

## AGMA EXECUTIVE BOARD

Date: 11 December 2020

Subject: Greater Manchester's Plan for Homes, Jobs and the Environment: Greater Manchester Spatial Framework Publication Plan 2020 – Next Steps

Report of: Paul Dennett, Portfolio Lead for Housing, Homelessness and Infrastructure  
Steve Rumbelow Portfolio Lead Chief Executive for Housing, Homelessness and Infrastructure

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### PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update members on the progress of Greater Manchester's Plan for Homes, Jobs and the Environment: Greater Manchester Spatial Framework Publication Plan 2020 and outline proposed next steps.

### RECOMMENDATIONS:

The AGMA Executive Board is recommended to:

1. Agree in principle to the preparation of a Joint Development Plan Document of the nine authorities as set out in Section 3.
2. Request a further report addressing the issues set out in Section 3.
3. Commend the nine authorities to establish a joint committee with delegated authority to co-ordinate and develop a Joint Plan on their behalf as the nine local planning authorities.

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BOLTON  
BURY

MANCHESTER  
OLDHAM

ROCHDALE  
SALFORD

STOCKPORT  
TAMESIDE

TRAFFORD  
WIGAN

**Equalities Implications:**

A Joint Development Plan Document is a statutory plan which seeks to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development, delivering economic, social and environmental benefits together in a mutually reinforcing way. It will be informed by an Integrated Appraisal which includes an Equalities assessment.

**Climate Change Impact Assessment and Mitigation Measures –**

A Joint Development Plan of the 9 will provide a planning policy framework to support Greater Manchester’s ambition to be carbon neutral by 2038

**Legal Considerations: As set out in the Report****Financial Consequences – Revenue: n/a****Financial Consequences – Capital: n/a**

There are no capital consequences identified

**BACKGROUND PAPERS:****[Report to AGMA Executive Board 30 October 2020](#)**

<b>TRACKING/PROCESS</b>		[All sections to be completed]	
Does this report relate to a major strategic decision, as set out in the GMCA Constitution		Yes	
<b>EXEMPTION FROM CALL IN</b>			
Are there any aspects in this report which means it should be considered to be exempt from call in by the relevant Scrutiny Committee on the grounds of urgency?		No	
GM Transport Committee	Overview & Scrutiny Committee		
N/A	N/A		

## **1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 In November 2014, AGMA Executive Board recommended to the 10 Greater Manchester local authorities that they agree to prepare a joint Development Plan Document (“Joint DPD”), called the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (“GMSF”) and that AGMA be appointed by the 10 authorities to prepare the GMSF on their behalf.
- 1.2 The first draft of the GMSF DPD was published for consultation on 31st October 2016, ending on 16th January 2017. Following substantial re-drafting, a further consultation on the Revised Draft GMSF took place between January and March 2019.
- 1.3 On the 30 October 2020 the AGMA Executive Board unanimously agreed to recommend GMSF 2020 to the 10 Greater Manchester Councils’ for approval to consultation at their Executives/Cabinets, and approval for submission to the Secretary of State following the period for representations at their Council meetings.
- 1.4 At its Council meeting on 3 December Stockport Council resolved not to submit the GMSF 2020 following the consultation period and at its Cabinet meeting on 4 December, it resolved not to publish GMSF 2020 for consultation.
- 1.5 The GMSF 2020 is a joint development plan document of the 10 Greater Manchester authorities. It requires the approval of all 10 local authorities to proceed. The decisions of Stockport Council/Cabinet therefore signals the end of the GMSF as a joint plan of the 10. This report considers the implications of this decision for the Mayoral Combined Authority and the 10 Greater Manchester local authorities.

## **2. IMPLICATIONS OF THE STOCKPORT DECISION**

- 2.1 Whilst Stockport Council has signalled its intention to withdraw from the joint planning process to prepare its own local plan the Council remains one of the 10 partners which make up GMCA and all are committed to continuing to work together to deliver a wide range of important strategies for example, the Local Industrial Strategy, the 5 Year Environment Plan and the 2040 Transport Strategy.
- 2.2 Notwithstanding the decision of Stockport Council the rationale for the preparation of a Joint Development Plan Document (‘joint plan’) remains. This includes:
  - To underpin Greater Manchester’s plan for recovery from Covid
  - To support delivery of the Greater Manchester Strategy
  - To provide a framework to manage growth in a sustainable and inclusive way, avoid un-planned development and development by appeal
  - To align the delivery of development with infrastructure proposals
  - To meet the requirement for local authorities to have a local plan in place by December 2023.
  - To meet the Duty to Co-operate in s33A Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004

- 2.3 Discussions with the remaining nine authorities (Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Tameside, Trafford, Wigan) show that they consider that there is merit in continuing to work collaboratively to;
- progress the strategic policies in GMSF 2020 which commanded widespread support, for example net zero carbon development, affordable housing and space and accessibility standards for new housing
  - provide flexibility to respond to changing requirements, for example the new Local Housing Need methodology expected before Christmas
  - maximise the use of sustainable urban/brownfield land and limit the need for Green Belt to accommodate the development needs of the nine
  - align with wider Greater Manchester strategies for transport and other infrastructure investment
  - utilise the evidence base already commissioned and completed

### **3. THE PROPOSED WAY FORWARD**

- 3.1 Section 28 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and Regulation 32 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 enable a joint plan to continue to progress in the event of one of the local authorities withdrawing, provided that the plan has 'substantially the same effect' on the remaining authorities as the original joint plan. Work is underway to explore the impact of the withdrawal of Stockport Council on the joint plan, and consequently the ability for a joint plan of the 9 to progress to Publication Plan (Regulation 19) stage rather than returning to Regulation 18 stage.
- 3.2 Members are therefore requested to agree to the preparation of a Joint Plan of the nine authorities in principle and instruct officers to begin work to;
- Review the evidence base
  - Review the spatial strategy and thematic policies
- 3.3 In order to progress this work it is proposed that a joint committee of the nine authorities is established to co-ordinate and develop a plan and that a further report is brought back to this meeting setting out the issues and timescales involved in the actions outlined in para 3.2.

### **4. SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY**

- 4.1 Through the devolution agreement the Mayor has a duty to produce a Spatial Development Strategy (SDS). This is a plan that covers the Mayoral Combined Authority administrative area and requires unanimous support of the GMCA. Whilst the GMSF was being progressed as a joint DPD of all 10 districts, MHCLG accepted that this would satisfy the Mayor's duty to produce an SDS. Discussions are ongoing with MHCLG regarding the current situation, and therefore until those discussions have concluded it is not proposed to commence further work on the preparation of an SDS.

### **5. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 5.1 Recommendations are set out at the front of the report