

## **GREATER MANCHESTER LOW CARBON HUB**

Date: 29 July 2019

Subject: Implementing the GM 5 Year Environment Plan – Mission Based Approach

Report of: Mark Atherton, Assistant Director Environment

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### **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

Following approval of the 5 Year Environment Plan in March 2019, an indicative budget of £1m (over three years) has been identified to initiate actions which will support its delivery. The purpose of this paper is to provide the Board with an overview of how this indicative budget, from retained business rates, may be utilized to deliver a Mission Based Approach to achieving the challenge of carbon neutral living within the Greater Manchester economy by 2038.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The Board is asked to:

- Note the intention to utilise a Mission Based Approach.
- Note that GMCA has been asked to release £1m from the retained business rates reserve (over 19/20-21/22) to support the implementation of the 5 Year Environment Plan and delegate individual expenditure decisions within this £1m to the GMCA Treasurer, in consultation with the Portfolio Leader and Lead Chief Executive for Green City Region, including approval of any consequent grants to districts from this money where appropriate.

### **CONTACT OFFICERS:**

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### **BACKGROUND PAPERS:**

- 1) GM 5 Year Environment Plan [https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/media/1986/5-year-plan-branded\\_3.pdf](https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/media/1986/5-year-plan-branded_3.pdf)

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## 1. Background

- 1.1. Following the Greater Manchester Green Summit in March 2019, GMCA agreed the publication of the 5 Year Environment Plan for Greater Manchester, detailing what we need to achieve as a city region over the next 5 years.
- 1.2. The proposal to adopt a Mission Based Approach was set out in the 5 Year Environment Plan and subsequently incorporated into the GM Local Industrial Strategy, jointly agreed with Government in July 2019. In essence, the Mission Based Approach requires setting an ambitious Mission “Carbon Neutral City Region by 2038” and breaking this down into manageable challenges. Rather than focusing on particular sectors, this approach focused on problem specific challenges facing society which will require many different sector’s involvement to solve.
- 1.3. As part of the city region’s drive to address the challenges outlined within the Plan, a budget of £1m (over 3 years) from Business Rates income has been identified to: initiate some of the actions required to demonstrate leadership through our own estates, convene collaborative action across sectors and promote change activities in commercial and domestic properties and communities.
- 1.4. It is recognized that £1m is insufficient to deliver all of the actions within the Action Plan however, it does provide seedcorn funding which can be used to leverage funds from other sources. Most of the significant expenditure items in the 5 Year Plan are capable of attracting match funding from UK public and private funds. The CA will continue to bid for external funding wherever possible, however, the budget provides an opportunity to better plan expenditure without being fully reliant on successful funding bids.

## 2. Proposal

- 2.1. To address each of the Themes within the 5 Year Environment Plan, it is proposed that the challenges which should be tackled initially are:
  - 2.1.1. Sustainable consumption and production challenge – “more with less”.
  - 2.1.2. Low Carbon Buildings challenge – reducing emissions through **post-meter** actions.
  - 2.1.3. Energy Innovation Challenge – reducing emissions through **pre-meter** action.
  - 2.1.4. Natural Capital Challenge – ecosystem services and natural adaptation.
  - 2.1.5. Communication Challenge – engaging and communicating with all stakeholders.

Each of these Challenge Groups will be asked to drive forward action to achieve the targets set out in the 5 Year Plan; report upon progress and identify any barriers which need to be overcome for further progress to be made towards achieving the overall Mission.

- 2.2. In addition, it is proposed that a monthly “5 Year Environment Plan Implementation Forum” is established to allow the cross fertilization of ideas between Challenge/Task and Finish Groups. This Forum would be open to all and permit the wider engagement of organisations who may have a general interest in progress but not be formally part of delivery. This Forum would replace the previous “Green Summit Steering Group” but not be restricted to these organisations.
- 2.3. The 5 Year Environment Plan is clear that, to be successful, immediate actions are required to decarbonize the city region whilst also looking to support innovation in technologies, finance models and social change. It is proposed that a significant focus is placed on these immediate needs in the first two years of delivery.
- 2.4. In particular, it is suggested that building capacity to support Local Authorities to accelerate their decarbonisation plans is given priority to enable local authorities to demonstrate leadership and to bring forward proposals which could potentially generate revenue or save costs to authorities.
- 2.5. External funding has already been secured for the following activities:
  - 2.5.1. Carbon literacy training for the public sector.
  - 2.5.2. Scoping study for the development of the Energy Transition Region concept.
  - 2.5.3. Research into the use of local taxation as nudge mechanism for energy efficiency.
  - 2.5.4. Development of the Investment Readiness Fund for nature based solutions.
  - 2.5.5. Scoping study for the development of a Local Energy Market.
  - 2.5.6. Warm Homes Funding to support installation of lower carbon heating in fuel poor homes.
- 2.6. Work is already ongoing, utilizing existing funding, to design and undertake due diligence on the Energy Innovation Company proposition which will aim to support accelerated deployment of energy generation on publically owned lands. Set-up costs for an Energy Innovation Company are not included in this paper as it is subject to more detailed design, costing and due diligence. Funding bids are also being prepare for the wider delivery of the Local Energy Market and Energy Transition Region concepts once developed.
- 2.7. An indicative budget for the first three years is provided in Annex 01.

### **3. Delivery Mechanisms**

- 3.1. The Mission Based Approach is predicated on cross sectoral engagement for solution creation. It is envisioned that the Challenge Groups (referenced in 2.1) are supplemented with Task and Finish Groups which are given specific task or challenges to solve. It is envisioned that the Challenge Groups will be comprised of the lead person from each of the Task and Finish Groups and Chaired by a Green City Region Partnership Board member. In this way, we will aim to deliver a programme of action which ultimately seeks to deliver the Mission (see Annex 02).
- 3.2. Five Local Authorities (Trafford, Manchester, Salford, Bury and Stockport) have now declared a Climate Emergency. To support these and other GM Authorities to make accelerated progress, it is recognised that additional capacity and expertise is required which is made available to support Local Authority led priorities for reduction carbon emissions from the public estate.
- 3.3. Local Authority Directors of Place have been asked to identify a senior officer who could act as a single point of contact for GMCA to collaborative with on LA decarbonisation plans. This will ensure that each Authority has improved access to shared knowledge and initiatives to support their plans.

### **4. Recommendations**

The Board is asked to:

- Note the intention to utilise a Mission Based Approach.
- Note that GMCA has been asked to release £1m from the retained business rates reserve (over 19/20-21/22) to support the implementation of the 5 Year Environment Plan and delegate individual expenditure decisions within this £1m to the GMCA Treasurer, in consultation with the Portfolio Leader and Lead Chief Executive for Green City Region, including approval of any consequent grants to districts from this money where appropriate.

	Activities	Budget (£k)			GMCA TOTAL	Potential Additional Income	Grand Total	Comment
		19/20	20/21	21/22				
1	Communications/engagement	15	15	15	45		45	Building momentum and raising awareness
2	Capacity building to support LAs & bidding	250	150	100	500		500	Potential for revenue generation/cost savings in future
3	Collective Procurement of PV	100			100	100	0	Potential to recoup investment from referrals (see separate paper)
4	GM Environment Fund Set-up	15			15		15	Self-financing following set-up
5	Retrofit Accelerator (linked to 2)	100	100		200		200	Subject to gaining leverage from private sector
6	Energy Innovation Company (linked to 2)	tba	tba	tba	0	80	80	From existing Oldham held budgets for feasibility/cost study
7	Additional research and scoping work (tba)	55	45	40	140		140	
	Totals	535	310	155	1000	180	1080	

**External Bids (Subject to approval)**

8	Bid - Local Energy Market (linked to 6)				0	1300	1300	Subject to successful bid to UKRI (over 2 years)
9	Bid - Electrification of Heat (linked to 6)				0	900	900	Subject to successful bid to BEIS (over 2 years)
10	Bid - Energy Transition Region				0	230	230	Subject to successful bid to UKRI (over 2 years)

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## ANNEX 02

## Green City Region - Integrated Governance

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