

TRAFFORD COUNCIL

Report to: Executive
Date: 22 March 2021
Report for: Decision
Report of: Executive Member for Housing and Regeneration

Report Title

Places for Everyone: A Proposed Joint Development Plan Document of Nine GM Local Authorities

Summary

Following the withdrawal of Stockport Council from the production of the Greater Manchester Plan for Jobs, Homes and the Environment (known as the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework) the AGMA Executive Board considered the process for production of a Joint Development Plan Document (DPD) of the nine remaining Greater Manchester (GM) Local Authorities (LAs).

This report provides further details on the next steps in relation to progressing the Joint Plan of the nine GM LAs, to be known as "Places for Everyone", including the required decisions by Trafford Council and other LAs to initiate this process.

Recommendation(s)

It is recommended that the Executive:

- (i) Agrees to Trafford establishing a Joint Committee of the nine Greater Manchester Councils together with Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Tameside, and Wigan; and to delegate 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 LAs to that Committee.
- (ii) Agrees that the Leader of the Council be Trafford's lead Member for the Joint Committee and that the Executive Member for Housing and Regeneration be the nominated deputy to attend and vote as necessary.
- (iii) Notes that a further report will be brought to Executive to approve the Joint Development Plan document for publication and consultation.
- (iv) Notes that a further report will be brought to Council to agree to submit the Joint Development Plan document for the purposes of submission to the Secretary of State for independent examination.

Contact person for access to background papers and further information:

Stephen James (Head of Strategic Growth) x 4330

Sarah Todd (Principal Transport Policy Officer) x 4494

Lesley Franklin (Senior Strategic Planning Officer) x 4770

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Democracy-Template - Greater Manchester Combined Authority
(greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk)

Background Papers: None

Relationship to Policy Framework/Corporate Priorities	'Places for Everyone' will provide the overall strategic planning context for Trafford, sitting alongside the Trafford Local Plan as part of the overall Development Plan for Trafford. The Development Plan will contribute to a number of the Council's Corporate Priorities, in particular Economic Growth and Development and Safe place to live - fighting crime
Relationship to GM Policy or Strategy Framework	'Places for Everyone' is being produced by the nine GM local authorities in partnership with the GMCA and will be one of the key strategic policy documents produced at the GM level.
Financial	None directly arising from this report, however 'Places for Everyone' will be produced jointly by the nine GM local authorities and the GMCA, costs associated with the preparation and ultimate adoption of the Plan will be shared between all parties. For Trafford, the costs of consultation, further evidence work required and the Examination in Public to secure adoption will be covered from the Reserves previously set aside for the GMSF.
Legal Implications	'Places for Everyone' will form part of the Trafford Development Plan and the proposed Joint Committee will be responsible for the preparation of the Joint DPD. There is a requirement for the Council to keep its Development Plan documents up to date. Applications for planning permission must be determined in accordance with the Development Plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise. The next consultation stage on 'Places for Everyone' will be carried out in accordance with Regulation 19 of The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.
Equality/Diversity Implications	None arising directly out of this report, however the implications of 'Places for Everyone' will be

	assessed as part of its preparation through an Equality Impact Assessment.
Sustainability Implications	None arising directly out of this report, however 'Places for Everyone' will be supported by a Sustainability Appraisal (SA), which will assess the plan against a number of economic, social and environmental indicators to ensure that development will be sustainable.
Carbon Reduction	None arising directly out of this report, however 'Places for Everyone' will include policies that seek to reduce carbon.
Resource Implications e.g. Staffing / ICT / Assets	'Places for Everyone' is in part being produced by staff from within the Council's Strategic Growth Service. The documents will be available to view electronically via the web. A small part of the allocations are on land or property owned by the Council.
Risk Management Implications	'Places for Everyone' is a key strategic planning document that provides the context for the Trafford Local Plan. If it is not progressed it may impact on the scope and delivery of the Trafford Local Plan.
Health & Wellbeing Implications	None arising from this report, however 'Places for Everyone' will include a number of policies which will encourage more people to make healthier choices in life, including promoting cycling and walking. It will therefore contribute towards improving the health and wellbeing of Trafford's residents.
Health and Safety Implications	Not applicable

1.0 Background

- 1.1 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 and the Environment (known as the "GMSF").
- 1.2 The decision at Stockport Council's meeting on 3 December to not submit the GMSF 2020 to the Planning Inspectorate 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 ten GM authorities.
- 1.3 Consequently at its meeting on the 11th December 2020, Members of the AGMA Executive Committee agreed in principle to the preparation of a joint DPD of the nine remaining authorities through a Joint Committee and asked officers to report back on the implications and process of producing this Joint DPD.
- 1.4 The AGMA Executive Committee on the 12th February 2021 (see Appendix 1) stated that the Joint Plan of the nine LAs will be called "Places for Everyone" and put forward the proposed process as set out in this report.

2.0 Rationale and scope of the Plan ‘Places for Everyone’

2.1 The rationale for the preparation of a Joint DPD for the nine remaining LAs 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 each LA to have a Local Plan in place by December 2023.
- Meet the Duty to Co-operate in s33A Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004

2.2 Discussions with the nine authorities indicate that there is continued opportunity to work collaboratively to produce a joint plan. Producing such a plan would enable the nine LAs 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 authorities
- 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.

3.0 Process for producing the Joint Plan ‘Places for Everyone’

3.1 The GMSF was being prepared by the AGMA Executive Board on behalf of the ten GM LAs. However, it would not be appropriate for the preparation of a joint plan of only nine of the ten GM LAs to be delegated to this Board. Instead it is necessary to establish a new Joint Committee of the nine remaining LAs i.e. – Bury, Bolton, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Tameside, Trafford and Wigan.

3.2 It is proposed for continuity purposes, that Council 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 appointing the chair and the voting arrangements.

3.3 The purpose of the Joint Committee will be to formulate and prepare the joint DPD. It is anticipated there will be minimal changes to the thematic and allocation policies from GMSF 2020 and therefore as the Joint DPD is considered to have substantially the same effect on the nine LAs as the GMSF 2020, the next stage would be publication (Regulation 19 stage).

3.4 The preparation of the joint DPD will be reflected in Trafford's Local Development Scheme (LDS), which identifies the timetable for the production of local development documents such as this one. Similarly, Trafford's Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) will make reference to the joint DPD of the nine LAs.

4.0 Interrelationship with Stockport and the joint DPD "Places for Everyone"

4.1 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 ten partners which make up GMCA and Trafford, alongside the other authorities 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.

4.2 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, Trafford and the other eight LAs 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.

5.0 Next steps and timescales

5.1 Subject to approval to establish a Joint Committee, from each of the nine LA's, 'Places for Everyone' will be produced as soon as possible.

5.2 As with the GMSF, the Trafford's Executive, alongside the other eight LA Cabinet / Executives, will be responsible for approving the Regulation 19 version of the Plan ahead of a period of public consultation 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 and to formally approve its adoption.

5.3 The timetable for the stages leading to adoption of the 'Places for Everyone' DPD is still being finalised. This will form part of the subsequent reports to Executive/Council for further approvals as stated above.

6.0 Wider Corporate Links

6.1 The Joint Committee will be responsible for the preparation of 'Places for Everyone' and this Plan will be consistent with the Council's Corporate Plan and Corporate Objectives. The Plan will seek to deliver sustainable communities, provide new homes and employment space and enhanced green infrastructure. 'Places for Everyone' will set the strategic framework for the Local Plan and will link to the Housing Strategy and Carbon Neutral Action Plan.

6.2 At a GM level, 'Places for Everyone' will share the same vision as the GM Strategy and the policies in 'Places for Everyone' (as they were with GMSF 2020) are designed to support this vision.

7.0 Other options

- 7.1 'Places for Everyone' will ensure that development can come forward in a sustainable way giving developers, investors, communities and the Council certainty in decisions on planning matters. The Joint Committee will oversee the preparation of this Plan.
- 7.2 The only other option is for Trafford to not be part of the Joint Committee and therefore not part of the 'Places for Everyone' Plan. This would mean that strategic issues, such as housing and employment requirements, would form part of the Trafford Local Plan. This is likely to result in Trafford delivering a higher housing number and require the release of more Green Belt land which would be through Trafford's Local Plan. Also Trafford's Local Plan completed its initial Regulation 18 consultation on the 18th March 2021 would need to be substantially reviewed and amended which would adversely affect adoption timeframes.
- 7.3 'Places for Everyone' will also ensure that Trafford Council has an up to date Local Plan in place by the Government deadline of December 2023 as work on the Trafford Local Plan can progress once the strategic GM context has been set.

8.0 Consultation

- 8.1 The next consultation stage on 'Places for Everyone' will be carried out in accordance with Regulation 19 of The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 and in accordance with the Trafford Statement of Community Involvement.

9.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 9.1 'Places for Everyone' enables a strategic approach to delivering growth and housing needs and it will also set the strategic framework for Trafford's Local Plan. The process for establishing the Joint Committee for the Joint DPD needs to be approved by each of the nine LAs in Greater Manchester to ensure that the Plan can be produced for subsequent Executive and Council approval and progress to examination and adoption.

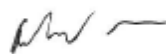
Key Decision (as defined in the Constitution): Yes

If Key Decision, has 28-day notice been given? Yes

Finance Officer Clearance PC

Legal Officer Clearance TR

[CORPORATE] DIRECTOR'S SIGNATURE



To confirm that the Financial and Legal Implications have been considered and the Executive Member has cleared the report.