

**GREATER MANCHESTER
GREEN CITY REGION PARTNERSHIP**

DATE: Thursday 4 April 2024

TIME: 10.30 am

VENUE: Teams

AGENDA

- 1. Introduction and Apologies
(Chair) (3 Minutes)**
- 2. Chair's Announcements and Urgent Business
(Chair) (5 Minutes)**
- 3. Declarations of Interest 1 - 4
(Chair) (2 Minutes)**

To receive declarations of interest in any item for discussion at the meeting. A blank form for declaring interests has been circulated with the agenda; please ensure that this is returned to the Governance & Scrutiny Officer at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

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|---------------|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| BOLTON | MANCHESTER | ROCHDALE | STOCKPORT | TRAFFORD |
| BURY | OLDHAM | SALFORD | TAMESIDE | WIGAN |

For Agreement

4. **To approve the Minutes of the Previous Meeting dated 25 January 2024 (Chair) (5 Minutes)** 5 - 10
5. **Quarter 4 Progress Report - 5 Year Environment Plan (5YEP)** 11 - 30

Presented by Mark Atherton, Director of Environment, GMCA.

Ordinary Business

6. **Work Programme 2023/24 & Challenge Group Updates (20 Minutes)** 31 - 44

Report and presentation by Challenge Group Chairs.

For Discussion

7. **Active Travel (20 Minutes) (To Follow)**

Presentation by Dame Sarah Storey, Active Travel Commissioner.

8. **Biodiversity Emergency & State of Nature (20 Minutes)** 45 - 104

Presentation by Sam Evans, Head of Natural Environment, GMCA.

9. **Green City Region Communications (10 Minutes)** 105 - 122

Presentation by Tom Davies, Communications Manager Ignition, GMCA.

For Information

- 10. Lead Programme Update (10 Minutes)** 123 - 128

Presentation by Todd Holden, Programme & Policy Lead, GMCA.

- 11. Next 5YEP Update (10 Minutes)** 129 - 140

Report by Robyn Smith, Project Manager Environment and Low Carbon, GMCA.

- 12. Dates and Times of Future Meetings**

To be advised.

For copies of papers and further information on this meeting please refer to the website www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk. Alternatively, contact the following

Governance & Scrutiny Officer: Jenny Hollamby

✉ jenny.hollamby@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk

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Declaration of Councillors' Interests in Items Appearing on the Agenda

Name and Date of Committee: Green City Region Partnership 25.1.24

| Agenda Item Number | Type of Interest - PERSONAL AND NON PREJUDICIAL Reason for declaration of interest | NON PREJUDICIAL Reason for declaration of interest Type of Interest – PREJUDICIAL Reason for declaration of interest | Type of Interest – DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST Reason for declaration of interest |
|--------------------|--|--|--|
| All | Interim Board Member of the City of Trees | | |
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Please see overleaf for a quick guide to declaring interest at GMCA meetings.

Quick Guide to Declaring Interests at GMCA Meetings

Please note: should you have a personal interest that is prejudicial in an item on the agenda, you should leave the meeting for the duration of the discussion and the voting thereon.

This is a summary of the rules around declaring interests at meetings. It does not replace the Member's Code of Conduct; the full description can be found in the GMCA's constitution Part 7A.

Your personal interests must be registered on the GMCA's Annual Register within 28 days of your appointment onto a GMCA committee and any changes to these interests must notified within 28 days. Personal interests that should be on the register include:

1. Bodies to which you have been appointed by the GMCA.
2. Your membership of bodies exercising functions of a public nature, including charities, societies, political parties, or trade unions.

You are also legally bound to disclose the following information called Disclosable Personal Interests which includes:

1. You, and your partner's business interests (e.g., employment, trade, profession, contracts, or any company with which you are associated).
2. You and your partner's wider financial interests (e.g., trust funds, investments, and assets including land and property).
3. Any sponsorship you receive.

Failure to disclose this information is a criminal offence

Step One: Establish whether you have an interest in the business of the agenda

1. If the answer to that question is 'No' then that is the end of the matter.
2. If the answer is 'Yes' or Very Likely' then you must go on to consider if that personal interest can be construed as being a prejudicial interest.

Step Two: Determining if your interest is prejudicial

A personal interest becomes a prejudicial interest:

1. Where the wellbeing, or financial position of you, your partner, members of your family, or people with whom you have a close association (people who are more than just an acquaintance) are likely to be affected by the business of the meeting more than it would affect most people in the area.
2. The interest is one which a member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice your judgement of the public interest.

For a non-prejudicial interest, you must:

1. Notify the Governance and Scrutiny Officer for the meeting as soon as you realise you have an interest.
2. Inform the meeting that you have a personal interest and the nature of the interest.
3. Fill in the declarations of interest form.

To note:

1. You may remain in the room and speak and vote on the matter.

If your interest relates to a body to which the GMCA has appointed you to, you only have to inform the meeting of that interest if you speak on the matter.

For prejudicial interest, you must:

1. Notify the Governance and Scrutiny Officer for the meeting as soon as you realise you have a prejudicial interest (before or during the meeting).

2. Inform the meeting that you have a prejudicial interest and the nature of the interest.

3. Fill in the declarations of interest form.

4. Leave the meeting while that item of business is discussed.

5. Make sure the interest is recorded on your annual register of interests form if it relates to you or your partner's business or financial affairs. If it is not on the Register update it within 28 days of the interest becoming apparent.

You must not:

Participate in any discussion of the business at the meeting, or if you become aware of your disclosable pecuniary interest during the meeting participate further in any discussion of the business, participate in any vote or further vote taken on the matter at the meeting.



Minutes of the Green City Region Partnership
Held Virtually on Thursday 25 January 2024 at 9.30 am

PRESENT:

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Councillor Tom Ross (TR) | Portfolio Leader for the Green City Region |
| Councillor Mike McCusker (MK) | Transport Committee and Planning & Housing Commission Representative (Vice-Chair) |
| Councillor Steve Adshead (SA) | Waste Committee Representative |
| Councillor Alan Quinn (AQ) | Bury Council |
| Sue Johnson (SJ) | GMCA Chief Executive Lead for the Green City Region |
| Ivan Bolotkov (IB) | Electricity North West (ENWL) (for Item 9) |
| Louise Blythe (LB) | BBC (Chair of Communications and Marketing Challenge Group) |
| Alex Edwards (AE) | Bruntwood (for Item 10) |
| Holly Howard (HH) | (for Carl Moore/Steph Everett) Homes England |
| Paul Hooper (PH) | Manchester Metropolitan University (Chair Sustainable Consumption & Production Challenge Group) |
| Claire Igoe (CI) | Greater Manchester NHS Integrated Care |
| Michael Keddy (MK) | ENWL (for Item 9) |
| Phil Korbel (PK) | Cooler Projects |
| Carly McLachlan (MC) | University of Manchester (Chair 5 Year Environment Plan (5YEP) Challenge Group) |
| Roger Milburn (RM) | Arup |
| Liz Price (LP) | (for Andy Gibson) Manchester Metropolitan University |
| Ian Rutherford (IR) | Greater Manchester Faith Communities |
| Jonny Sadler (JS) | (for Steve Cox) ENWL |
| Anne Selby (AS) | Independent (Chair Natural Capital Challenge Group) |
| Will Swan (SW) | University of Salford (Vice-Chair Low Carbon Challenge Group) |

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Mark Atherton (MA) | Director of Environment, GMCA |
| Megan Black (MB) | Head of Logistics & Environment, TfGM |
| Sam Evans (SE) | Head of Natural Environment, GMCA |
| John Gregory (JG) | Head of Service for Environmental Assets, Bolton Council |
| Jenny Hollamby (JH) | Governance & Scrutiny Officer, GMCA |
| Sarah Mellor (SM) | Head of Sustainable Consumption & Production, GMCA |
| Sean Owen (SO) | Head of Low Carbon Policy, GMCA |
| Garry Parker (GP) | Assistant Director, Environment and Regulatory Services, Bolton Council |
| Robyn Smith (RS) | Project Manager Environment and Low Carbon, GMCA |

| Minute No | Resolutions Blue Links = Link to Livestream (available for 6 month) | Responsible |
|------------------|---|---|
| GCP/27/23 | <p><u>Apologies for Absence</u></p> <p>1. Apologies were received and noted from Jessica Bowles (Bruntwood), Steve Connor (Creative Concern), Ian Crewe and Mark Easedale (EA), Hisham Elkadi, (University of Salford), Andy Gibson (Manchester Metropolitan University), Richard Halsey (Energy Catapult), Martin Lax (TfGM), Bernard McGee (Siemens), Simon Nokes (GMCA), and Nalin Thakker (University of Manchester).</p> <p>2. That Sue Johnson be welcomed to the Partnership as the new GMCA Chief Executive Lead for the Green City Region replacing Harry Catherall. The Partnership thanked Harry for his valued contribution.</p> <p>3. That the Partnership was asked to consider its Membership before the Annual Meeting in July 2024. Suggestions to be sent to MA.</p> | <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>ALL/MA</p> |

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| GCP/28/23 | <u>Chair's Announcements and Urgent Business</u> 1. That the Partnership share the Green City Region Newsletter with their networks to increase coverage and sign up. | ALL |
| GCP/29/23 | <u>Declarations of Interest</u> 1. Councillor Alan Quinn declared a personal interest in Item 6 - Work Programme by virtue of him being a City of Trees Interim Board Member. | Noted |
| GCP/30/23 | <u>To Approve the Minutes of the Last Meeting</u> 1. That the minutes of the last meeting dated 19.10.23 be approved as a correct record. 2. That IR provide the Partnership with an update on the Food Programme Board at the next meeting on 4.4.24. 3. That CM provide the Partnership with a Green Wash Free City update at the next meeting on 4.4.24. 4. That the Active Travel Commissioner be invited to the next meeting on 4.4.24 to speak about Active Travel. | Approved IR CM MA/JH |
| GCP/31/23 | <u>Quarter 3 Progress Report – 5 Year Environment Plan (5YEP)</u> 1. That the progress outlined in the report and latest position set out in the dashboard attached at Annex 01 of the report be noted. 2. That MA provide SA with further information about the School's Eco Refill Pilot and potential expansion following the meeting and that the information be shared with the wider Partnership. | Noted MA/SA |
| GCP/32/23 | <u>Work Programme 2023/24 & Challenge Group Updates</u> 1. That the progress in developing the Mission Based Approach and the associated Challenge Groups be noted. 2. That the Greater Manchester Retrofit Taskforce proposal to drive domestic retrofit be circulated to the Partnership. 3. That the Partnership was recommended to read The State of Nature Research report by AS. | Noted WS/MA All |

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| | <p>4. That LB circulate the Take Charge initiative to the Group to amplify the work across the Partnership and that the approach be endorsed.</p> <p>5. That the lobbying and asks document that highlighted barriers to local action be updated and revisited at a future meeting with a view to sharing the Greater Manchester opinion more widely.</p> <p>6. That LB keep the Partnership updated about the Vice-Chair of the Communications and Marketing Challenge Group.</p> | <p>LB/JH</p> <p>MA/Chair</p> <p>LB</p> |
| GCP/33/23 | <p><u>Behaviour Insights Research</u></p> <p>1. That the presentation be received and noted.</p> <p>2. That to influence change a public campaign be considered about what services were available locally.</p> <p>3. That further understanding of the life segments be discussed with the Chair following the meeting.</p> <p>4. That the life segments and next steps be considered at a future meeting.</p> | <p>Noted</p> <p>SM/MA</p> <p>SM/TR</p> |
| GCP/34/23 | <p><u>Greater Manchester Environment Fund and Green Spaces Fund</u></p> <p>1. That the Partnership noted the progress in the establishment, development and growth of the Greater Manchester Environment Fund to date.</p> <p>2. That work takes place to address the challenges of decarbonising estates, Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG), carbon offsetting and green washing.</p> <p>3. That the element of social value be incorporated into all contracts.</p> <p>4. That land for tree planting be considered by the Green City Region Board and lessons learned be considered to accelerate the programme.</p> | <p>Noted</p> <p>SE</p> <p>SE</p> <p>SE</p> |
| GCP/35/23 | <p><u>Regional Energy Systems Planning (RESP)</u></p> <p>1. That the Partnership noted Ofgem's recently announced Regional Energy Strategic Planners' proposals and the detailed design phase.</p> | <p>Noted</p> |

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| | 2. That the Partnership suggested that the North RESP was too big given the advanced stages of the Local Area Network Plans (LANP). | JS |
| GCP/36/23 | <p><u>Retrofit of Commercial Buildings in Greater Manchester</u></p> <p>1. That the Partnership noted the draft report.</p> <p>2. That to evaluate the appetite of Local Authorities to accept those recommendations which would require an update to Local Plans and Local Planning Powers conversations would be progressed.</p> <p>3. That Members of the Partnership wanting to feedback further were asked to contact AE.</p> | <p>Noted</p> <p>AE</p> <p>All</p> |
| GCP/37/23 | <p><u>Greater Manchester Trade Mission to Japan and Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) Signings</u></p> <p>1. That the Partnership noted the report and progress arising from the recent mission to Japan.</p> <p>2. That the potential for further closer ties through the opportunity that the Osaka World Expo in 2025 provided be noted.</p> <p>3. That the Partnership noted the scale and innovation potential of the collective signatories of the MoUs, which had the potential to accelerate Greater Manchester's low carbon transition.</p> <p>4. That the Partnership thanked the Head of Low Carbon Policy, GMCA for his valuable work and wished him well in his new role outside the Combined Authority. The position would be advertised in the near future and the Partnership was asked to share the advert.</p> | <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>All</p> |
| GCP/38/23 | <p><u>Dates and Times of Future Meetings</u></p> <p>That the next meeting take place on 4.4.24 at 10.30 am.</p> | Noted |

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Greater Manchester Green City Region Partnership

Date: 4 April 2024

Subject: Q4 PROGRESS REPORT - 5 YEAR ENVIRONMENT PLAN (5YEP)

Report of: Mark Atherton, Director Environment, GMCA

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

The report provides the usual update on progress of the Green City Region Partnership for the fourth quarter of 2023/24 (Jan – Mar 2024) and key milestones for the first quarter of next year (Apr – Jun 2024).

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Partnership is recommended to:

1. Note and comment upon the progress outlined in this report and latest position set out in the dashboard attached at:
 - a. Annex 01 (5 Year Environment Plan Performance Overview) and available online at: [Five Year Environment Plan \(2019-24\) Progress \(gmtableau\)](#).

CONTACT OFFICERS:

Contact Officer: Mark Atherton, GM Director of Environment
Mark.atherton@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk

1. OVERVIEW OF PROGRESS

The update at Annex 01 (5 Year Environment Plan Performance Overview) contains a summary of key KPI progress across all areas within the 5 Year Environment Plan.

During the last quarter there are many key successes to be highlighted, set out below:

1.1 Energy

- Energy Efficiency Awards - GMCA won 'Regional Council or Local Authority Body of the Year', Stockport Council won 'Regional Large Scale Project (>250K) of the Year' and Rochdale Council recognised as highly commended for their 'Regional Small-Scale Project (<250K) of the Year' submission.
- DEEP Phase 3 (Heat and Energy Network Opportunity Areas) – Revised programmes are underway, with Stockport submitting their Green Heat Network Fund (GHNF) application.
- Local Area Energy Plans (LAEPs) – Department for Energy Security and Zero Net (DESNEZ) Grant Funding Agreement due to be signed for the Net Zero Accelerator (pending from Quarter 3).
- Local Energy Advice Demonstrator (LEAD) – [‘Feel the Benefit’](#) campaign launched (4th March 2024) to help Greater Manchester residents access support, advice, and potentially free upgrades to improve their homes. The campaign is being delivered through paid advertising, social media advertising and circulation of a partner toolkit.
- Go Neutral Smart Energy – Site surveys completed for six Districts (Wigan, Oldham, Bury, Salford, Rochdale, and Stockport). Tender documents being drafted for nine sites in Salford. Salford Lot 1 proceeding to procurement.
- Smart Energy – Powering our Schools Solar PV roof surveys approaching completion. Specification completed for Owner’s Engineer to provide technical advice to schools during procurement, construction, and handover.
[Largest community-owned solar array](#) has now been completed at Wellington High School in Timperley as part of Greater Manchester Community Renewables Limited (GMCR) benefit society.
- Trafford Energy Park – Project moving towards final investment decision. Phase 2 application being prepared to expand the Trafford scheme to a total capacity of up to 45 megawatts (MW).

- Bee Net Zero (BNZ) – [‘Bee Net Zero Trafford Park’](#) initiative launched (20th March 2024) to help and support businesses at Trafford Park to decarbonise.

1.2 Buildings

- Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) – SHDF Wave 1 due to close at end of March 2024 with final grant payments being made to partners. SHDF Wave 2 continues to progress across all milestones with installations and completion of works ongoing.
- Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) – PSDS 1 - Discussions ongoing with Carbon Architecture for programme extension. Final project at Ramsbottom Library, Bury expected to complete in Quarter 3. Majority of PSDS 3a single-year and multi-year programmes due to complete end of March 2024 (Manchester due August 2024, Trafford subject to further delay, expected completion October 2024). PSDS 3b - three out of four projects moving into delayed completion. SEE appointed for Measure and Verification works.
- Retrofit GM (Your Home Better) – Work on customer sites has been successfully accelerated. Links between Your Home Better and the LEAD project have been strengthened to offer additional support for customers as required.
- Good Landlord Charter – Over 270 responses received to the consultation with an additional 100+ tenants and landlords engaged through focus groups.

1.3 Transport

- Active Bee Network – Four schemes completed in the period 15th October 2023 to 15th January 2024 delivering a total of 10.3km of Bee Active Network, taking the total completed to 109.8km. Guided bike pilot on trams commenced 29th February 2024.
- Bike Hire Scheme – Starling Bank announced as the first official bike hire sponsor in January 2024 with the roll out of branded bikes progressing well. The Cycle Hire Recovery Plan remains in place with around 700 bikes available in February 2024.
- Salford E-scooter Trial – Over 1 million Lime e-scooter trips completed in Salford. This has replaced over 250,000 car trips. Lime e-scooter fleet is anticipated to grow from 550 to 800 vehicles from June 2024 and will be operational over a

greater footprint in Salford until Department for Transport (DfT) trial ends in May 2026.

- Bus Franchising - Tranche 2 commencement of services in Oldham, Rochdale, Bury, Salford and North Manchester from 24th March 2024 (a small proportion of new fleet will not be available on Day 1). Electrification of Oldham depot complete. Stockport's new transport hub and rooftop park opened to the public.
- City Region Sustainable Transport Settlements (CRSTS) Zero Emission Buses (ZEBs) – Anticipated to have 100 ZEBs operation by May 2024. This is 11.8% of anticipated fleet (850) – exceeding target of 10%.
- Streets for All - Streets for All Design Guide adopted and now in use by Local Authorities. Workshop with Planning Officers held on how the guide could be used in planning policy (to continue through 2024). Training workshops delivered to TfGM staff in partnership with GM Moving.
- [Taxi EVI project](#) - 57 (previously 42) Taxi EV charging points have been delivered out of 60 in total.
- Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Delivery – As of 1st March 2024 (Zap Map) there are 1751 publicly available connectors in Greater Manchester. Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) Capital and Capability funding allocated to Greater Manchester.
- Clean Air Plan – Evidence now submitted to Government that the proposed Greater Manchester investment-led plan can achieve compliance in 2025.

1.4 Sustainable Consumption and Production

- Scope 3 Emissions - Work continues to progress on profiling the Combined Authority's scope 3 carbon emissions. Phase 1 results now expected end of March 2024.
- Consumer Behaviour Insights – Next phase of fieldwork is due to commence April 2024 with a further three waves to follow (October 2024, April 2025, and October 2025).
- School's Eco Refill Pilot – Pilot to reduce single-use plastics and increase refill and reuse in the community is progressing. All schools have now launched their [Eco-Refill shops](#).

- Refill (City to Sea) – Communications to promote Greater Manchester as a [Refill Destination](#) are continuing with the number of Refill stations in our city region increasing.
- Food Waste Prevention – Feasibility study is underway to identify surplus food in Greater Manchester and opportunities available for redistribution. Report expected end April 2024.
- Climate Change E-learning Module – New module on single-use plastics and plastic waste in development.
- Recycle for Greater Manchester (R4GM) – Annual Food Waste Action Week (18th to 24th March 2024) supported with events at Swinton Gateway Centre, Ashton Library and Bury Market. Social media toolkit developed and distributed to Districts. [Repair Week campaign](#) delivered (11th to 17th March 2024). Two events held in the Renew Hub and general on-line promotion of repair events held across Greater Manchester including bike repair, sewing classes and repair cafes.

1.5 Natural Environment

- Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) – [State of Nature](#) report published, and [public consultation](#) released to engage residents, community groups and businesses with the strategy. Longlist of habitat priorities and measures developed, and nature recovery targets drafted. Shortlisting of priority species and opportunity mapping for nature recovery underway. Continued delivery of communications including press releases, social media content, [project blog](#) and newsletters.
- Natural Course – [Grand finale](#) held (February 2024) to celebrate the end of the project after eight and half years. Over four phases the project has completed 50 actions, 81 sub actions and 182 deliverables. Feasibility study produced by City of Trees on priority locations for future interventions to tackle contamination from road run off. Water Framework Directive resource for planners produced and online and in-person workshops held.
- Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) – New guidance published in March 2024 setting out a Greater Manchester wide approach to implementation of BNG. Work has continued with Local Authorities to progress offsetting options on land in their ownership, including a market engagement exercise led by Oldham. Walkden Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) neighbourhood progressing through detailed design work and preparations underway for delivery.

- Greater Manchester Environment Fund - [Evaluation report](#) published in March 2024. Green Spaces Fund 'before and after' social media content developed.
- Growth Locations – Project to embed LNRS and Natural Capital principles in Growth Location development and design (using Timperley Wedge as an example) concluded.
- Nature for Health – Bid submitted by Greater Manchester partners to the Green Social Prescribing (GSP) extension call on 22nd March 2024.
- Integrated Water Management Plan - Introduction video launched - [Enhancing life through water: a new way of managing water in Greater Manchester](#)

1.6 **Green Summit**

- Green Summit – Planning for Green Summit 2024 is continuing. Options paper in development.

1.7 **Greater Manchester 5 Year Environment Plan 2024 onwards**

- Work is ongoing with ARUP on the emissions pathway. Workshops have been held with 5 Year Environment Plan Challenge Groups, Youth Combined Authority, and Greater Manchester Equality Alliance for feedback on the draft actions and plan development.
- Analysis of District surveys has been completed and presented to District Officers and elected members through the Green City Region Board. Survey also circulated to elected members.

2. KEY ANTICIPATED ACTION IN THE NEXT QUARTER

As a priority, the following activities will be delivered in the next Quarter:

2.1 **Energy**

- Deep Phase 3 – Bolton and Oldham to proceed with their respective procurements. Rochdale and Stockport to commence detailed project designs in readiness for the next round of Green Heat Network Fund (GHNF) in Autumn.

- Go Neutral – Complete Salford procurement and proceed Rochdale procurement (two-three sites). Support Oldham with Wrigley Head tender and evaluation. Commence solar PV site surveys for GMCA waste sites (Reliance Street, Longley Lane, Bredbury, Cobden Street, Arkwright Street, Bayley Street, Chichester Street, Every Street, and Nash Road). Support Wigan on fleet electrification and solar PV opportunity.
- Smart Energy – Tender and appoint Owner’s Engineer to provide technical advice to schools. Continue to evaluate different finance options including Power Purchase Agreement (PPA - long-term contract to buy power between a generator and a corporate entity or Local Authority), asset finance, Local Authority borrowing and self-fund. Develop partnership with Solar For Schools Community Benefit Society (BENCOM) for PPA solution.
- Energy Innovation Agency (EIA) – Continued focus on expanding and converting end user pool into commercial delivery.
- Trafford Energy Park – Continue to progress project to final investment decision and application for expansion. Progress planning permission for new scheme in Wigan to provide hydrogen to an industrial site.
- Bee Net Zero (BNZ) – Finalise forward plan focused on five pillars of activity (Partner Support Services, Advocacy and Networks, Campaigns and Marketing, Research and Intelligence, and Major Programme Delivery). Launch BNZ commitment, accompanying roadshow and employee engagement workshop (after Purdah).

2.2 Buildings

- Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) – Continue wave 2 progress with majority of partners to have commenced on-site installations.
- Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) – Resolution and commencement of PSDS 1 Measurement and Verification approach. Continued support of PSDS 3a single-year delivery and multi-year delivery. Commence PSDS 3c programme mobilisation subject to confirmation of grant fund award.
- Retrofit GM (Your Home Better) – YHB to continue in an independent capacity without GMCA resources.
- ECO4 Flex scheme – Work with NHS Greater Manchester to enable NHS Project Manager to be in post to assist in working with GP surgeries to promote the scheme.

- Good Landlord Charter – Complete consultation analysis. Commence market engagement with potential providers of charter implementation unit.
- Net Zero New Development - Continued development of net zero homes pipeline.

2.3 Transport

- Active Bee Network – Seven additional schemes are forecast to complete in the period 15th January 2024 to 15th April 2024, delivering an additional 7.9km of Bee Active Network.
- Bike Hire Scheme - Availability to increase to 1200-1500 bikes whilst onboarding the sponsor and monitoring vandalism and theft. Re-open suspended stations. (To note: Predicted higher levels of vandalism and theft Easter to May 2024.)
- Bus Franchising – Tranche 3 mobilisation across small and large franchises. Award tranche 3 contract for schools in May 2024.
- City Region Sustainable Transport Settlements (CRSTS) Zero Emission Buses - Finalisation of plans for electrification of depots in Bolton (Phase 2), Middleton and Queens Road, and Ashton and Hyde Road. Approval of Central Park Strategic Outline Business Case prior to planning application submission.
- Bus Fare Evaluation - Summary report (wave 2) to be published online by end of Quarter 4.
- Streets for All – Greater Manchester SuDS design guide due to be published Summer 2024 with Local Authority workshops planned for Spring/Summer 2024.
- Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure (EVCI) – Conclude Taxi EVI project. Mobilisation of LEVI and CRSTS EV programmes. (To note: these programmes are not likely to involve publicly owned infrastructure.)
- Freight Strategy – Continue to develop policy in line with Local Transport Plan.

2.4 Sustainable Consumption and Production

- Scope 3 Emissions - Complete phase 2 development of action plan and toolkit to support reduction of scope 3 emissions.
- Consumer Behaviour Insights – Analysis and dissemination of phase 2 study (April 2024).
- School's Eco Refill Pilot – Continue to support the 10 pilot schools with the running of their eco refill shops, data collection and communications.

- Refill (City to Sea) – Continue to roll-out programme of communications to promote Greater Manchester as a Refill Destination and encourage businesses to sign up as a refill station.
- Foundational Economy Innovation Fund – Announcement of successful phase 2 applications expected after Purdah.
- Food Waste Prevention – Complete feasibility study to identify surplus food in Greater Manchester and opportunities available for redistribution.
- Climate Change E-learning Module – Launch new module on single-use plastics and reducing plastic waste.
- Recycle for Greater Manchester (R4GM) – Applications to the [Community Fund](#) to open on 8th April 2024 (closes 31st May 2024) with three online workshops to be held (28th March, 16th April and 8th May 2024). ‘Cotton on to Textile Recycling’ campaign to launch in April 2024 to educate residents on the correct disposal of damaged textiles.

2.5 **Natural Environment**

- Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) – Progress draft of LNRS strategy, including finalising quantitative targets, priorities, and measures. Complete opportunity mapping for nature recovery and wider engagement work and survey. Continued publication of newsletters, local nature champions and wider social media.
- Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) – Focus on emerging offsetting market in Greater Manchester including how Local Authorities will determine whether to enter into s.106 agreements, what responsible bodies might be able to enter into conservation covenant agreements and taking forward local authority sites to be able to provide offsets.
- Green Spaces Fund - Continued support and delivery of projects. Further funding rounds subject to the outcome of the Mayoral election.
- Growth Locations - Disseminate findings and learning to other Growth Locations.
- Nature for Health – Commence Green Social Prescribing (GSP) programme (subject to outcome of funding proposal).

2.6 **Green Summit**

- Consider options paper and confirm venue and date for Green Summit 2024. Begin initial communications planning including engagement with the Communications Challenge Group.

2.7 Greater Manchester 5 Year Environment Plan 2024 onwards

- Continued development of draft plan and actions. Analysis of elected members survey results.

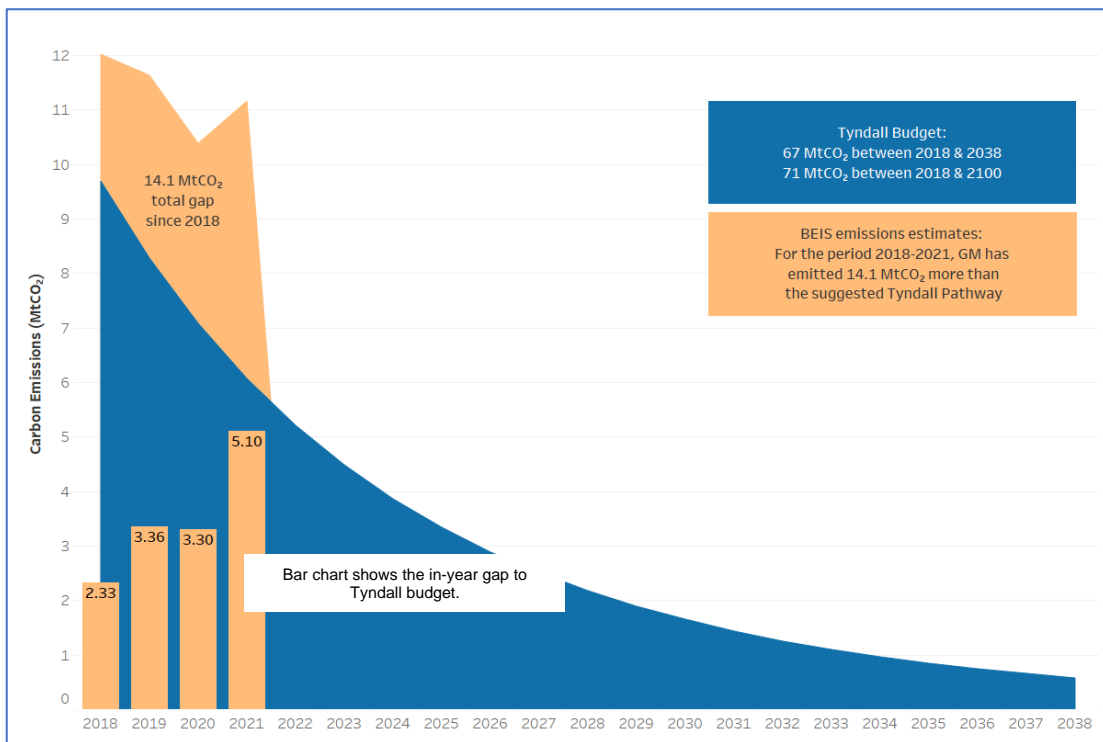
3. IDENTIFIED RISKS AND EMERGING ISSUES

- 3.1 Officers and sub-groups have identified a number of risks to existing, and particularly future, programme delivery. Mitigation of these risks, as far as possible, will be managed by the responsible Accountable Body.

In terms of the priorities set out in the 5 Year Plan, the following areas remain flagged as “red”.

Key risks:

- **Failure of the 5 Year Environment Plan to achieve a step change in reducing carbon emissions.** To achieve the 2038 mission, the GM 5-Year Environment Plan outlines our ‘fair’ carbon budget contribution of 67 mega tonnes for 20 years (2018-2038). The critical focus is not exceeding our total budget (67MtCO₂). From 2018 to 2021, GM’s emissions are 14.1MtCO₂ above the Tyndall budget, i.e. an additional 14.1MtCO₂ savings need to be made on top of the Tyndall budget. This gap has been increasing year on year, with new annual emissions data showing a rebound in emissions in 2021 as we emerged from the pandemic. The key point is that significant cuts must happen now. At our current rate of emissions, we will have exhausted our carbon budget within the next few years.



- Failure to accelerate decarbonisation of buildings to meet low carbon heating targets.** Measures continue to be implemented with a focus on accelerating decarbonisation and increasing energy generation including the launch of Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund, Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme, Go Neutral project including schools solar PV offer, and DEEP project delivery to identify Heat and Energy Network Opportunity Areas across Greater Manchester.
- Level and depth of retrofit required to meet our overall ambitions is highly challenging.** The decarbonisation of Greater Manchester homes through deeper whole house retrofit is being mitigated by the publication of a Retrofit Report that sets the priorities and framework for action and, as part of that the Retrofit Challenge Group along with the Retrofit Taskforce is focused on delivering home and building retrofit at scale. Progress is also being made with the launch of the 'Your Home Better service' and Octopus Heat Pump offer. Greater Manchester has also joined a consortium, led by the UK Green Buildings Council including West Yorkshire, London and the West Midlands and funded by Climate-KIC to develop proposals for city-led retrofit. Additionally, the GM Skills team have produced a Skills Action Plan which with the newly actioned Low Carbon Finance Challenge Group complements the exist building and energy Challenge Groups

which manage the actions arising from the Greater Manchester Retrofit Task Force, Chaired by the Mayor.

- **Failure to enhance our water bodies against level of ambition.** The GMCA, Environment Agency and United Utilities (through their Tripartite Agreement) have published an Integrated Water Management Plan to draw together a collective vision, objectives, and actions, and identify accountability and resources for delivery. The plan will deliver progressive improvements in sustainable water management, enhancement of the natural environment, accelerate natural flood management interventions and reduce the operation of storm overflows.

Previous areas flagged as “red”.

- **Failure to meet ambitious recycling and waste diversion targets.** Verified figures for 2022/2203 show a slight decrease in the recycling rate for Greater Manchester to 50.4% from 51.1% in 2021/22, compared to 48.4% in 2020/21. The previous increase in recycling rates in 2021/22 was due to improved recycling facilities across the network of 20 household waste recycling centres operated by SUEZ recycling and recovery UK. This includes new containers for mattresses, carpets, and hard plastics as well as containers where household items can be donated for reuse. Diversion from landfill remains at over 98%. Measures continue to be implemented to increase recycling rates at HWRCs and household kerbside recycling to deliver against 2024 target (55%).

4.0 RECOMMENDATION

The Partnership is recommended to:

- Note and comment upon the progress outlined in this report and latest position set out in the dashboard attached at:
 - a. Annex 01 (5 Year Environment Plan Performance Overview)

5 Year Environment Plan Performance Overview

| Progress Status | | | |
|-----------------|--|--------|-------|
| Area | Priorities/KPIs (to 2024) | Status | |
| Energy | Add at least 45MW of local renewable energy by 2024 - TARGET Reached | ↑ | Green |
| | Additional 10TWh of low carbon heating by 2024 | ↔ | Red |
| | Add at least a further 45MW of diverse and flexible load by 2024 - TARGET Reached | ↑ | Green |
| Buildings | Retrofit 61,000 homes/year (target 305,000 by 2024, 887,000 in total) | ↑ | Red |
| | Build 30,000 net zero carbon social rented homes by 2038. | ↑ | Green |
| | Reduce heat demand from existing commercial and public buildings | ↑ | Amber |
| SCP | 38% reduction in industrial emission by 2025. | ↓ | Amber |
| | Limiting any increase in waste to 20%. | ↑ | Green |
| | Achieve a recycling rate of 55% by 2024, and 65% by 2035. | ↓ | Amber |
| Natural Env. | Managing our land sustainably, including planting 1m trees by 2024. | ↑ | Green |
| | Managing our water and its environment sustainably. | ↑ | Red |
| | Achieving a net gain in biodiversity for new development. | ↑ | Amber |
| | Increasing investment into our natural environment. | ↑ | Green |
| | Increasing our engagement with our natural environment - Number of Volunteers. | ↑ | Green |
| Transport | Reduce car use to no more than 50% of daily GM trips, by 2040 (remaining 50% to be public, or active travel) | ↔ | Amber |
| | Support expansion to 200,000 EVs in city region by 2024 | ↑ | Green |

| 2038 Carbon Target | Costs | Resources | Overall Delivery | Risk |
|--------------------|-------|-----------|------------------|-------|
| Red | Green | Green | Amber | Amber |

| Key Risks | | | |
|---|------|--|-----------|
| Risk Event | Risk | Mitigation Plan | Post Risk |
| Failure of Environment Plan to achieve a step change in carbon emissions. | Red | Regular reporting to Greater Manchester Green City Region Partnership Board and WLT. | Amber |
| Level and depth of retrofit required to meet our overall ambitions is highly challenging. | Red | Focus on retrofit accelerator proposals as way of overcoming these barriers in a coordinated way. | Amber |
| Failure to enhance our water bodies against level of ambition. | Red | Intergrated water plan in place to deliver progressive improvements. | Amber |
| Failure to add an additional 10TWh of low carbon heating by 2024 | Red | Focus on acceleration of Retrofit including the launch of the 'Your Home Better' service, Octopus Heat Pump offer and DEEP project delivery. | Amber |




About this dashboard

Greater Manchester faces major environmental challenges that threaten the health and prosperity of our region. We are taking action with the Five-Year Environment Plan, launched in March 2019. The plan sets out our long-term environmental vision – to be carbon neutral by 2038 – and the urgent actions we all need to take between 2019 and 2024 to help achieve this. [You can find the plan here.](#)

This dashboard keeps track of our progress against those actions. It is divided into six pages, with a page dedicated to evaluating progress in each of the plan's priority areas. You can use the menu in the top left to navigate between them, or click on the links in the box below. For more on the data used within each screen, click on the info icon in the top right of each box (eg see the one on this box).

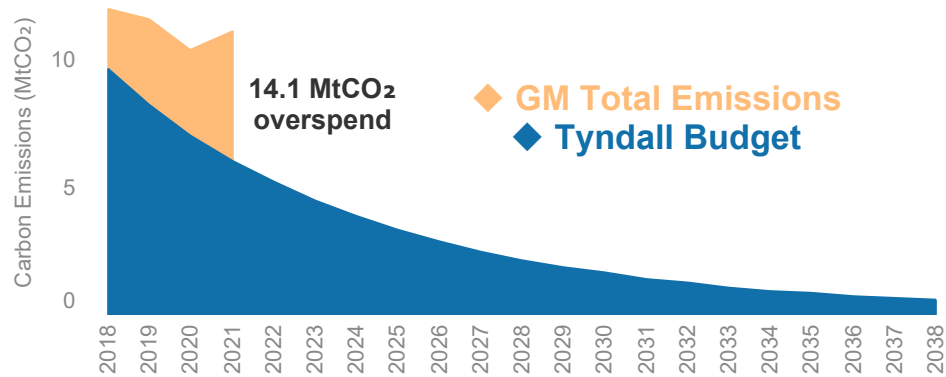
What targets are in the 5YEP and which are being tracked here? (click icon to navigate to page)

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| Category | Icon | Target | Tracking Status |
|---------------------|---|---|-------------------------|
| Emissions |  | Goal: Be carbon-neutral by 2038 | See 'Emissions' page |
| Energy |  | E1: Increase local renewable energy (electricity) generation, adding at least 45MW by 2024 | See 'Energy' page |
| | | E2: Decarbonise how we heat buildings, adding at least 10TWh of low carbon heating by 2024 | See 'Energy' page |
| | | E3: Increase diversity & flexibility of electricity supply, adding at least 45MW of diverse & flexible load by 2024 | See 'Energy' page |
| Transport |  | T1: Increase use of public transport and active travel, with car use reduced to less than 50% of daily GM trips by 2040 | See 'Transport' page |
| | | T2: Phase out fossil-fuelled private vehicles for zero emission (tailpipe) alternatives, with 200,000 EVs in GM by 2024 | See 'Transport' page |
| | | T3: Tackle the most polluting vehicles on our roads | In development |
| | | T4: Establish a zero emissions bus fleet, with all buses zero emissions (tailpipe) by 2035 | See GMS dashboard |
| | | T5: Decarbonising freight transport and shifting freight to rail and water transport | In development |
| Buildings |  | B1: Reduce heat demand from existing homes by retrofitting 61,000 homes per year | See 'Homes' page |
| | | B2: Reduce heat demand from existing commercial and public buildings by 10% by 2025 | In development |
| | | B3: Reduce heat demand in new buildings, with all new development net zero carbon by 2028 | In development |
| SCP |  | SCP1: Produce goods more sustainably, reducing emissions from industry by 38% by 2025 compared to 2018 levels | See 'SCP' page |
| | | SCP2: Become more responsible consumers, with 2024 waste production increased by no more than 20% from 2018 | See 'SCP' page |
| | | SCP3: Manage our waste as sustainably as possible, achieving a recycling rate of 55% by 2024 | See 'SCP' page |
| | | SCP4: Reduce unnecessary food waste | In development |
| Natural Environment |  | NE1: Manage our land sustainably, including planting 1m trees by 2024 and improving greenspace for nature | See 'Natural Env.' page |
| | | NE2: Manage our water and its environment sustainably, enhancing 542km of waterways by 2027 | See 'Natural Env.' page |
| | | NE3: Achieve a net gain in biodiversity for new development | In development |
| | | NE4: Increase investment into our natural environment | In development |
| | | NE5: Increase engagement with our natural environment, through volunteering and access to local greenspace | See 'Natural Env.' page |

All

How is GM progressing against the 2038 carbon budget?

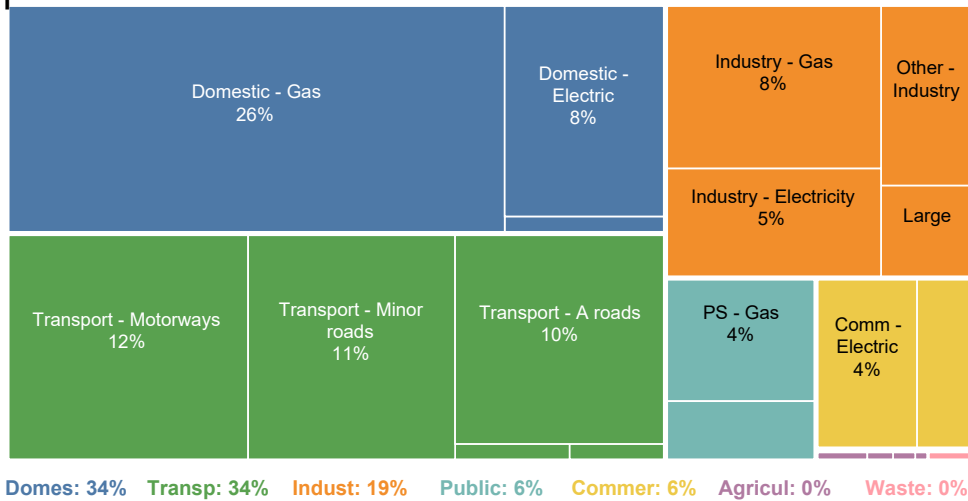


What is GM's 'business as usual' emissions forecast?

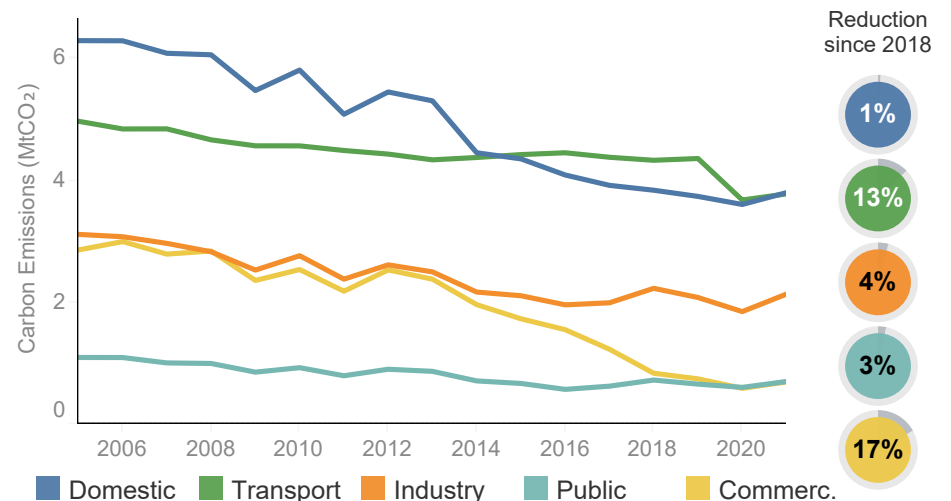


In development

Where are our emissions coming from?



How have our emissions changed over time?

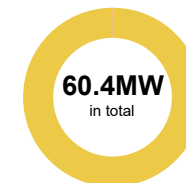
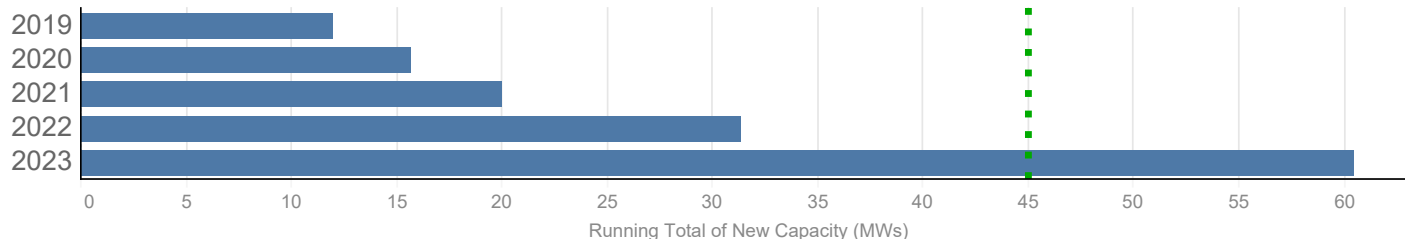


Greater Manchester's Energy Supply

Choose which local authorities to focus on: Greater Manchester

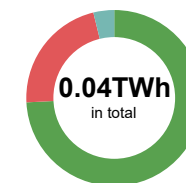
◆ Operational ◆ Under Construction - - - Target

E1: Increase local renewable energy (electricity) generation, adding at least 45MW by 2024



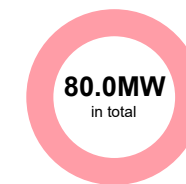
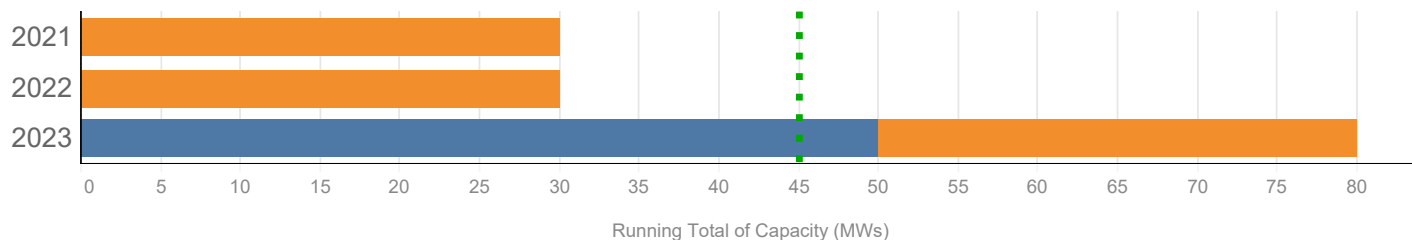
◆ Solar Photovoltaic

E2: Decarbonise how we heat buildings, adding at least 10TWh of low carbon heating by 2024



◆ Ground/Water SHP ◆ Solar Thermal ◆ Air SHP

E3: Increase diversity & flexibility of electricity supply, adding at least 45MW of diverse & flexible load by 2024



◆ Battery

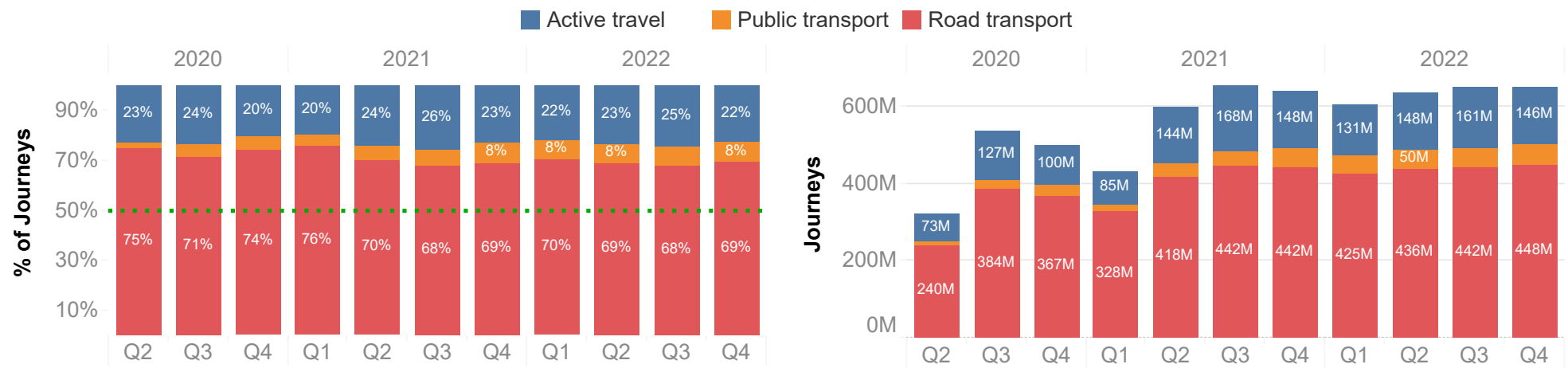
Journey mode

Journey quarter

All

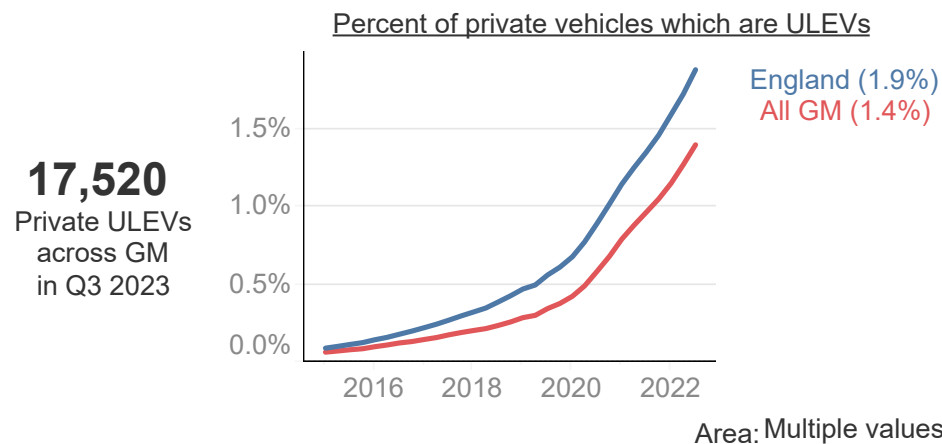
All

T1: Reduce car use to no more than 50% of daily GM trips by 2040 (with the remaining 50% made up of public and active travel)

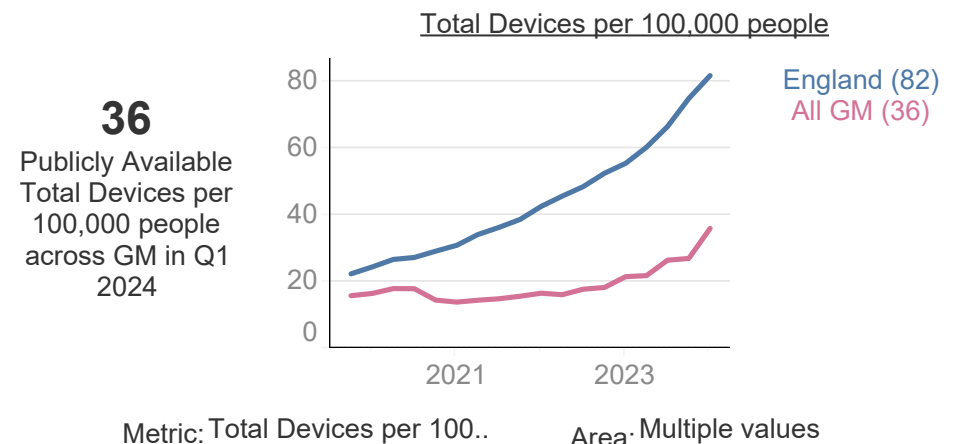


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T2: Support expansion to 200,000 EVs in GM by 2024



T2: Increase the number of publicly accessible EV charging points



Local Authority

Tenure

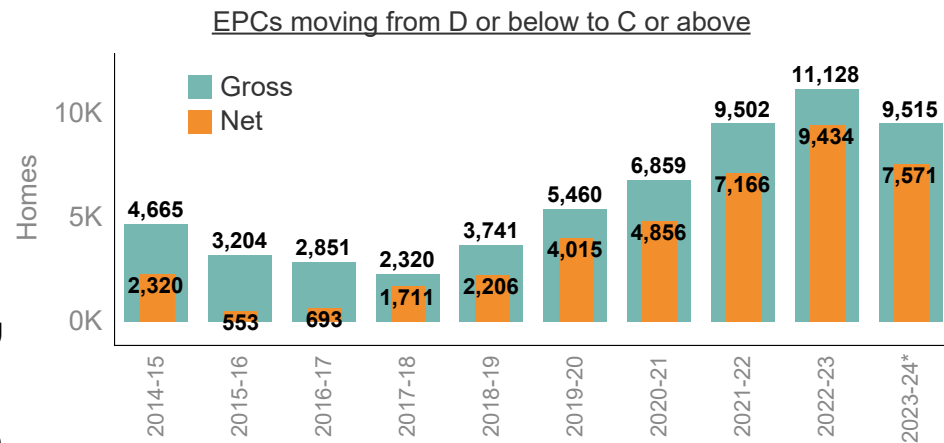
Property Type

All

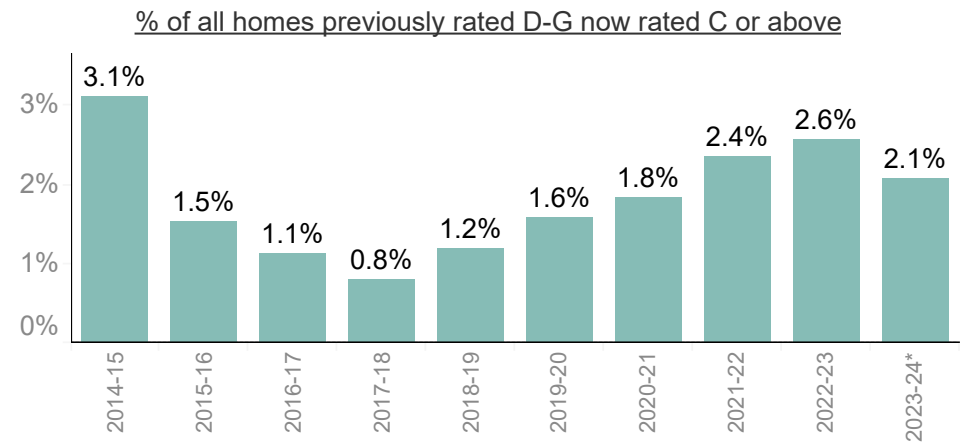
All

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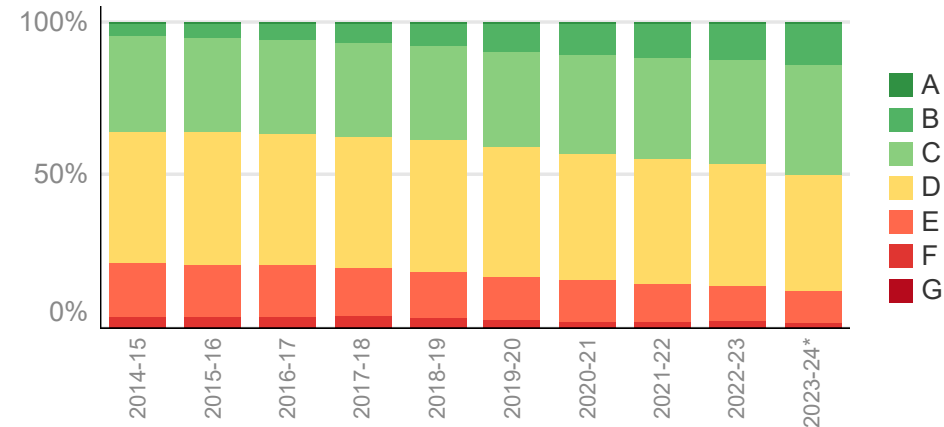
B1: Retrofit 61,000 homes per year (305,000 by 2024)



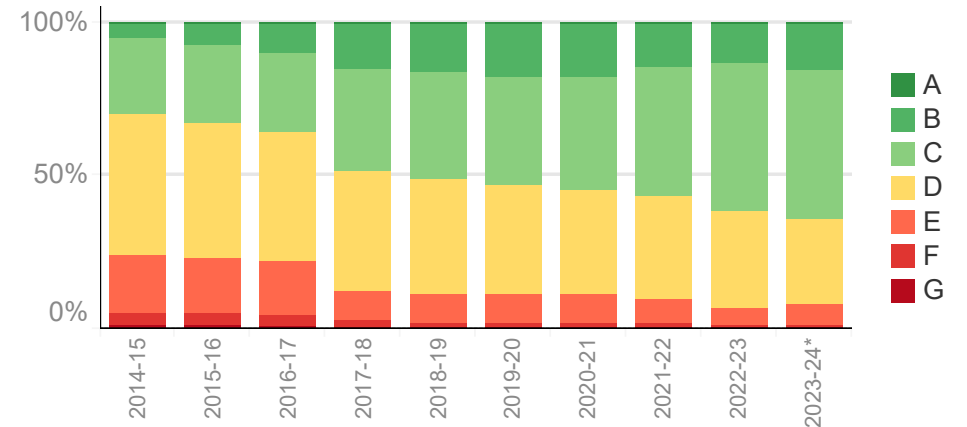
What proportion of inefficient homes are improving each year?



Proportion of EPC certificates in each band (all EPCs to date)

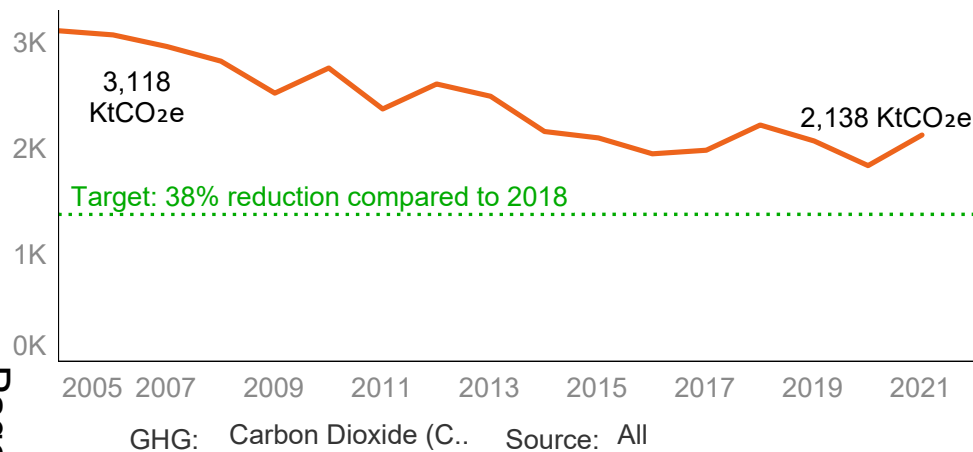


Proportion of EPC certificates in each band (registered in that year)

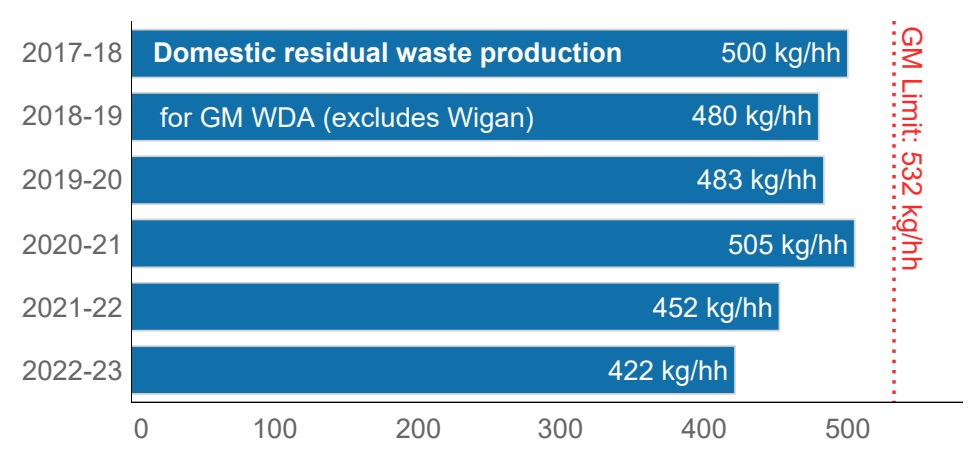


Filter data by area: Greater Manchester

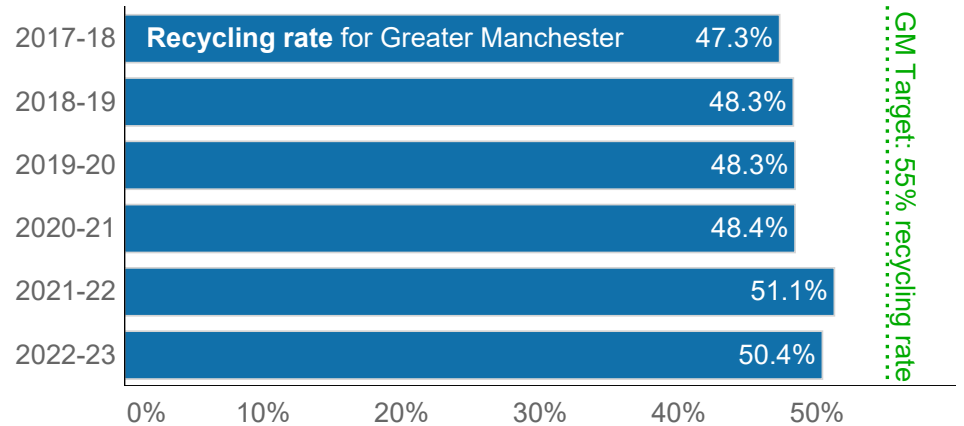
SCP1: Reduce industrial emissions by 38% by 2025



SCP2: Limit any increase in 2018 levels of waste to 20% by 2024



SCP3: Achieve a recycling rate of 55% by 2024

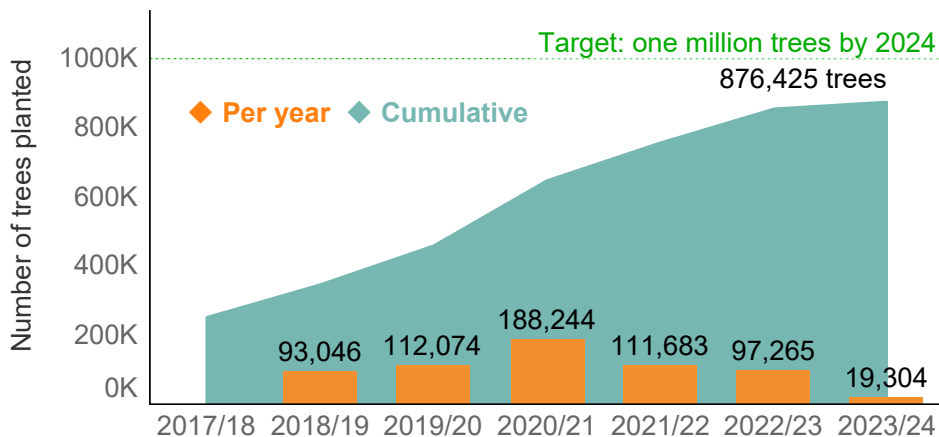


In development



In development

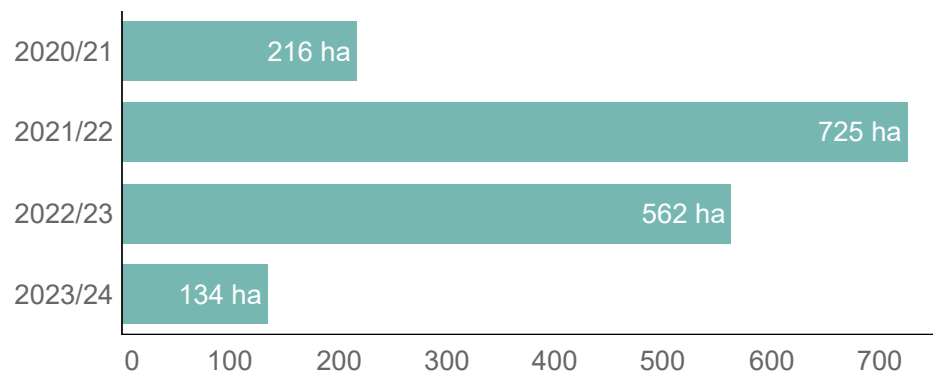
NE1: Plant one million trees by 2024



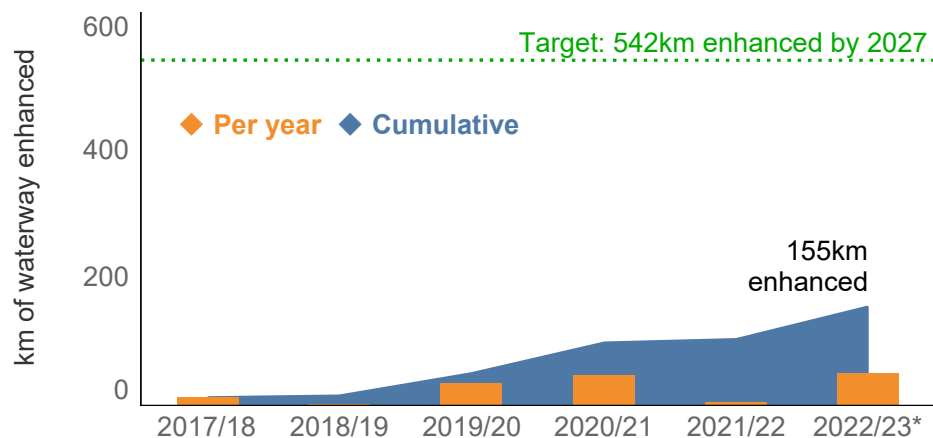
NE1: Improve existing areas of greenspace for nature



Area of existing greenspace improved for nature (hectares)



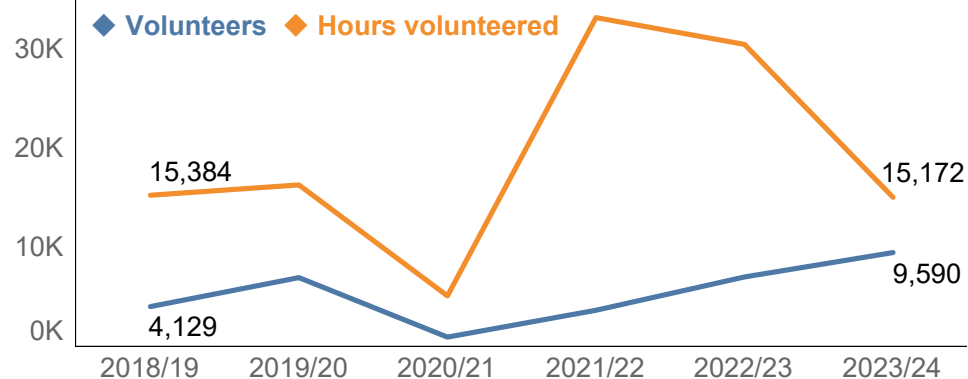
NE2: Enhance 542km of waterways by 2027



NE5: Increase engagement with natural environment



Volunteering related to the natural environment





Greater Manchester Green City Region Partnership

Date: 4 April 2024

Subject: Challenge Group Updates

Report of: Challenge Group Chairs/Vice Chairs

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

The purpose of this report is to outline the progress made by the 5 Year Environment Plan (5YEP) Challenge Groups in developing their key priorities through Task and Finish Groups

The accompanying presentation provides an updated overview of the Challenge Group priorities and how these are being delivered through Task and Finish Groups.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Partnership is asked to:

- Note the progress in developing the Mission Based Approach and the associated Challenge Groups.
- Consider any particular issues raised by the Challenge Group Chairs or Vice Chairs.

CONTACT OFFICERS:

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Robyn.Smith@greatermanchesrer-ca.gov.uk

1.0 INTRODUCTIONS

The purpose of the Challenge Groups is:

- Deliver the 5YEP work programme
- Report back on progress and key challenges/barriers to the Green City Region Partnership
- Utilise lobbying/influencing function when appropriate to drive agenda.
- Work in collaboration with other challenge groups to identify cross cutting issues.

All challenge groups have given their feedback on the development of the 5 Year Environment Plan including the existing vision and the draft LA actions. This feedback is now being collated and will be brought to the next round of challenge groups for further discussion.

2.0 GREEN COMMUNICATION DELIVERY CHALLENGE GROUP

Topics discussed

Since the last partnership meeting the challenge group has continued its work on three main work streams

- 1) Campaign sharing and amplification – a document has been developed to track all partners campaigns.
- 2) Feel the Benefit Campaign – has now been launched and aims at increasing awareness of and engagement with the home energy upgrade support available to GM residents.
- 3) Resident top tips – materials developed by challenge group organisations to communicate top actions for residents is being collated to support alignment of communications to GM residents.

Future priorities/work/topics

- Supporting 5YEP communications
- Continuing to utilise each other's channels and networks to amplify communications.
- Early engagement in the development of the next Green Summit
- Opportunity to look at influencing behaviours e.g. communicating the top 10 actions people can take.

3.0 LOW CARBON

Topics discussed

The last meeting of the challenge group focused on three key updates

- 1) 5YEP Development
- 2) Net Zero Accelerator
- 3) ENWL Connections Reform

Challenges/opportunities raised

- Further suggestions were given on additions to the next 5YEP including challenges with resources, waste heat from data centres and behaviour change.
- The group expressed interest in seeing future updates on the Net Zero Accelerator as it develops.
- The group expressed the need to understand the national link on the ENWL Connections Reform.

Future priorities/work/topics

- Retrofit and decarbonisation of heat were identified as the key areas of challenge to explore at future meetings.
- A future draft of the 5YEP will be brought to the next meeting.

4.0 NATURAL CAPITAL GROUP

Topics discussed

The Natural Capital Executive Group's recent meeting included presentations on

- Local Nature Recovery Strategy
- 5YEP Development
- Engagement and Communications
- Developing a GM Project Map
- Environmental Land Management Scheme

Challenges/opportunities raised

- The need to ensure the LNRS and 5YEP are linked up and that the role of each is clearly defined.
- To continue to engage the group on the Peatland recovery work being led by Natural England and a possible group being set up to explore issues further.
- There was a significant discussion on the engagement item with suggestions that more could be done to promote and gain funding for volunteering opportunities.
- Flagged the stakeholder gaps that the NCG might wish to address but also the need to join up with other Challenge Groups to engage some stakeholders, such as developers, collectively.

Future priorities/work/topics

- Continued engagement on the 5YEP and LNRS
- A Climate Adaptation Plan is being developed that this group will contribute towards.

5.0 SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

Topics discussed

At the last meeting the Challenge Group had updates on the following items;

- GM Fashion and Textiles from MMU.
- The 5YEP and had a chance to feedback on the waste and resources section.

Challenges/opportunities raised

- A discussion was held on the new subgroups that are being set up with an ask made to members to consider which task and finish group they would like to join.
- The group provided feedback on the 5YEP development.

Future priorities/work/topics

- Continued engagement on the 5YEP.

6.0 FIVE YEAR ENVIRONMENT PLAN FORUM

Topics discussed

- 5YEP development
- LTP development

Challenges/opportunities raised

- The group provided feedback on the air quality and waste and resources actions in the plan.
- There was discussion on how the LTP and 5YEP linked together ensuring that they are aligned.

Future priorities/work/topics

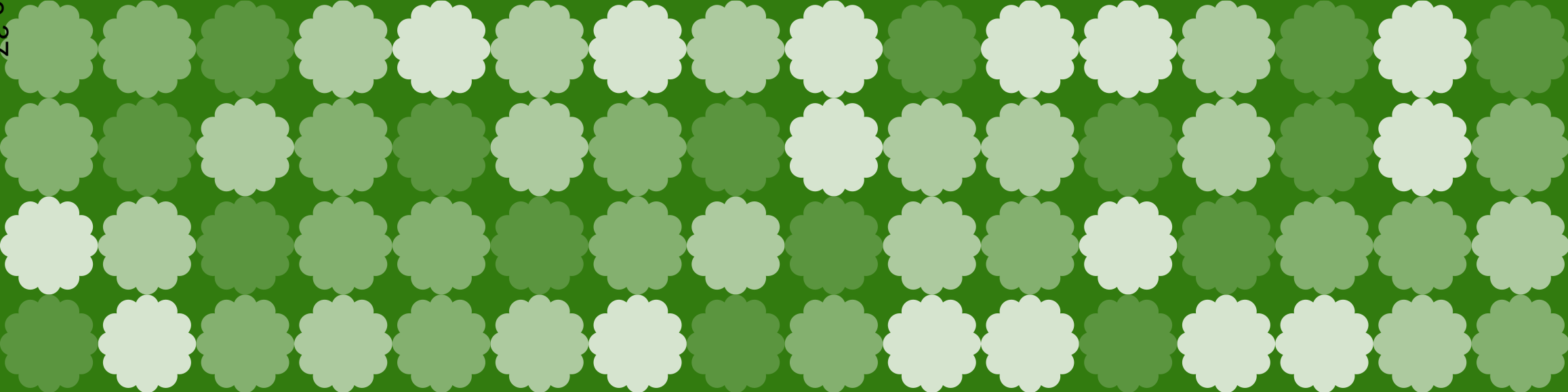
- Continued engagement on the 5YEP.
- To bring back the lobbying work and discuss next steps.
- Greenwash free city initiatives.

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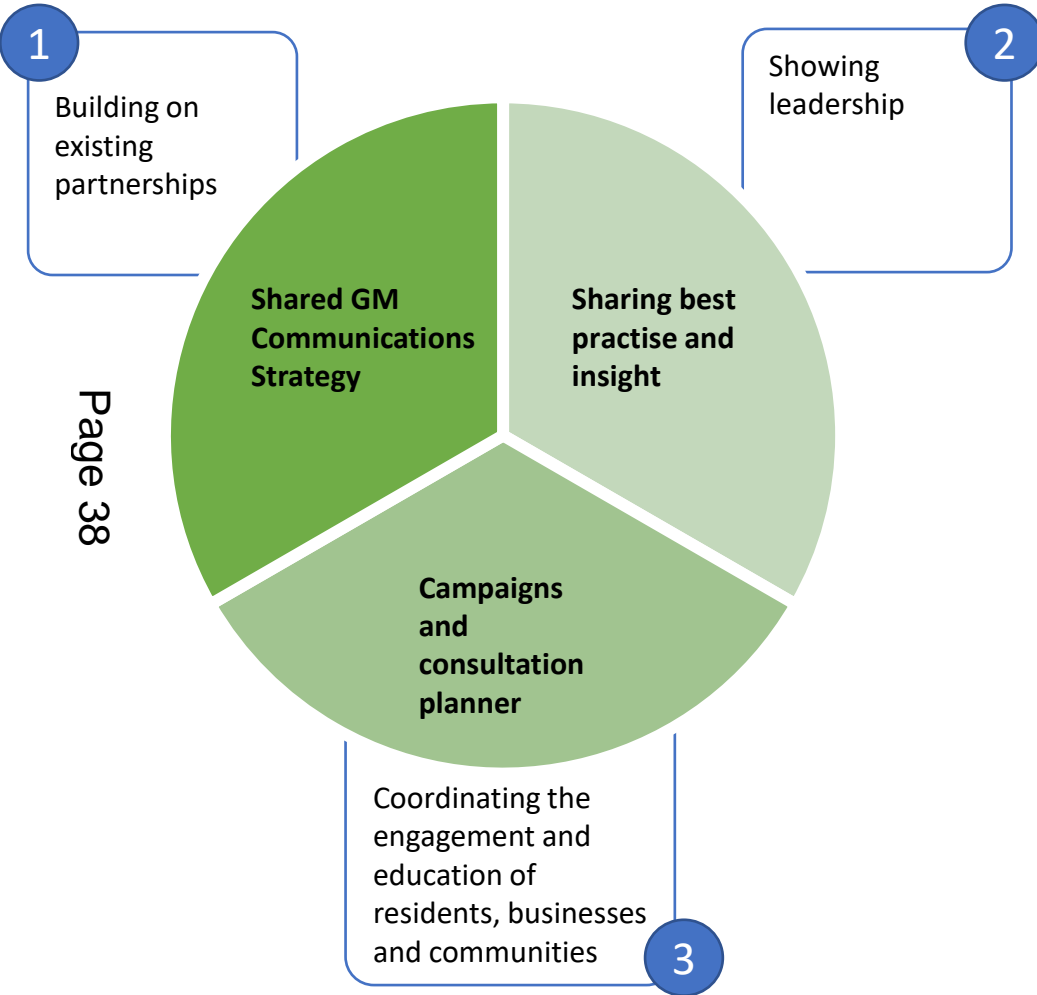
Challenge Group Work Programme Update

Item 6a

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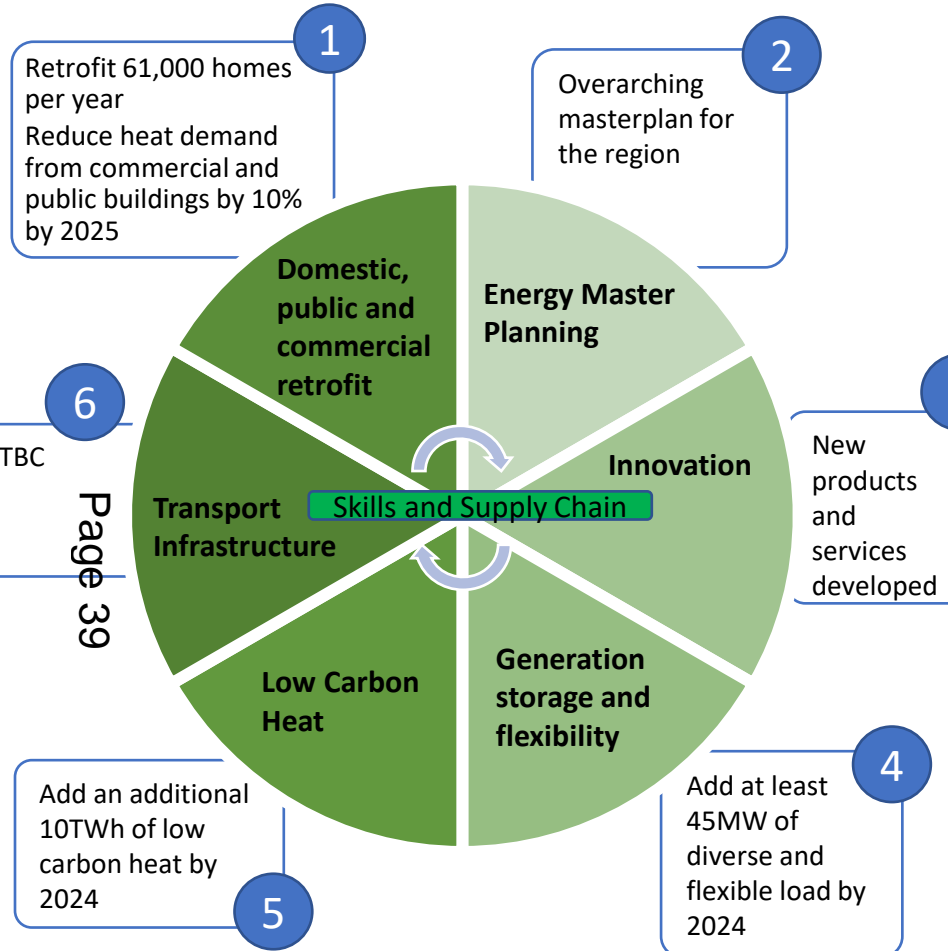
Green Communications Delivery



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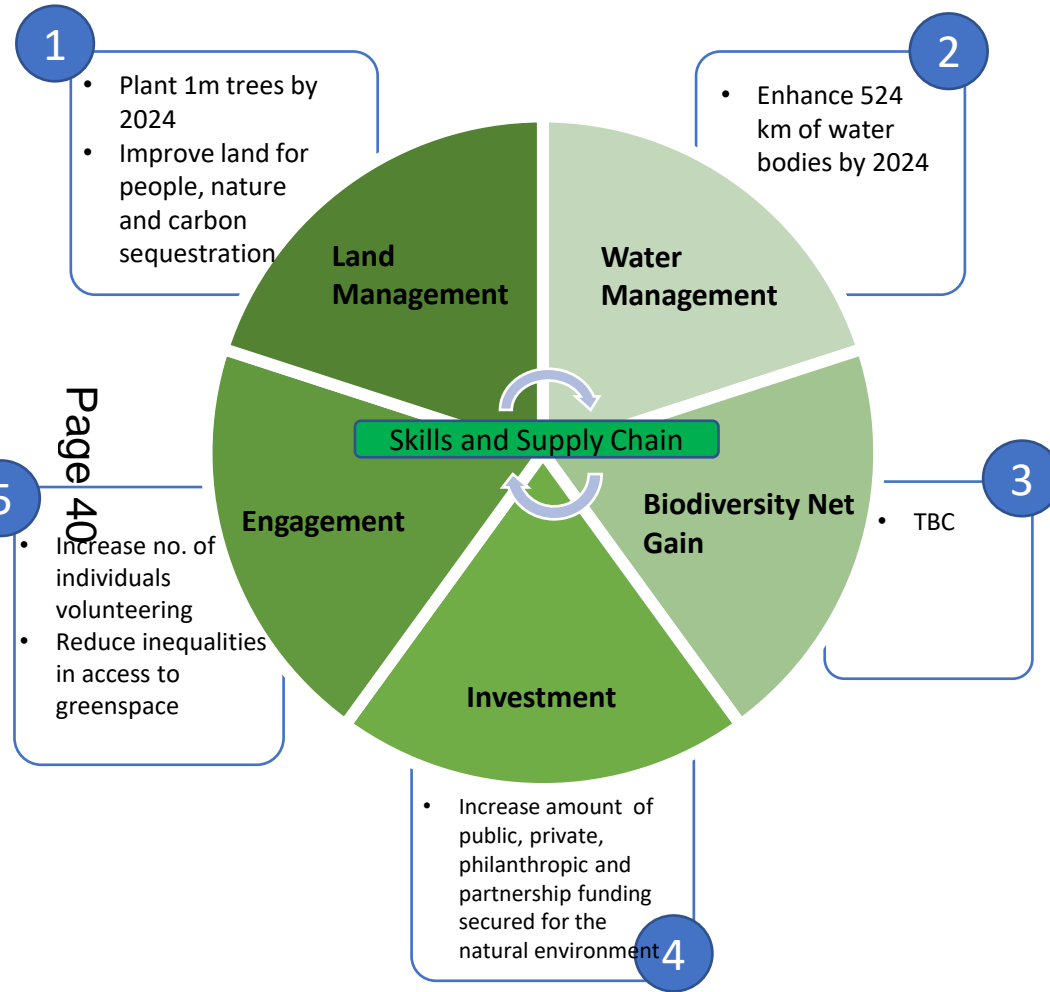
| Project/Task | Lead | SYEP KPI | Deliverable | RAG |
|---|------|----------|---|-----|
| Deliver on shared GM Communications strategy | All | 1 | Continued sharing / alignment of campaigns across the group | |
| Support listening events by supporting events in own organisations | All | 1 | Series of listening events to be delivered to support communication of next SYEP | |
| Development and launch of a resident-targeted sustainable lifestyles campaign: Content-driven social campaign focused on what a sustainable lifestyle looks. Drawing on behaviour insights and working closely with the districts on delivery to drive GM residents to change their behaviours in achievable ways. | GMCA | 2 | Communications toolkit, social media content / graphics, updated 'top actions' section of Green City website | |
| Feel the Benefit Campaign external facing campaign targeting different resident audiences. Will incorporate LEAD, ECO and Your Home Better. | GMCA | 3 | Campaign look and feel, partner communications toolkit, advertising – launched 4 th March 2024, ongoing activity through to April 2025 | |
| Powering Greater Manchester: external facing campaign targeting audience groups based on their circumstances (e.g. schools, commercial building owners etc), helping them switch to low carbon energy. | GMCA | 3 | Campaign look and feel, partner comms toolkit – second phase of campaign to be rolled out Q2/3 | |
| Local Nature Recovery Strategy: campaign driving key stakeholder groups to engage with the development of the LNRS, alongside championing those already setting the standard for nature recovery. | GMCA | 3 | Campaign social content, case studies, stakeholder update newsletters, project blogs, input survey, public consultation, State of Nature report launched (5 th March 2024) | |

Low Carbon



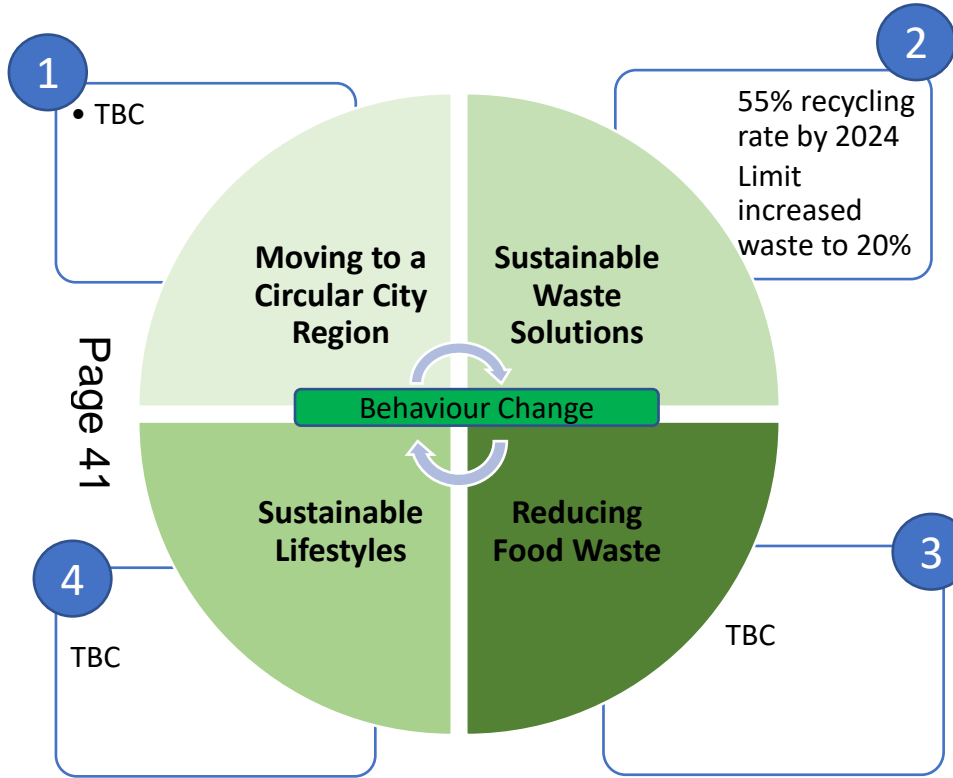
| Project/Task & Finish Group | Lead | Priority | Deliverable | RAG |
|---|--|----------|--|--------|
| Your Home, Better | GMCA/Retrofit Works | 1 | Deliver able to pay retrofit scheme | Yellow |
| Retrofit Skills T&F | UoS/ Retrofit Taskforce | 1 | Deliver skills plan for retrofit | Green |
| Retrofit Finance T&F | GFI/Retrofit Taskforce | 1 | Work with the retrofit taskforce to deliver finance plan for retrofit | Green |
| Local Energy Advice Demonstrator | GMCA | 1 | Deliver energy advice service to residents | Green |
| Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund Wave 1,2 | GMCA/RPs | 1 | Deliver retrofit measures to 1286 properties wave 1, 23/24 40% of grant funding wave 2 | Yellow |
| ECO 4 | GMCA` | 1 | Deliver whole house retrofit to circa 600 fuel poor/low income homes | Yellow |
| ERDF Homes as Energy systems | Procure Plus | 1 | Deliver energy efficiency and technologies measures to GM homes | Green |
| People Powered Retrofit – One Stop Shop | Carbon Coop | 1 | Launch of offer for early adopter, owner occupier able to pay | Green |
| Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme 3a single/multi and 3b | DoPE Group | 1 | Complete retrofit measures of public buildings | Yellow |
| Commercial buildings | Bruntwood/MCCA | 1 | Engage with commercial building partners to deliver retrofit programme | Yellow |
| Net Zero Accelerator | GMCA | 2 | Address barriers to drive investment while testing innovative models for delivery | Green |
| Energy Innovation Agency (EIA) | Universities/Bruntwood/SSE/GMCA/ Hitachi | 3 | Support businesses and bring new technologies to market | Green |
| Hydrogen Fuel cell | MMU/Cadent | 3 | Explore hydrogen fuel cell innovation | Green |
| Trafford Energy Park | Carlton Power | 3 | Local green hydrogen production | Green |
| Go Neutral & schools solar PV | GMCA | 4 | Develop pipeline to deliver 85MW of Solar PV | Green |
| Faith community energy | Diocese of Salford | 4 | Deliver renewable energy and decarbonisation of faith buildings | Green |
| Heat Pump Offer | Octopus | 5 | Heat Pump offer for households | Yellow |

Natural Environment



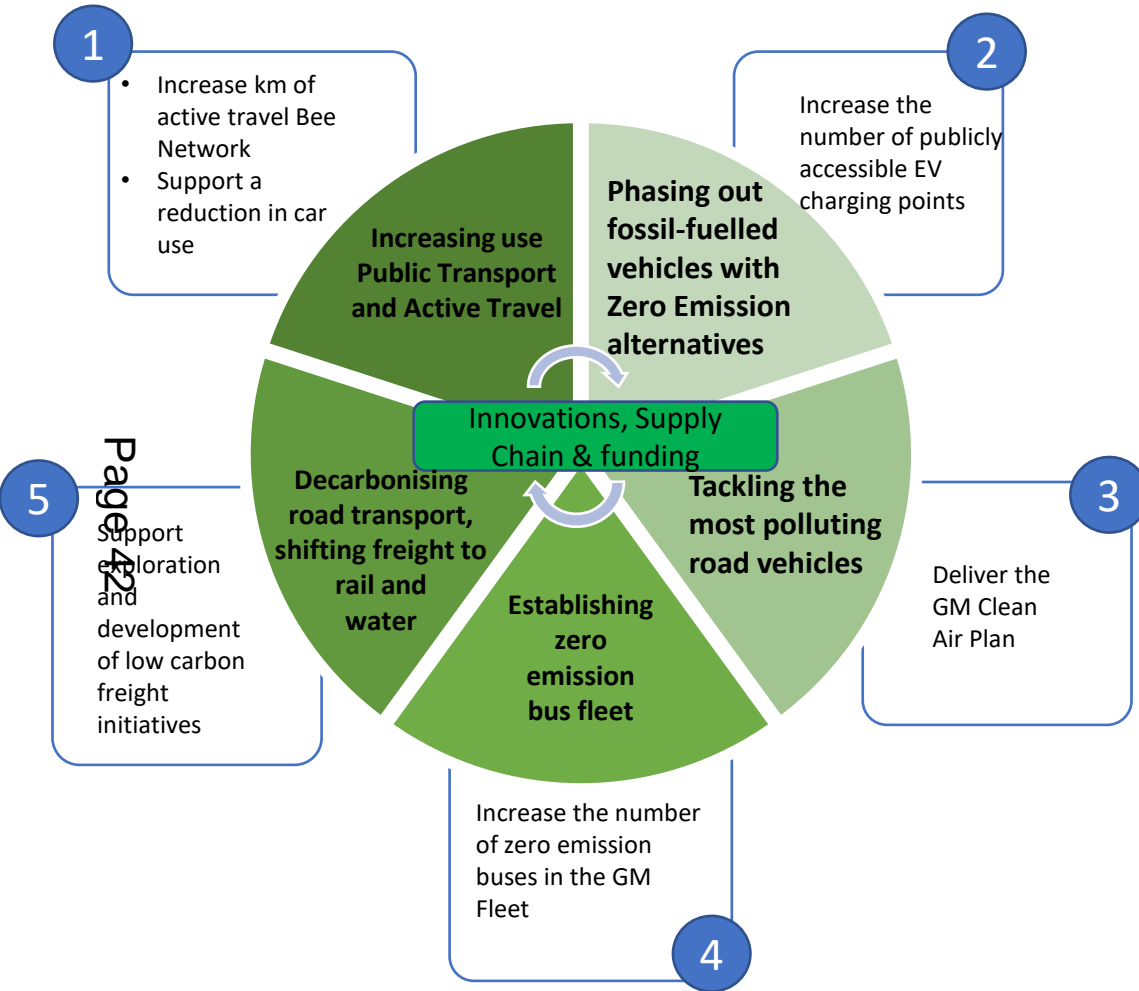
| Project/ Task | Organisation | 5YEP KPI | Deliverable | RAG |
|---|-----------------|----------|--|-----|
| GM Tree and Woodland Strategy | City of Trees | 1 | Increased tree cover and benefits provided by them, through planting 1m trees by 2024 | |
| Peatland restoration | Natural England | 1 | Re-run the state of the bog work (uplands) Re-run the peat pilot (lowlands) | |
| Natural Course | GMCA/EA | 2 | Develop next stage of INNS following 2022 survey Deliver survey on distribution of otters Deliver microplastic study | |
| Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) | GMEU | 3 | Prepare for and support the districts to deliver BNG. | |
| Local Nature Recovery Strategy | GMCA | 3 | Scope and develop Local Nature Recover Strategy | |
| Nature Based Solutions Delivery | GMCA | | Assembly of funding to take forward delivery of SuDS Retrofit on public estate (Project Raincoat) Walkden SuDS Neighbourhood detailed design and begin construction SuDS Design Guide (TfGM) | |
| GM Environment Fund and Green Spaces Fund | GMET | 4 | Support organisations delivering Green Spaces Fund projects and launch round 4 Increase public, private and philanthropic and partnership funding | |
| Natural Environment Social Prescribing activity | GMHSCP | 5 | Increased number of individuals volunteering and with access to green space, facilitated by a programme of green social prescribing | |

Sustainable Consumption and Production



| Project/ Task | Lead | 5YEP KPI | Deliverable | RAG |
|---|-----------------------|----------|---|-----|
| Sustainable Procurement | GMCA | 1 | Work with procurement team to develop sustainable procurement practices | |
| Scope 3 emissions | GMCA/LAs | 1 | Work with LAs on scope 3 emissions plan | |
| CIRCuit: CE in the Built Environment | ReLondon | 1 | Deliver innovation interventions looking at circular economy in the built environment | |
| Resource/consumption mapping (textiles) | MMU | 1 | Support delivery of textiles sub groups - data mapping, recyclables, productions | |
| Food roadmap and strategy | GM Food Board | 3 | Development of food vision and toolkit | |
| Net Zero Business support programme | Growth Co | 4 | Support business net zero development | |
| R4GM | GMCA | 4 | Deliver waste recycling/Reduction campaigns | |
| Single Use Plastics | GMCA/LAs | 4 | Work with local authorities to reduce sups | |
| Behaviour Insights | GMCA/TfGM | 4 | Deliver behavioural insights work to inform sustainable lifestyles | |
| Bee Net Zero | GM LEP | 4 | Deliver a programme of business support | |
| Roll out programme of carbon literacy | Carbon Literacy Trust | 4 | Deliver carbon literacy courses | |

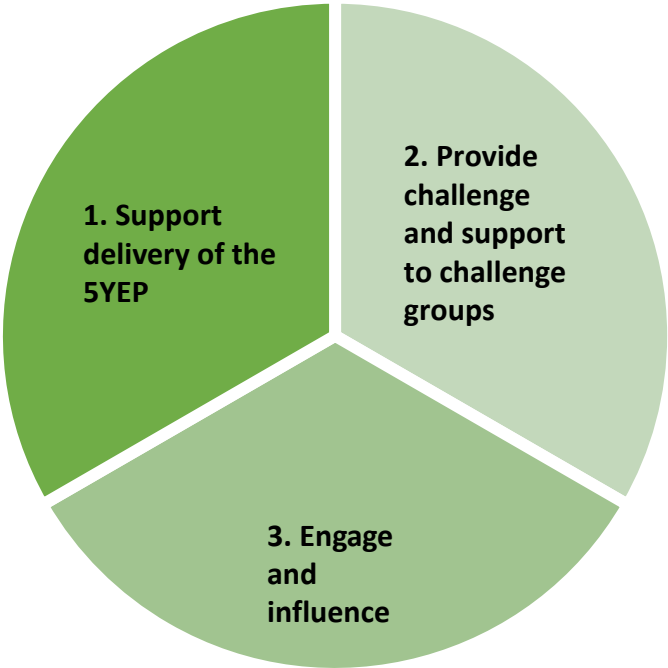
Transport



| Project/Task | Lead | SYEP priority/KPI | Outcome | RAG |
|---|------|-------------------|---|----------|
| Active Travel Bee Network | TfGM | 1 | To provide cycling and walking routes to get people moving | |
| GM Bike Hire Scheme | TfGM | 1 | Promotes and supports modal shift to encourage more walking, cycling and "active" lifestyles | |
| E-Hubs Pilot – cargo bikes | TfGM | 1 | To pilot the use of cargo bikes | Complete |
| E-scooter trials | TfGM | 1 | Part of DfT trial to see how e-scooter rental schemes can be successfully operated in the UK | |
| ZEBRA funding | TfGM | 2 | Introduction of 170 zero emission buses and new electric depot in Stockport | |
| CRSTS funding | TfGM | 2 | A third of the bus fleet as zero emission by 2027. | |
| Clean Commercial vehicle fund: HGV – replacement and retrofit | TfGM | 3 | Clean Air Plan fund to replace or retrofit HGV vehicles that are not compliant with clean air standards | |
| Clean Bus Fund: replacement and retrofit | TfGM | 3 | replace or retrofit buses that are not compliant with clean air standards | |
| Deliver the GM Clean Air Plan | TfGM | 3 | tackle NO2 Exceedances at the Roadside by 2026 | |
| EV charging network to support 200k vehicles | TfGM | 4 | Increased number of publicly owned EV connectors in GM | |
| Establish how the public sector can best influence the rollout of EVC | TfGM | 4 | Commission Greater Manchester EVCI Study | Complete |
| Incorporation of Freight Strategy principles and objectives into the next LTP | TfGM | 5 | Support exploration and development of low carbon freight initiatives | |

Five Year Environment Plan Forum

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| Project/Task | Lead | 5YEP KPI | Deliverable | RAG |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------|--|-----|
| 5YEP Development | GMCA/All | 1 | Provide feedback on development of next 5YEP and content | |
| Support challenge group delivery | All/Challenge group chairs | 2 | Regular review of challenge group programmes | |
| Lobbying asks | GMCA/All | 3 | Support lobbying via GCRP and national asks | |
| Greenwash free city initiative | UoM Tyndall/Carbon Literacy | 3 | Develop guidance on sponsorship and advertising | |



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Greater Manchester Green City Region Partnership

Date: 4 April 2024

Subject: Update on the Biodiversity Emergency and State of Nature Report

Report of: Sam Evans, Head of Natural Environment, Greater Manchester Combined Authority

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

To provide an update on initiatives in place to tackle the Biodiversity Emergency in Greater Manchester, particularly the activities being carried out by the GMCA in:

- Providing an evidence base on the current state of nature in Greater Manchester.
- Developing a Greater Manchester Local Nature Recovery Strategy to set out priorities for nature's recovery.
- Developing an action plan, as part of its compliance with the Biodiversity Duty, to set out the action the GMCA will take for biodiversity.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Partnership is requested to note the contents in the attached report, in particular:

1. The publication of a State of Nature Report.
2. Progress in developing the Greater Manchester Local Nature Recovery Strategy.
3. Compliance with the Biodiversity Duty.

CONTACT OFFICER

Sam Evans Samuel.evans@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk

1. The Biodiversity Emergency

1.1 Greater Manchester Combined Authority declared a biodiversity emergency in March 2022. This reflected the need for more urgent and ambitious action to tackle the decline in the diversity and abundance of key species and habitats across the city-region.

1.2 There have been efforts across Greater Manchester, both within the private, public and third sectors, to try to halt this decline. The Greater Manchester Combined Authority is playing its part in these, including in:

- Providing an evidence base on the current state of nature in Greater Manchester.
- Developing a Greater Manchester Local Nature Recovery Strategy to set out priorities for nature's recovery.
- Developing an action plan, as part of its compliance with the Biodiversity Duty, to set out the action the organisation will take for biodiversity and to contribute to the achievement of national goals and targets on biodiversity.

1.3 These are each covered in further detail below.

2. The State of Nature in Greater Manchester

2.1 To better understand the scale of the biodiversity emergency locally, a report on the State of Nature in Greater Manchester has been produced by the Greater Manchester Combined Authority and key partners, and is attached at Annex A.

2.2 This report brings together available local evidence and highlights the urgent challenges faced by nature across the city-region.

2.3 It covers trends in wildlife populations, the extent and condition of our most important spaces for nature, the use of land, pressures on nature, wider benefits we receive from nature and people's access to nature and engagement with it.

2.4 The report is being used to communicate the need for everyone to work together to halt and reverse the decline in biodiversity.

3. The Greater Manchester Local Nature Recovery Strategy

3.1 A [Local Nature Recovery Strategy](#) (LNRS) for Greater Manchester is in development, which will set out how and where everyone can work together to help nature recover across the city-region. A total of 48 individual strategies will cover all of England, collectively forming a National Nature Recovery Network.

3.2 The strategy for Greater Manchester will set out priorities and targets for nature recovery, measures to help deliver them and maps of where action should be taken. These priorities, maps and targets will support the planning system and help direct funding (public, philanthropic or private) for nature recovery.

3.3 Since commencing development of the strategy last summer, significant engagement has taken place, including the launch of a public survey. This engagement will continue with a public consultation later this year before the publication of the final strategy in 2025.

4. The Biodiversity Duty

4.1 Since the declaration of a Biodiversity Emergency, the Environment Act 2021 has introduced the Biodiversity Duty on public bodies, including all Local Authorities.

4.2 Under the Biodiversity Duty, public authorities must:

- Consider what you can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity.
- Agree policies and specific objectives based on your consideration.
- Act to deliver your policies and achieve your objectives.

4.3 The Greater Manchester Combined Authority has considered what it can do on its part to conserve and enhance biodiversity and is now agreeing policies and specific objectives to form part of an action plan, to sit under the GMCA Sustainability Strategy.

5. Recommendations

5.1 The Partnership is requested to note the contents in the attached report, in particular:

1. The publication of a State of Nature Report.
2. Progress in developing the Greater Manchester Local Nature Recovery Strategy.
3. Compliance with the Biodiversity Duty.

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Greater Manchester State of Nature

March 2024



**GREATER
MANCHESTER**
DOING THINGS DIFFERENTLY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Photo credit: Andy Hankinson

Our headline findings



Our wildlife populations are declining

Individual bird species population has declined up to 40% over the last 40 years and populations of common mammals have dropped by between 20-40% since 1995.



Our protected sites are valuable refuges for wildlife

...but cover only 11% of GM, are highly fragmented, and are not in as good a condition as they could and should be.

Our natural environment provides us with around

£1bn

of benefits each year

...but these are under threat with the continuing decline in nature.



Our peatlands have been degraded by human activity over two centuries and now emit carbon rather than locking more of it away.



80% of our waterbodies have been heavily modified by human activity

...and none of our rivers are assessed as being in good ecological condition.

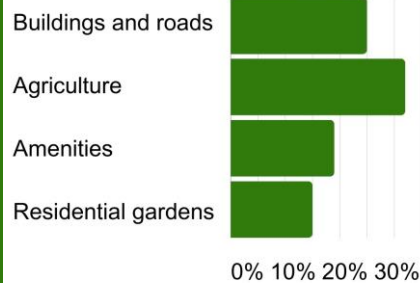
Our tree canopy covers

16%

of Greater Manchester

with the management of existing woodlands and trees under-resourced when compared to the creation of new woodlands and planting of new trees.

Estimated land use in GM



...leaving less than 10% dedicated to nature.

93%

of residents surveyed consider it important or very important to live close to greenspace. But an estimated third of GM's population do not live within 15 minutes of a greenspace.

Introduction

What is the Greater Manchester State of Nature Report?

Greater Manchester's first State of Nature Report has been compiled to highlight the urgent challenges faced by nature across the city-region, reflected in the declaration of a biodiversity emergency in Greater Manchester in March 2022. The report covers trends in our wildlife and most important spaces for nature, the use of land and pressures on nature, the wider benefits we receive from nature and people's access to nature and engagement with it.

How was it created?

This report brings together available open-access local environmental data to report on some of the major trends in nature across our city-region. Where no local data are available, regional or national data have been included. A 'call for evidence' was also run during summer 2023, where anyone could submit relevant evidence regarding the state of nature.

Who compiled this report?

The Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA), in collaboration with a range of partners, has compiled this report. In doing so, GMCA recognises that the data available on the state of nature is far from complete and that we need to understand more about the historic and current trends in species and habitat decline across Greater Manchester. GMCA will continue to work with partners to improve our understanding of these trends.

How will it be used?

The report will be used to help develop Greater Manchester's Local Nature Recovery Strategy, which will set out how we can all play our part in turning around the alarming and continuing decline in biodiversity in the city-region. GMCA hopes all those working with and with an interest in nature will be able to use this report to inform the action they can take to help nature recover.

Summary

In compiling Greater Manchester's first State of Nature report, we have sought to bring together openly available data which can provide insight across a range of environmental issues at a city-region scale.

Some of our headline findings are:

- Echoing national trends, key species of birds and mammals in Greater Manchester and the North West of England are declining. Individual bird species population show declines of up to 40% over the last 40 years and the abundance of once common mammals has dropped by between 20-40% since 1995.
- Our protected sites provide valuable refuges for nature but cover just 11% of Greater Manchester and are highly fragmented rather than forming a connected network for nature. Although recovering at present they are not in as good a condition as they could be.
- 80% of our water bodies have been heavily modified by human activities. Currently none of our rivers are in good ecological condition and we are far from meeting national targets for 75% of our waterbodies to reach this status.
- Our tree canopy covers 16% of Greater Manchester and significant efforts are being made to increase the number of trees being planted across the city-region. However, our existing woodlands could be much better managed for nature.
- Most residents surveyed considered it important or very important to live close to green space. However, an estimated third of Greater Manchester's population do not live within 15 minutes travel of a decent sized green space.
- Our natural environment provides us with a range of benefits, from improved health and wellbeing to carbon sequestration and reduced air pollution. Every year Greater Manchester residents benefit from around £1bn in free services from our natural environment.

In compiling this review, we recognise that the data we have available is far from complete and provides just a high-level snapshot into the Greater Manchester environment. We acknowledge the need to understand more about the historic and current trends in species and habitat decline across Greater Manchester. We will continue to work with our partners to improve our understanding of these trends.

Contents

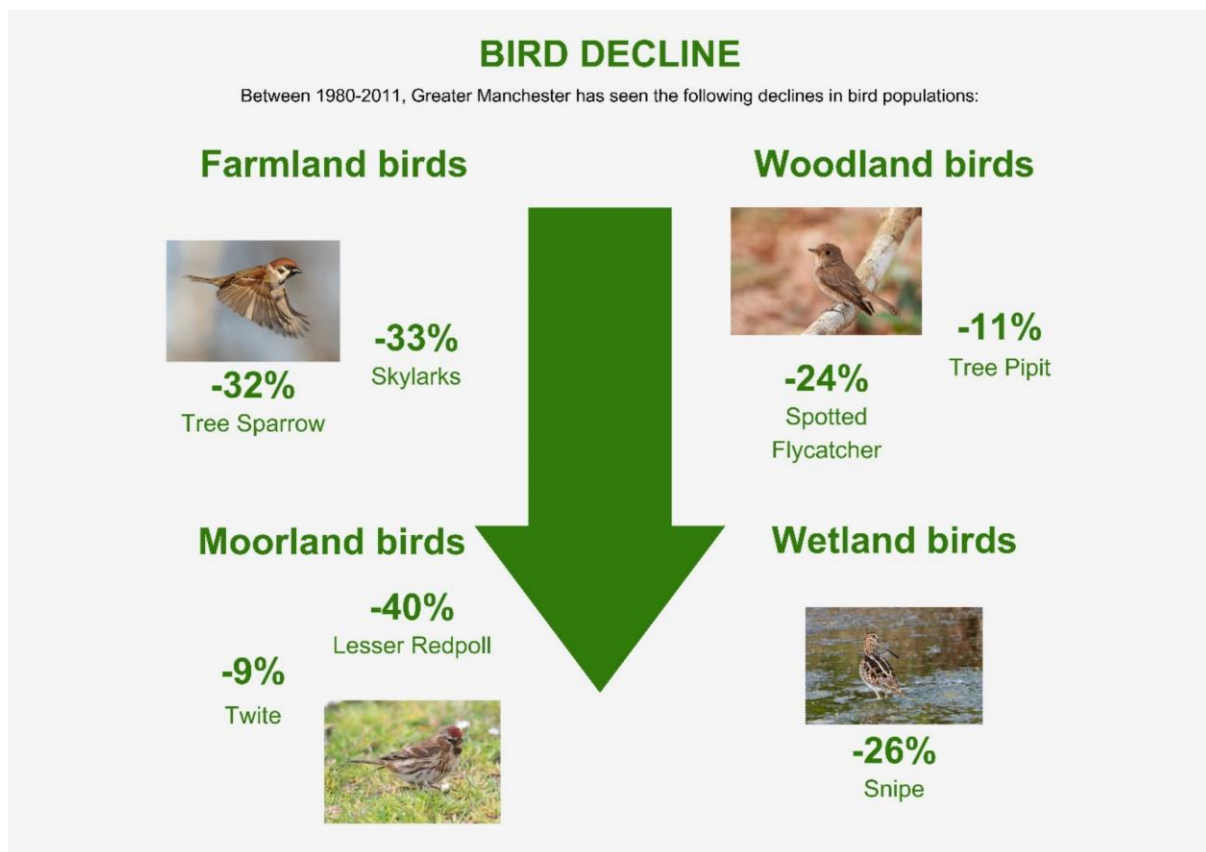
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Our wildlife

Over the last 50 years we have seen a drastic loss in global wildlife populations, with a reported decrease of 69% in their abundance¹. Nationally, 1 in 6 UK species are now threatened with extinction and over the past 500 years, an estimated 200 species have likely been lost². For mammals the threat is higher with 1 in 4 land mammals in the UK facing extinction^{1,2}. UK populations of species of greatest concern have declined by 37% since the 1970s and wider populations have fallen by on average by 20%^{2,3}. We do not have a comparable assessment for Greater Manchester, however local data show a similar decline.

Our birds

Bird populations are used to provide a good indication of the broad state of wildlife in the UK. Greater Manchester is home to many populations of birds. Mirroring national trends, we have seen some worrying declines in our bird populations³.



Our mammals

The population trends for mammals are relatively poorly known in Greater Manchester and we are reliant on data for the whole of the North West⁴. 25-year trends for the North West show us that we are losing once common species.

MAMMAL DECLINE

Between 1995-2021, the North West has seen the following declines in mammal populations:



-44%
Red Fox



-64%
Rabbits



-8%
Brown Hare



-24%
Hedgehogs

Species return

Across Greater Manchester there are also reasons to be optimistic that nature can recover and stories of species returning:

Otters

Between the 1950s and the 1970s the **Otter population** in the UK dwindled to near extinction. In recent years there have been increasingly regular sightings of Otters across Greater Manchester. Otters have now been sighted in over half of Greater Manchester's catchments⁵. A strong indication that they are now resident and increasing their distribution.

Fish

Our post-industrial legacy of poor water quality meant that the River Mersey and its tributaries were devoid of **fish populations** by the early 1970s. Surveys completed in 2018 found that fish and Mayflies have now returned to all areas of the river⁶.

Butterflies

The Large Heath Butterfly, locally named as the **Manchester Argus Butterfly**, died out in Greater Manchester due to habitat loss and destruction. However successful reintroductions by the Great Manchester Wetlands Species Reintroduction project have introduced a new self-sustaining population on Astley Moss⁷.

Birds

An iconic heathland and moorland species, **Nightjars** were lost as a breeding bird in Greater Manchester when its habitats on Chat Moss were destroyed. Following three years of peatland restoration efforts, Nightjars and other bird species are now beginning to return to Chat Moss⁸.

Bog plants

Following successive reintroductions of specialised **bog plants** in recent years, tens of thousands now thrive on Greater Manchester's lowland peatlands, thanks to work of Lancashire Wildlife Trust and the North West Rare Plants Initiative. Sundew one of the UK's few native carnivorous plants can now be found on the mosslands, along with Lesser Bladderwort, Bog Asphodel and White Beak Sedge.

Our spaces protected for nature

Nature reserves and protected wildlife sites provide wildlife with vital refuges. Safeguarded due to their value for nature, they benefit from limits on activities in and near them that might adversely affect wildlife. These sites vary in type, purpose and in the level of protection they have, from national to local level designations.

Sites protected for nature

Since the 1980s there has been an increase in the number and area of new sites for nature conservation in Greater Manchester.

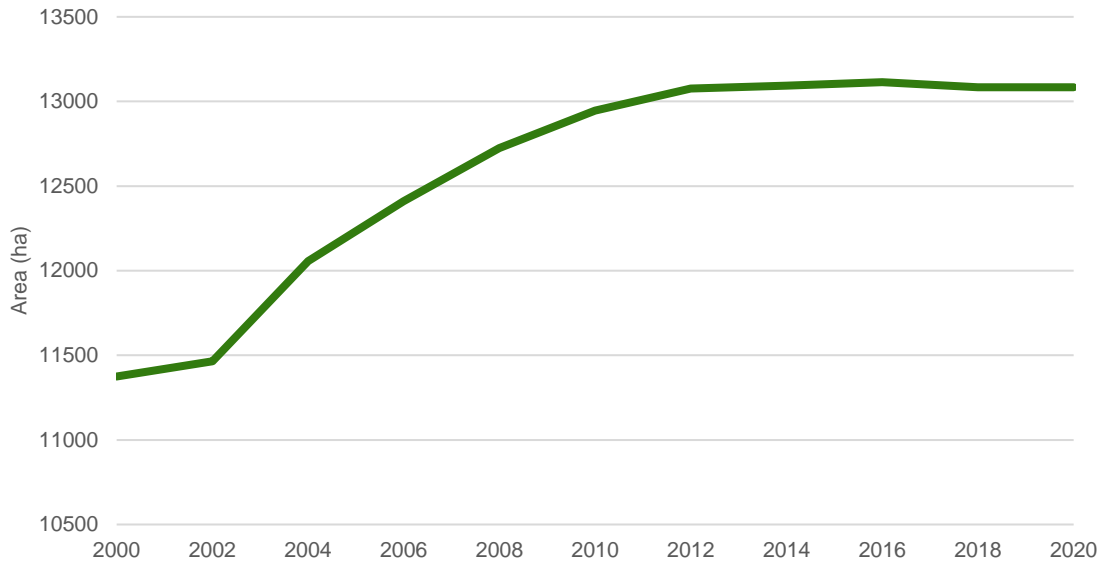
11% of land in Greater Manchester is now protected for nature through a variety of different designations⁹. In comparison 14% of Liverpool is designated¹⁰ and 24% of Lancashire. The total area of sites designated for nature has risen from around 5,000ha in the 1980s to over 14,000ha in 2019¹¹.



| Highest level of protection, primarily for nature conservation | Area (ha) | Percentage of GM's total land area |
|--|-----------|------------------------------------|
| Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protected Areas | 4,093 | 3.2% |
| Sites of Special Scientific Interest (excluding above) | 1,088 | 0.9% |
| National Nature Reserves (excluding above) | 650 | 0.5% |
| Local Nature Reserves (excluding above) | 1,750 | 1.4% |

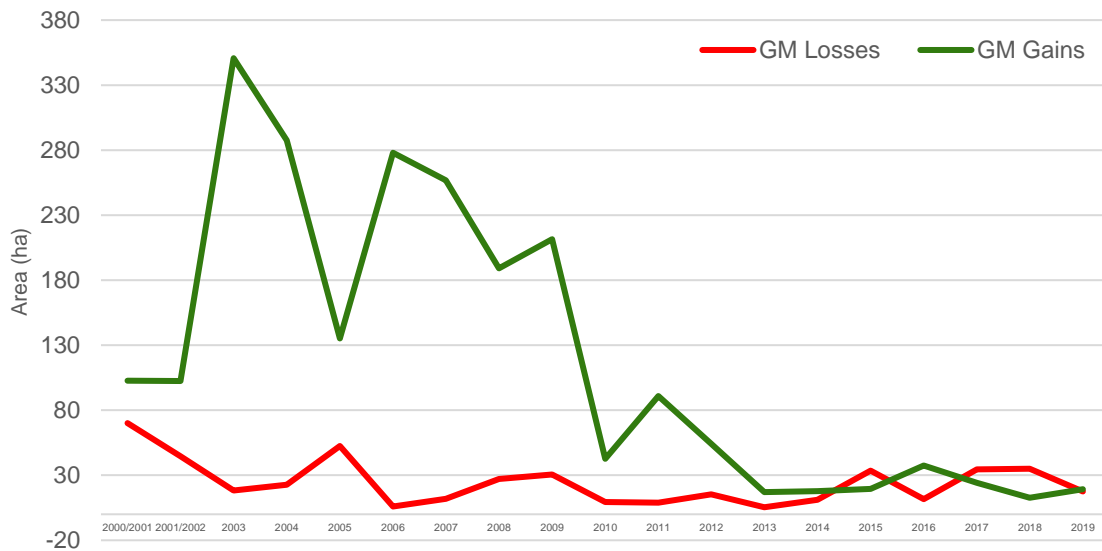
| Designated for high biodiversity value but not fully protected | Area (ha) | Percentage of GM's total land area |
|---|---------------|------------------------------------|
| Local Wildlife Sites (Sites of Biological Importance) (excluding above) | 6,821 | 5.4% |
| Total | 14,402 | 11.3% |

Over the last decade, the positive trend of annual increase in the amount of our land protected for nature has plateaued.



Total area of Local Wildlife Sites in Greater Manchester (ha)¹¹

Although new sites have been designated – for example the [Flashes of Wigan and Leigh National Nature Reserve \(external website\)](#) and the [Local Nature Reserve at Kenworthy Woods in Manchester \(external website\)](#) – some sites, or parts of sites, are also being lost due to lack of appropriate management and land use change¹¹. The annual losses and gains over the last decade are shown below. Over the past decade the total area of sites selected as Local Wildlife Sites has remained stagnant.



Annual losses and gains in the area of Local Wildlife Sites in Greater Manchester (ha)¹¹

Condition of sites protected for nature

The fact that areas of protected sites are being lost highlights the need for their appropriate management, to ensure they are best condition possible for nature. We know more about the condition of sites that are designated at a European (SAC and SPA) and national (SSSI and NNR) level than we do about those designated locally (LNR and LWS).

Condition of our Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)

National goals target 50% of our most protected sites (our SSSIs) to have actions on track to achieve “favourable” condition by 2028 and that 75% of sites should reach “favourable” condition by 2042¹². In Greater Manchester, all Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) are also designated as SSSIs, so this target applies to all of these sites (5,831ha).

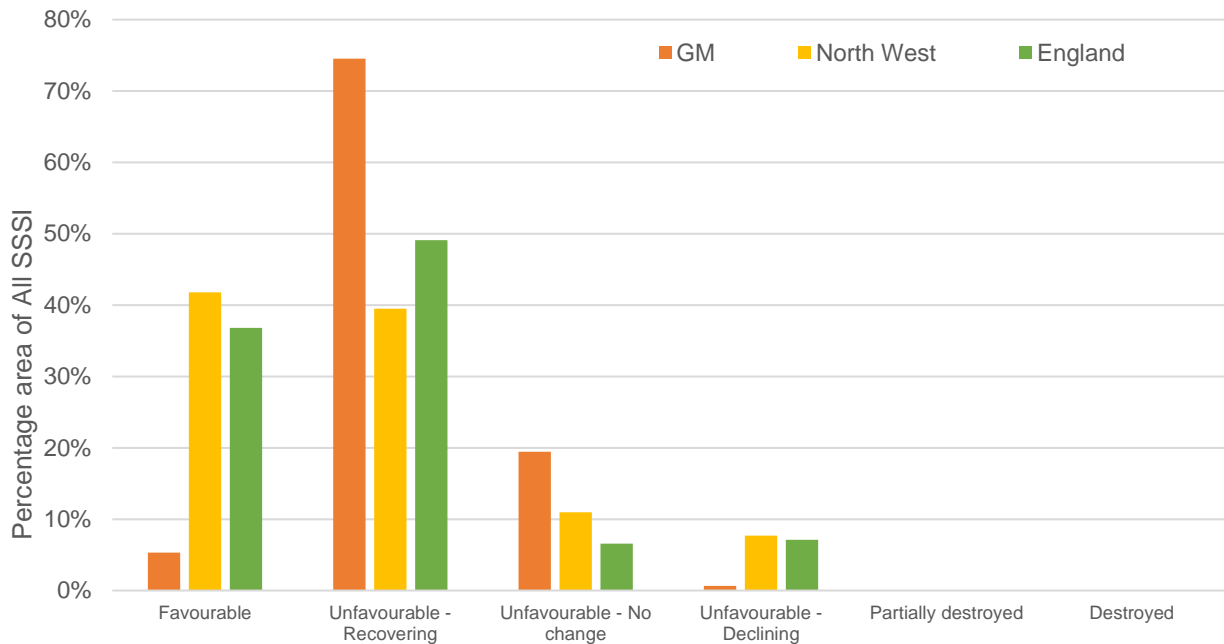
At present in Greater Manchester:

- 75% of sites “unfavourable – recovering”
- 19% of sites “unfavourable – no change”
- 0.08% of sites “destroyed”
- 0.06% of sites “unfavourable – declining”

At present only 5% of these sites (less than 300ha) are in “favourable” condition, with a further 75% in “unfavourable – recovering” condition¹³.

Compared to national and North West level trends, Greater Manchester has:

- Significantly fewer of these sites in “favourable” condition.
- More sites in “unfavourable – recovering” and “unfavourable – no change” condition.
- Significantly fewer sites in “unfavourable – declining” condition.



Condition of Sites of Special Scientific Interest in Greater Manchester, North West and England¹³

Since 2000, most of our SSSI sites have improved and have moved towards being managed for recovery rather than remaining “unfavourable – no change”. The proportion of sites in decline has dropped from near 20% to under 1%.

However, these improvements have not been universal across all habitat types:

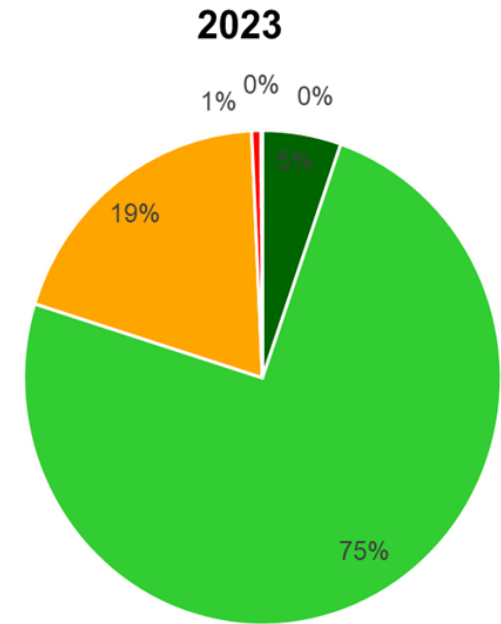
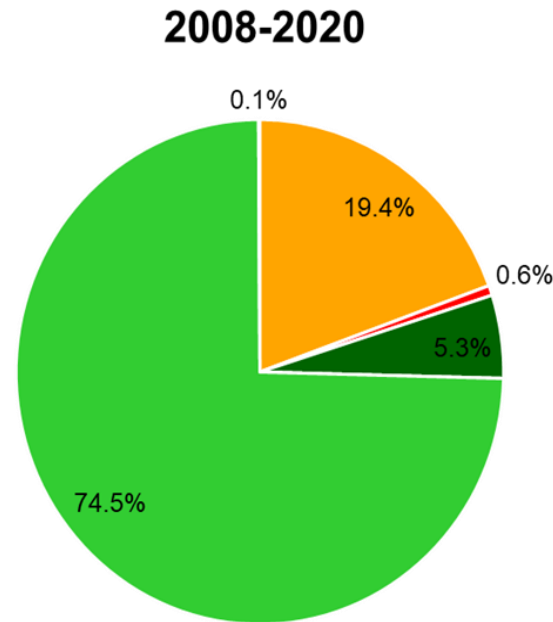
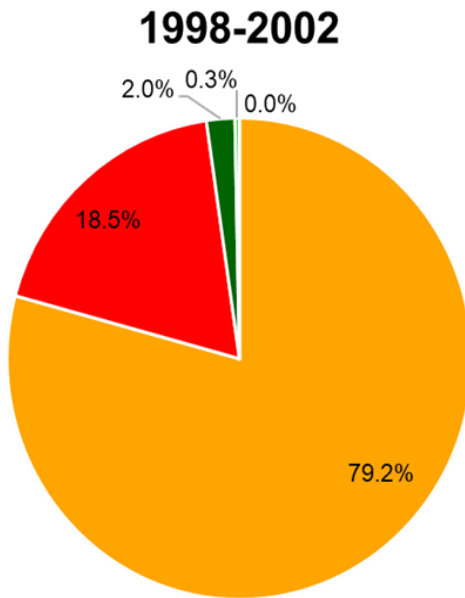
- **Our grasslands, woodlands and bog** have largely improved towards “favourable” or “unfavourable – recovering” condition.
- **Our water ways, open and standing water** have largely regressed from “favourable” to “unfavourable – recovering” condition.

Connectedness of sites protected for nature

Even for those sites that are in good condition, when looked at as a network, they are still highly fragmented, meaning there are large distances between them, and they are not well-connected.

At a national level, a review of protected sites for nature concluded that, although important, they do not comprise a coherent and resilient ecological network¹⁴. Many sites are too small, with loss of habitats so great that the area remaining protected is not enough to halt the loss in biodiversity¹. Instead, there needs to be more sites, that are bigger and in better condition, and that are more joined up.

This is likely to be even more pertinent for a city-region like Greater Manchester, where these sites are more fragmented and under greater pressure than in less urbanised areas. In Greater Manchester there is an absence of nature corridors, beyond the upland moors, the canal and river corridors and woodlands, as shown in the map on the next page.



- Unfavourable - No change ■ Unfavourable - Declining
- Favourable ■ Unfavourable - Recovering
- Destroyed

Historic Sites of Special Scientific Interest condition across Greater Manchester¹³

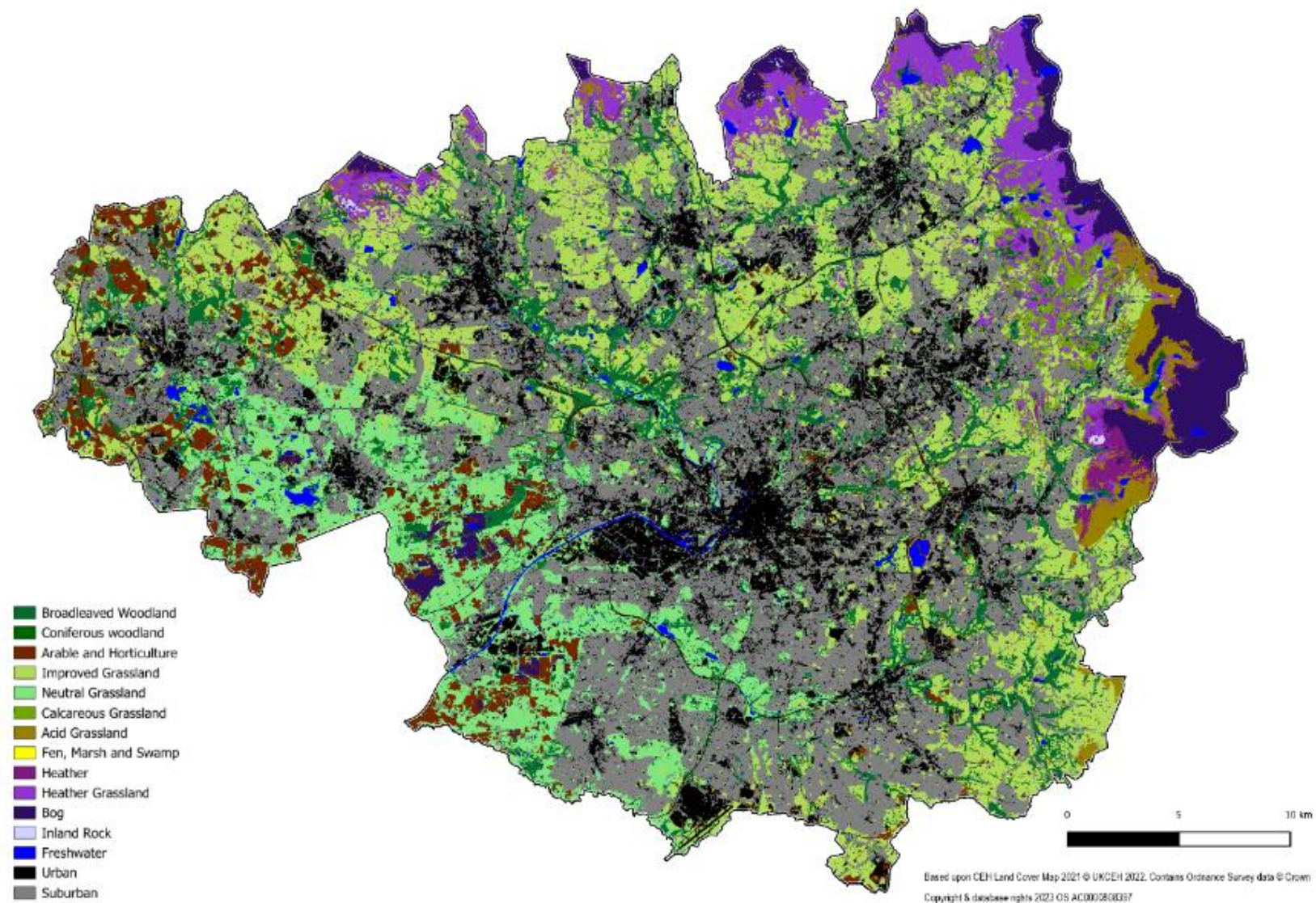
Our land, water and networks for nature

Nature in Greater Manchester is not just confined to our protected sites and nature reserves. A variety of habitats are found outside these sites, from our upland moorlands to woodlands and from our grasslands to our rivers, canals and wetlands¹⁵.

The key networks for nature in our wider landscape include our:

- Trees and woodlands
- Rivers and waterways
- Peatlands

| Habitat type | Percentage of GM's total land cover ¹⁵ |
|--|---|
| Woodlands (<i>including broadleaved, coniferous and plantations</i>) | 9% |
| Grasslands (<i>from grazing or farmed grasslands, as well as amenity grasslands and semi-natural grasslands</i>) | 30% |
| Urban and suburban areas | 46% |
| Heath and heather grasslands | 5% |
| Arable croplands | 4% |
| Wetlands (<i>bog, marsh and fen</i>) | 4% |
| Waterways and waterbodies | 1% |



Land cover and habitats in Greater Manchester¹⁵

Our trees and woodlands

Trees and woodlands provide spaces for nature across Greater Manchester. Our Greater Manchester Trees and Woodland Strategy³⁴ provides an in-depth picture of the trees and woodlands present across our city-region and the benefits they deliver.

Trees benefit us all by greening our roads and streets, capturing air pollutants and carbon, helping manage rainwater and providing shade during heatwaves. During heatwaves our tree cover can cool the temperature of the environment at significant scale, primarily through transpiration reducing air temperatures. Studies have found that in Manchester, inner-city areas with fewer trees and green spaces were 3.12°C hotter than those with more tree cover and plant life during 2022’s hottest day on record¹⁶.

Over the last decade we have seen a significant rise in tree planting with City of Trees working to plant 1 million trees by 2024, supported by multiple partners across the city-region¹⁷. However, the management of much of our existing woodland remains under resourced and there is huge potential for our woodlands to better support biodiversity.



There are an estimated 11.3 million trees in Greater Manchester

...made up of 192 different species – the three most common are Hawthorn, Sycamore and English Oak.



16.5% of Greater Manchester is covered by tree canopy

...above the national and European averages, but below other urban areas such as London (21%) - and tree canopy cover varies widely across the city-region.



Management of our existing woodlands and trees is under-resourced

...particularly when compared to creating new woodlands and planting new trees.

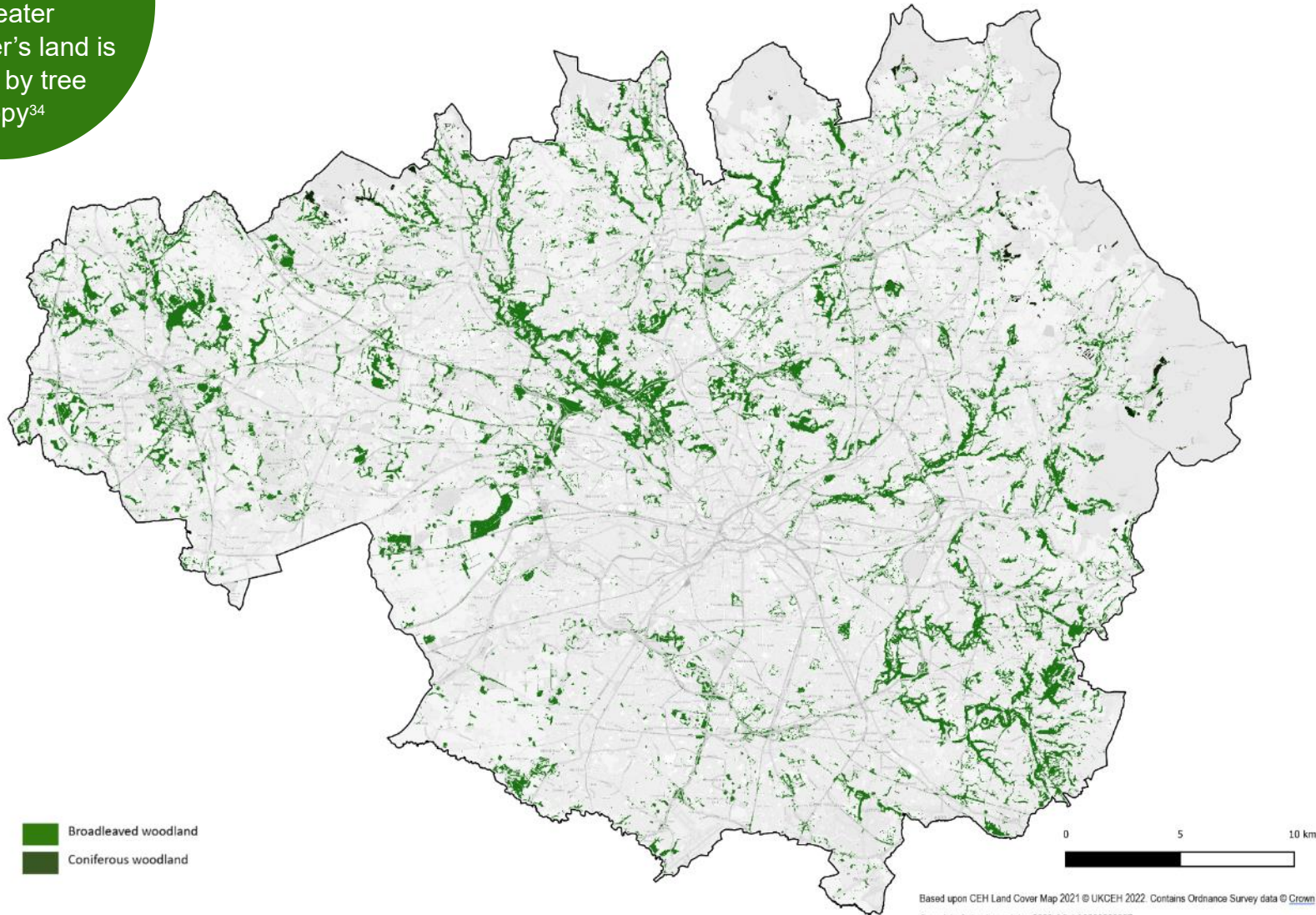
Over
857,000
trees

planted in the last decade

with City of Trees on target to plant 1m trees by the end of 2024.

16%
of Greater
Manchester's land is
covered by tree
canopy³⁴

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Based upon CEH Land Cover Map 2021 © UKCEH 2022. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown
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Our rivers and canals

There are over 884km of rivers across Greater Manchester, along with streams and brooks. Split into 73 rivers with eight main river catchments, the majority of the water in Greater Manchester drains into the Irish Sea via the River Mersey and a much smaller portion (from the North West of the city-region) flows to the sea via the River Douglas. These rivers flow alongside nearly 400ha of lakes and nearly 160km of canals.

The vast majority, 80%, of our rivers, streams and brooks have been significantly changed by human activity¹⁸. Just over 112km of our rivers are estimated to have been “culverted” – meaning that they have been buried, built over, and now run below our streets, highways and buildings, in artificial channels or even pipes. There are thought to be over 1,000 obstacles and barriers to species movement in our rivers, which fragment our aquatic habitat and restrict fish movement¹⁹.

Despite improvements over the last 40 years, using internationally accepted standards²⁰, none of Greater Manchester’s rivers or canals are in good ecological status and invasives species are increasingly problematic.

11% of our rivers and canals are in poor or bad condition, and all of our assessed lakes are in poor or moderate condition. This means that none of Greater Manchester’s waterbodies meet the best ecology that they can achieve, even when accounting for human activities continuing.

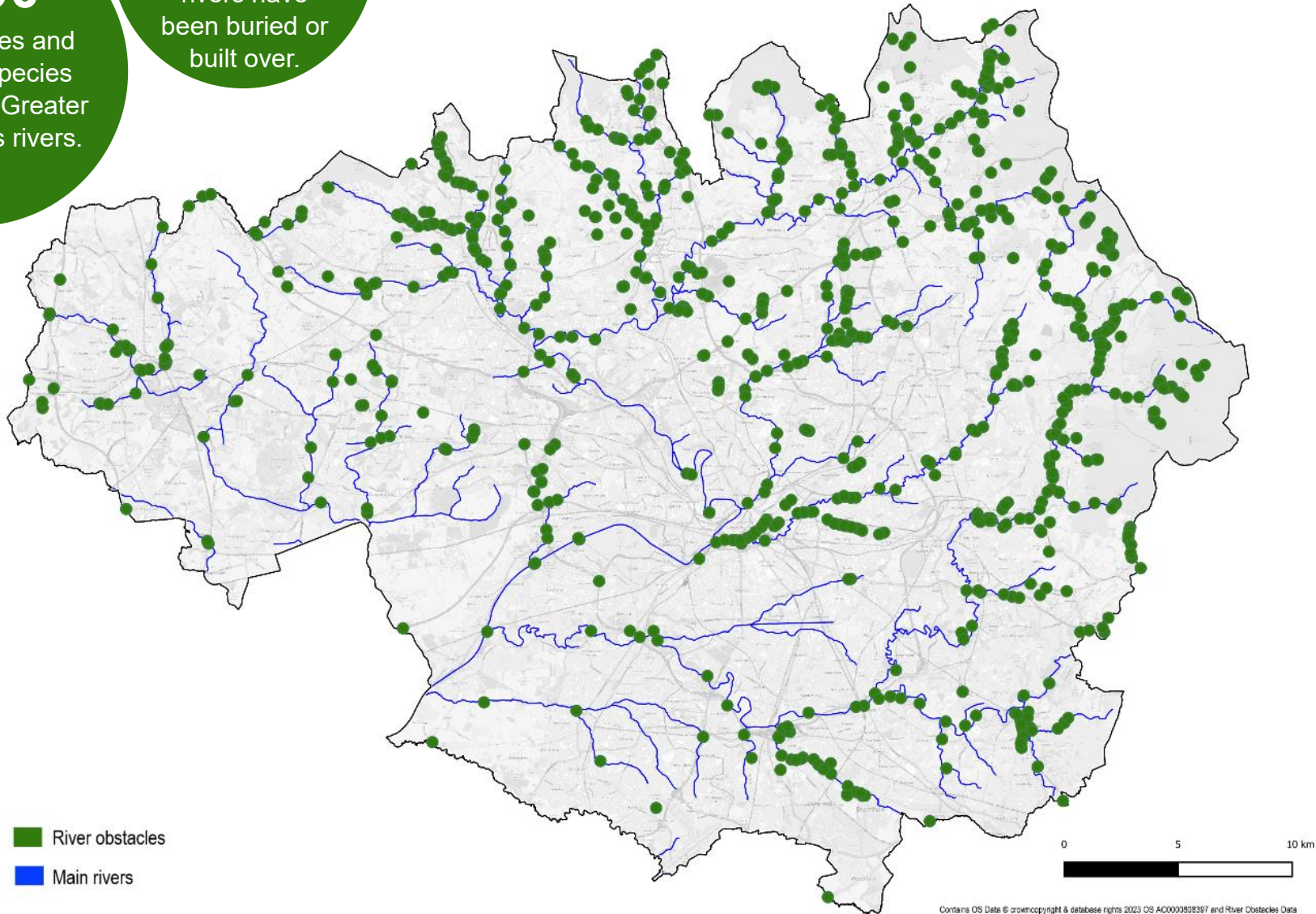
Nationally, a target to restore 75% of waterbodies to good ecological status by 2043 has been set. The trend over recent years has been for a greater proportion of waterbodies to be classified as “moderate” in Greater Manchester. Taking these into “good” status will be challenging to achieve, not only due to pollution but also due to the heavily modified nature of Greater Manchester’s waterbodies.

| Ecological status - Rivers and Canals | Greater Manchester | North West England | England |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------|
| Bad | 2% | 3% | 3% |
| Poor | 9% | 13% | 19% |
| Moderate | 89% | 84% | 62% |
| Good | 0% | 0% | 16% |

1,000
river obstacles and
barriers to species
movement in Greater
Manchester's rivers.

100km
of Greater
Manchester's
rivers have
been buried or
built over.

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*River Obstacles on Greater Manchester's Main Rivers*¹⁹

Our peatlands

When in good condition, peatlands can be carbon-rich wetlands, which are naturally waterlogged and provide important habitats for mammals, birds, insects, and plants. In addition to the wildlife they support, peatlands can provide a range of other benefits, particularly for carbon storage, flood risk management and water quality enhancements.

Large parts of Greater Manchester sit on top of peaty soils, with 15,500ha in the uplands and 5,000ha in lowland areas²².

However only 44% of our peaty soils (deep and shallow peat soils) are in positive management (either being protected and/or via an agri-environment scheme). Due to their poor condition our degraded peatlands are emitting an estimated 187,525 tonnes CO₂-equivalent per year^{21,22}.

Upland Peat

In the uplands, large tracts of peatlands have been subject to drainage, and unsustainable grazing and management.

- Only 10% of upland peatlands are in good condition.
- 66% needing improvement.
- 24% in poor condition.

Our upland peatlands are emitting around 60,000 tonnes CO₂ equivalent per year, rather than locking more carbon away^{21,22}.

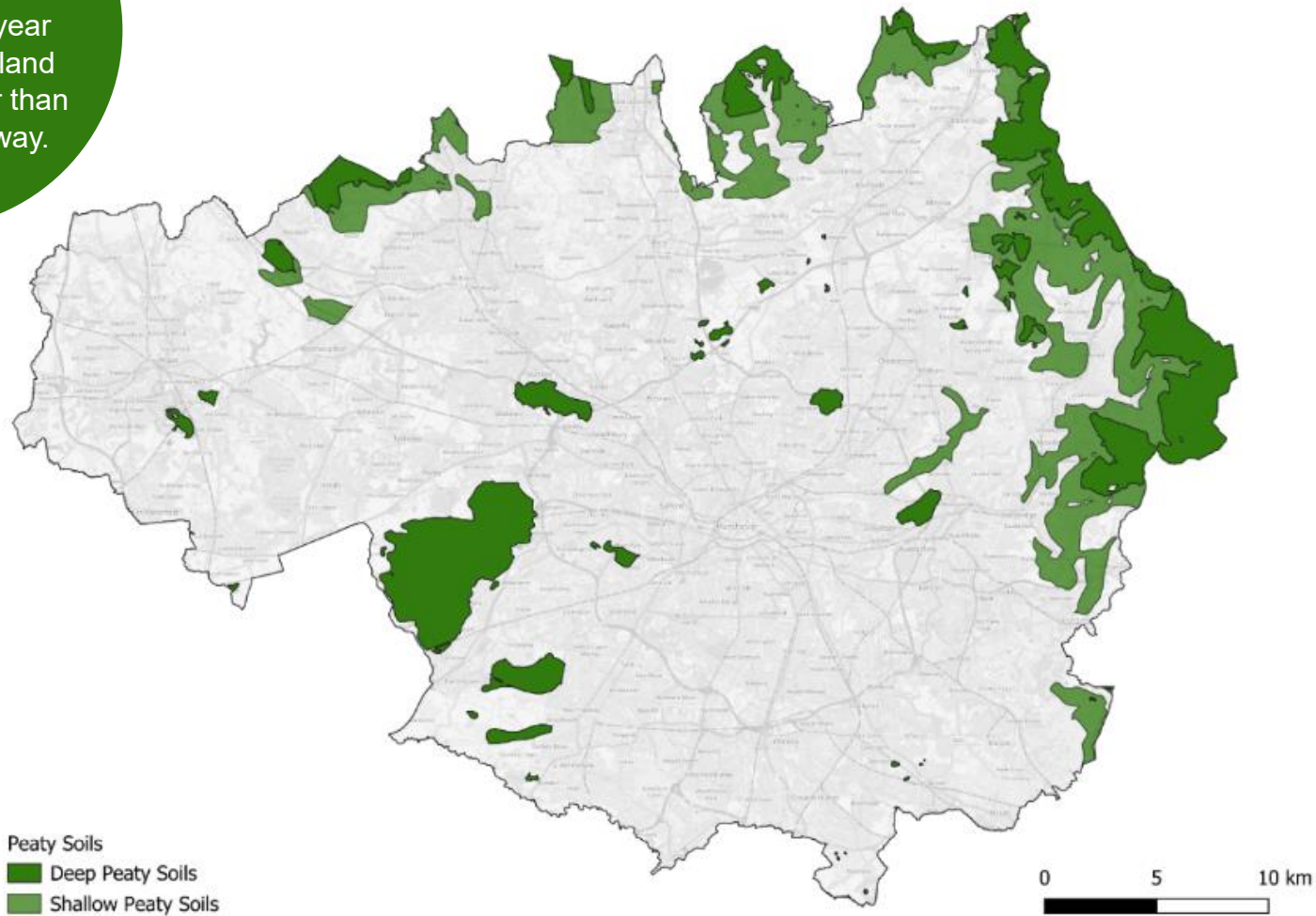
Lowland Peat

In the lowlands, large tracts of lowland peatlands were drained during the 19th/20th century, peat soils removed or converted to agricultural uses.

- Intensive agriculture (turf production, cropland, intensive grassland), covers 55% of our previous lowland peatlands.
- Research indicates that degraded lowland peatlands are emitting around 130,000 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent per year.

60,000

tonnes approx. CO2
equivalent per year
emitted from upland
peatlands, rather than
being locked away.



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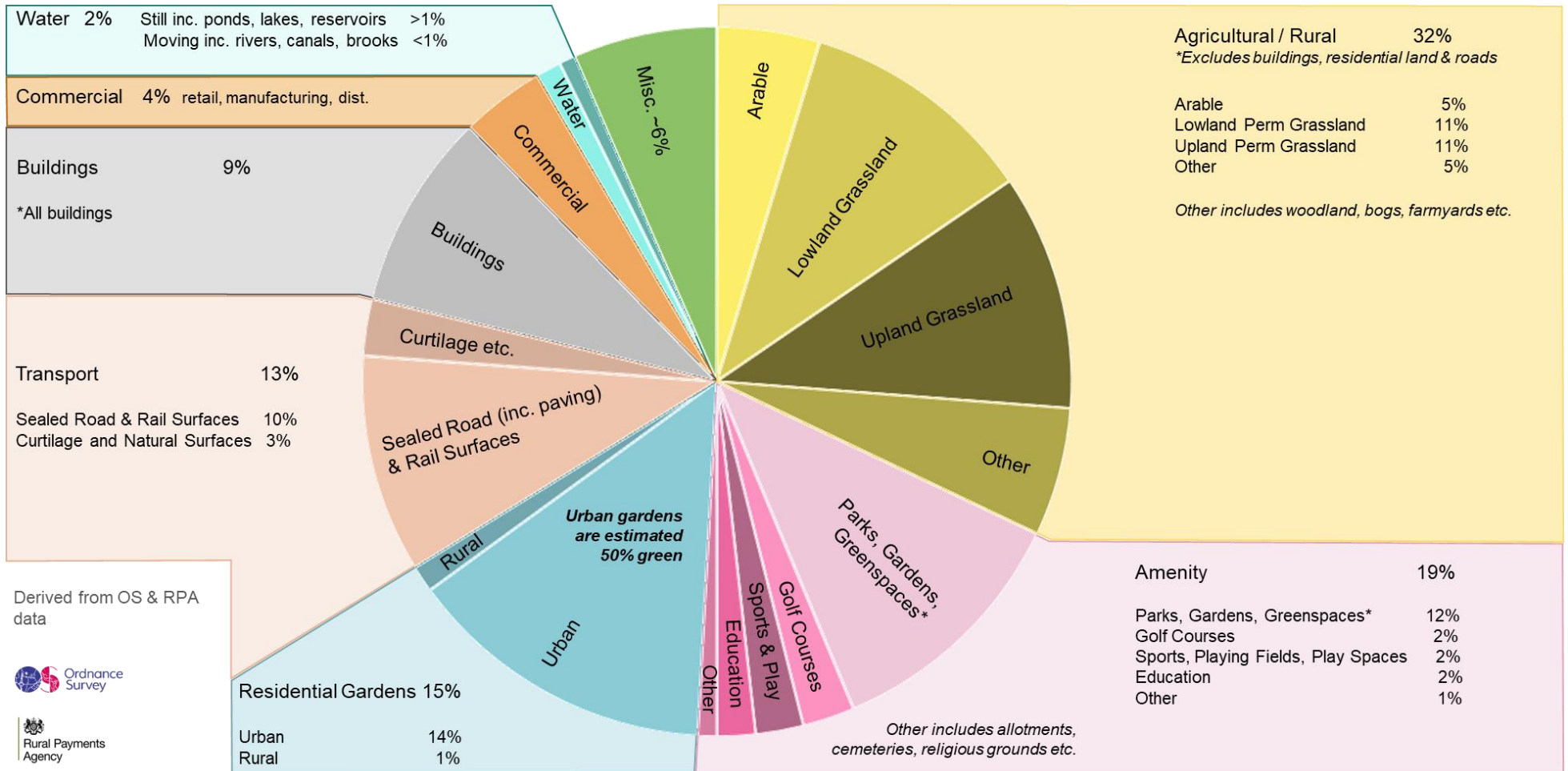
Peat soils across Greater Manchester²¹

Our land use

Land across Greater Manchester is used for a variety of different purposes and owned by a range of different people, from larger landowners (e.g., developers and farmers) to local councils and individual homeowners:

- Alongside our urban areas, agricultural and rural land makes up an estimated 30% of our land²³. Uptake of grants for nature-friendly farming is thought to be lower in Greater Manchester than surrounding areas.
- Our residential gardens account for 15% of our land use²³. These can be fantastic urban refuges for nature. However, research by the Manchester Metropolitan University has revealed that in Manchester only 50% of the average garden is greenspace²⁴.
- Amenity and leisure spaces, such as public parks, school grounds, and sports pitches make up nearly 20% of Greater Manchester. We have some fantastic new green spaces in our city centres. However, since 2017, we have also seen a year-on-year decline in the number of our parks holding green flag status.
- Our transport network, including pavements, roads, highways, streets and motorways makes up 13% of the city-region. These areas often have potential to also act as highways or corridors for wildlife.
- Buildings and commercial areas, from residential houses to industrial warehouse and skyscrapers cover an estimated 9% of Greater Manchester.
- Water ways and water bodies, including the River Mersey and River Irwell, reservoirs, lakes and ponds cover 2% of the city-region. Many of these have been heavily modified, built over and even buried or piped through our urban areas.

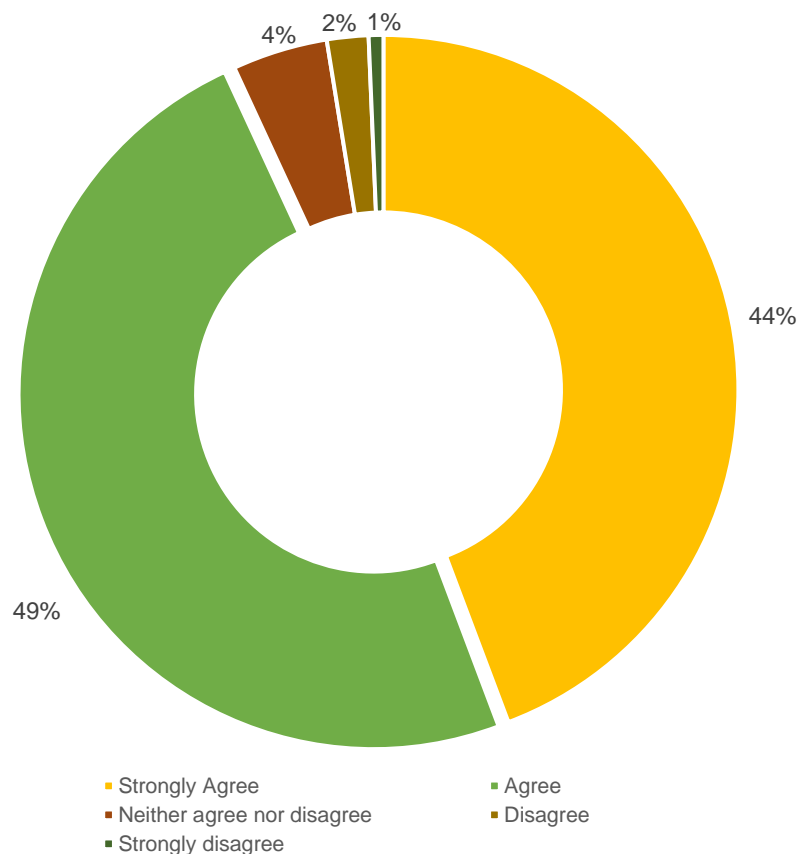
Main land uses across Greater Manchester



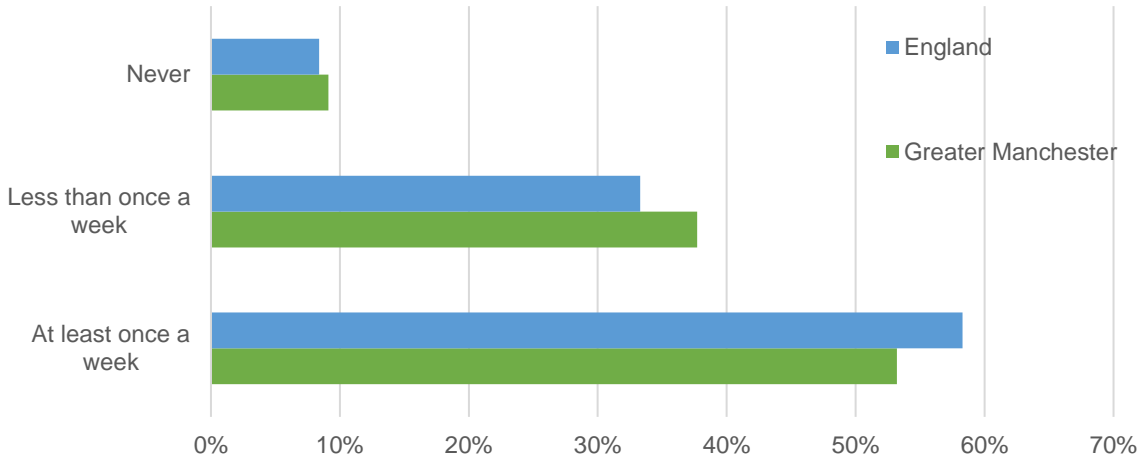
Our access to nature

The number of people living and working in Greater Manchester has grown rapidly. Over 2.8 million people now call the city-region home and the population could reach 3 million by the 2050s. Many Greater Manchester residents value having access to nature near where they live and are concerned about the environment:

- On average **93% of Greater Manchester** residents surveyed over a 10-year period think that having open greenspace close to where they live is important²⁵.
- A recent survey²⁶ of Greater Manchester residents found that together the state of the environment generally and the threat of climate change ranked as the **4th top national concern**. Other top concerns include the cost of living, the quality of the NHS service and the state of the economy.
- Although access to nature is clearly valued, only just over 50% of Greater Manchester residents are thought to be regularly accessing green spaces²⁵.



Residents' views on whether having open access to green spaces is important to them in Greater Manchester²⁵



Greater Manchester residents reporting visits to green space²⁵

What stops Greater Manchester residents spending time in nature?

A survey of just over 1,000 Greater Manchester residents reported that they were put off spending time in nature due to²⁷:



A lack of accessible quality greenspace (14%)



A lack of biodiversity (16%)



Encroaching housing developments (16%)



Greenspaces in poor condition (18%)

Equal access to green space

One factor causing low visits to greenspace is that many people do not have access to nature near to where they live or work.

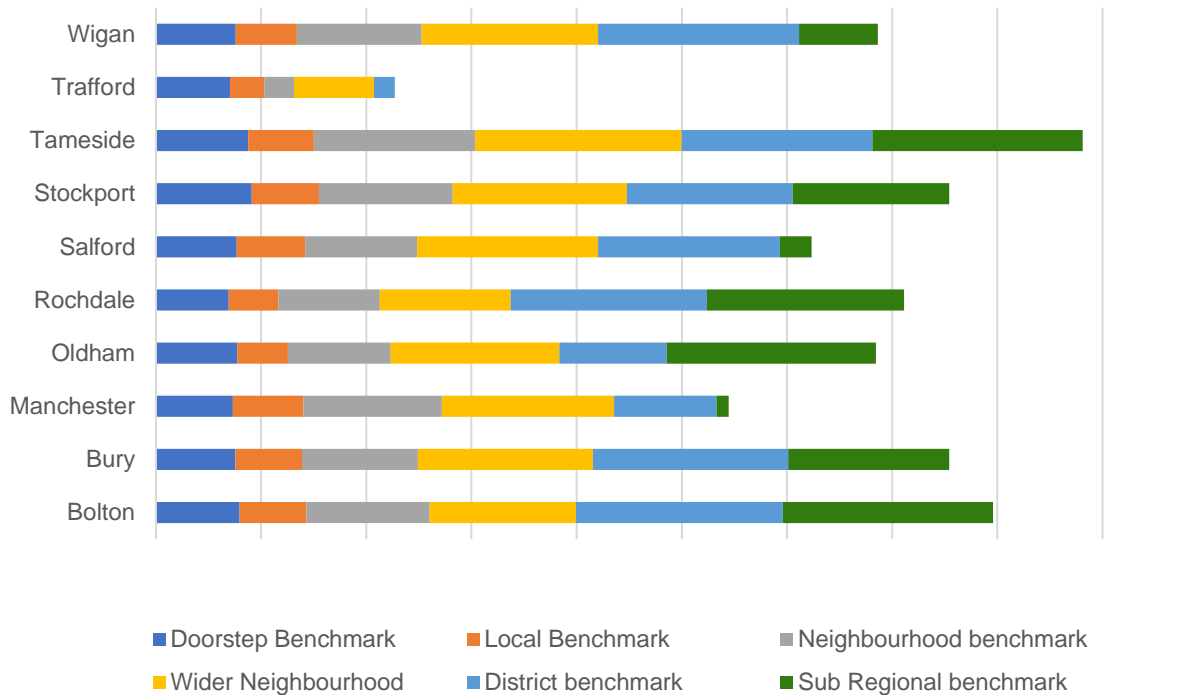
National greenspace standards^{28,29} have been set to ensure everyone has access to good quality public green and blue spaces close to home. Across Greater Manchester many people still do not have access to local green spaces near to where they live or work.

An estimated third of Greater Manchester's population do not live within 15 minutes of green space.

- Only an estimated 40% of our population live close (within 200m) of a small greenspace (0.5ha or bigger)³⁰.
- Only an estimated 30% of our population live within 300m of a 2ha green space.

| Accessible green space standard | | Achieving standard | Not achieving standard |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Doorstep | ≥0.5ha within 200m | 39% | 61% |
| Local | ≥2ha within 300m | 29% | 71% |
| Neighbourhood | ≥10ha within 1km | 56% | 44% |
| Wider Neighbourhood | ≥20ha within 2km | 77% | 23% |
| District | ≥100 ha within 5km | 73% | 27% |
| Subregional | ≥500ha within 10km | 55% | 45% |

Access to nature across Greater Manchester is also unequal. The national greenspace standards, shows how access to greenspace varies across each Local Authority area.



Greenspace standard per Local Authority³⁰

Echoing national trends³¹, people experiencing multiple inequalities in Greater Manchester tend to live in areas with less greenspace, compared to more affluent areas³². Assessment of local trends also suggests that generally those experiencing racial inequalities are also nearly twice as likely to live in areas with the least greenspace.

Pressures on nature

Nature is under pressure in several different ways, including:

- Competing demands for the use of land.
- Pressure on water and waterbodies
- Pathogens and diseases

These, and other pressures, are already being exacerbated by the impacts of climate change.

Pressures on land use

Land in Greater Manchester is limited and is under increasing demand to meet a variety of needs. These include: to provide homes, commercial space, transport and utilities for the city-region; to support energy generation, carbon sequestration (e.g., tree planting and peatland restoration) and climate adaptation (e.g., nature-based solutions); for food growing and recreation.

Land is needed for
170,000
new homes by 2039.



Land needed for commercial development and new transport infrastructure.



250 potential sites identified for ground mounted solar PV installations, covering 5,458ha.

32%
of land in Greater Manchester is used for agriculture.

Pressures on water and waterbodies

Water in Greater Manchester is under pressure from a range of sources. Over 20% of the water in most Greater Manchester rivers has been discharged from a Wastewater Treatment Works. For some rivers this is as high as 60-80%. Across Greater Manchester our waterways are under pressure from:



Heavy modification of waterbodies due to human activities.

Greater Manchester has 793 combined sewer overflows, that spilt an estimated
21,391
times in 2022 for an average of over 4 and a half hours per spill.



The use of fertilisers and pesticides in agriculture.

20%

reduction in water consumption per person needed by 2038 to achieve sustainable water abstraction levels.

Japanese Knotweed found on

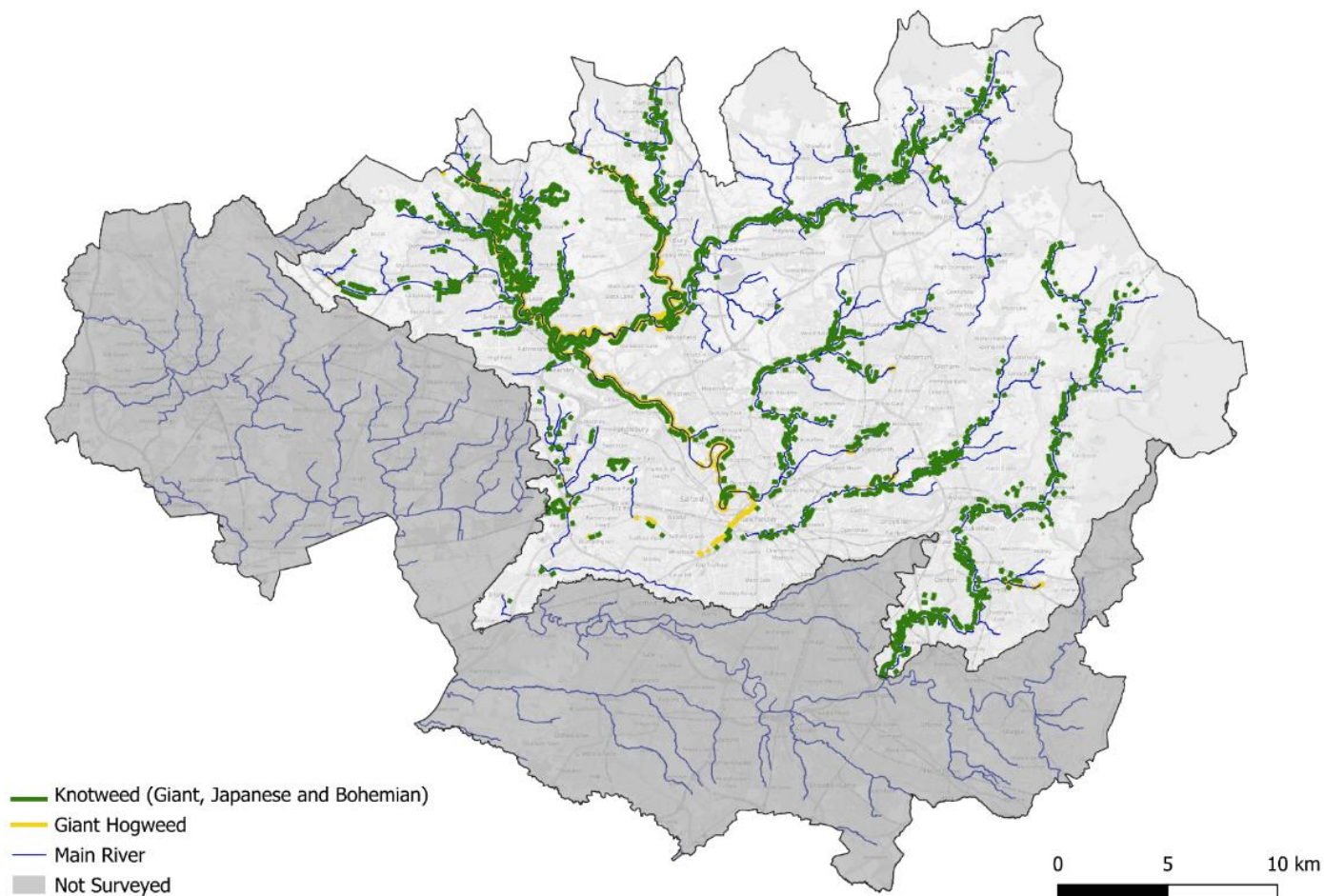
11%

of riverbanks

...with Giant Hogweed across 4% and Himalayan Balsam across 100%.



Diffuse pollution from urban areas including runoff from roads, and from emerging forms of contaminations such as micro plastics.



Invasive species within the River Tame and River Irwell Catchments³³

Pathogens and diseases

As well as invasive plant species, microorganisms that cause disease pose a threat to wildlife and ecosystems. The most significant of these currently affecting Greater Manchester and the rest of the UK is ash dieback.

Ash dieback is expected to lead to the decline and death of the majority (c. 80%) of Ash trees in the UK. It is present across Greater Manchester – European Ash is the fourth most common tree species across the city-region, with around 900,000 Ash trees at risk from the disease. Ash trees can be large in stature and provide a significant quantity of ecosystem services to Greater Manchester; their replacement should they perish would be costly, estimated at over £350m³⁴. There are 953 species in the UK associated with Ash trees in some way, including 106 species which are highly or completely dependent on Ash trees³⁵.



The infographic consists of two parts. On the left is a green rectangular box with white text. The text reads: 'Around 900,000 trees at risk from ash dieback across Greater Manchester, costing an estimated £350m to replace.' On the right is a photograph of a large, mature ash tree with a thick trunk and a full canopy of green leaves, standing on a grassy hillside under a blue sky with some clouds.

Other diseases, like avian influenza, may emerge to pose threats to wildlife (in that instance, to birds). And climate change is likely to increase risk of the introduction and spread of pathogens.

Climate change

Climate change has already impacted biodiversity in Greater Manchester as species shift northwards. As temperatures increase, climate zones will move northwards at 5km per year by 2050 – equivalent to moving from the south to north of Greater Manchester in 8 years, a process which took 800 years at the end of the last ice age³⁶.

Risk assessments for species in England show that more species are expected to increase their ranges rather than decrease. However, upland habitat species in the north and east of the city-region are particularly vulnerable to climate change due to

northwards and upwards range contraction. Given the importance of uplands to water management and carbon storage, this may have knock on impacts.

These effects will be exacerbated further by the projected increase in hazardous fire weather conditions in summer, meaning greater risk of wildfires in the uplands and possible extension of the wildfire season into late summer and early autumn³⁷.

- The North West of England has the highest number of wildfire incidents compared to any other region in England. Over 55,635 wildfires occurred in the North West of England between 2009-2021. The North West region also had the greatest area of land burn by wildfires, over 45,000ha³⁸.
- Greater Manchester already experiences the greatest area burnt by wildfires, over 30,000ha, in England. In comparison, Lancashire experiences around 11,000ha of burnt land³⁸.

The wider benefits of nature

Our natural environment provides us with a range of other benefits. It is particularly important to our health and wellbeing, especially in urban areas where residents might not have regular access to nature.

The [Greater Manchester Natural Capital Accounts³⁹](#) measure the benefits provided by the city-region's natural assets to its businesses, public services and residents.

These benefits include:

**50,000
tonnes**

of CO₂e is taken out of the atmosphere each year by Greater Manchester's woodlands and peat.

Vegetation improves air quality which prevents

370

hospital admissions each year.

**1m
people**

receive mental health benefits by accessing green spaces in Greater Manchester.



135,000 people use green spaces to meet their physical activity needs

...which adds up to around 4,600 quality adjusted life-years.

In total we receive an estimated £1bn in benefits from our natural environment each year. However, these benefits are under threat given the array of challenges set out in this report and the continued decline in biodiversity we are seeing.

Abbreviations and Acronyms

| Abbreviation or Acronym | Definition |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| CO ₂ | Carbon dioxide |
| GM | Greater Manchester |
| GMCA | Greater Manchester Combined Authority |
| LNRS | Local Nature Recovery Strategy |
| NW | North West England |
| NNR | National Nature Reserves |
| SSSI | Special Site of Scientific Interest |
| SAC | Special Area of Conservation |
| SPA | Special Protected Areas |
| LWS | Local Wildlife Site |
| SBI | Site of Biological Interest |

References and Notes

¹ **World Wildlife Fund and Zoological Society of London (2022)**. Living Planet Report 2022, WWF/ZSL. [Available on the Living Planet Index website \(external link\)](#).

² **Burns et al. (2023)**. State of Nature 2023, The State of Nature Partnership. [Available on the State of Nature website \(external link\)](#).

³ **British Trust for Ornithology (c1980 and c2010)**. Breeding Bird Survey (Bird Atlas) c1980 & c2010 Data. [Available on the British Trust for Ornithology website \(external link\)](#).

⁴ **British Trust for Ornithology (c1990 and c2021)**. British Trust for Ornithology Mammal Survey Data. [Available on the British Trust for Ornithology website \(external link\)](#).

⁵ **Natural Course (2023)**. Otters Return to Greater Manchester, [Available on the Natural Course website \(external link\)](#) and Greater Manchester Ecology Unit internal analysis.

⁶ **Mersey Rivers Trust (2019)**. Biological Change in the Rivers of the Mersey Catchment 1970-1994-2018.

⁷ **Lancashire Wildlife Trust (2023)**. Rare Manchester argus butterflies flourishing after reintroduction, The Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester and North Merseyside. [Available on the Lancashire Wildlife Trust website \(external link\)](#).

⁸ **Lancashire Wildlife Trust (2023)**. Nightjars return to Greater Manchester Peatlands. The Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester and North Merseyside. [Available on the Lancashire Wildlife Trust website \(external link\)](#).

⁹ Some of our protected sites for nature are covered by multiple different designations (i.e. they can be designated a SSSI, SAC and also as a LWS), whereas some have just one single designation (e.g. only a LWS).

¹⁰ **Liverpool City Region Combined Authority (2022)**. State of Nature Report for the Liverpool City Region. [Available on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority website \(external link\)](#).

Designated sites cover approximately 41% of the Liverpool City Region area. This figure includes extensive marine intertidal habitats which form 66% of all designated sites in Liverpool City Region. To establish a comparable figure to Greater Manchester intertidal habitats have not been included. After the exclusion of intertidal habitats designated sites cover approximately 13.9% of Liverpool city region.

¹¹ Internal officer analysis completed by Greater Manchester Combined Authority and Greater Manchester Ecology Unit. [Analysis using a variety of datasets made available on data.gov \(external link\)](#).

-
- ¹² **Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (2023)**. Environmental Improvement Plan 2023 – First Revisions of the 25-year Environment Plan, DEFRA. [Available on the Assets Publishing Service website \(external link\)](#).
- ¹³ **Natural England (2023)**. Sites of Special Scientific Interest Units (England), Natural England Open Data Publication. [Available on the Natural England website \(external link\)](#).
- ¹⁴ **Lawton et al. (2010)**. Making Space for Nature: a review of England’s wildlife sites and ecological network. Report to Defra. [Available on the National Archives website \(external link\)](#).
- ¹⁵ **Marston et al. (2022)**. Land Cover Map 2021 (10m classified pixels, GB). NERC EDS Environmental Information Data Centre. [Available on the Environmental Information Data Centre website \(external link\)](#).
- ¹⁶ **Friends of the Earth (2023)**. Maps showing city cooling by trees and greenspace. [Available on the Friends of the Earth website \(external link\)](#).
- ¹⁷ **Greater Manchester Combined Authority (2023)**. Greater Manchester’s Natural Environment, NE1: Plant one million trees by 2024. [Available on Gm tableau website \(external link\)](#).
- ¹⁸ Environment Agency and GMCA officer analysis, based on data [available on the catchment data explorer website \(external link\)](#).
- ¹⁹ **The Rivers Trust (2021)**. River Obstacles. [Available on the Rivers Trust website \(external link\)](#).
- ²⁰ The **Water Framework Directive**, introduced by the European Commission in 2000, standardised the way river condition is measured across Europe.
- ²¹ **Smart et al. (2020)**. England Peat Strategy: Greater Manchester Peat Pilot Report for Defra. Natural England.
- ²² **Natural England (2020)**. England Peat Strategy: Greater Manchester Combined Authority Peat Pilot Report for Defra, Defra.
- ²³ **Greater Manchester Ecology Unit and Greater Manchester Combined Authority** internal analysis completed based on a variety of datasets from the Ordnance Survey and the Rural Payments Agency.
- ²⁴ **Manchester Metropolitan University (2016)** Research Summary – My Back Yard. Overview [available on the Manchester Metropolitan University website \(external link\)](#).
- ²⁵ **Natural England (2009-2019)**. Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment, Natural England 2009-2019.

Data reported is the average for GM respondents over the 10 years between 2009-2019.

²⁶ **Public First Survey (2023)**. Climate Emergency Perception and Behaviours in Greater Manchester. Commissioned by GMCA/TFGM. [Overview available on the Greater Manchester Combined Authority website](#).

²⁷ **GMCA (2021)**. Nature Recovery Survey, GM Consult. [Available on the GM Consult website](#).

²⁸ **Natural England (2023)**. National Green Infrastructure Standards. [Available on the Natural England website \(external link\)](#).

²⁹ **DEFRA (2023)**. National Environmental Improvement Plan 2023, DEFRA. [Available on the GOV.UK website \(external link\)](#).

³⁰ **Greater Manchester Combined Authority** internal analysis completed by combining data from [Natural England ANGST standard maps \(external link\)](#) and [Office for National Statistics population estimates \(external link\)](#).

³¹ **The Ramblers' Association (2021)**. The grass isn't greener for everyone: Why access to green space matters, Ramblers. [Available on the Ramblers' Association website \(external link\)](#).

The Ramblers' Association report shows that the richest 20% of areas in England have 5 times the greenspace of the most deprived areas.

³² **Lindley et al. (2020)**. Nature and Ageing Well in Towns and Cities: Why the natural environment matters for healthy ageing. [Available on the GHIA website \(external link\)](#).

³³ **Greater Manchester Combined Authority (2023)**. River Tame INNS Survey 2023. [Available on the Natural Course Website \(external link\)](#). **Greater Manchester Combined Authority (2022) River Irwell INNS Survey (2022)**. [Available on the Natural Course Website \(external link\)](#).

³⁴ **City of Trees (2020)**. All our Trees – Greater Manchester's Tree and Woodland Strategy. [Available on the City of Trees website \(external link\)](#).

³⁵ **Mitchell et al. (2014)**. Ash dieback in the UK: A review of the ecological and conservation implications and potential management options. Biological Conservation. [Available on the Science Direct website \(external link\)](#).

³⁶ **Environment Agency, Chief Scientist's Group (2022)**. Working with Nature – Chief scientist's Group Report. [Available on the GOV.UK website \(external link\)](#).

³⁷ **Perry et al. (2022)**. Past and future trends in fire weather for the UK. Nat. Hazards Earth Syst. Sci., 22, 559–575, 2022. [Available on the DOI website \(external link\)](#).

³⁸ **Forestry Commission (2023)**. Wildfire Statistics for England 2020-21. [Available on the Assets Publishing Service website \(external link\)](#).

³⁹ **GMCA and the Environment Agency (2019)**. The Value of Greater Manchester's Natural Capital. [Available on the Greater Manchester Combined Authority website](#).



Appendices 1. Greater Manchester Land Use

| Land Use Type | Percentage of Greater Manchester | Land Use Sub-Type | Percentage of Greater Manchester |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| Agricultural/Rural* | 32% | Arable | 5% |
| | | Lowland permanent grassland | 11% |
| | | Upland permanent grassland | 11% |
| | | Other* | 5% |
| Amenity | 19% | Parks, gardens, greenspaces* | 12% |
| | | Golf courses | 2% |
| | | Sports, playing fields, play spaces | 2% |
| | | Education | 2% |
| | | Other* | 1% |
| Residential Gardens | 15% | Urban | 14% |
| | | Rural | 1% |
| Transport | 13% | Sealed road and rail surfaces | 10% |
| | | Curtilage and Natural surfaces | 3% |
| Buildings* | 9% | | |
| Commercial* | 4% | | |
| Water | 2% | Still water including ponds, lakes, reservoirs | >1% |
| | | Moving water inc. rivers, canals, brooks | <1% |
| Misc | ~6% | | |

- * Agricultural/Rural excludes buildings, residential land and roads
- * Other agricultural areas includes woodland, bogs, farmlands etc
- * Amenity parks, gardens and greenspaces includes allotments, cemeteries, religious grounds
- * Commercial includes retail, manufacturing and distribution

Appendices 2. Invasive species within the River Tame and River Irwell Catchments

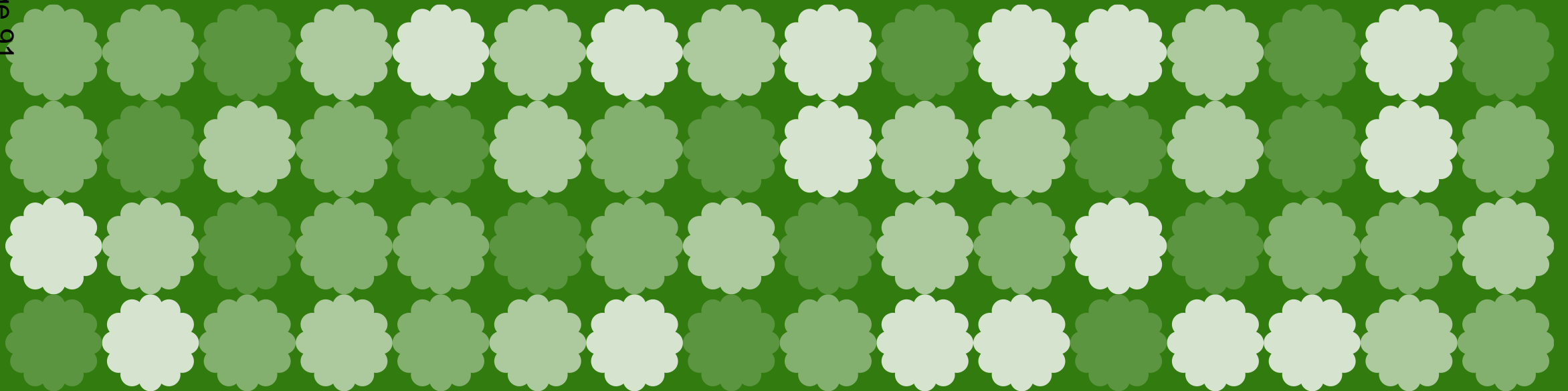
| River | Kilometres of riverbank covered by Japanese Knotweed | Kilometres of riverbank covered by Giant Hogweed |
|--------------|---|---|
| River Irwell | 109 | 45 |
| River Tame | 14 | 0.3 |
| Total | 123 | 45.3 |

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Item 8b

State of Nature in Greater Manchester

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State of Nature Report

Page 92

- Highlights urgent challenges faced by nature across Greater Manchester
- Report covers trends in wildlife and our most important spaces for nature and the pressures it faces, uses of land, wider benefits from nature and peoples access to nature
- The report will be used to help develop Greater Manchester's Local Nature Recovery Strategy



Headline Findings



Our wildlife populations are declining

Individual bird species population has declined up to 40% over the last 40 years and populations of common mammals have dropped by between 20-40% since 1995.



Our protected sites are valuable refuges for wildlife

...but cover only 11% of GM, are highly fragmented, and are not in as good a condition as they could and should be.

Our natural environment provides us with around

£1bn

of benefits each year

...but these are under threat with the continuing decline in nature.



Our peatlands have been degraded by human activity over two centuries and now emit carbon rather than locking more of it away.



80% of our waterbodies have been heavily modified by human activity

...and none of our rivers are assessed as being in good ecological condition.

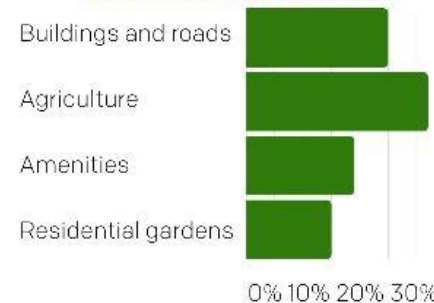
Our tree canopy covers

16%

of Greater Manchester

with the management of existing woodlands and trees under-resourced when compared to the creation of new woodlands and planting of new trees.

Estimated land use in GM

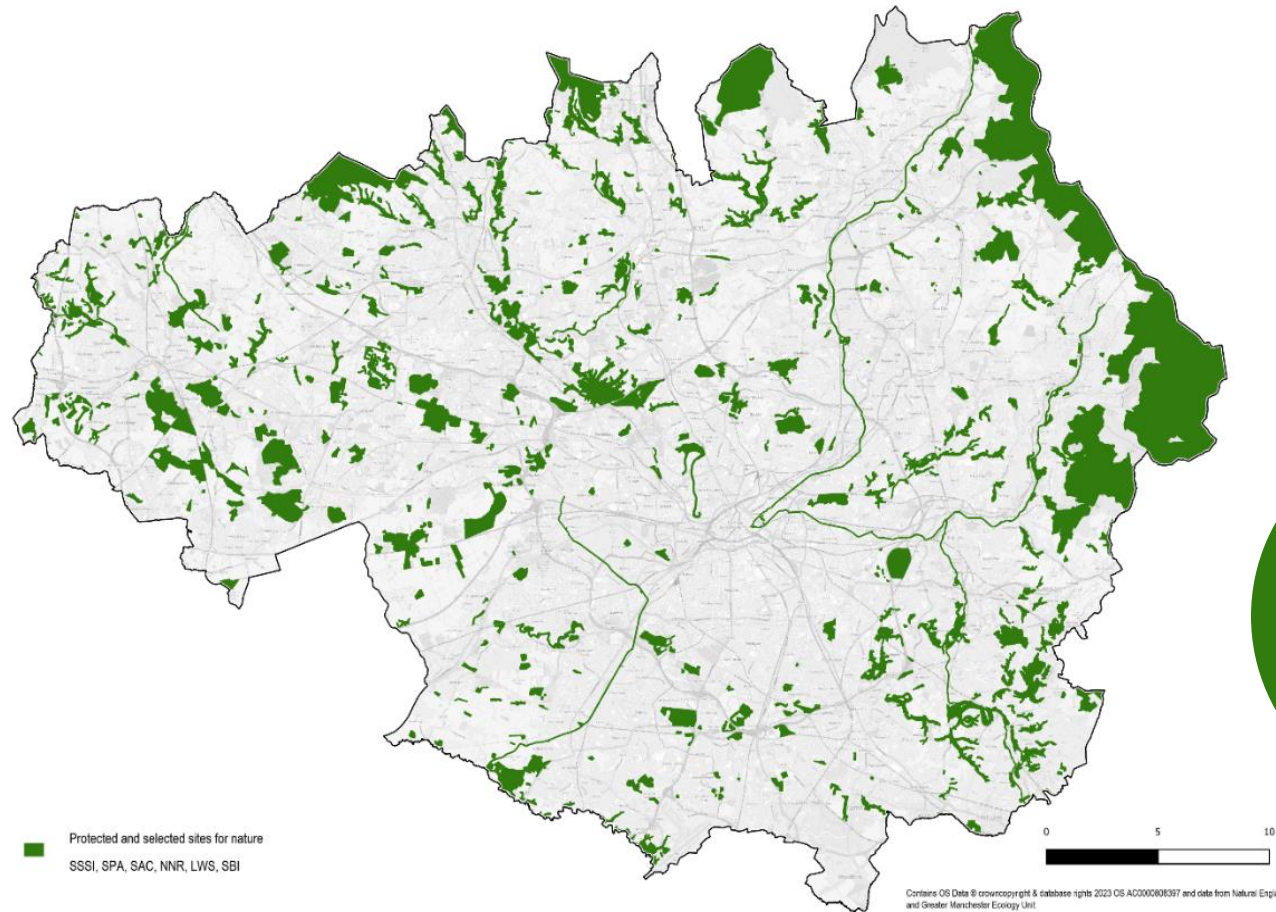


...leaving less than 10% dedicated to nature.

93%

of residents surveyed consider it important or very important to live close to greenspace. But an estimated third of GM's population do not live within 15 minutes of a greenspace.

Our best sites for nature

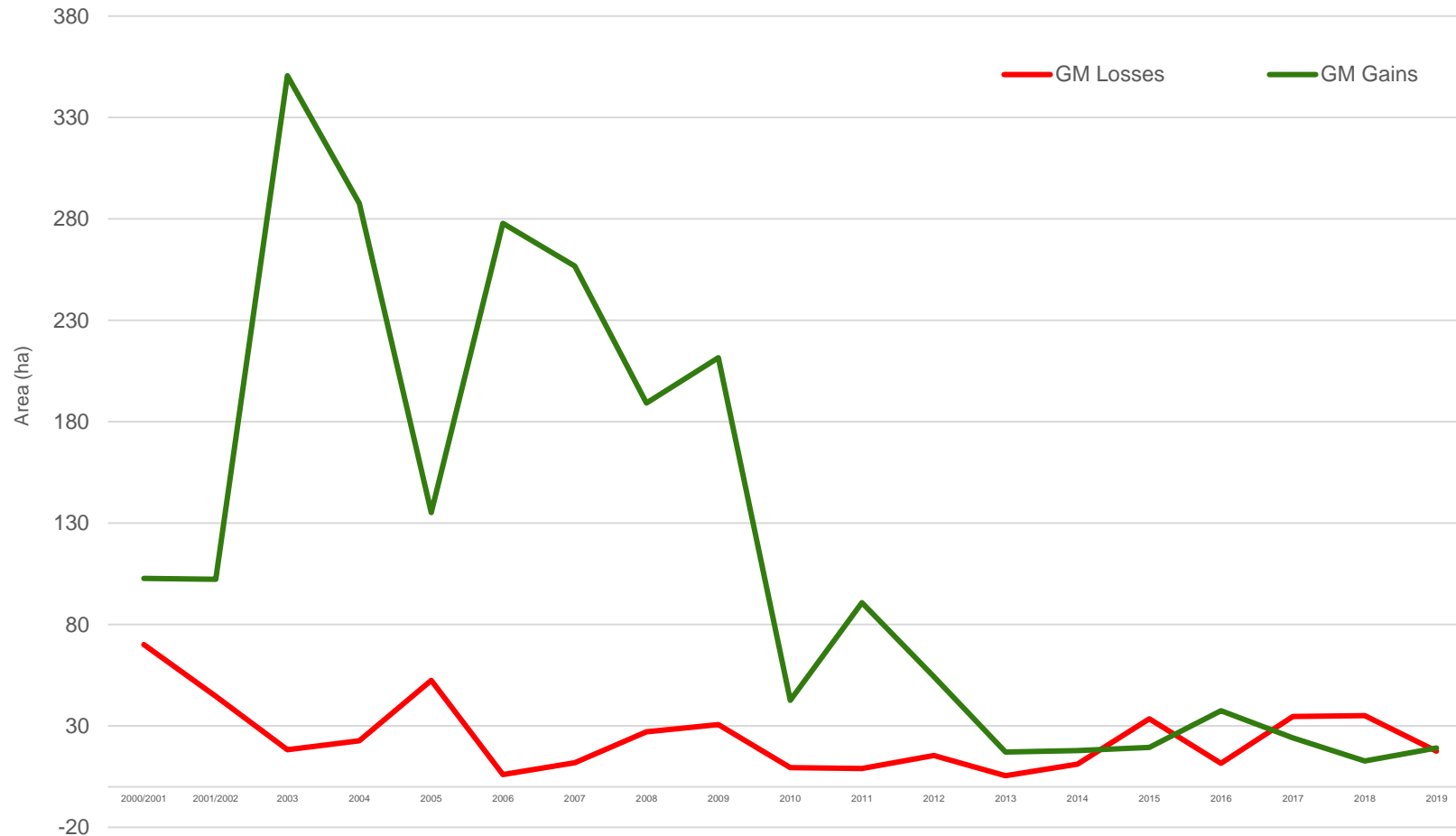


11%
of Greater Manchester's land is currently protected for nature.

5%
of Greater Manchester is selected as Local Wildlife Sites and receives the least protection

Greater Manchester sites selected or designated for nature conservation

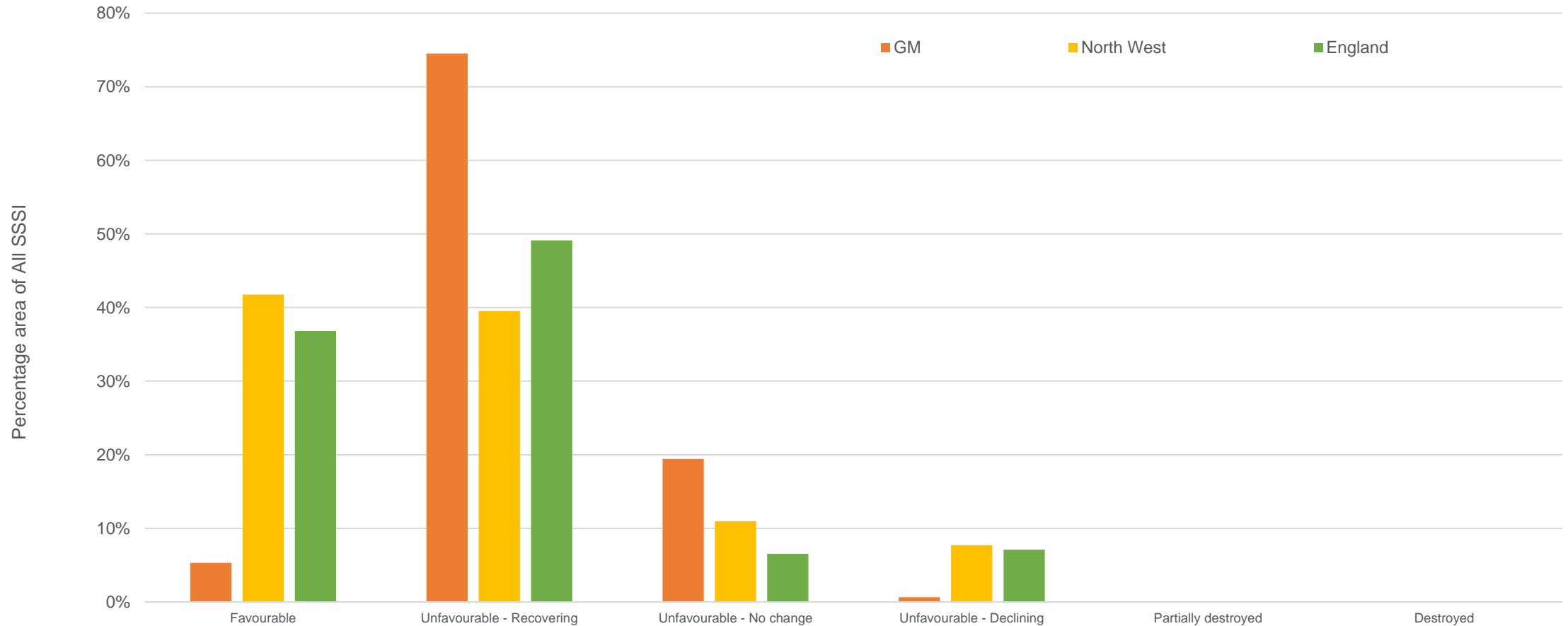
Losses and Gains of Local Wildlife Sites



Annual losses and gains in the area of Local Wildlife Sites in Greater Manchester (ha)¹¹

SSSI's Site Condition

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Condition of Sites of Special Scientific Interest in Greater Manchester, North West and England¹³

BIRD DECLINE

Between 1980-2011, Greater Manchester has seen the following declines in bird populations:

Farmland birds



-32%
Tree Sparrow

-33%
Skylarks

Woodland birds



-24%
Spotted
Flycatcher

-11%
Tree Pipit

Moorland birds

-40%
Lesser Redpoll

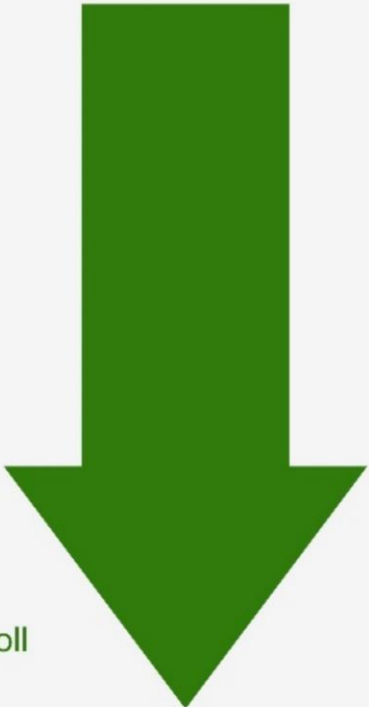
-9%
Twite



Wetland birds



-26%
Snipe



MAMMAL DECLINE

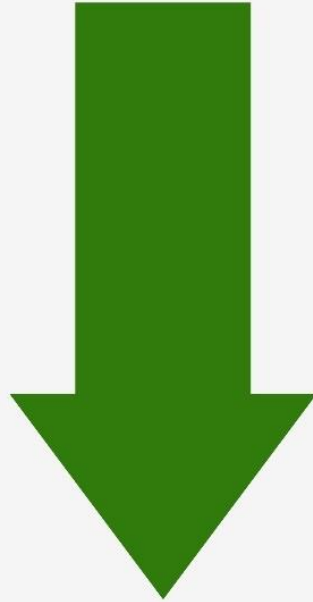
Between 1995-2021, the North West has seen the following declines in mammal populations:



-44%
Red Fox



-64%
Rabbits



-8%
Brown Hare



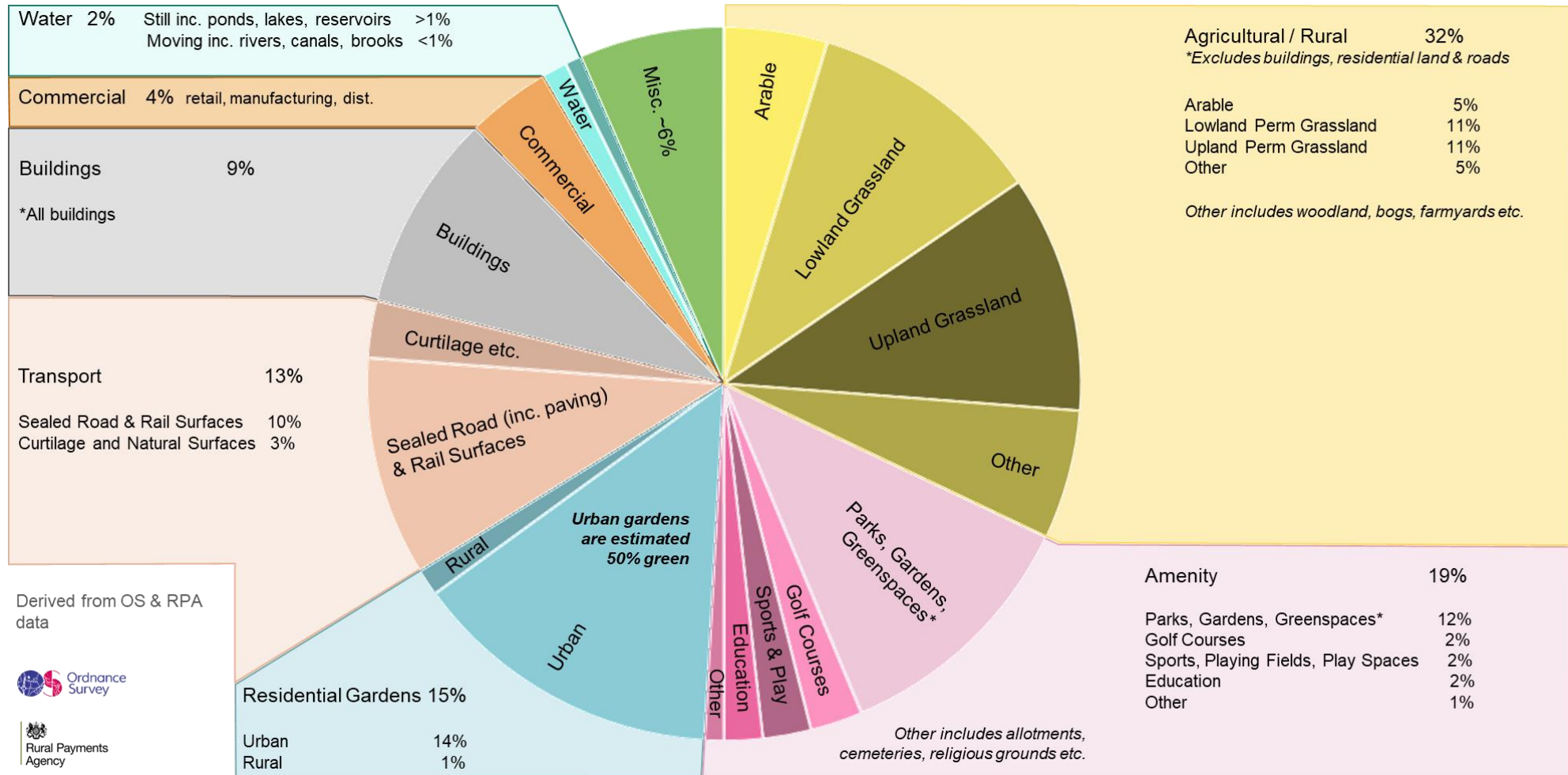
-24%
Hedgehogs

Species Return

- **Otter sightings have increased** across Greater Manchester, showing that they are now resident and increasing their distribution
- **Fish and Mayflies have returned** to the River Mersey
- The **Manchester Argus Butterfly has returned** through successful reintroduction by the Great Manchester Wetlands Species Reintroduction project on Astley Moss
- **Nightjars and other bird species have returned** to Chat Moss
- **Reintroduction of several specialised bog plants** across Greater Manchester's lowland peatlands



Main land uses



Water

- Water in Greater Manchester is under pressure from a range of sources



Heavy modification of waterbodies due to human activities.

Greater Manchester has 793 combined sewer overflows, that spilt an estimated

21,391

times in 2022 for an average of over 4 and a half hours per spill.



The use of fertilisers and pesticides in agriculture.

Japanese Knotweed found on

11%

of riverbanks

...with Giant Hogweed across 4% and Himalayan Balsam across 100%.



Diffuse pollution from urban areas including runoff from roads, and from emerging forms of contaminations such as micro plastics.

20%

reduction in water consumption per person needed by 2038 to achieve sustainable water abstraction levels.

Trees

- Rise in tree planting
- Management of our trees is under resourced
- Woodlands could be better utilised to support biodiversity



There are an estimated 11.3 million trees in Greater Manchester

...made up of 192 different species – the three most common are Hawthorn, Sycamore and English Oak.



16.5% of Greater Manchester is covered by tree canopy

...above the national and European averages, but below other urban areas such as London (21%) - and tree canopy cover varies widely across the city-region.

Over
857,000
trees
planted in the last decade
with City of Trees on target to plant 1m trees by the end of 2024.



Management of our existing woodlands and trees is under-resourced

...particularly when compared to creating new woodlands and planting new trees.

Summary

- We are facing a biodiversity emergency.
- Despite improvements in the environment in the last 50 years, species are still in decline. Despite some success stories.
- The total area of GM protected for nature has stagnated and sites aren't in the best condition.
- Our key networks – waterways and trees/woodlands – are under threat, including from invasive species and climate change.
- We need collective action to turn this around – including looking at agricultural land, amenity land, residential gardens, transport infrastructure and buildings.

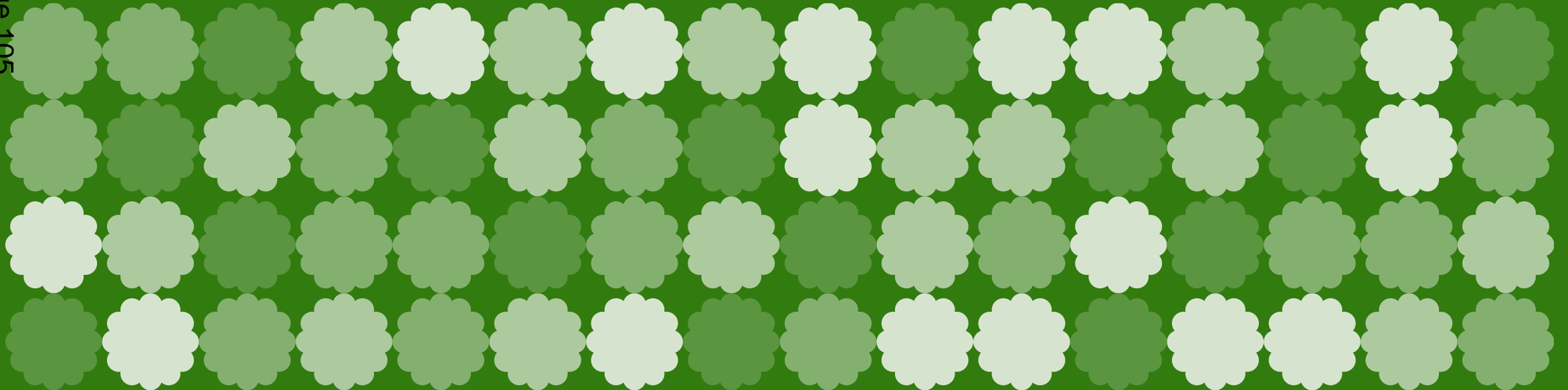


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Green Communications and Engagement Strategy 2024-25

Item 9

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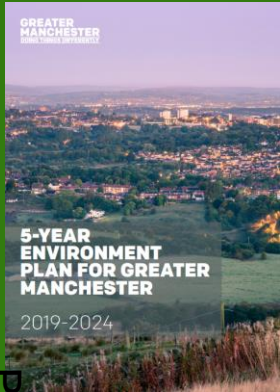
Agenda Item 9

Introduction

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Background

We remain at an important point of transition for Greater Manchester's 'green' portfolio:



Development & launch of the next 5-Year Environment Plan (2025-29)

- Narrative of what we aim to deliver needs to make way for what we have achieved.
- Planning getting underway for developing next Environment Plan.



Refreshing our Greater Manchester Strategy (2024)

- To incorporate our devolution trailblazer goals and ensure our wider aims are fully informed by our city region's needs and what we are directly able to influence and change.



Tackling twin emergencies

- Climate emergency declared in July 2019.
- Biodiversity emergency announced in March 2022 – LNRS in development, State of Nature report published March 24.



Developing our devolution trailblazer

- Includes provision for closer working with government on climate and environment, including devolved funding trials for net zero and retrofit, and more power on local nature recovery.

Priority areas for communications

Greater Manchester’s key environmental objective is to be carbon neutral by 2038 – our Five-Year Environment Plan outlines the urgent actions we all need to take to help achieve this.

- A framework for a Greater Manchester’s green communications strategy was approved in 2023, identifying four priority areas where communications leads can have the most impact on the city-region’s green ambitions:

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| | | | |
|---|--|--|---|
| <p>Building evidence of GM’s delivery by establishing an engaging, content-led narrative of delivery towards overall visions, including by specific missions and programmes.</p> | <p>Delivering behaviour change among residents, businesses, third sector / community partners, and colleagues from across the combined authority.</p> | <p>Securing resident / stakeholder insight to provide people-powered insight for the development of the next 5-year environment plan and associated strategies.</p> | <p>Optimising our ways of working with agreed city region comms and engagement priorities, a refreshed plan of action, clear roles & responsibilities, and resources for impact.</p> |
|---|--|--|---|

- Our strategy is co-owned and delivered in collaboration with districts and partners from the city region and beyond, and with a desire for greater resident involvement to inform our approaches.
- Work to ensure campaigns and activity across all partners is aligned with these priorities takes place through the Greater Manchester Green Communications Delivery Challenge Group, which meets every six weeks.

Our strategy

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Communications objectives

This strategy is designed to meet the following objectives:

- To support the aims of the 5-Year Environment Plan and Greater Manchester's target of becoming a carbon neutral city-region by 2038.
- To provide communications, engagement and media expertise to support the delivery of Green portfolio programmes.
- To drive residents, communities and businesses to engage with and access GMCA's green programmes and initiatives e.g. funding, home energy efficiency advice etc.
- To encourage residents to change their behaviours / move to more sustainable lifestyles.
- To support and align with Greater Manchester's district councils and other delivery partners on cross-GM campaigns.
- To showcase how Greater Manchester is leading the way by linking up with NW Net Zero and others.
- To help link green messaging and themes into other portfolio area campaigns e.g. skills, economy.
- To support delivery of the GMCA Environment Team business plan.

Audiences

High level audience groups that Greater Manchester is seeking to reach and influence on green matters. Behaviour insights research has additionally highlighted attitudes and drivers across our broad GM audience, providing insight that can shape our tactics and target our activity more effectively.

- Greater Manchester residents – utilising LIFE segmentation (Light contributors, inactive sceptics, focused achievers & educated non-doers)
- Community groups/schools
- Community leaders and champions
- Local Authority officers
- Businesses (via Bee Net Zero activity)
- Educational institutions and academics
- Key green project partners
- Networks, working groups, challenge groups etc
- Green influencers
- MPs / Councillors
- National Government / bodies e.g. BEIS/DEFRA/EA etc
- Other Local Councils and Combined Authorities / peers
- Internal / employees

Strategy and tactics

Communications partners across Greater Manchester will take a shared approach to building awareness of delivery, driving behaviour change & engaging audience groups to gather stakeholder insight. Approach and tactics for individual project activity will be determined by specific audiences targeted, but broad approach will include:

- Shared high level messaging to be woven into all green communications activity, in turn creating a clear narrative of delivery for the environment in Greater Manchester – utilisation of Doing Things Differently for the Environment visual branding and messaging & consideration of culturally competent messaging to assist with those communities that may not understand the whole environment strategy.

A multi-channel approach to make the most of the network of organisations that work on the green agenda across the city-region – fully-integrated campaign plans with activity that seeks to reach into audience groups that are often harder to reach e.g. digitally-excluded, older, English as a second language etc.

- Commitment from communications delivery challenge group members to regularly push activity through their external & internal channels / out to their audiences, amplifying and extending reach of campaigns.
- Production of campaign toolkits for key themes and projects, including messaging, graphics, templates etc – to be shared and utilised by all challenge group members and other intermediary groups.
- Positioning Green City channels as a central hub for the city-region, where campaign activity from all partners can be shared.

Key channels

Effectively utilising the full range of GM partner platforms will be vital to reaching and engaging our audiences.

- **GM Green City channels** – owned by GMCA, these should serve as a showcase / central hub for green efforts taking place across the city-region.
 - Website
 - Twitter
 - Quarterly newsletter (broad interest)
 - Quarterly stakeholders briefing (specialist interest)
- **Core GMCA channels** – websites, social, newsletters (internal and external), leadership updates etc, plus other related campaign / portfolio areas and their channels.
- **Partner channels** – owned by individual partners, these should be used to expand the reach of individual and overarching campaigns for GM where relevant.
 - Social media
 - Websites, consultation platforms, intranet e.g. Greener GM, NW Net Zero Hub
 - Newsletters and bulletins (internal, external and for specific stakeholder groups)
 - Forums

Monitoring

Tracking the performance of our campaigns, content and channels to understand impact and audience reach.

- Specific KPIs will be set for our individual campaigns / activities, reflecting the specific objectives / target outcomes of green portfolio projects e.g. ensuring the LEAD project enables 15,000 residents to access home energy efficiency advice, support and upgrades.
 - Quarterly impact reports are produced to demonstrate the effectiveness of campaigns, communications activity, and engagement, reporting on progress the communication activities outlined in this strategy and individual campaign plans.
- We will operate our communications with a test and learn ethos, adjusting our approach, planned activity and content to insights gleaned from both project team and communications monitoring data e.g. identifying Green Spaces Fund application cold spot areas and using that intel to more effectively target future marketing activity.
- We will also utilise insight into our audience groups from wider GMCA and partner reports e.g. staff surveys, resident surveys, behaviour insights work, Bee Net Zero insight etc.

Planned comms activities 2024-2025

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Rooting our activity in thematic priorities

Communications campaigns and other activity have been shaped to support the delivery of the GM Environment Team's thematic priority projects for 2024-25:

- **Cross-cutting**
 - *Development of next 5-Year Environment Plan:* audience insight, plan development and launch
 - *Annual Green Summit:* event development, sponsorship, delivery
 - *Sustainability Strategy:* internal activity working with sustainability team
- **Low Carbon**
 - *Renewable energy generation and storage:* LAEP outline business cases via Net Zero Accelerator, schools solar offer
 - *Decarbonisation of heat:* Heat pump delivery via Octopus / Daikin / YHB offer
 - *Domestic and public building retrofit:* Local Energy Advice Demonstrator and retrofit programmes (PSDS, SHDF, ECO4, YHB)
- **Natural Environment**
 - *Biodiversity and nature recovery:* Local Nature Recovery Strategy, Green Spaces Fund, GMEF, Biodiversity Net Gain
 - *Nature-based solutions:* SUDS projects and design guide, GM Adaptation Plan
 - *Water quality:* Integrated Water Management Plan, Natural Course project legacy
- **Sustainable Consumption and Production**
 - *Circular economy & sustainable waste management:* Single Use Plastics, schools pilot, GM refill, R4GM / Waste team link up
 - *Food waste reduction:* food vision for GM, R4GM / Waste team link up
 - *Behaviour change:* behavioural insights work phase 2, sustainable lifestyles

Cross-cutting communications activities

This list covers the key communications activities for 2024-25, which flow from the green portfolio's business plan priorities.

Each activity will have its own comms plan, detailing more granular activity taking place e.g. announcements, events etc.

| Campaign / activity strand | Detail | Timescales |
|---|--|-------------------------|
| Supporting the development and roll out of the next Greater Manchester 5-Year Environment Plan | Public consultation / engagement activity, report design and messaging, launch comms. | Q1 – Q4 |
| Driving delegate sign up, engagement and promotion of the Greater Manchester Green Summit | Event planning / design, driving delegate registrations, delegate engagement, sponsor comms, event management, branding and marketing materials. | TBC based on event date |
| Supporting GMCA's sustainability strategy | Supporting and inspiring GMCA and GMFRS staff to be sustainability leaders. | Ongoing / year round |
| Growing the GM Green City website | Encouraging partners to submit articles and link to the site via challenge group and districts, regular maintenance and updates, user journey analysis and refinement, SEO improvements. | Ongoing / year round |
| Support national and global awareness months, weeks, and days | Aligning our activity with dates including Earth Day, World Wetlands Day, No Mow May and Zero Waste Week. | Ongoing / year round |

Low Carbon communications activities

| Campaign / activity strand | Detail | Timescales |
|---|---|----------------------|
| Delivering the Feel the Benefit campaign | GMCA-led fully-integrated campaign focused on the myriad home energy efficiency initiatives being delivered by GMCA and its partners (LEAD, ECO, YHB etc). Driving resident awareness and engagement in the advice, support and funding available to them, alongside highlighting how we are decarbonising social housing stock (SHDF). | Ongoing / year round |
| Delivering the Powering Our Schools campaign | Supporting next phase of the programme by driving schools to express their interest and publishing case studies on schools already benefiting from the programme. | Q2 – Q3 |
| Promoting our emerging renewable energy generation and storage initiatives | Kick off comms for the Net Zero Accelerator with subsequent activity around delivery. Supporting partnership activity (Panasonic, High View Power (cryo storage), Carlton Power (Hydrogen). Supporting Energy Innovation Agency activity on new technologies. | TBC |
| Promoting our efforts to decarbonise heat | Supporting partner-led comms push on heat pumps, linking with relevant resident and business campaigns e.g. Feel the Benefit, Bee Net Zero. Shining a light on other initiatives to decarbonise heat e.g. heat networks, heat zoning etc. | TBC |
| Supporting continued decarbonisation of the public estate | Raising awareness of delivery successes from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme. | TBC |

Natural Environment communications activities

| Campaign / activity strand | Detail | Timescales |
|---|---|--|
| Driving awareness of and engagement in the development of Greater Manchester's Local Nature Recovery Strategy | Campaign to raise awareness of the issues facing nature in GM, engagement activity to secure input into the plan from key audiences, public consultation, report design and messaging, local nature champion profile pieces, strategy launch comms. | Ongoing / year round |
| Supporting community action and corporate investment in green spaces via the Greater Manchester Environment Fund | Promotion of potential future rounds of the Green Spaces Fund, growing the Greater Manchester Environment Fund comms strategy / approach, case studies of community-led delivery successes. | Ongoing / year round - GSF timings TBC |
| Supporting the development and launch of the GM Climate Adaptation plan | Report design and messaging, promotion of key nature-based solutions projects and activity e.g. Walkden SuDS, SuDS design guide etc. | Q2 – Q3 |
| Supporting ongoing delivery of the Integrated Water Management Plan | Comms guidance for the project team, delivery case studies, Natural Course project legacy. | Q2 – Q3 |

Sustainable consumption & production communications activities

| Campaign / activity strand | Detail | Timescales |
|---|---|----------------------|
| Development and launch of a resident-targeted sustainable lifestyles campaign | Content-driven social campaign focused on what a sustainable lifestyle looks. Drawing on behaviour insights and working closely with the districts on delivery to drive GM residents to change their behaviours in achievable ways. | Q2 – Q4 |
| Supporting the growth of Greater Manchester as a refill destination (Single Use Plastics Pact) | Supporting the national refills campaign, driving residents to make use of the refill app / refill stations, driving businesses to sign up as refill stations, promotion of schools taking part in refills pilot. | Ongoing / year round |
| Supporting the development of Greater Manchester's Zero Waste Strategy | Amplification of waste / R4GM-led campaigns and activity via Green City channels, weaving waste comms activity into wider Green communications campaigns. | Ongoing / year round |

Recommendations

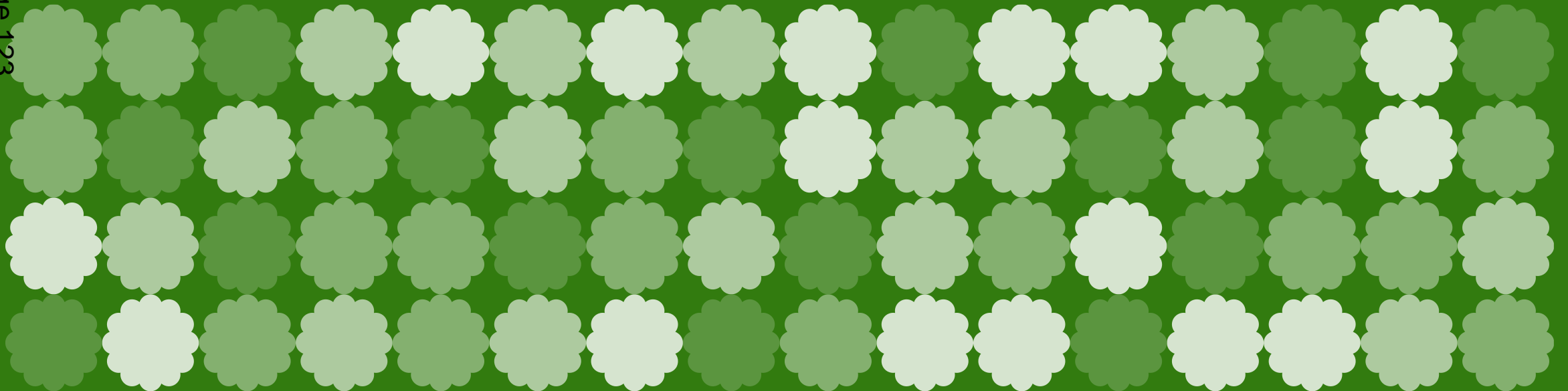
- Note updated communications strategy (slides 1-10)
- Comment on proposed communications activities for 2024-25 (slides 11-16)

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Item 10

Local Energy Advice Demonstrator (LEAD) Project

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Agenda Item 10

Local Energy Advice Demonstrator (LEAD) Project

- £2.14m programme run via the NW Net Zero Hub
- Operates from July 2023 to March 2025
- It connects existing offers via ECO4 / ECO4 LA flex and GBIS
- Provides face to face energy efficiency advice on building fabric
- It's focus areas are:
 - Hard to reach residents
 - Hard to treat properties
 - ... not to the exclusion of others
- 3 Local Authorities, 2 Social enterprises, 2 private business, and a cooperative with the GMCA as accountable body
- Glide path to retrofit devolution under the post 2025 spending review



LEAD Delivery Partners

| LEAD Partner | District covered |
|------------------|--|
| Bolton Council | Bolton |
| Bury Council | Bury |
| Groundwork | Manchester Tameside Oldham Rochdale |
| Your Home Better | Salford Stockport Trafford |
| Wigan Council | Wigan |
| Growth Company | GM wide |
| B&Q | Cheetham Hill store Trafford Park Store |

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Our delivery partners are engaging with GM residents in trusted spaces within local communities, at B&Q stores, community centres, faith buildings, GP surgeries and food banks.

LEAD Delivery

Feel the Benefit portal

- Check grant eligibility for ECO4/LA flex and GBIS.
- Signpost to the Boiler upgrade scheme.
- Offer follow up advice and support through LEAD, including home assessments and referrals into Your Home Better for those willing and able to pay.

Marketing and Comms

- 'Feel the Benefit' Campaign across TfGM network and local print and digital publications in 2024.
- Flyer included in Council tax mailout to ~300,000 households in March 2024. Signposting to the portal.
- Translations into 3 most widely spoken languages after English.

Home Assessments

- Test and trial approach to home assessments:
 - Through delivery partners and procured services.
- Determine the best approach to incentivise residents to get measures installed

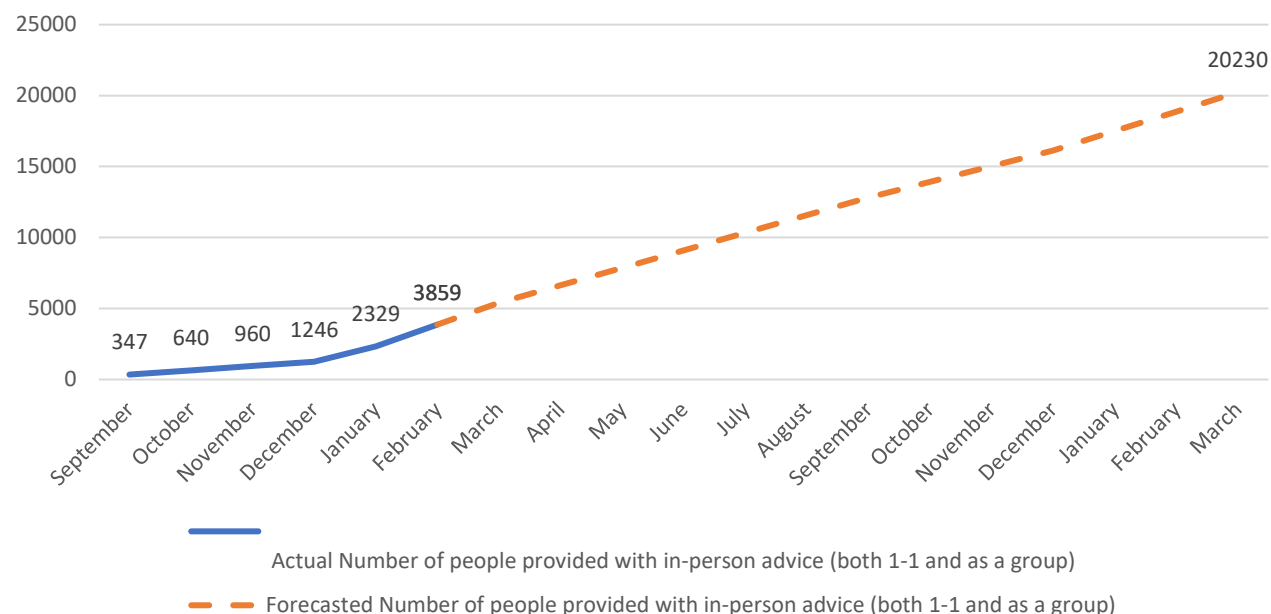
The screenshot displays the 'Feel the Benefit' portal's eligibility checker. At the top, a green banner features the logo and the text: 'Use this eligibility checker to see if you qualify for free or discounted home upgrades.' Below this, a progress bar is shown. The main content area is titled 'About the property.' and includes a text box for 'Enter Post Code' and a 'Find Address' button. A 'Previous Step' button is visible at the bottom left. The Greater Manchester logo is present in the top right corner.

The flyer features the 'Feel the Benefit' logo and the text: 'فائدہ محسوس کریں' (Feel the benefit). Below this, it says: 'غیر جانبدارانہ توانائی کے مشوروں کا' (Non-biased energy advice). The flyer includes images of a woman holding a mug and a person working on a roof. The Greater Manchester logo is in the top right corner.

LEAD Progress to Feb 29th 2024

- 3859 people given in person advice.
- 1075 Applications submitted on the portal through LEAD.
- 235 engagement events held across GM to give residents energy and retrofit advice.
- 353 homes assessed.
- 5 households with retrofit measures installed

Forecasted number of people provided with in-person advice from start of the project to March 2025

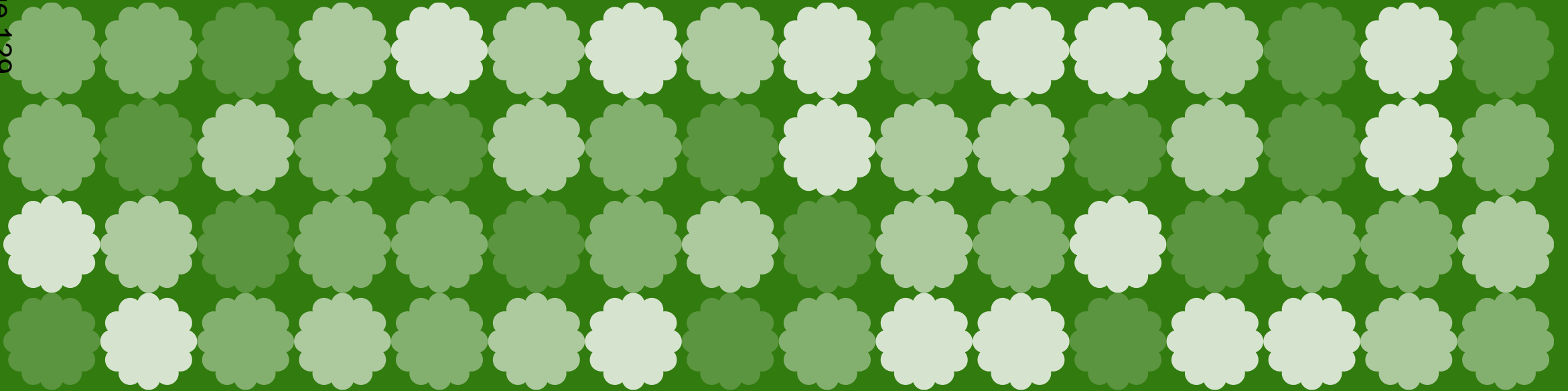


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Five Year Environment Plan Development

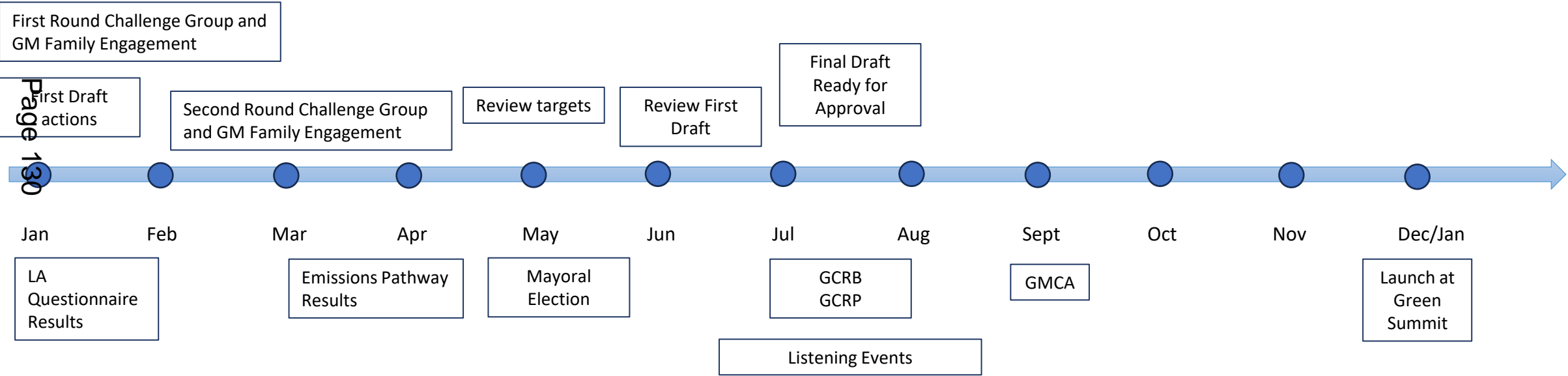
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Agenda Item 11

Timeline 2024



Partner Engagement

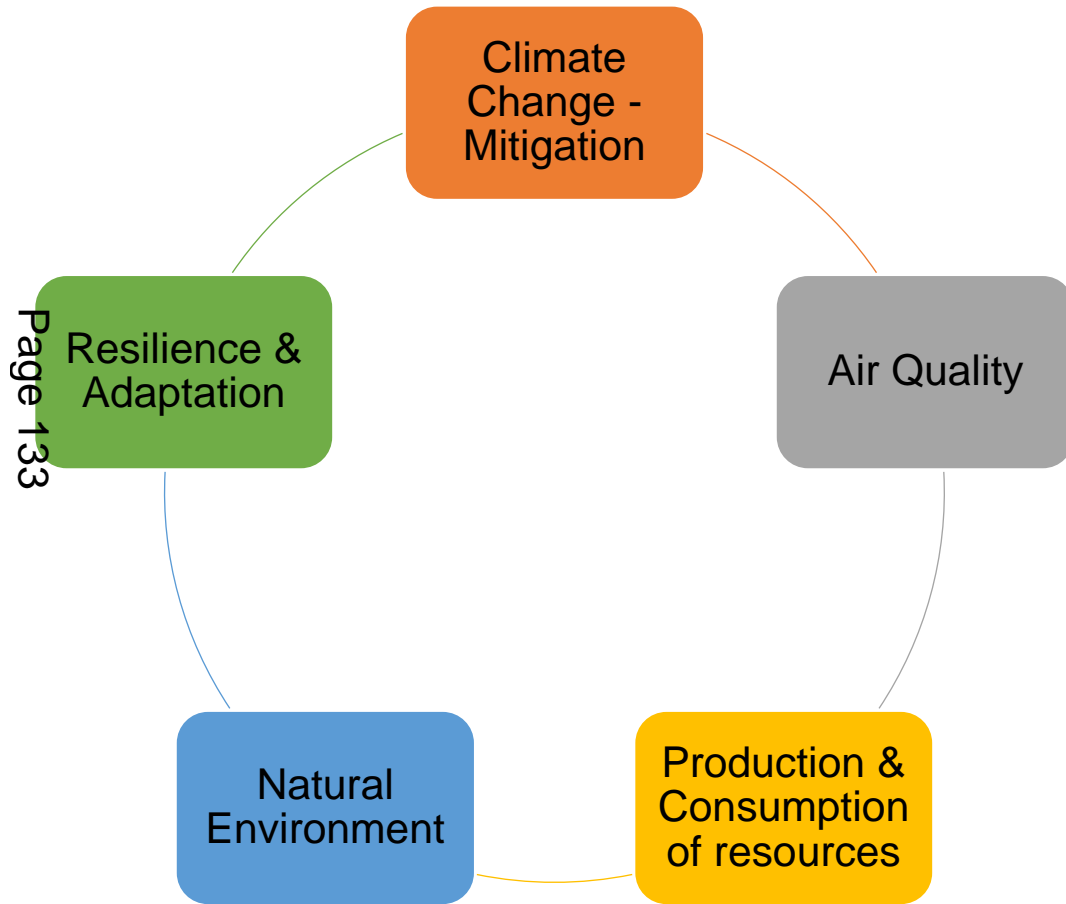
- Challenge groups
 - First engagement sessions held in Dec/Jan with a focus on developing actions outside of LA control and influence.
 - Second sessions will be held in Mar/Apr
- GM Family
 - Engagement session held in December
 - Focus on developing actions for their organisations

Listening events

- Engage with audiences outside of usual reach
- Events will be informed by behaviour insights and 5YEP first draft actions.

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- Events held with the Youth Combined Authority and GM=EqAL
 - Events planned with Sustainable Energy Association

Current 5 Year Environment Plan



Main Challenges

- Resources are limited
- Climate change vs nice to have
- Skills Gap
- Supply chain capacity

Chapters

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- Carbon and Climate
- Biodiversity/Clean Blue and Green Spaces
- Waste and Resources
- Air Quality
- Climate Adaptation

Our Homes

Actions we need to take



Who needs to take the actions

- Residents
- Social/private landlords
- Local Government/GMCA
- National Government
- Businesses
- United Utilities



Our Work

Actions we need to take



Who needs to take the actions

- Businesses
- Public Sector Bodies
- Landowners
- Commercial landlords
- Academia
- NGOs



Our Travel

Actions we need to take



Who needs to take the action

- TfGM
- Businesses
- Residents
- Local Authorities/GMCA
- National Highways
- Canal & River Trust
- National Government

Actions we need to take

Our Leisure

Who needs to take the actions

- Residents
- Local Authorities/GMCA
- NHS
- Leisure & Hospitality establishments
- National Government

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Our Industry

Actions we need to take



Who needs to take the actions

- Energy Intensive Industries
- Manufacturing
- Hospitality
- Businesses
- Local Authorities/GMCA
- NHS
- National Government
- Academia

Our Infrastructure

Actions we need to take

Who needs to take the actions

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- Waste Sector
 - Transport Sector
 - United Utilities
 - Energy Sector
 - National Government
 - Local Authorities/GMCA
 - NHS
 - Academia
-