

Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2016

Subject: Integrated Covenant of Mayors

Report of: Mark Atherton, GM Director of Environment

## PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide an update regarding the integration of two initiatives in which Greater Manchester is already engaged; the Covenant of Mayors and Mayors Adapt.

## RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Board:

- 1 Consider the attached report and note that GMCA has given approval for the signing of the new Integrated Covenant by the Mayor Tony Lloyd and Chair of the Low Carbon Hub, Cllr Sue Derbyshire
- 2 Note the next steps required to streamline GM's reporting structures and monitor our future progress within the framework of this initiative.

## CONTACT OFFICERS:

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## BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Annex 1: The Integrated Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy

<b>TRACKING/PROCESS</b>		
Does this report relate to a Key Decision, as set out in the GMCA Constitution or in the process agreed by the AGMA Executive Board		No [
<b>EXEMPTION FROM CALL IN</b>		
Are there any aspects in this report which means it should be considered to be exempt from call in by the AGMA Scrutiny Pool on the grounds of urgency?		No
AGMA Commission	TfGMC	Scrutiny Pool
Low Carbon Hub 22/01/16		

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 Currently there are two separate initiatives at EU level to engage local areas in climate change mitigation (Covenant of Mayors: cutting carbon) and adaptation (Mayors Adapt: climate resilience). Greater Manchester is a signatory of Mayors Adapt, and some of GM's authorities are a signatory to Covenant of Mayors.
- 1.2 These two initiatives are being integrated into a single 'Integrated Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy'. This streamlines the reporting requirements of the two initiatives and updates the targets to align them with 2030, rather than 2020 European targets.
- 1.3 Existing signatories are being requested to migrate to the new Integrated Covenant. In order to do so there is a requirement that the new covenant is presented to, and agreed by the most senior elected Committee of the signatory (See Annex 1 for the full text).

## **2. THE INTEGRATED COVENANT**

- 2.1 There is a clear agenda among world cities to show commitment and leadership on Climate Change initiatives. This European initiative is complementary to existing commitments to the international Compact of Mayors and Under 2 MOU, which publicly state Greater Manchester's commitment to work to keep global average temperatures below a 2°C rise.
- 2.2 The Covenant is broadly similar to the merged content of Covenant of Mayors and Mayors Adapt. These require a commitment to taking action on climate change, including periodic reporting on progress, and information sharing on opportunities, challenges and good practice between actors. The information and reporting requirements are similar to those in place for the Compact, and less burdensome than the previous requirements of Mayors Adapt. As such, it is considered that there would be little operational impact from signing.
- 2.4 The principal benefit of becoming a signatory is reputational. However covenant signatories may also receive benefits in terms of access to like-minded networks, opportunities to partner in related funding and initiatives,

## **3 NEXT STEPS**

- 3.1 Following the agreement of GMCA, in December 2015, for Mayor Tony Lloyd and Chair of the Low Carbon Hub Cllr Sue Derbyshire to sign the new Integrated Covenant, work has begun to bring our existing reporting framework into line with this initiative.
- 3.2 A small consultancy contract will be let to bring existing GM data for mitigation and adaptation into line with the reporting required for the baseline review and the additional commitments required for the previously signed Under 2 MoU. This work will be completed in time for its integration into the final version of the GM Climate Change and Low Emissions Implementation Plan in Spring 2016.