

GREATER MANCHESTER LOW CARBON HUB BOARD

Date: **29 July 2019**

Subject: **PERFORMANCE UPDATE – Q1 (Apr-Jun)**

Report of: **Mark Atherton, Asst Director Environment, GMCA**

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The report provides the usual update on progress of the Low Carbon Hub for the first quarter of 2019/20.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Board is recommended to:

- Note and comment upon the progress outlined in this report and latest position set out in the dashboards attached at Annex 01 (Environment Team Performance Overview) and Annex 02 (5 Year Environment Plan Performance).
- Provide any feedback on the format of the two dashboards as a means of updating the board on progress, risks and issues.

CONTACT OFFICERS:

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TRACKING/PROCESS		[All sections to be completed]
Does this report relate to a Key Decision, as set out in the GMCA Constitution or in the process agreed by the AGMA Executive Board		No
EXEMPTION FROM CALL IN		
Are there any aspects in this report which means it should be considered to be exempt from call in by the AGMA Scrutiny Pool on the grounds of urgency?		[Please state any reasons here]
AGMA Commission	TfGMC	Scrutiny Pool
15 th March 2019 agma.gov.uk	[Date considered at TfGMC; if appropriate]	[Date considered/or to be considered at Scrutiny Pool; if appropriate]

1.0 OVERVIEW OF PROGRESS

The update at Annex 01 (Environment Team Performance Overview) contains a summary of key achievements during the last quarter across the areas within the 5 Year Environment Plan. There are a number of key successes to be highlighted which are set out below:

Energy supply

- Launched a GM *Whole System Wide Smart Energy Plan*, in conjunction with the Energy Systems Catapult.
- Secured approval to launch solar PV offer to GM residents and businesses in September (see separate paper).
- Continued development of proposals to deliver energy efficiency and generation on public assets (*Energy Innovation Company*)
- Commenced scoping of *Energy Transition Region* proposals, which will provide the platform for energy innovation.
- Completed *Local Energy Market* scoping work and commenced development of bid for Phase 2.
- With *Big Clean Switch*, have achieved 543 household switches in GM, the target for 2019 being 1000-5000

Buildings

- Developed a draft *Retrofit* Report for consideration by the Board and Combined Authority.
- Engaged consultants in developing the standard for and pathway to zero carbon new development, as proposed in the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework.
- Successful consortium bid of city regions, led by UKGBC, to develop proposals for city-led retrofit programmes (funded by Climate-KIC).
- Received a 'best large scale project' award for the Warm Homes Fund project under the Northwest Energy Efficiency Awards Scheme

Transport

- 24 Bee Network schemes spread across all 10 GM districts have been granted programme entry status by the GMCA.
- Awareness raising on air pollution included pollution pod artwork installation at media city and various events across GM to promote electric vehicles, cargo bikes and other sustainable modes of transport.
- 3 GM operators successfully received a total award of £9.6m for new zero emissions buses. TfGM was awarded funds for 23 buses.

Sustainable Consumption and Production

- Refill bottle filling station pilot launched in Bury.
- Continuing to support PlasticFreeGM campaign.
- GM Green compostable carrier scheme launched with support from GMCA.
- Re-tendering of the GM Waste Contract completed and Suez appointed as new waste contractor for the GMCA

Natural Environment

- GM chosen as one of Defra's peatland pilots, as part of its overall peat strategy. As part of this, Natural England will advise on developing peatland management and restoration targets.
- Biodiversity net gain and green infrastructure standards continue to be developed as part of the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework.
- Scoping brief developed for commissioning research to design an Investment Readiness Fund as part of the Natural Capital Investment Plan.

Resilience and adaptation

- Launched the IGNITION project – a 2½ year £5m project to develop the financing and delivery mechanisms in order to be able to achieve a 10% uplift in green infrastructure in GM by 2038.
- Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment work complete and Level 2 commissioned June 2019.
- Action plan for Infrastructure Strategy being developed and resilience is a key theme to be considered.

3.0 KEY ANTICIPATED ACTION IN THE NEXT QUARTER

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

Energy supply

- Complete scoping work for *Energy Transition Region*
- Submit bid for Phase 2 of *Local Energy Market* proposals.
- Prepare cost options for Leaders to deliver energy generation and efficiency (*Energy Innovation Company*) and carry out soft market testing.
- Submit proposal for funding to for roll out of *Local Area Energy Planning* across the city-region.

Buildings

- Publication of the *Retrofit Report* and taking forward of actions, particularly the development of proposals for a *Retrofit Challenge Group*.
- Continued development of zero carbon standards and pathway as part of the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework proposals.

Transport

- Award contract for an EV Charging Infrastructure supplier.
- Continue to raise awareness on air pollution as a health issue and the action everyone can take to help tackle it.

Sustainable Consumption and Production

- Develop and launch SCP/Circular Economy Plan.
- Proposals for LA Plastic Pact to be submitted to Cexs.

- Continue to support PlasticFreeGM and the bottle refill station pilot in Bury with 3 more fountains to be installed.

Natural Environment

- Continue to deliver Natural Capital Investment Plan, utilising EU IGNITION project to support identification of investments.
- Work with Coordinating Beneficiary to seek timely approval of Natural Course Phase 3 programme.
- Support Lancashire Wildlife Trust to expand My Wild City to reach a wider audience.
- Continue to develop Biodiversity Net Gain guidance and green infrastructure standards, including views of LPAs.
- Undertaking further due diligence work with EA/Others on set up of the Environment Fund (see separate paper).

Resilience and adaptation

- Resilience RoadMap to be published setting out a clear approach to resilience across GM.
- Phase 2 Strategic Flood Assessment to be commissioned.

4.0 IDENTIFIED RISKS AND EMERGING ISSUES

4.1 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:

Key risks:

4.2 The following represent key risks set out in Annex 02 – *Environment Team Performance Overview*.

- Failure of the 5 Year Environment Plan to achieve a step change in reducing carbon emissions. The challenge has been shown by the recent release of data for 2017, which saw a 3.7% reduction (against the need for 15% year on year reductions).
- Over the next quarter, we will be developing a dedicated communications plan for GM Green City Region to support delivery of the 5 Year Plan.
- Failure to meet ambitious recycling and waste diversion targets.
- Failure to deliver the aims of the IGNITION project. This is being managed through the governance arrangements in place for the project.

Work programme issues:

In terms of the priorities set out in the 5 Year Plan, the following areas are flagged as “red” (see Annex 01 – *5 Year Environment Plan Performance*).

- The decarbonisation of GM's homes through deeper whole-house retrofit. This is being mitigated by the publication of a *Retrofit Report* (next quarter) to set the priorities and framework for action and, as part of that, the development of proposals for a *Retrofit Challenge Group*. GM has also joined a consortium, led by the UK Green Buildings Council and including West Yorkshire, London and the West Midlands and funded by Climate-KIC to develop proposals for city-led retrofit.
- Decarbonising freight transport. This is being mitigated by TfGM assessing and developing a roadmap to reduce freight emissions and support modal shift, increased efficiency and alternative fuels for HGVs.

5.0 RECOMMENDATION

The Board are recommended to:

- Note and comment upon the progress outlined in this report and latest position set out in the dashboards attached at Annex 01 (Environment Team Performance Overview) and Annex 02 (5 Year Environment Plan Performance).
- Provide any feedback on the format of the two dashboards as a means of updating the board on progress, risks and issues.