

AGMA Executive Board

Date: **12th February 2021**

Subject: Places for Everyone: A Proposed Joint Development Plan Document of Nine GM Districts

Report of: Paul Dennett, Portfolio Lead for Housing, Homelessness and Infrastructure
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1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 On 11 December 2020, following the withdrawal of Stockport Council from the production of the Greater Manchester Plan for Jobs, Homes & the Environment, the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework, the AGMA Executive Board agreed to consider producing a joint Development Plan Document (DPD) of the nine remaining Greater Manchester (GM) districts, and asked officers to report back on the implications of this.

1.2 This report provides further details on the next steps in relation to that joint plan of the nine GM districts, to be known as “Places for Everyone”, including the required decisions by individual Districts to initiate this process.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS:

The AGMA Executive Board is asked to note that:

2.1 Each full Council will be asked to:

1. Approve the making of an agreement with the other 8 Greater Manchester councils (Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Tameside, Trafford, Wigan * delete as appropriate) to prepare a joint development plan document to cover strategic policies including housing and employment land requirements and, as appropriate, strategic site allocations and Green Belt boundary amendments and associated infrastructure across the nine districts.
2. Agree the district lead Member for the joint committee and a nominated deputy to attend and vote as necessary
3. Note that the [Council's Executive / Cabinet] will be asked to delegate the formulation and preparation of the draft joint development plan document to a joint committee of the nine GM authorities
4. Note that a further report will be brought to full Council seeking approval to submit the joint development plan document to the Secretary of State for independent examination

2.2 Each Executive / cabinet/ leader/ the City Mayor (depending on each Council's own arrangements and in the event that the Councils have approved the above recommendations):

1. Note that full Council has approved the making of an agreement with the other 8 Greater Manchester councils [state] to prepare a joint development plan document to cover strategic policies including housing and employment land requirements and, as appropriate, strategic site allocations and Green Belt boundary amendments and associated infrastructure across the nine districts.
2. Delegate to the joint committee of the nine Greater Manchester councils the formulation and preparation of the joint development plan document to cover housing and employment land requirements including, as appropriate, strategic site allocations and Green Belt boundary amendments and associated infrastructure across the nine Greater Manchester districts insofar as such matters are executive functions.

3. Note that the following are the sole responsibility of full Council:

- Responsibility for giving of instructions to the executive to reconsider the draft plan submitted by the executive for the authority's consideration.
- The amendment of the draft joint development plan document submitted by the executive for the full Council's consideration
- The approval of the joint development plan document for the purposes of submission to the Secretary of State for independent examination.
- The adoption of the joint development plan document.

3.0 CONTACT OFFICERS:

3.1 Steve Rumbelow, Chief Executive Portfolio Lead for Housing, Homelessness and Infrastructure (steve.rumbelow@rochdale.gov.uk)

Anne Morgan, Head of Planning Strategy, GMCA (anne.morgan@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk)

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:

The preparation of the joint Development Plan Document will generate a revenue cost for the 9 local authorities. A substantial evidence base was assembled to support the GMSF plan of the 10 local authorities which involved the commissioning of specialist and independent experts. Much of this evidence will remain relevant to this plan, and Stockport’s Local Plan, however there will be further revenue costs associated producing the plan of the nine local authorities and with the examination process, including appointment of a Programme Officer and Assistant. A budget has been identified to meet this cost from within the Retained Business Rates budget, spread over the two financial years 2020/21 and 2021/22.

Financial Consequences – Capital: n/a

There are no capital consequences identified

Number of attachments included in the report: None

Comments and/or recommendation from the relevant Overview & Scrutiny Committee: N/A

BACKGROUND PAPERS:

[Report to AGMA Executive Board 30 October 2020](#)

[Report to AGMA Executive Board 11 December 2020](#)

TRACKING/PROCESS	[All sections to be completed]	
Does this report relate to a major strategic decision, as set out in the GMCA Constitution	Yes / No	
EXEMPTION FROM CALL IN		
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	

TfGMC	Overview & Scrutiny Committee	
N/A	N/A	

4.0 BACKGROUND

4.1 Up until December 2020 a joint development plan document of the ten Greater Manchester local authorities was being prepared, Greater Manchester’s Plan for Jobs, Homes & the Environment (known as the “GMSF”). However, the decision at Stockport Council’s meeting on 3 December to not submit the GMSF 2020 following the consultation period and the subsequent resolution at its Cabinet meeting on 4 December not to publish the GMSF 2020 for consultation in effect signalled the end of the GMSF as a joint plan of the 10.

4.2 Consequently, at its meeting on the 11th December 2020, Members of the AGMA Executive Committee asked officers to report back on the implications and process of producing a joint DPD of the nine remaining Greater Manchester (GM) districts.

5.0 RATIONALE AND SCOPE OF THE PLAN PLACES FOR EVERYONE

5.1 Notwithstanding the decision of Stockport Council, the rationale for the preparation of a Joint DPD of the nine remaining districts remains. This includes being able to:

- Underpin Greater Manchester’s plan for recovery from Covid
- Support delivery of the Greater Manchester Strategy
- Provide a framework to manage growth in a sustainable and inclusive way, avoid un-planned development and development by appeal
- Align the delivery of development with infrastructure proposals
- Meet the requirement for local authorities to have a local plan in place by December 2023.
- Meet the Duty to Co-operate in s33A Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004

5.2 Discussions with the nine authorities indicate that there is continued opportunity to work collaboratively to produce a joint plan of the nine, to be known as “Places for Everyone”.

Producing such a plan would enable those nine districts to continue 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
- 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, minimising the cost of producing further evidence
- spread the cost jointly of the independent examination

6.0 PROCESS FOR PRODUCING THE JOINT PLAN PLACES FOR EVERYONE

6.1 The GMSF was being prepared by the AGMA Executive Board on behalf of the ten GM districts. However, it would not be appropriate for the preparation of a joint plan of only nine of the ten GM districts to be delegated to this Board. Instead it will be necessary to establish a new joint committee of the nine relevant districts – Bury, Bolton, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Tameside, Trafford and Wigan. Each district will be requested to authorise the establishment of the new joint committee and delegate the preparation of the joint DPD to the new joint committee as outlined at the front of this report.

6.2 Membership of the joint committee is a matter for the individual districts to determine. However, it is suggested, for continuity purposes, that district Leaders form the membership of the committee, with the ability for a nominated deputy to attend as necessary. It will be the responsibility of the joint committee to agree its terms of reference and the operational arrangements, including the appointing of the chair and the voting arrangements.

6.3 The purpose of the Joint Committee will be to formulate and prepare the joint DPD. In the event that the draft joint DPD is considered to have substantially the same effect on the nine districts as the GMSF 2020, the next stage would be publication (Regulation 19 stage).

As with the GMSF, each Cabinet/Executive will be responsible for approving the Regulation 19 version of the plan ahead of a period for representations to be made. Again as with the GMSF, the nine full Councils will be responsible for approving the joint plan for submission to the Secretary of State for independent Examination.

- 6.4 The preparation of the joint DPD will need to be reflected in each District's Local Development Scheme (LDS), which identifies the timetable for the production of local development documents such as this one. Similarly, district Statements of Community Involvement (SCI) will need to make reference to the joint DPD appropriately and consultation that takes place in relation to the joint DPD of the nine will need to be in accordance with each district's SCI, as was the case with the GMSF. Districts will therefore need to consider what changes are needed to these documents as a result of the actions proposed at the front of this report and ensure that the necessary steps are taken.
- 6.5 The function of scrutiny in the production of the joint DPD will remain with the individual districts as the relevant decisions will rest with the districts, not AGMA or the GMCA.

7.0 INTERRELATIONSHIP WITH STOCKPORT AND THE JOINT DPD PLACES FOR EVERYONE

- 7.1 Whilst Stockport Council has withdrawn from the joint planning process of preparing the GMSF, 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.
- 7.2 Under s33A Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, there is a formal Duty to Co-operate with neighbouring authorities. As part of the process of preparing the joint DPD, the nine districts will be required to enter into dialogue with Stockport on matters of strategic, cross boundary significance. The outcome of which will need to be set out in a "Statement of Common Ground". For example, this could include strategic matters such as the scale and distribution of housing and employment land and transport infrastructure. Where the scope of such matters dictate, such as conurbation wide issues, it may be appropriate for reports to be brought to this body for information and/or consideration.

8.0 NEXT STEPS

8.1 The process of establishing the joint committee will follow due process in the districts to enable a draft of the joint DPD Places for Everyone to be produced in a timely fashion, as set out in this report.