

**REPORT TO SHEVINGTON PARISH COUNCIL POLICY AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE JUNE 1<sup>ST</sup> 2017 GREATER MANCHESTER SPATIAL FRAMEWORK**

At a meeting of the Parish Council's Policy and General Purposes Committee on December 1<sup>st</sup> 2016 a detailed report was received on the draft Greater Manchester Spatial Framework. This document proposed changes to the Green Belt so that more land was released for housing and employment. There were no changes of such a nature in Shevington.

In March 2017 the joint Greater Manchester Combined Authority and AGMA Executive Board Meeting decided that consultation on the next stage of the Spatial Framework would take place in September 2017 instead of June/July. The regulations require a formal consultation of at least 6 weeks. It was proposed that all future consultations will be for 12 weeks.

On the 11<sup>th</sup> May the new Mayor Andy Burnham confirmed he would rework the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework, to include more emphasis on affordable homes, fringe towns, and a "significant reduction" in plans to build on Green Belt.

Burnham named Mayor of Salford Paul Dennett as the new portfolio lead for housing, regeneration and homelessness, taking over from Cllr Richard Farnell, leader of Rochdale Council.

Burnham said he wasn't yet "setting a specific timetable" for the rewrite, but that his priority was to deliver "the right plan, not a rushed plan".

Work on the GMSF has been ongoing since 2014. A first draft was [published in October](#) and recommended 227,200 new homes be built in the next 20 years, 28% of the new units on Green Belt land, 12,000 acres of which would be removed from GM's protected land.

A final draft was due to go out to consultation later this year (see above), and adoption was scheduled for 2018.

On the current draft, Burnham said it would have delivered "decaying town centres, surrounded by urban sprawl".

While a change in position on the Green Belt formed a key part of his announcement, Burnham also stressed that "Greater Manchester can't stand still; we can't close the door on development... It's not possible to protect every bit of Green Belt."

He called for more of a focus on Greater Manchester's fringe towns and asked the property community: "Bring me schemes, imaginative schemes, for a new focus and future for our town centres."

## **Appendix C**

The £300m Greater Manchester Housing Fund also came under attack by Burnham and new housing lead Dennett. While Burnham said that “not all of the loans from the fund have been wrong”, it had placed too much emphasis on supporting high-rise, private rented sector projects, which had then been sold on to international investors.

Dennett agreed: “The beneficiaries of what we’ve done in Greater Manchester are not the people who live in Greater Manchester.”

The first £300m tranche of the fund has been allocated, and loans are now being repaid. Burnham said these repayments signalled “a change of focus” for the fund, which would now be used towards “council housing and affordable housing”.

### **CONCLUSION**

That the proposal to re-work the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework on the terms indicated above are welcomed.

Barry King  
May 21<sup>st</sup> 2017