



**A Motion outlined below has been submitted, to be debated and then voted on by Councillors at the next Full Meeting of Council on Wednesday 10th April at Bury Town Hall. The Meeting starts at 7 pm.**

**The Friends of Bury Folk whole heartedly support this motion as it is one of the best routes to protecting our greenbelt. We want all our members and supporters to attend a show of strength outside the town hall to support the below motion.**

#### THIS COUNCIL NOTES

The recent letter sent to Councillor James Daly from James Brokenshire MP dated 7th February 2019 regarding standard method for assessing local housing need.

Council notes with interest the following paragraph from the aforementioned correspondence:-  
“I would emphasise that a housing need figure is not a target. Local Authorities should make as realistic assessment of the number of homes their communities need, using the standard method as the starting point in the process. Once this has been established, planning to meet that need will require consideration of land availability, relevant constraints and whether the need is more appropriately met in neighbouring areas. This will then be scrutinised, as part of the examination undertaken by an independent inspector. “

Council notes this approach was confirmed to be accurate at the recent meeting of local Party Leaders with the Housing Minister at The House of Commons.

Council notes with alarm that the ruling group appear to have ignored this approach and as a consequence large areas of greenbelt within the Borough being identified for development within the GMSF.

Council accepts, the 2014 government projections are not mandatory and believes Bury MBC must produce its own evidence based assessment to justify why fewer homes should be built in our Borough over the lifetime of the GMSF. This Council believes that the ruling group has not done enough to protect precious areas of greenbelt within the Borough.

Taking into account the above factors, until a satisfactory resolution is found the Council cannot support the GMSF in its present form and instructs the Leader of the Council to:-

1. Inform the Mayor of Greater Manchester that the present draft of the GMSF is unacceptable and must be rewritten.
2. Together with Council Officers produce an evidence based assessment within 4 weeks justifying why the Borough cannot accommodate 11,500 new homes over the next 19 years and reduce substantially the number of new properties needed within Bury over the lifetime of the GMSF.
3. To inform the Mayor of Greater Manchester that the GMSF should be over a period of 15 years rather than 19 years. Reducing the length of the GMSF by 4 years is a sensible policy and reduces the risk of further development on green belt sites within Bury by reducing the initial number of new homes required in the Plan.
4. To speak further with all GM leaders to re-negotiate the transfer of a higher proportion of the Borough's housing requirement than previously agreed and to seek parity with authorities like Stockport. Further, to require the Leader to contact Council leaders in areas outside of GM such as Lancashire to explore the possibility of transferring a higher percentage of Bury's assessed housing requirement to these Boroughs.
5. To inform the Mayor of Greater Manchester that unless the aforementioned actions are taken then the Leader on behalf of Bury MBC will veto the present draft of the GMSF and instruct council officers to begin preparing a Bury Local Plan which will determine the number of new homes our Borough requires rather than the GMSF.