

MINUTE OF EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 21 OCTOBER 2021

60 **GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED AUTHORITY 'PLACES FOR EVERYONE' STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND**

Consideration was given to the report of the Corporate Director of Place and Community as contained on pages 525 to 600 of the Book of Reports, which was to seek agreement to the Leader of the Council signing a Statement of Common Ground covering cross-boundary spatial planning matters with Greater Manchester Combined Authority partner authorities, as required under the Duty to Co-operate.

The Principal Planning Officer outlined the report and explained that the Greater Manchester Combined Authority along with ten local authorities make up the Greater Manchester area has been preparing a development plan to cover the area. He advised that Stockport Council withdrew from the process, but the remaining nine authorities have continued to work together in preparing a plan entitled 'Places for Everyone'.

He went on to inform that, as its response to the recent consultation on the Places for Everyone plan (not the subject of this report), WLBC expressed the view that the document is 'sound' but requested a minor modification to the text of the Plan so that it acknowledges the proposed Skelmersdale Rail Link, linking both to Merseyside and to Greater Manchester, in order to help support the case for the proposed scheme.

He outlined that the Statement of Common Ground (the subject of this report) sets out how the Combined Authority has engaged with its neighbours in preparing the 'Places for Everyone' plan; the strategic, cross boundary, planning-related issues and the current position in the City Region regarding those issues. The Cabinet report is expressing the view that this engagement has been satisfactory and that it is recommended that the Leader sign the Statement of Common Ground on behalf of West Lancashire Borough Council.

In discussion Members felt the report had addressed all concerns raised and felt encouraged in respect of this and that the Statement of Common Ground provided at Appendix A be agreed for signature by the Leader of the Council.

RESOLVED: That the Committee support the 'Places for Everyone' Statement of Common Ground provided at Appendix A to be presented to Cabinet, to be agreed for signature by the Leader of the Council.