

REPORT FOR DECISION

MEETING: COUNCIL

DATE: 3rd APRIL 2013

SUBJECT: GREATER MANCHESTER JOINT MINERALS
DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT: ADOPTION
STAGE

REPORT FROM: CABINET MEMBER - NEIGHBOURHOODS AND
REGENERATION

CONTACT OFFICER: Paul Allen – Head of Planning Policy and Projects

TYPE OF DECISION: COUNCIL

**FREEDOM OF
INFORMATION/STATUS:** THIS PAPER IS WITHIN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN

SUMMARY: In August 2009 the ten Greater Manchester Authorities agreed to produce a joint Development Plan Document (DPD) covering minerals (the GM Minerals Plan). Since then the document has undergone a series of consultations in order to identify sites for extraction along with depots for transport and storage, areas for the safeguarding of minerals, and to develop a suite of minerals planning policies.

The GM Minerals Plan was Submitted to the Secretary of State in November 2011. The Examination into the soundness of the Submitted Minerals Plan commenced at the Pre Hearing Meeting on 6th December 2011, with hearing sessions over two days during February 2012 and an additional morning on 21st November 2012.

The Inspector has issued his Report which confirms the soundness of the Submission Plan and the Plan can now be adopted by each of the ten Greater Manchester Local Planning Authorities.

The GM Minerals Plan for Adoption is available at the Members' Information Point and has been made available in electronic format to all Members. The full documentation is also available via the Council's website at www.bury.gov.uk or at the GM Minerals Plan website at www.gmineralsplan.co.uk.

**OPTIONS &
RECOMMENDED OPTION**

Recommended Options

It is recommended that the Council:

1. Approve the Adoption of the GM Joint Minerals Development Plan Document and consequent changes to the District's Proposals Map.

Other Options:

That Members resolve not to adopt the GM Minerals Plan – Members to specify their reasons for not adopting the Plan.

Reasons:

The production of a GM Minerals Plan is considered necessary to provide an up to date and sustainable planning framework to guide and control mineral development within Greater Manchester, together with the movement and use of mineral resources to meet development needs.

The Adoption of the GM Minerals Plan marks the completion of the production of the GM Minerals Plan, and a further major element in the production of Bury's Local Plan.

IMPLICATIONS:

Corporate Aims/Policy Framework:

Do the proposals accord with the Policy Framework? Yes No

The existing Bury UDP forms part of the Council's Policy Framework (being one of the statutory plans listed under Article 4) and will be replaced eventually by Development Plan Documents to be produced under the arrangements of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended). The GM Minerals Plan is one such document.

**Statement by the S151 Officer:
Financial Implications and Risk
Considerations:**

The Adoption of the GM Minerals Plan marks the final stage in the production of the GM Minerals Plan and will, when adopted, mean that the Plan will now form a significant element of Bury's Local Plan.

The production of the GM Minerals Plan has been carried out on behalf of the ten Greater Manchester districts by the Greater Manchester Minerals & Waste Planning Unit. Finance for this work is being provided by the ten Greater Manchester districts and existing budget provision has, and continues to be made, to cover all costs involved. See statement by Executive Director of Resources below.

**Statement by Executive Director
of Resources:**

Bury Council's contributions to the financing of the production of the GM Minerals Plan have been made from existing revenue budgets.

Existing revenue budgets continue to include provision for the production of the GM Minerals Plan and sufficient budget is available to meet the estimated costs in 2012/13.

Equality/Diversity implications:

Yes No

An initial screening has been undertaken and as there are no negative impacts identified for affected groups there is no requirement to proceed to a Full Impact Assessment.

Considered by Monitoring Officer:

Yes JH Comments

The Monitoring Officer is satisfied that the proposals set out in this report are within the Council's Policy Framework and within the legal powers of the Council.

Wards Affected:

All

Scrutiny Interest:

Overview Scrutiny Committee

TRACKING/PROCESS

DIRECTOR: G. Atkinson - DCN

Chief Executive/ Strategic Leadership Team	Executive Member/Chair	Ward Members	Partners
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	25.03.13		
Scrutiny Commission	Executive	Committee	Council
			3.04.13

1.0 BACKGROUND

1.1 This report is to inform Members of the development of the Joint Minerals Development Plan Document for Greater Manchester (GM Minerals Plan), and to seek full Council approval for the adoption of the GM Minerals Plan by Bury Council. In addition, Members are asked to adopt the agreed changes to the existing proposals map for the allocation of Areas of Search and Mineral Safeguarding Areas.

2.0 ISSUES

2.1 The ten Districts constituting the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities (AGMA) agreed to produce a Joint Minerals Development Plan Document (the GM Minerals Plan) in 2009. The document was Submitted to the Secretary of State in November 2011. The Planning Inspectorate appointed Inspector Mr Andrew Mead BSc (Hons) MRTPI MIQ to undertake the Examination in to the soundness of the Plan.

2.2 The GM Minerals Plan covers land-use planning matters in relation to minerals development across the ten Greater Manchester Districts and includes detailed criteria based policies, as well as policies covering Areas of Search and Mineral Safeguarding Areas. The document includes a set of development control polices which will assist in the consideration of minerals planning applications, as well as a set of plans identifying Areas of Search for Minerals and Mineral Safeguarding Areas for each of the ten Districts which, upon adoption of the Plan, will be added to each District's Local Plan Proposals Map.

2.3 The Examination hearing sessions took place over two days during February 2012. A further consultation on Proposed Modifications to the Minerals Plan took place between 3rd August and 14th September 2012. A further hearing session relating to the representations made during this consultation took place on the morning of the 21st November.

2.4 The GM Minerals Plan aims to ensure Greater Manchester contributes towards the sub-regional requirement of sand and gravel and crushed rock. It also aims to ensure that other mineral resources are not needlessly sterilised by non mineral development. No specific site allocations came forward as part of the development of the GM Minerals Plan and, therefore, the Plan can only achieve these requirements through the identification of Areas of Search for sand, gravel and sandstone/gritstone and designation of Mineral Safeguarding Areas to protect mineral resources from needless sterilisation. All Areas of Search and Mineral Safeguarding Areas, as well as accompanying policies within the GM Minerals Plan, have been subject to consultation with stakeholders.

2.5 In January 2013, the Report was received from the Planning Inspectorate confirming the soundness of the GM Minerals Plan and, as such, the GM Minerals Plan must now be adopted as part of the Local Plan of each of the ten Greater Manchester Authorities.

- 2.6 Together with the adoption of the GM Minerals Plan, each district is also required to adopt specific changes to their Adopted Policies Map in order that the allocations in the GM Minerals Plan can be transposed on to the relevant authority's Proposals Map.
- 2.7 All Districts have been asked to formally adopt the GM Minerals Plan before the end of 25th April 2013 to allow the Plan to come into force from the 26th April 2013.

3.0 CONCLUSION

- 3.1 This report has drawn Members' attention to the processes and procedures associated with the production of the GM Minerals Plan and, having successfully been produced and found sound, Members are recommended to approve the Adoption of the Plan to form part of Bury's Local Plan and to incorporate the policy allocations into the Borough's Proposals Map.

List of Background Papers:-

Copies of the GM Minerals Plan, Inspector's Report, previous consultation documents and Sustainability Appraisal Reports are available to view or download from the GM Minerals Plan website at www.gmineralsplan.co.uk.

Background documents include:

- GM Minerals Plan - Adoption DPD, plus maps as separate files.
- Adopted Policies Map Changes.
- Inspector's Report.

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