

**MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION OF GREATER MANCHESTER  
AUTHORITIES EXECUTIVE BOARD HELD ON 30 OCTOBER 2020 VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

**PRESENT:**

Greater Manchester Mayor	Andy Burnham (In the Chair)
Greater Manchester Deputy Mayor	Baroness Bev Hughes
Bolton	Councillor David Greenhalgh
Bury	Councillor Eamonn O'Brien
Manchester	Councillor Richard Leese
Oldham	Councillor Sean Fielding
Rochdale	Councillor Allen Brett
Salford	City Mayor Paul Dennett
Stockport	Councillor Elise Wilson
Tameside	Councillor Brenda Warrington
Trafford	Councillor Andrew Western
Wigan	Councillor David Molyneux

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Rochdale	Councillor Janet Emsley
----------	-------------------------

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

GMCA - Chief Executive	Eamonn Boylan
GMCA - Deputy Chief Executive	Andrew Lightfoot
GMCA – Monitoring Officer	Liz Treacy
GMCA – GMCA Treasurer	Steve Wilson
Bolton	Tony Oakman
Bury	Geoff Little
Manchester	Joanne Roney
Oldham	Helen Lockwood
Salford	Ben Dolan
Stockport	Caroline Simpson
Tameside	Sandra Stewart
Trafford	Sara Todd
Wigan	Alison McKenzie-Folan
Office of the GM Mayor	Kevin Lee
TfGM	Steve Warrener
GMCA	Simon Nokes
GMCA	Julie Connor
GMCA	Lindsay Dunn
GMCA	Sylvia Welsh

<b>BOLTON</b>	<b>MANCHESTER</b>	<b>ROCHDALE</b>	<b>STOCKPORT</b>	<b>TRAFFORD</b>
<b>BURY</b>	<b>OLDHAM</b>	<b>SALFORD</b>	<b>TAMESIDE</b>	<b>WIGAN</b>

**AGMA 22/20 APOLOGIES**

**RESOLVED /-**

That apologies be received and noted from Steven Pleasant, Steve Rumbelow, Pam Smith and Jim Taylor.

**AGMA 23/20 CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS**

**RESOLVED /-**

There were no Chairs announcements or urgent business.

**AGMA 24/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest in relation to any item on the agenda.

**AGMA 25/20 MINUTES OF THE AGMA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 9 SEPTEMBER 2020**

**RESOLVED /-**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 9 September 2020 be approved as a correct record.

**AGMA 26/20 APPOINTMENTS**

**RESOLVED /-**

That the appointment of Cllr Fairclough (Bolton) to replace Cllr Cox on the AGMA Statutory Functions Committee be agreed.

**AGMA 27/20 GREATER MANCHESTER SPATIAL FRAMEWORK (GMSF)**

Introducing the item, the GM Mayor commented that the framework had been subject of immense debate across GM over several years. It was anticipated in considering the GMSF 2020, there would be a recognition of the substantial changes made from the GMSF 2016 in response to listening to communities from across GM. There had been a number of substantial changes to several schemes, following comments from residents as part of the GMSF consultation in 2019. Furthermore, there had been a 60% reduction in green belt for development since the 2016 GMSF.

The period of immediate economic uncertainty was recognised, with a suggestion that during recovery phase, the priority would be to ensure GM emerges with clarity and a strategic plan linking development to infrastructure requirements, particularly transport infrastructure. The collectively delivered framework would put GM in the strongest position

to lead recovery across the North. Furthermore, proceeding with the GMSF 2020 would better protect the green belt from unplanned development.

On behalf of the GMCA, the GM Mayor thanked the Salford City Mayor Paul Dennett, Portfolio Lead for Housing, Homelessness and Infrastructure, for the patience and painstaking work undertaken to deliver a plan commendable of support across GM.

In presenting the report, the Salford City Mayor highlighted the strategic perspective of the spatial framework and GM's ambition in the context of significant national and global uncertainty and the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic. The opportunities of the GMSF to create conditions for inclusive economic growth, provision of much needed homes, protect, and enhance the natural environment were outlined.

The comprehensive evidence base assembled to support the policies and proposals in the GMSF 2020 also highlighting the requirement to respond and tackle the homelessness crisis. The Plan set out GM's commitment to deliver more affordable housing, 50k units over the Plan period, including 30k for social or affordable rent.

Members were reminded of the process and timeline to develop a Joint Development Plan Document for the 10 authorities, and districts were requested to approve the Publication Plan 2020 for representations between 1 December 2020 and 26 January 2021. An overview of proposed consultation activity ensuring the requirement for effective community engagement utilising Covid compliant methods was provided.

Endorsement of the submission of the GMSF 2020: Publication Plan, to the Secretary of State for examination following the period for representations was further requested. AGMA were advised that examination would be undertaken publicly to determine whether the Joint DPD was capable of being adopted. Assuming the document was capable of adoption, the ultimate decision to approve must be taken by each of the 10 district Councils.

Councillor David Greenhalgh, recognised the immense amount of cross-party work which had taken place within Bolton Council and the significance of brownfield first policy. He acknowledged the collaborative approach adopted by authorities and emphasised Bolton had benefited from co-operation resulting in further protection of Bolton's green belt. He stressed the jeopardy of planning on appeal and impact on the green belt if the JDP was not adopted. On behalf of Bolton Council, he pledged support for the recommendations.

Councillor Eammon O'Brien advised that Bury Council had contributed to the redraft of the framework to minimise the impact on the green belt and maximise benefits of being part of a joint plan. The advantages for Bury of being part of a joint plan, referencing brownfield capacity issues were highlighted. He reported that 25% of the housing targets had been moved away from green belt which allowed Bury to protect as much of the green belt as possible, furthermore, over half of the borough would remain green belt. He was assured that the balance between housing need, as outlined by the Salford City Mayor, alongside preserving green belt land from a development 'free for all' and delivering huge economic growth through the northern gateway had been achieved. The once in a lifetime opportunity presented to Bury and neighbouring authorities such as Rochdale to take advantage of internal and external investment, creating 20k jobs, bringing in new industries and delivering new infrastructure was emphasised. Current economic uncertainty was

recognised and supported his intention for Bury to be part of a plan which would bring economic prosperity for its residents and GM. Ultimately, alongside the work on the brown field first strategy and guarantees regarding infrastructure support, the Bury administration offered full support for the GMSF 2020. He also highlighted his hopefulness for less 'party politics' once the full council stage was reached in Bury and an acknowledgement that there was no alternative plan to deliver less housing and protect the green belt. Endorsement for the GMSF was provided.

On behalf of Manchester CC, Councillor Richard Leese offered his support for Greater Manchester's Plan for Homes, Jobs and the Environment: Greater Manchester Spatial Framework Publication Plan 2020.

Councillor Sean Fielding paid tribute to the residents who had engaged with the consultation process and who, in the main, were constructive. He highlighted an example in Bardsley, Oldham where the public had engaged and suggested their preferred alternative of extending Coal Pit Lane rather than development at Bardsley Vale Avenue, an area valuable to the community. He suggested that some campaigners would continue to use the consultation process as an opportunity to pursue political disagreement rather than recognising significant positive changes and suggested those individuals would expose their political motivations rather than protection of the green belt. He agreed with the comments made by City Mayor, Paul Dennett and reiterated by Councillor Eamonn O'Brien, regarding the benefits of undertaking the process collectively. The support of Councillor David Greenhalgh was welcomed demonstrating a positive cross party and city region effort.

In offering full support on behalf of Rochdale, Councillor Allen Brett explained it was the way forward and fundamental for future economic development and ensuring Rochdale was a prosperous and active borough over the forthcoming years.

Councillor Elise Wilson agreed with comments and proposed that the GMSF was an attempt to achieve the balance for delivering jobs, homes and protecting the environment. She explained she was keen to see the plan come forward to drive growth and create conditions for investment in Stockport and GM. The comprehensive consultation undertaken resulting in significant proposed changes since 2014 was acknowledged and had been required to create confidence for residents and businesses. She recognised that climate change was a key part of the GMSF and spoke of the need for this to remain front and centre of the agenda. The complexity of a joint plan due to the scale and ambition was identified as testament to the ambition of the city region working in collaboration. Full support for the framework was provided which would be presented to Stockport members with an expectation of achieving cross party support to achieve the correct balance for Stockport and GM ensuring maximum benefit and influence over jobs, homes and the environment alongside delivering the government's commitment to provide 300k homes per year.

Councillor Brenda Warrington acknowledged the considerable work undertaken by City Mayor Paul Dennett and all GM districts and agreed the framework was a genuine joint GM venture. She reflected on the progress of work since the first iteration and highlighted the importance of demonstrating the positive aspects of having a spatial framework to the public. The GMSF would protect the green belt without which developers would look to 'cherry pick' for development with the possibility of winning on appeal due to anticipated changes to the planning system in the Planning White Paper. It was hoped there would be

no political motivation for opposition and the bigger picture and benefits for GM in supporting the framework would be recognised. She advised that the GMSF would be presented to full Council in Tameside on 3 November 2020 and with confidence, support for the framework was anticipated.

Councillor Andrew Western acknowledged the aspirations in the GMSF to move forward as a Green City region over the forthcoming years. On behalf of Trafford he offered support for the framework which he noted had been considerably modified since his appointment as Trafford Council Leader in 2018.

Councillor David Molyneux acknowledged the importance of public consultation in producing the GMSF and recognised the public's concerns had been listened to resulting in significant changes in the framework presented. He proposed that the GMSF would be a key element in how the region recovers from the current crisis and offered full support on behalf of Wigan Council.

In summary, the GM Mayor identified unanimity for the GMSF and recognised the sense of confidence and positivity in the plan going forward. He suggested that the opportunity had arisen to be clear to the public on the benefits of GMSF. Approval was endorsed for the recommendations proposed in the report and re-iterated in presentation by Mayor Dennett.

**RESOLVED /-**

1. That the GMSF 2020: Publication Plan and supporting background documents be noted and recommended to the districts with the intention that the districts approve:
  - a. Publication of the GMSF: Publication Plan 2020 pursuant to Regulation 19 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 for representations between 1 December 2020 and 26 January 2021.
  - b. Submission of the GMSF 2020: Publication Plan, to the Secretary of State for examination following the period for representations
2. That authority be delegated to the Portfolio Lead Chief Executive, for Housing, Homelessness & Infrastructure, in consultation with the Portfolio Leader for Housing, Homelessness & Infrastructure, to agree any minor amendments or non-material amendments to the GMSF: Publication Draft 2020 and background documents prior to the consultation beginning on the 1<sup>st</sup> December; amendments to be shared with GM Local Authorities in advance of the commencement of consultation.