

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GREEN CITY REGION PARTNERSHIP
HELD FRIDAY 16 OCTOBER AT 9.00 AM VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS VIRTUAL MEETING**

PRESENT:

Councillor Oliver Ryan	GMCA Deputy Environment Portfolio & Chair (Tameside Council)
Councillor Alan Quinn	Waste & Recycling Committee (Bury Council)
Councillor Angeliki Stogia	Transport Committee (Manchester City Council)
Councillor Derek Antrobus	Planning & Housing Commission (Salford City Council)
Alison Mckenzie-Folan	GMCA Lead Chief Executive (Wigan Council)
Louise Blythe	BBC Academy (Chair Communications & Engagement)
Robin Lawler	Northwards Housing (Chair Low Carbon Buildings)
Peter Emery	ENWL (Chair Energy Innovation)
Anne Selby	Wildlife Trust (Chair Natural Capital)
Carly McLachlan	University of Manchester (Chair SYEP Forum)
Will Swan	Salford University (Vice-Chair Low Carbon Buildings)
Angela Needle	Cadent Gas (substitute for Stuart Easterbrook Vice-Chair Energy Innovation)
Amanda Reid	Savills (Vice-Chair Sustainable Consumption and Production)
Anna Bell	Suez
Mark Easedale	Environment Agency
Bernard Magee	Siemens
Roger Milburn	Arup
Patrick Allcorn	Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS)
Andy Gibson	University of Manchester
Darryl Quantz	Health & Social Care Partnership
Steph Everett	Homes England (Substitute for Carl Moore)

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mark Atherton	GMCA
Simon Nokes	GMCA
Sarah Mellor	GMCA
Sean Owen	GMCA
Joanne Heron	GMCS
Kerry Bond	GMCA
Jenny Hollamby	GMCA
Megan Black	TfGM
Nicola Kane	TfGM

BOLTON
BURY

MANCHESTER
OLDHAM

ROCHDALE
SALFORD

STOCKPORT
TAMESIDE

TRAFFORD
WIGAN

In the absence of the Chair, who had submitted apologies for the meeting, the GMCA'S Deputy Environment Portfolio Lead from Tameside Council Chaired the meeting. The Chair opened the meeting and welcome everybody present.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Andrew Western (Trafford Council), Hisham Elkadi (University of Salford), Phil Korbel (Cooler), Carl Moore (Homes England), Chris Oglesby (Bruntwood) and Sarah Price (NHS).

Anna Bell from Suez was welcomed to her first meeting of the Partnership, replacing Richard Jenkins.

Whilst there was no urgent business, the Chair explained that a supplementary agenda was published and circulated to the Partnership on 15 October 2020, which contained agenda items:

- 6 – Challenge Group Update Presentation
- 9 – Greater Manchester Clean Air Plan
- 10 – 5 Year Transport Plan Update

The items would be considered at the relevant points within the agenda.

The Chair reported, since the last meeting:

- A successful Green Summit had been hosted. Thanks were given to all Partnership members, particularly Challenge Group Chairs, for the excellent content. Thanks were also due to the sponsors of the event, Electricity North West, Manchester University (Royce Institute) and Suez.
- A number of initiatives that had been developed by the Partnership were launched at the Summit, including the Energy Innovation Agency (with University partners), Fuel Cell and Hydrogen Strategy (with MMU) and the GM Environment fund (with Lancashire Wildlife Trust).
- Greater Manchester had been successful in bidding for £4.7m of Green Homes Grant funding to support retrofit of energy efficiency measures in fuel poor homes before March 2021.

GMGCRP/39/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received at the meeting.

GMGCRP/40/20 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING DATED 24 JULY 2020

The minutes of the previous meeting dated 24 July 2020 were presented for approval.

Arising from minute GMGCRP/22/20 it was noted that a new Chair and Vice-Chair of the Sustainable Consumption and Production Challenge Group were required. The first meeting of the Green City Board, which included ten Local Authority Lead Environment Members, would take place on 23 October 2020.

Arising from minute GMGCRP/26/20 it was reported that the One Year Plan and Green Skills would be considered at the next meeting.

Resolved/-

That the minutes of the last meeting held on 24 July 2020 were approved as an accurate record.

GMGCRP/41/20 PROGRESS REPORT 5 YEAR ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN (YEP)

The Partnership considered a report that provided the usual update on progress on delivery the 5YEP and the work of the Green City Region Partnership for the second quarter of 2020/21.

They key points were:

- The Decarbonisation of Heat Research (DEEP) final report was produced, which identified 37 projects/schemes and led to continued discussions with BEIS on Phase 2.
- Decarbonising of Public Estate (DoPE) soft market testing had been completed. Reports had been shared with asset owners in readiness for the £1b Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund, announced in August 2020, with a focus on reducing carbon emissions associated with heating buildings.
- 32 buses had been upgraded to electric by Stagecoach and 162 retrofits completed through Clean Bus Technology Fund (CBTF).
- Carbon Literacy had developed a Local Authority toolkit, which was launched at the Green Summit. Blue Light version would be released shortly.
- In the next quarter, a report on onshore wind potential on Local Authority Land would be completed and research on local levers/procurement would be commissioned. Commission development of new Green City Region website to be launched in January 2021.
- Attention was drawn to Annex A of the report. It was advised that Greater Manchester's carbon emissions for 2018 were down (2.3%) compared to 2017, which was smaller than expected and behind the anticipated trajectory for the Greater Manchester Strategy (GMS) and 5YEP. The Partnership discussed views about how carbon reduction measures could be accelerated further.

- Work was taking place with the NHS to assess decarbonisation opportunities.

Resolved/-

The Partnership noted the progress outlined in the report and the latest position set out in the dashboards attached to the report at Annex 1 – Environment Performance Overview and Annex 2 – 5 YEP Plan Key Performance Indicators (KPIs).

GMGCRP/42/20 CHALLENGE GROUP UPDATES

The report was introduced by the GMCA's Director of Environment, which outlined progress made by the 5YEP Challenge Groups in developing their key priorities through Task and Finish Action Groups.

The report was accompanied by a presentation by the Challenge Group Chairs that provided an updated overview of the Challenge Group priorities and how these were being delivered through Task and Finish Groups.

The main points referred:

- Although the Challenge Group's progress was substantial, there needed to be wider engagement to encourage action and innovation by more people/organisations. A review of the Mission Based Approach was proposed. The Chair suggested and the Partnership agreed, that University College London be asked to present their findings at the next meeting.
- A question was raised about the work on natural assets particularly the work being undertaken by Lancashire Wildlife Trust in the carbon landscapes project and the ambition to restore 50% to 75% of the moss lands to peat bog. Much of this land was in Salford and the Mayor of Salford had written to the Secretary of State to step up and fund peat bog restoration. It was hoped that the Board would support this call. The Chair of the Natural Capital Group supported the Member's comments. Evidence from Natural England had shown that this was even more important, had the ability to absorb carbon and would contribute to Greater Manchester's targets. It was envisaged that landowners would change their behaviour and there would be a financial benefit. Turf growing had to stop as it was a carbon emitter. The Group was offered a site visit.
- A question was asked about sustainable diets and if there was merit in having a strategic partnership with the Vegetarian Society. It was reported that work was taking place with the Greater Manchester Food Board. Food quality and good consumption habits were not just good for health but was also good for the environment. It was a key area that needed focus. Engagement would take place with the Society and other food groups on behaviour change. A Member commented that 28% of the residual waste bin was food.
- In terms of peat bogs, a Member asked if that included burning for grouse shooting. It was explained that the main problem in Greater Manchester were the accidental fires, which had caused a massive amount of damage. If those areas of land were wet then that would dramatically reduce the risk. Burning for grouse shooting was not a particular issue for Greater Manchester.

Resolved/-

1. The Partnership noted the progress in developing the Mission Based Approach and the associated Challenge Groups and Task and Finish Groups activity.
2. That University College London present their findings at the next meeting.

GMGCRP/43/20 ENERGY MASTER PLANNING PRESENTATION

A presentation was received by Electricity North West's (ENWL) Chief Executive and Cadent's Director of Strategy, which summarised the Cadent/ENWL Carbon Pathways for GMCA and explained how ENWL would use this work as the basis for its RIIO-ED2 business plan to be negotiated with the Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (Ofgem).

ENWL and Cadent were thanked for their report and informative presentation. The Chair suggested and the Partnership agreed that Officers work with ENWL and Cadent to define how the actions in the report could be delivered and a report be considered at a future meeting.

A question and answer session took place following the presentation. The main points referred:

- A question was raised about air source heat pumps and how these would be promoted to traditional developers. Mention was also made about potential for mass unemployment following Covid-19 and how to create job opportunities. In response, the issue with heat source air pumps for the 20 to 30 coldest days of the year they could not cope with the heat capacity required without significant insulation, and that was why a lot of the hydrogen on the heat chart were hybrid solutions. However, if there was a technological breakthrough this would change. Changing building regulations to provide electric heating in new build would also have an impact. There was a big role to play in kick starting the transition. In terms of job creation, a massive amount of work was required in the next 30 years, which would provide job opportunities.
- The Chair enquired about the hydrogen plant at Ellesmere Port and asked how Greater Manchester could play a part in hydrogen production and create a hub of industry. The North West Hydrogen Alliance was focussing on this with a number of different organisations. The facility at Ellesmere Port would be a blue hydrogen facility taking advantage of existing waste hydrogen. Electricity could be saved for the months hydrogen could not provide heat. ENWL and Cadent had developed a roadmap but more detail was needed.
- A Member asked about retrofit particularly new build and enquired when would legislation and building regulations be changed to take on board these recommendations. Work was taking place within GMCA to influence the new building regulations in 2025. It was envisaged that the Energy White Paper might well reference this.

Resolved/-

1. That the presentation be received and noted.

2. That Officers work with ENWL and Candent to define how the actions in the report could be delivered and a report be considered at a future meeting.

GMGCRP/44/20 LOCAL ENERGY PLANNING

Consideration was given to a report that outlined the progress made in commissioning the production of Local Area Plans for the Greater Manchester region and its ten Districts.

The report complemented the previous presentation – Energy Master Planning (minute GMGCRP/43/20 refers). It was reported that Local Area Energy Plans would form the basis of how Local Authorities could plan future energy supply and demand at the local level, utilising the evidence provided by the Energy Master Planning report and other sources.

The main point referred:

- BEIS reported that Greater Manchester was one of the first regions to do this and was very interested on how it would be delivered but also ensuring a consistent methodology be developed to be used across the country. BEIS would be interested in the Government structures that made this happen, the scales of that work, the data and most importantly any barriers. BEIS was keen to work with the GMCA.

Resolved/-

The Partnership noted the progress made in commissioning the production of Local Area Energy Plans.

GMGCRP/45/20 COMPREHENSIVE SPENDING REVIEW & FUNDING BIDS UPDATE

The GMCA's Director of Environment's report provided an overview of Greater Manchester's low carbon ambition to develop a Smart Energy Transition Region as part of its submission to Government as part of the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR).

The paper also outlined related funding bids that Greater Manchester had either secured or, subject to approval, intended to bid for.

Although there was no guarantee of success in CSR bidding, there were elements of the approach being presented, which were already underway and opportunities to bid for existing Government funds which would provide the base to make progress.

The Chair encouraged elected Members present to ensure their Districts were engaged with GMCM Officers to develop substantial bids for available funding streams.

The Partnership asked the following questions:

- A comment was made about the need for longevity of programmes backed by funding so the green goods and services sector could actually invest and get a return on that investment. Attention was drawn to a piece of work that had been undertaken with Green

Growth Hub on the green goods and services from social landlords. A number of barriers had been identified and discussions were taking place with BEIS and the Social Housing Regulator to resolve the issues.

- BEIS commented that the bid was comprehensive and ambitious, which was great to see. It was asked, which sections of the bid required the Government to move on and which could start now that did not have barriers. It was explained that most of what had been outlined today could be undertaken without any regulatory change or without additional powers. It was suggested that an energy body was needed to bring together energy efficiency and energy generation was. It was a way to bring distribution network operators, gas operators with asset owners together with the regulator along with new innovative technologies. It was about developing a relationship with the regulator at the sub-national level to work with them to trial and test technologies as they became apparent. Discussions had started with Ofgem but there was a resource issue. The Local Energy Planning process was a way to move forward in a more cohesive way.
- An attendee asked if the Digital Infrastructure Group had been consulted. It was clarified that the Group had been involved and work was joined up.
- A statement was made about markets and flexibility. Ofgem in July 2020 had released a consultation - Sector Specific Methodology, with a deadline of 1 October 2020. A big part of that was flexibility, local markets and energy trading. ENWL was working on a plan to bring that forward.

Resolved/-

That the Partnership:

- Noted the Smart Energy Transition Region concept submitted as part of Greater Manchester's CSR proposals (Annex 1 of the report).
- Noted that Greater Manchester had been successful in attaining £4.7m for delivery of Phase 1 of the Green Homes Grant (Local Authority delivery).
- Noted that, subject to approval, Greater Manchester intended to bid for funding under the Public Buildings Decarbonisation Fund and would consider a bid into the Social Landlords Demonstration Fund if requested to do so by Greater Manchester social landlords.

GMGCRP/46/20 GREATER MANCHESTER CLEAN AIR PLAN

The report, introduced by Transport for Greater Manchester's (TfGM) Head of Logistics and Environment that explained Greater Manchester had launched two major public consultations to get a wide range of views on the city-region's plans to reduce harmful air pollution on local roads and to introduce minimum standards for all taxis and private hire services licensed in the region.

The report was accompanied by a presentation that provided an overview of the Greater Manchester Clean Air Plan and Greater Manchester's Minimum Licensing Standards consultation.

Resolved/-

That Partnership:

1. Received and noted the report.
2. Agreed to promote the consultations and provide their views at cleanairgm.com and gmtaxistandards.com.

GMGCRP/47/20 5 YEAR TRANSPORT PLAN – UPDATE

A presentation on the Greater Manchester Transport Strategy 2040 and 5 Year Transport Delivery Plan (2020-25) was provided by TfGM's Head of Strategic Planning and Research.

Resolved/-

That the presentation be noted.

GMGCRP/48/20 GREEN SUMMIT 2020 REVIEW

Consideration was given to a report that provided a post Green Summit review, which included the organising Team's experience of delivering the first large scale GMCA, virtual Summit and provided recommendations to enable future delivery of impactful, virtual events.

Resolved/-

That the Partnership noted that the GMCA would commence planning and development of the Green Summit 2021 with the assistance of experts from the Communications and Engagement Challenge Group, in-line with the aims of COP26 taking place in November 2021.

**GMGCRP/49/20 GREATER MANCHESTER HOUSING PROVIDERS – BUILD BACK
BETTER COMMITMENT**

The Build Back Better and Greener for Greater Manchester document, which was the social housing sector's response to Covid-19 for Greater Manchester.

Resolved/-

That the document be received and noted.

GMGCRP/50/20 DATES AND TIMES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

That all meetings would be held virtually unless otherwise stated on:

- Monday 25 January 2020 at 10.00 am
- Friday 12 March 2020 at 10.00 am

It was agreed that the 25 January 2020 meeting be moved forward to late December 2020 in light of the upcoming purdah period.

Resolved/-

That the meeting on 25 January 2020 be reorganised for December 2020.