PURPOSE OF REPORT
To update Commission member son the outcomes of the recent consultation exercise and advise on the next steps.

RECOMMENDATION
Commission Members are requested to note the report.

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1. SUMMARY

1.1 This report summarises responses to the recent Greater Manchester Spatial framework (GMSF) consultation and call for sites exercise, and sets out the next steps in the process of developing the GMSF.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 The draft vision and strategic objectives for the GMSF, as well as a number of options for growth, were published for public consultation between 9th November 2015 – 11 January 2016. The consultation exercise was widely promoted with over 16,000 emails/letters sent to contacts on local mailing lists and key stakeholders, as well as press releases to local and national media, use of social media and websites, etc.

2.2 Alongside this, local residents, businesses, land owners and developers were also invited to identify sites that could be suitable for housing or employment development. This “call for sites” exercise was designed to determine whether there are areas of land available for development that individual districts or Greater Manchester are not currently aware of.

2.3 Both the consultation and call for sites formally closed on the 11th of January, although the call for sites map will remain available to anyone wishing to submit a site for the foreseeable future.

3. OPTIONS CONSULTATION.

3.1 We have received 177 submissions to the GMSF options consultation, more than double the number of responses received to the first GMSF consultation in 2014. Just under 25% of responses were made online (ie through the GMSF consultation portal) and the majority of the rest by email. A team of district volunteers has been established to work alongside the P&H team in New Economy and they have verified the submissions and uploaded all documents to the GMSF portal so this information can be published online.

3.2 As expected, a majority of responses have tended to focus on two key issues:

- Housing – with responders querying the level of forecasted demand for new homes and some of the assumptions or technical calculations upon which an Objectively Assessed Need figure has been based.
- Environment – seeking to ensure that environmental issues and the role of GM’s natural environment is adequately addressed in both the vision for the GMSF and policies for protecting specific areas or environmental functions.

3.3 A full report, detailing all the submissions and how identifying some of the implications for the GMSF will be produced for consideration by the Spring.

4. CALL FOR SITES
4.1 Work to log and verify all of the responses to the call for sites is still underway, with around 600 individual submissions received to date. The majority of these are for sites with a residential use. Nearly 300 of the sites verified to date are greenfield sites, with the remaining a mixture of greenfield and brownfield sites.

4.2 The planning team are continuing to log and verify the sites, checking and digitising the proposed boundaries so that the sites can all be published through the online GM Map.

5. **NEXT STEPS**

5.1 The comments on the options are being analysed and reviewed. We are considering what further work may be required to respond to the issues raised. One of the key areas of concern was the lack of a Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA). As we outlined in the options document we recognise that this is a fundamental piece of evidence which will be required to underpin the spatial strategy for housing distribution. We are progressing work on an SHMA as a matter of urgency and will report further to the commission in due course.

5.2 In respect of the sites submitted, we are carrying out a first stage assessment using our infrastructure map to run spatial queries and supplementing this with locally specific information from districts. Districts are also updating their information on existing land supply to a common base date of March 2015. We will use this to guide the development of spatial options and ultimately the development of the draft plan which is timetabled for consultation on October 2016.

5.3 In parallel with the work on the SHMA and the spatial options we are continuing to deepen our evidence base with work on the natural environment, flooding, town centres, greenbelt assessment, low carbon and resilience.

6. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

6.1 Recommendations are found at the front of the report.