

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GREEN CITY REGION PARTNERSHIP
HELD THURSDAY 10 DECEMBER 2020 AT 10.00 AM
VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS VIRTUAL MEETING**

PRESENT:

Councillor Andrew Western	GMCA Environment Portfolio & Chair (Trafford Council) (Chair)
Councillor Alan Quinn	Waste & Recycling Committee (Bury Council)
Councillor Angeliki Stogia	Transport Committee (Manchester City Council)
Councillor Mike McCluster	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)
Anne Selby	Wildlife Trust (Chair Natural Capital)
Carly McLachlan	University of Manchester (Chair 5YEP Forum)
Phil Korbel	Cooler Projects (Vice-Chair Communications & Engagement)
Will Swan	Salford University (Vice-Chair Low Carbon Buildings)
Chris Matthews	United Utilities (Vice-Chair Natural Capital)
Paul Bircham	Electricity North West (Vice-Chair Energy Innovation)
Patrick Allcorn	Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS)
Jessica Bowles	Bruntwood
Hisham Elkadi	University of Salford
Andy Gibson	University of Manchester
Bernard Magee	Siemens
Roger Milburn	Arup
Carl Moore	Homes England
Darryl Quantz	Health & Social Care Partnership

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mark Atherton	GMCA
Simon Nokes	GMCA
Sean Owen	GMCA
Nichola Wallworth	GMCA
Oliver Fenton	GMCA
Lindsay Dunn	GMCA
Nicola Ward	GMCA
Megan Black	TfGM

GMGCRP/51/20 INTRODUCTION AND APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Derek Antrobus (Salford City Council) and Peter Emery (Electricity Northwest).

It was advised that Councillor Antrobus would be stepping down from his role on the Planning and Housing Commission and therefore this group. Councillor Antrobus was thanked for his contributions to the Partnership and the Natural Capital Group. The Group wished him well in his new ventures. An alternative Member from the Planning and Housing Commission to be a Member of this group was being sought

It was reported that this would also be Robin Lawler's final Green City Region Partnership meeting as he was retiring from Northwards Housing at the end of the month. Robin's contribution to Greater Manchester's environment agenda, particularly on decarbonisation of homes, had been substantial over many years. His knowledge, expertise and influence would be sorely missed. Officers would work with the Buildings Challenge Group to identify a new Chair.

GMGCRP/52/20 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS

Lancashire Wildlife Trust had been awarded £1.8m from the Government's Green Recovery Challenge Fund to support projects in Greater Manchester for habitat restoration, protecting the environment, and connecting people with nature. The funding would be used by the newly established Greater Manchester Environment Fund (GMEF) to deliver projects to create a network for nature across the City region. It would also create 37 new jobs, including 12 traineeships.

The Chair updated Members on Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (GMSF) progress and the issues surrounding Stockport Council's decision not to endorse it. Members would be kept updated at future meetings.

The Chair advised Members of the recent publication of the Committee for Climate Change (CCC) report on the sixth UK carbon budget which recommended that the UK set its budget to require a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions of 78% by 2030. The Government must communicate its nationally determined contribution to the United Nations in the coming days and then set the sixth carbon budget by the end of June 2021.

GMGCRP/53/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received at the meeting.

GMGCRP/54/20 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING DATED 16 OCTOBER 2020

The minutes of the previous meeting dated 16 October 2020 were presented for approval.

The following actions were noted as complete:

- Minute GMGCRP/41/20 – GMCA, on behalf of Greater Manchester's Local Authorities and partners, had submitted a £80m bid to the Government's Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme; the outcome was awaited.
- Minute GMGCRP/42/20 – University College London had been invited to present their work on the review of Greater Manchester's Mission Based Approach at today's meeting.
- Minute GMGCRP/43/20 - Officers continued to work with Electricity North West and Cadent to define how the actions in the energy masterplan report could be

embedded with the delivery programme. Discussions had been held with Liverpool City Region to understand how this work could be synchronised across the region and a report would be brought to a future meeting.

- Minute GMGCRP/45/20 – the Government’s comprehensive spending review was focused on one year rather than four. Nevertheless, the City region’s ambitions to establish an energy transition region remain undaunted.

Resolved/-

That the minutes of the last meeting held on 16 October 2020 were approved as an accurate record.

GMGCRP/55/20 PROGRESS REPORT 5 YEAR ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN (YEP)

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

The main points referred:

- Energy Systems Catapult (ESC) had been commissioned to deliver Local Area Energy Plans (LAEPs) with commencement of phase 1 District level plans and stakeholder engagement underway. The phase 1 District level plans and initial data collection would be completed in the next quarter.
- The Green Homes Grant (GHG) LAD Scheme phase 1 - £4.7m was live across all ten Districts, with an active social media campaign and 45k direct letters. GHG LAD Scheme phase 1b application would be submitted in December 2020 for c. £5.5m.
- Mayor’s Challenge Fund - 56 schemes with GMCA development cost approval (total of 82 schemes granted programme entry) with a combined value of £31.1m (inclusive of November 2020); 17 work packages granted full approval for delivery with a value of £35.5m (inclusive of November 2020); and £15.8m additional funding secured via the Department for Transport (DfT) Active Travel Fund (phase 2). This would be used by Greater Manchester councils to deliver over 20 miles of new walking and cycling network plus Greater Manchester wide initiatives to get more people walking and cycling. 38 further business case submissions were forecast in 2020/21, with an estimated value of £131m.
- The University of Manchester led One Bin to Rule Them All, which was a £1.5m collaborative project (circularising plastics). GMCA was a supporting partner.
- A research report on local levers with a focus on sustainable procurement, would be issued this month with submissions expected end of January 2021. The project to be completed by end April 2021.
- Work was underway with the Environment Agency, United Utilities, Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) and the GMCA research team to develop a blue infrastructure map to be hosted on MappingGM.

- It was anticipated that the draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Defra as part of pilot would be completed in the next quarter.
- Members asked if there were any plans for onshore wind schemes. It was explained that the Government was more open to onshore wind and as a result of this, work that was previously actioned five years ago would be updated. Officers noted that finding and funding locations for onshore wind would take time.
- Members noted that the IGNITION project had asked for a one year extension due to the pandemic, which was expected to be agreed by the EU. This would allow further time to find solutions to the challenges of creating innovative funding streams for nature based solutions.
- Members asked how the low carbon budgets were considered in the LAEPs. It was explained that the consultations for LAEPs had not yet started so it would be too early to advise on the question raised by Members.

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/56/20 REVIEW OF MISSION BASED APPROACH

Members considered a report that was presented by the GMCA's Director of Environment, which outlined the main discussions and recommendations from the workshop led by UCL's Institution of Innovation and Public Purpose (IIPP) on 19 November 2020 to review Greater Manchester's Mission Based Approach.

The workshop explored potential areas of learning and improvement that could be taken forward by GMCA's five Challenge Groups responsible for delivering activity across the City region to support Greater Manchester's clean growth mission.

It was noted that the observations and learnings made about the Challenge Groups during the first year of the mission's implementation had been analysed by IIPP.

It was important to note the recommendations for the Challenge Groups, particularly with respect to improving dynamic metrics and strengthening the culture of innovation.

Members commented that more awareness needed to be raised about GMs goal to be carbon neutral by 2038 the reason for this was because there seemed to be low preparedness within Greater Manchester's residents around home insulation, electric cars and phasing out gas boilers.

Resolved/-

1. The Partnership noted the progress made since setting up the Challenge Groups and their facilitation over the last year, being organised digitally from March 2020 in line with Covid-19 restrictions.

2. It was noted that the observations and learnings made about the Challenge Groups during the first year of the mission's implementation had been analysed by IIPP.
3. The recommendations for the Challenge Groups, particularly with regards to dynamic metrics and strengthening the culture of innovation were noted.
4. The Partnership noted the recommended changes for the mission's governance structure, particularly with regards to the function of the Green City Region Partnership Board.

GMGCRP/57/20 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:

- The Sustainable Consumption and Production Challenge Group had not met for a while, despite this progress was being made but not within a Challenge Group setting.
- Members explained that they would like the land which Bury Council owned, where 144 houses were being built, be an example of a pedestrian friendly eco-estate.
- Members asked if courses were available in local colleges for retrofitting and whether retrofitting could be its own trade. It was explained that some local colleges provided courses which could develop the skills required for some retrofitting activity, but greater organisation of this provision was needed broaden the offer and ensure quality control.
- Members asked how many jobs would retrofitting create for Greater Manchester. It was estimated that 55k new jobs would be created but those figures could be higher.

Resolved/-

The Partnership noted the progress in the Challenge Groups and Task and Finish Groups activity.

GMGCRP/58/20 GREEN GROWTH – BUILDING BACK BETTER PRESENTATION

A presentation was received from the Director of Environment, GMCA, which outlined:

- Clean Growth Grand Challenge.

- GM Covid Recovery and Resilience Plan – impacts identified and Greater Manchester Deliverables.
- Funding opportunities.
- Options for local economic opportunities.

Resolved/-

That the presentation be received and noted.

GMGCRP/59/20 LOCAL NATURE RECOVERY STRATEGY POLICY

Members received a presentation from the GMCA's Head of Environmental Policy, which outlined:

- What the Local Nature Recovery Strategies were, including:
 - Their purpose and status
 - What they would set out for each local area
- What the Local Nature Recovery Strategy Pilots were, including:
 - Aims and objectives
 - Piloting process
 - Initial habitat map
 - Next steps

Members asked whether any invasive species had ever been discussed within the Local Nature Recovery Policy. It was explained that invasive species were a key part of the policy, particularly those around existing rivers and wildlife sites. It was noted that funding was the main issue for controlling invasive species.

Resolved/-

That the Partnership note the presentation.

GMGCRP/60/20 GM ENVIRONMENT FUND UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report that updated Members on the development of the Greater Manchester Environment Fund (GMEF) and next steps.

The main points referred:

- Members commented on the invasive species that were over taking the riverbanks. It was noted that Bury Council had funding available to start spraying the species in March 2021 but to control the issue, it would need a Greater Manchester wide approach. The Chair of the Natural Capital Group welcomed the idea of a dedicated taskforce on a Greater Manchester wide approach.

- Members shared their concerns that companies might believe they were doing the right thing by paying an offset for carbon but would be better investing to decarbonise their buildings and operations. It was advised that before the GMEF took money from companies for offsetting they should check that companies had a commitment to become carbon neutral so the offset did not give them the chance to 'greenwash' their company's commitments.
- Members asked if the carbon offset would be priced and if there would be a base rate. It was confirmed that the offset would be priced but the level was still to be determined.
- The Chair of GMEF would like to hold a session with interested Members around this topic to see what the GMEF could do to prevent the issue of greenwashing.

Resolved/-

1. Progress made in developing the GMEF was noted.
2. The Partnership considered how it could support the scale-up of the GMEF through providing funding or identifying potential funders.
3. The Partnership considered whether the fund could be utilised to meet the Green City Region partner's own compliance regulations or as a voluntary carbon offsetting scheme to support the wider ambitions of the 5 YEP.

GMGCRP/61/20 PUBLIC SECTOR DECARBONISATION SCHEME

Members received a report for information, which was presented to the Greater Manchester Combined Authority meeting held on 27 November 2020 that outlined the opportunity presented by the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme and Greater Manchester's ambition to seek substantial funding from the scheme for public building retrofit projects across the conurbation.

If the bid was successful, GMCA Members agreed to receive and expend c. £30-80m funding from Salix (NDPB) to undertake low carbon retrofit projects on approximately 133 public buildings across Greater Manchester.

Resolved/-

That the report be noted.

GMGCRP/62/20 DATES AND TIMES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Resolved/-

It was noted that the next meeting would take place virtually on Friday 12 March 2020 at 10.00 am.