

(i) Urgent Cabinet Decision – March 2023
Re. Letter to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)

Decision taken:

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) has been consulting on the national Resources and Waste Strategy (RaWS) over the last 4 years with a series of prolonged delays in publishing consultation responses. Activity has recently stepped up and details of what is proposed and the potential changes that may be needed for both waste collection and disposal arrangements in GM are now starting to become clearer although cost recovery and other fundamental points are yet to be developed.

Currently we do not know the full extent of costs that will be involved, but if this goes ahead and we have to separate the food waste from the garden waste collections there are the potential to have the following increased costs:

- Cost of additional containers for residents to put the food waste in
- Additional vehicles and staff to collect the food waste
- Additional depot to store the food waste vehicles
- Costs for a change in contracts and levy costs as a change in the disposal contract

These are likely to exceed the £500k Key Decision threshold.

Defra have given us little time for us to submit information to support transitional arrangements for food waste by 8th March. As part of the evidence pack GMCA are asking for a letter from each of the 9 GM districts on council's letter head confirming that Bury Council are aware and supportive of the proposed transitional dates. This report asks permission to move forward with producing this letter and confirm the proposed transitional dates (option 3 on the attached briefing note).

The reason why this decision was urgent and could not be reasonably deferred was:

We need to submit the letter to Defra by 8th March, and this decision is therefore unable to wait for the next meeting on Cabinet (scheduled for 15th March). Urgency is requested to progress this matter and secure a way forward.