



**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE  
THE GREEN CITY REGION PARTNERSHIP HELD VIRTUALLY ON  
FRIDAY 15 JULY 2022 AT 10.00 AM**

**PRESENT:**

Councillor Martyn Cox	GMCA Environment Portfolio & Chair (Bolton Council) (Chair)
Councillor Mike McCluster	Planning & Housing Commission (Salford City Council)
Harry Catherall	GMCA Environment Portfolio Lead Chief Executive (Oldham Council)
Eamonn Boylan	Chief Executive, GMCA & Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM)
Carly McLachlan	University of Manchester (Chair 5YEP Implementation Forum)
Louise Marix-Evans	Quantum (Vice-Chair 5YEP Implementation Forum)
Will Swan	Salford University (Vice-Chair Low Carbon Buildings)
Anne Selby	Independent Member (Chair Natural Capital)
Chris Matthews	United Utilities (Vice-Chair Natural Capital)
Patrick Allcorn	Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS)
Steve Connor	Creative Concern (LEP Green City Lead)
Steve Cox	Electricity North West (ENWL)
Mark Easedale	Environment Agency (EA)
Steph Everett	Homes England
Roger Milburn	Strategic Infrastructure Board
Liz Price	(For Andy Gibson) Manchester Metropolitan University

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mark Atherton	Director of Environment, GMCA
Richard Banks	Senor Manager, Logistics & Environment, TfGM
Megan Black	Head of Logistics & Environment, TfGM
Sam Evans	Head of Natural Environment, GMCA
Oliver Fenton	Business Support Officer, Governance & Scrutiny, GMCA
Deanna Han	Consultant, Applied Negative Emissions Centre
Jenny Hollamby	Senior Governance & Scrutiny Officer, GMCA
Sarah Mellor	Head of Sustainable Consumption & Production, GMCA

BOLTON  
BURY

MANCHESTER  
OLDHAM

ROCHDALE  
SALFORD

STOCKPORT  
TAMESIDE

TRAFFORD  
WIGAN

## **GMGCRP/25/22 INTRODUCTION AND APOLOGIES**

The GMCA Environment Portfolio Lead Chief Executive (Oldham Council) opened the meeting and welcomed all those present. The Portfolio Lead introduced Councillor Martyn Cox, Bolton Council's Leader who had been appointed as Chair of the Green City Region Board and Portfolio Leader for the 2022/23 Municipal Year. Councillor Cox took the role of Chair at this juncture.

Members heard that Peter Emery, Electricity North West's Chief Executive, had stepped down from the Partnership due to his imminent retirement. Steve Cox would replace Peter and Paul Bircham on the Partnership. Steve was welcomed to his first meeting. The Partnership expressed its thanks to Peter and Paul for their contributions and leadership of the energy workstream over the last four years.

The Partnership expressed its thanks to the outgoing Chair Councillor Neil Emmott.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Alan Quinn (Bury Council), Hisham Elkadi (Salford University), Phil Korbel (Carbon Literacy/Cooler Projects), Chris Oglesby (Bruntwood), Bernard Magee (Siemens), Carl Moore (Homes England) and Lesley Worswick (EA).

## **GMGCRP/26/22 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS**

The Chair welcomed the opportunity to lead the Green City Portfolio for the next 12 months and was interested in creating an economic eco system for the Green City Region with upskilling as a focus.

The Chair reported that since the last meeting:

- At the end of March 2022, the GMCA won the Local Energy Leadership category at the National Regen Awards. The judges commended the whole systems approach of both energy efficiency and energy generation programmes.
- The Mayor's Green Spaces Fund (GSF) was opened to applications in June 2022. As previously reported, the £2.6m funding would support community-led projects

that increased the amount and quality of accessible, nature-rich green space in the city region, particularly in the areas where people needed it most.

- Early this month the Your Homes Better initiative was launched to support able to pay householders to invest in energy efficiency in their own properties.

#### **GMGCRP/27/22    DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were received prior to or at the meeting.

#### **GMGCRP/28/22    TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING DATED 19 MARCH 2022**

#### **Resolved/-**

That the minutes of the previous meeting dated 19 March 2022 be approved as a correct record.

#### **Matters Arising**

Arising from minute GMGCRP/12/22 (Work Programme and Challenge Group Updates), it was reported that the Natural Capital Group was still considering ash die back, solutions and funding. The Chair of the Natural Capital Challenge Group added that City of Trees had sent out a survey to all Districts. A letter, from Rochdale Council, asking for financial support had also been sent to the Secretary of State. Whilst there was funding for tree planting there was no funding for the cost of surveys or the removal of large trees near highways or for safety reasons. Government lobbying work would continue, and further updates would be provided when they were available.

#### **GMGCRP/29/22    APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR AND TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Partnership considered a report presented by the GMCA Environment Portfolio Lead Chief Executive that set out the proposed governance arrangements for the Green City Region Portfolio for the 2022/23 Municipal Year.

At the last meeting, discussions explored the work undertaken by the Challenge Group Chairs to improve the current governance structure to accelerate delivery of the actions in the 5 Year Environment Plan (5YEP). Those proposals had been reflected in the Terms of Reference presented for approval.

Members heard there were a small number of changes to the membership to reflect the changes to the governance arrangements and included a new member to represent faith communities, which was also subject to approval.

**Resolved/-**

1. The Partnership noted the appointment of the Chair of the Green City Region Partnership for the 2022/23 Municipal Year, Councillor Martyn Cox, Leader of Bolton Council.
2. That the revised Partnership's Terms of Reference for the 2022/23 Municipal Year (Annex 01 of the report) be approved.
3. The Partnership approved the new governance structure for the Challenge Groups (Annex 01b of the report).
4. That the Challenge Group Chair and Vice-Chair arrangements including changes to the Low Carbon Challenge Group be approved.
5. The Partnership approved the Terms of Reference for the Challenge Groups for the 2022/23 Municipal Year (Annexes 02 – 06 of the report).

**GMGCRP/30/22      PROGRESS REPORT – 5 YEAR ENVIRONMENT PLAN (5YEP)**

The report presented by the GMCA's Director of Environment, provided the usual update on progress of the Green City Region Partnership for the first quarter of 2022/23 and key milestones for the next quarter.

Members attention was drawn to:

- All 11 Local Area Energy Plans (LAEP) had been completed and an overarching regional plan developed. This would be considered at agenda Item 11 (Greater Manchester Draft LAEP) today.
- The first contract had been procured through the new Go Neutral Smart Energy Framework. Circa 0.445 MW battery storage at £85k (Salford City Council). A number of projects approaching the framework were from outside Greater Manchester, it was suggested that more work should be stimulated from within Greater Manchester's ten Districts. As a result, work would take place in the next quarter to encourage those sites that had been identified to move forward into development and delivery.
- Greater Manchester had submitted a bid phase 3 of the Low Carbon Skills Fund (LCSF) to provide 53 heat decarbonisation plans (£1.67m). The decision was expected in August 2022.
- TfGM had been allocated £115m from the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement for zero emission buses and fixings and fittings in depots to charge them.
- Work was underway with Stagecoach to electrify the Stockport depot, leading to the construction of the first purpose built electric bus depot in the UK.
- A textiles Task and Finish Group had formed to develop a plan with a set of actions for driving circularity in Greater Manchester and the northwest fashion and textiles sector.
- An e-learning training course on climate change for all GMCA staff was launched in June 2022. 487 staff members completed the training in the first week. The course would be made available to all Districts.
- Greater Manchester (via the Greater Manchester Environment Fund (GMEF) had secure £100k funding from the Natural Environment Investment Readiness Fund (NEIRF) to support the establishment of a Biodiversity Net Gain Investment Facility (BNGIF).

- In terms of the National Flood Risk Management Programme (2021-2027), 61 projects were underway in Greater Manchester with an anticipated spend of £142m. This would mean 10k existing homes would be better protected from future flood risk.
- The Youth Combined Authority (YCA) Green Summit listening event was planned for 14 September 2022. The YCA would host along with the Greater Manchester Mayor and Manchester Metropolitan University Student Union. 100 Key Stage 3 students would be invited from Greater Manchester.

The Partnership was informed that the annex of the report, had been updated with the most recent BEIS carbon emission data for 2022. It was reported that from 2015-2020, Greater Manchester had emitted 12.9 MtCO<sup>2</sup> more than the Tyndall budget allowed. Within the 5YEP period 2018-2022, this was 9.9 MtCO<sup>2</sup> over budget. To keep within the budget decarbonisation must be accelerated across Greater Manchester.

Members considered the report and discussions surrounded the challenging targets, rate of emissions and gaps, the impact of the pandemic, interventions to reach targets, business solutions, scaling up and finance, what could be influenced and behaviour change, lobbying points, Bee Net Zero and the Greater Manchester Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), business rates and a workplace parking levy.

### **Resolved/-**

That the Partnership noted the progress outlined in the report and the latest position set out in the dashboard attached at Annex 01 (5YEP Performance Overview) of the report.

### **GMGCRP/31/22      WORK PROGRAMME 2022/23 AND CHALLENGE GROUP UPDATES**

Consideration was given to a report presented by the GMCA's Director of Environment that outlined the work programme for the Greater Manchester Environment Directorate for 2022/23 and provided an initial list of Task and Finish activities for the Green City Region Challenge Groups. The initial list of Task and Finish activities would be

amended to reflect the changes to the group structure following the agreed changes to the Challenge Groups at Item 5 (Appointment of Chair and Terms of Reference).

It was important to note that all work detailed on the programme supported the activities of the Challenge Groups and the projects highlighted 'red' were not failing to deliver but it was an issue of scale; work needed ramping up to meet our targets.

The Challenge Group Chairs provided a presentation to accompany the report.

The Partnership agreed that a Transport Challenge Group be formed to connect transport work between the Challenge Groups and asked that the idea of a car parking levy be investigated further. GMCA, TfGM and LEP Officers agreed to provide a considerations report at the next meeting on 14 October 2022. The Chair agreed to raise this with Leaders.

#### **Resolved/-**

1. Members noted the initial Task and Finish priorities of the Challenge Groups (Annex A of the report).
2. The Partnership noted and provided comments on the work programme for the GMCA Environment Directorate to support the Challenge Groups in their work (Annex B of the report).
3. That a car parking levy considerations report be presented at a future meeting. The Chair agreed to raise this with Leaders.
4. That a Transport Challenge Group be established.

#### **GMGCRP/32/22 ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE (EVCI)**

Consideration was given to a presentation provided by TfGM's Senior Manager, Logistics and Environment Team. The presentation covered.

- Background
- Greater Manchester EVCI strategy

- EVCI in Greater Manchester
- Tariff
- Government action for charge points
- Future of EVCI study

The Partnership welcomed the presentation and discussed levelling-up and EVC points, political support, a super-hub for EVC, extra electrical capacity and infrastructure upgrades, and lessons from the Bee Network and the support available to help people due to the upfront cost, access electric vehicles such as e-hubs, car clubs, and try before you buy.

#### **Resolved/-**

That the presentation be received and noted.

#### **GMGCRP/33/22      NEGATIVE EMISSION TECHNOLOGIES – OPPORTUNITIES FOR GREATER MANCHESTER**

The Partnership considered a report and presentation introduced by the GMCA's Head of Natural Environment. The report presented an externally commissioned review of the potential future opportunities presented by negative emissions technologies (NETs) in Greater Manchester.

Members heard that the role of NETs was to address residential emissions that could not be tackled through interventions such as energy efficiency, behaviour change and grid decarbonisation. The potential for nine different technologies was explored and an action plan was proposed as to how these could be progressed.

The report was prepared by the Applied Negative Emissions Centre and was funded by the Department for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) under the Deep City Decarbonisation Project.



Members discussed if solutions were market-based and the role for Greater Manchester, stimulating innovation, funding, carbon savings, solution success, risks and investment, timescales and where the main focus should be.

**Resolved/-**

That the report prepared by the Applied Negative Emissions Centre and the accompanying presentation be noted.

**GMGCRP/34/22    GREATER MANCHESTER DRAFT LOCAL AREA ENERGY PLAN**

The GMCA's Head of Low Carbon presented a reported that provided information on the research undertaken to support the development of the ten Districts and one regional LAEP. Members heard that the GMCA was the first city region in the country to compile and complete LAEPs from street level to network.

The report and accompanying presentation sought Members' comments and feedback on the LAEPs as regional documents, which could be utilised to inform future policy, market, and investment development.

A final version of the Greater Manchester LAEPs would be presented to the GMCA for approval in September 2022.

Members discussed the carbon budget and the inclusion of transport, data analysis and delivery steps, and what the LAEPs would mean for local planning departments and governance.

**Resolved/-**

That the Partnership noted the draft Greater Manchester LAEP and its contents detailed at Annex 01 of the report and the research supporting the development of the LAEPs.

## **GMGCRP/35/22 GREEN SUMMIT PLANNING**

Consideration was given to the GMCA's Head of Sustainable Consumption and Production's report that outlined the progress made in planning for this year's Greater Manchester Green Summit.

Members wanting to be more involved in the design of the Summit were asked to contact the GMCA's Sustainable Consumption and Production Team.

### **Resolved/-**

1. That Members diarise the Green Summit for 17 October 2022.
2. That the Partnership noted the progress made in developing the event and the associated communications and engagement activity.
3. That the final event plans and agenda be presented at the next meeting on 14 October 2022.

## **GMGCRP/36/22 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next livestreamed meeting would take place virtually on 14 October 2022 at 10.00 am.