmes; use of additional specialist support staff; staff development programme.</p>	<p>and Hume.</p> <p>Year 12 and 13 students, mainly from across Greater Manchester, Cheshire/Warrington and N Staffs – with a particular focus on colleges with high % of students from disadvantaged wards.</p> <p>All Foundation Year students [particular target groups being social groups IV and V, Afro-Caribbean males and Bangladeshi females]; Year 1 students from low income families.</p>	<p>15 colleges, approx 2000 students.</p> <p>Approx 2000 students annually.</p>	<p>2007/08.</p> <p>Expansion of existing activity and a greater emphasis on students from disadvantaged wards.</p> <p>Continuation of current activity.</p>

Annex A

Manchester Metropolitan University

Annex to the University's Access Agreement with the Office for Fair Access (OFFA)

1. Preface

This annex comprises that part of the University's Access Agreement which is not for publication. It gives details of the Institution's estimates of the additional income that will derive from levying tuition fees above the standard fee with effect from 2006/07 and the amounts that consequently will be committed to access measures. It also provides supplementary information on the University's Aimhigher activities, and its future intentions for that work, and the approach that it will be taking to fees and bursaries for students on collaborative and partnership programmes.

2. Caveat

The University pointed out, in its original Agreement, that the establishment of a new approach to fee determination in England had the potential to introduce significant turbulence into what has, hitherto, been a well-defined and relatively stable regime. The University planned its Agreement on the basis of an analysis of student recruitment profiles, evaluation of a number of assumptions about possible changes in those parameters and extrapolation and application of this new data for 2006/07 onwards. Whilst broadly confident in the integrity of this approach, no institution will have been unaffected by unpredictable changes in recruitment patterns that are likely to affect all universities. Neither can we be certain that the current proportion of the population entering UK higher education will not itself undergo further change. We have also assumed that current levels of funding for widening participation will be maintained, and index-linked, over the period. For these reasons, although the University set out a 5-year plan commencing in 2006/07, it committed to regularly reassess the impact of these changes on both its admissions profile and its ability to sustain its planned widening participation targets during that period. That reassessment has contributed to the changes being proposed for 2008/09 and to the amendment of baseline targets in the light of experience.

3. Estimated additional fee income

It will take not less than four years after the introduction of the new fee regime in 2006/07 before the University fee income profile has attained a steady state position. Based on estimates of the probable distribution of students on programmes that will attract an enhanced fee², it is assumed that there will be approximately 8970, 14770, 19070 and 20190 full-time equivalent students respectively in each of the four successive years commencing in 2006/07 for whom a variable university tuition fee will be due. This position would generate an eventual additional annual income of £38M (using 2006/07 baseline fees) over four years as shown in Table A1. (These data are incorporated in the electronically-submitted cover sheet and checklist part of the Agreement).

² Our estimates are based on student numbers who would be regarded as being on the courses detailed in section 3 of the main part of this document.

Academic Year	Stage in the additional fee cycle	Additional income (£K)
2006/07	Year 1	11711
2007/08	Year 2	22758
2008/09	Year 3	32319
2009/10	Year 4	36542
2010/11	Year 5	38080

4. Estimates of Expenditures on Access Measures

It is planned that the distribution of a significant part of the additional income from enhanced fees will be directed in support of the following access measures:

- direct support to students in the form of cash bursaries;
- widening participation and outreach activities;
- pre-entry guidance and support.

The University intends to commit approximately 33% of its additional income for these purposes.

The remainder of the income so derived will be invested in activities that enhance learning resources (especially those based on electronic media), in the general infrastructure of the Institution (so as to further develop and assure the high quality of the learning environment we provide) and will make a contribution to the increased salary costs accompanying implementation of the pay modernisation agenda.

Clearly, the actual amount of the allocation to bursaries will ultimately be determined by the number of students deemed to be eligible from their SLC assessment and the distribution of their population between maximum and lesser-level bursaries. Correspondingly, the estimates of expenditures beyond year one on access measures are as shown in table A2. (These data are also presented in the electronically-submitted cover sheet and checklist part of the Agreement as required).

	ACTUAL	PROJECTIONS			
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Total additional fee income (£K)	11711	22758	32319	36542	38080
Estimated amount of additional income to be spent on bursaries (£K)	2164	6414	9405	10360	10525
Estimated amount of additional income to be spent on outreach (£K) ³	511	683	970	1096	1142

³ This commitment to outreach is to supplement further the University's existing expenditure on these activities.

It must be stressed that these proposals are based on assumptions that the models employed to characterise the Institution and the behaviour of the market for recruiting students are sufficiently accurate to generate the sums alluded to.

5. Students on Collaborative and Partnership Programmes

The University's collaboration arrangements with further education and sixth-form colleges comprise an important contribution to the institution's commitment to access and, in most cases, have done so over a number of years. The particular value in these arrangements is that the individual colleges can optimise their marketing, student support and guidance arrangements to meet most appropriately the needs of the student groups from which they recruit. Their proximity to those sectors of the population which are currently under represented in higher education and their ability to identify and respond accordingly are invaluable in helping the University to meet its aspirations for social inclusion.

Our approach to collaborative activities in which students are enrolled at the University but receive part of their tuition in another educational establishment is, potentially, a complicated one with respect to the issue of variable fees. In many cases these colleges recruit from social groups from which there are not only low rates of progression into higher education but where there is often financial disadvantage and a concomitant aversion to debt. As a result, many of our collaborative partners have expressed the fear that, were the University to insist on levying a £3145 tuition fee in 2008/09 for students being taught at their premises, doing so could seriously damage recruitment. Whilst the colleges would wish to benefit from the possibility of enhancing fee levels above the standard fee some would wish to preserve an element of flexibility about choosing that option when market conditions are more stable. (At this stage it looks likely that some of our colleges will wish to continue with the standard fee only). This problem is compounded by the fact that none of our Agreements includes an exclusivity clause and most, if not all, colleges have therefore developed links (or even specific formal agreements) with other universities. All those universities are, of course, debarred from agreeing a common approach to fee structures: being able to have done so might, at least, have helped with planning. It would be unfortunate if the unintended consequences of these uncertainties were to frustrate the government's purposes in establishing access legislation in the first place.

As a result of these problems, which will not be unique to this institution, the University's approach to setting fees in partner colleges will be subject to the following regime:-

- a) All fees for MMU-funded students, wherever the learning experiences for those students are located, will be approved by the University and will comply with the conditions confirmed by OFFA in its Access Agreement with the University;
- b) Where students are located in partner colleges the University will levy a tuition fee for its approved courses of up to £3145 in 2008/09 subject to the request to do so by the college;
- c) Where the £3145 fee regime is applied, students on those programmes will be eligible for the same bursary arrangements as for other MMU students;
- d) Where any fee above the standard fee is approved for a partner college, the University will require, as part of its quality assurance, monitoring and evaluation procedures, evidence from the college as to how the income received above the standard level is being applied to enhance access;
- e) Tuition fees for collaboration college students will be agreed with the University;
- f) For the purposes of the Financial Memorandum between the University and the College, MMU will work on the basis that the minimum tuition fee will be the national standard fee rate prevailing at that time.

MMU values its collaborative links with regional college partners very highly. It believes that the arrangements set out above will maximise the chances of it being able to continue to work with its partners to preserve and further develop the effectiveness of its inclusive recruitment policies.

6. Additional Notes on Aimhigher Activities

Manchester Metropolitan University is a partner in the Aimhigher North West, Aimhigher Greater Manchester and Aimhigher Cheshire and Warrington activities through which it works with other higher and further education providers in the region, and with agencies such as Connexions, to promote opportunities into higher education. In particular, MMU leads on several regional and sub-regional projects, including the Aimhigher North West Widening Participation Research Network (ARN). A number of key members of University staff are involved in Aimhigher working and steering groups. Institutional resources are committed to this work in the form of staff, project overheads and other costs which are not recharged to the Partnerships. For example, the University part-funds an Aimhigher Coordinator post based in the University working on behalf of the Greater Manchester region which provides a bridge between our institutional widening participation activity and that of the Partnership. It also fully funds an Assistant Aimhigher Coordinator to support the development work of the partnership within the University. The University will continue to commit institutional resources to the work of the Partnerships.

In our experience, working with the Aimhigher Partnerships adds value to, and is very effective at extending, our institutional outreach activities. Our links with schools and colleges across the two sub-regions have increased and activities which involve all higher education providers raise awareness of the range of provision in all our institutions and hence the opportunities for progression into higher education.

The University will continue to play an active role in the Partnerships, not least in respect of:-

- involvement in working group and steering group meetings and activities;
- the provision of activities for students and staff in all relevant boroughs, especially those in the Excellence in Cities/former Excellence Challenge boroughs of Manchester, Salford, Oldham, Rochdale, Crewe and Stoke-on Trent;
- the provision of Summer Schools;
- exploring the extent to which we will commit funds to the Aimhigher Partnerships themselves, in consultation with other HEI's in the sub-regions;
- continuing to support the further development of the partnership in light of any variations in funding arrangements;
- continuing to be a leading partner in the work of the Greater Manchester Strategic Alliance and its Lifelong Learning Network;
- continuing to engage with the Cheshire and Warrington FE/HE Consortium and the Cheshire and Warrington Lifelong Learning Network.

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