



Classification : Open

Item No.

<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Cabinet</b>
<b>Meeting date:</b>	<b>24 November 2020</b>
<b>Title of report:</b>	<b>THE GREATER MANCHESTER SPATIAL FRAMEWORK (GMSF)</b>
<b>Report by:</b>	<b>CLLR EAMONN O'BRIEN – LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</b>
<b>Decision Type:</b>	<b>Key Decision</b>
<b>Ward(s)</b>	<b>All</b>

**URGENT REPORT UNDER RULE 18 ACCESS TO INFORMATION PROCEDURE RULES**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- The GMSF is Greater Manchester's Plan for Homes, Jobs and the Environment. It is a statutory Development Plan Document that provides the strategic basis for planning future growth and development in Greater Manchester up to 2037.
- Following consultation on two previous drafts in 2016 and 2019, the GMSF has been progressing to the formal Publication stage. The Publication GMSF would be the version of the plan that each of the Greater Manchester districts including Bury decide should be submitted to the Government for examination.
- The Publication GMSF requires the approval of the Cabinets of **all 10 districts** before an eight-week period of consultation between 1 December 2020 and 26 January 2021.
- Approval is also required from GM's 10 Full Councils to submit the GMSF to the Government following consultation on the Publication.

- It was understood that all 10 GM Councils were ready to give the necessary approvals.

### **CURRENT SITUATION**

- Bury Cabinet approved the publication draft of the GMSF on 11 November 2020 and agreed to commence local public consultation between 1 December 2020 and 26 January 2021. This decision has been called in for consideration by Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 30<sup>th</sup> November.
- The decision to submit the GMSF is due for debate at Council on 25 November 2020.
- Stockport Council were due to approve the GMSF at a council meeting on 17 November, but that meeting has been adjourned to 3 December 2020. This delay means the statutory approval process is now uncertain and the public consultation will not start on 1 December across Greater Manchester.
- Accordingly it is recommended that the Cabinet decision taken on the 11 November in relation to the publication GMSF is rescinded and the Report to Council on the 25 November recommending submission of the GMSF to Government is not moved.

### **IMPLICATIONS FOR BURY IF THERE IS NO UNANIMOUS APPROVAL OF THE GMSF**

- Bury's current development plan is the Unitary Development Plan which was adopted in 1997 and is now significantly out of date. The Council has twice tried and failed to get a replacement plan approved due to issues around undersupply of housing land.
- The Government has indicated that it will intervene and potentially take over the plan-making process where local authorities do not have an up-to-date plan by December 2023 – which could remove local controls over plan-making.
- The requirement to have an up-to-date plan by December 2023 is still paramount to ensure the future prosperity and economic growth of Bury, providing a much needed employment sites for local businesses to expand and also to attract substantial inward investment.
- Urgent work will be required to look at alternative options for Members to consider in the New Year. This will be the subject of further reports in due course

## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

Rule 18 of the Access to Information Rules allows Cabinet to make an urgent decision which has not been published in the Forward Plan with the agreement of the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny committee having consulted the Leaders of the Opposition Groups.

If Cabinet resolve to rescind the Decision of 11 November that has been called in for review by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, there will be no business for the call in meeting to consider and the meeting can be cancelled.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

None Identified

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

On 11 November 2020 Cabinet agreed to:

1. Approve the GMSF: Publication Draft 2020, including strategic site allocations and green belt boundary amendments, and reference to the potential use of compulsory purchase powers to assist with site assembly, and the supporting background documents, for publication pursuant to Regulation 19 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 for a period for representations between 1 December 202 and 26 January 2021.
2. Recommend that Council approves the GMSF: Publication Draft 2020 for submission to the Secretary of State for examination following the period for representations;
3. Delegate to the Director of Economic Regeneration & Capital Growth authority to approve the relevant Statement of Common Ground(s) required pursuant to the National Planning Policy Framework 2019;
4. Delegate authority to the Lead Chief Executive, Housing, Homelessness and Infrastructure, in consultation with the Portfolio Leader for Housing, Homelessness and Infrastructure to make minor or non-material amendments to the GMSF: Publication Draft 2020 and background documents prior to their publication.

**IT IS NOW RECOMMENDED** that Cabinet agrees to rescind these Decisions.

## **Report Author and Contact Details:**

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## **Background papers:**

Cabinet Reports 11 November 2020.