

REPORT FOR DECISION



DECISION MAKER:	CABINET
DATE:	16 October 2018
SUBJECT:	BURY LOCAL PLAN – RESPONSES TO KEY ISSUES AND POLICY FRAMEWORK AND CONSULTATION ON THE POLICY DIRECTIONS
REPORT FROM:	COUNCILLOR EAMONN O'BRIEN CABINET MEMBER – FINANCE AND HOUSING
CONTACT OFFICER:	DAVID WIGGINS – UNIT MANAGER: DEVELOPMENT PLANNING
TYPE OF DECISION:	CABINET (KEY DECISION)
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/STATUS:	This paper is within the public domain
SUMMARY:	<p>Together with the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (GMSF), the Local Plan will form a key part of Bury's overall development plan. Whilst it is the intention that the GMSF will deal with strategic planning matters, the Local Plan will ultimately provide a range of non-strategic and more locally-specific policies, designations and site allocations.</p> <p>The Council has previously undertaken consultation on the first key stage in the preparation of the Bury Local Plan – the Key Issues and Policy Framework report and a 'Call for Sites'. Relevant comments submitted in response to this consultation have been taken into account in moving onto this next key stage in the development of Bury's Local Plan– the Policy Directions.</p> <p>The Policy Directions report sets out a more refined scope and direction that will form the basis of the Local Plan's policies.</p> <p>Members are being asked to note the main themes of comments received during consultation on the Key Issues and Policy Framework report and to approve the Policy Directions report for a six-week period of consultation in order to establish stakeholder views on its content. The responses to this consultation will subsequently help to inform the development of a draft Local Plan.</p>

<p>OPTIONS</p>	<p>Option 1 (Recommended option)</p> <p>That Members note the main themes of the responses to the Local Plan Key Issues and Policy Framework.</p> <p>That Members approve the Local Plan Policy Directions report together with the proposed consultation measures outlined in this report.</p> <p>Option 2</p> <p>That Members note the main themes of the responses to the Local Plan Key Issues and Policy Framework.</p> <p>That Members seek revisions to the proposed content of the Local Plan Policy Directions report prior to consultation and/or Members seek revisions to the proposed measures for undertaking consultation - Members to specify the nature of any revisions to be sought.</p> <p>Reasons</p> <p>The Policy Directions report is another important stage in the production of Bury’s Local Plan. The Policy Directions give a clear indication of the intended scope and direction of specific planning policies in the Bury Local Plan and consultation will ensure that all interested parties have an opportunity to play a part at this key stage of the process.</p>
<p>IMPLICATIONS:</p>	
<p>Corporate Aims/Policy Framework:</p>	<p>Do the proposals accord with the Policy Framework? Yes</p> <p>The existing Bury Unitary Development Plan forms part of the Council’s Policy Framework (being one of the statutory plans listed under Article 4 of the Council’s Constitution) and will ultimately be replaced by a new Bury Local Plan that is to be produced under the arrangements of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004(as amended) and statutory instruments and guidance resulting there from.</p>
<p>Statement by the S151 Officer: Financial Implications and Risk Considerations:</p>	<p>The work associated with the preparation of Bury’s Local Plan will require significant commitment of staff resources in the Strategic Planning and Economic Development team and there are likely to be</p>

	costs associated with the production of documents and progress of the statutory procedures to adoption. These costs will be met from existing resources.
Statement by Executive Director of Resources:	There is a requirement for each Local Planning Authority to produce a Local Plan for its area. Members are requested to approve the Policy Directions report as another important step in the preparation of a Local Plan, making use of existing resources, to replace the existing Bury UDP and its associated documents.
Equality/Diversity implications:	No An initial screening has been undertaken (see attached assessment) and as there were no negative impacts identified for affected groups, there is no requirement to proceed to a Full Impact Assessment.
Considered by Monitoring Officer:	Yes The Bury Local Plan will replace the current arrangements. All local plans must be prepared in accordance with statutory processes. This decision relates to the content of the Policy Directions report which will subsequently go out to consultation. This is the next stage of the consultation process. Carrying out early consultation such as this ensures that legal requirements are being met, that a robust plan is being prepared, that all interested parties have an opportunity to make their views known and that the Council is able to consider these in the preparation of the Local Plan. Any subsequent Local Plan will have to be approved by the Council as part of the Policy Framework (unless there is a legislative change). There are no other legal concerns at this point, but if the proposal is approved, further detailed input will be required from the Council Solicitor in due course.
Wards Affected:	All
Scrutiny Interest:	

TRACKING/PROCESS

INTERIM DIRECTOR: STEVE KENYON – RES & REG

Chief Executive/ Strategic Leadership Team	Cabinet Member/Chair	Ward Members	Partners
15 October 2018	3 October 2018		
Scrutiny Committee	Cabinet/Committee	Council	

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Under the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, all local authorities are required to produce a Local Plan.
- 1.2 A Local Plan is a document containing planning policies that will be used as the basis for determining planning applications. It will also identify sites where development should be built as well as areas where development should be restricted or controlled.
- 1.3 In Bury, the Local Plan will form part of the Borough’s overall development plan alongside other strategic Greater Manchester plans, namely the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (GMSF) and the Greater Manchester Minerals and Waste plans.
- 1.4 The Government’s planning policies for England are set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and this provides the overarching framework within which development plans are produced. The NPPF specifies that the development plan for an area comprises a combination of:
- **Strategic policies** - setting out the overall strategy for the pattern, scale and quality of development necessary to address the strategic priorities of the area; and
 - **Non-strategic policies** covering more locally-specific matters and setting out more detailed policies for specific areas or types of development.
- 1.5 Alongside the other nine districts in Greater Manchester, Bury is contributing to the preparation of the emerging GMSF. Strategic policies, such as those dealing with future needs for housing and employment floorspace and revised Green Belt boundaries, are currently being developed through the GMSF with the non-strategic policies being developed through the Bury Local Plan. **However, the Government’s requirement for development plans to cover strategic policies means that if these were not being developed through the GMSF, the strategic matters applying to Bury would need to form part of Bury’s Local Plan.**

- 1.6 The GMSF and the Bury Local Plan will respectively contain the strategic and non-strategic planning policies that will manage the growth and development of the Borough up to 2037. Given that both of these documents will form key component parts of Bury's development plan, there is clearly a need for consistency between the two.
- 1.7 Early progress was made on the Local Plan with the preparation of a Key Issues and Policy Framework report. Consultation on this document, together with a 'Call for Sites' took place over an eight-week period that ran between 7 August and 2 October 2017. Further information on the methods of consultation and the responses is set out in Section 2 of this report.
- 1.8 All relevant comments made in response to consultation on the Key Issues and Policy Framework have been fully considered in moving onto the next key stage in the preparation of the Local Plan – the Policy Directions.

2.0 ISSUES

Consultation responses on the Local Plan Key Issues and Policy Framework and the 'Call for Sites'

- 2.1 Consultation on the Key Issues and Policy Framework report in Autumn 2017 sought views on the key issues that the Local Plan should address and the supporting evidence. Alongside this, a Call for Sites exercise was undertaken which asked landowners, developers and other stakeholders to suggest sites that might be suitable for future development or sites which should be protected.
- 2.2 Consultation was advertised extensively, namely by:
- Directly notifying in excess of 2,500 stakeholders from the consultation database;
 - Issuing Press Notices in the Bury Times, Radcliffe Times and the Prestwich and Whitefield Guide;
 - Issuing a Press Release in the Bury Times, Radcliffe Times and the Prestwich and Whitefield Guide;
 - Uploading information onto the Council's web site;
 - Posting on social media;
 - Making information available at the Town Hall, Knowsley Place and libraries; and
 - Advertising on TV screens in Council buildings.
- 2.3 In total, 66 comments were received. However, some of these related to the draft Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (GMSF) and others related to non-planning matters. All relevant comments have been fully considered in moving forward onto the current Policy Directions stage and a report setting out a Summary of Responses to the Key Issues and Policy Framework has been prepared which includes the Council's response to the main issues raised.
- 2.4 48 sites were suggested as part of the Call for Sites exercise and these will be considered in more detail as the Local Plan progresses to the draft stage and includes proposed site allocations and designations.

Local Plan Policy Directions

- 2.5 The Policy Directions report represents another important stage in the preparation of Bury's new Local Plan. It sets out the proposed scope and a more refined direction for the planning policies that the Local Plan will contain.
- 2.6 The report sets out a Strategic Vision and a series of Objectives that the Local Plan will work towards achieving before setting out more refined policy directions that will form the basis of specific policies as the Local Plan progresses to its draft stage.
- 2.7 It is proposed to undertake consultation on the Local Plan Policy Directions over a six-week period in order to give stakeholders the opportunity to influence the proposed scope and direction of policies within the Local Plan.
- 2.8 It is proposed to undertake a variety of measures in order to raise awareness of consultation on the Local Plan Policy Directions, including:
- Directly notifying stakeholders from the Local Plan consultation database;
 - Issuing a Press Release in the Bury Times and Radcliffe Times;
 - Uploading information onto the Council's web site;
 - Posting on social media;
 - Making information available at the Town Hall, Knowsley Place and libraries; and
 - Advertising on TV screens in Council buildings.
- 2.9 Following consultation on this Policy Directions report, thorough consideration will be given to all comments made and, where appropriate, these comments will be used to inform the development of a draft Local Plan.
- 2.10 The Local Plan Policy Directions report has been subject to an Integrated Appraisal (IA) which helps to identify where there is uncertainty and highlights the synergies and tensions between the document and the objectives set out in the IA. This process will continue to inform the development of the Bury Local Plan. The recommendations of the IA of the Policy Directions will also be taken into account as the Local Plan progresses to its draft stage.
- 2.11 Following further consultation on a draft Local Plan, we will produce a Publication version that will be subject to further consultation before the Plan is formally submitted to the Secretary of State for Examination. There will be a public examination of the plan before an independent, Government-appointed Inspector makes recommendations. If found sound, the plan will subsequently be adopted as Bury's statutory Local Plan, replacing the current Unitary Development Plan.

3.0 CONCLUSION

- 3.1 Members are requested to note the key themes of the comments raised in response to consultation on the Key Issues and Policy Framework and to

approve the Local Plan Policy Directions report for a six-week period of consultation in order to establish stakeholder views on its content.

List of Background Papers:

- Bury Local Plan – Summary of Responses to Key Issues and Policy Framework (December 2017).
- Bury Local Plan Policy Directions Report (October 2018).
- Integrated Appraisal of the Bury Local Plan Policy Directions (October 2018).

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