

**MINUTES OF THE GM LOW CARBON HUB BOARD HELD ON FRIDAY 15 MARCH 2019 AT
GMCA OFFICES, CHURCHGATE HOUSE, OXFORD STREET, MANCHESTER**

PRESENT:

Cllr Alex Ganotis	GMCA Portfolio Lead for Green City Region (Chair)
Patrick Allcorn	BEIS
Louise Blythe	BBC
Peter Emery	Electricity NW
Tony Hotherall	City of Trees
Phil Korbel	Cooler Projects
Robin Lawler	Northwards Housing
Chris Matthews	United Utilities
Roger Milburn	Arup
Anne Selby	GM Natural Capital Group
James Thompson	University of Manchester
Lee Rawlinson/Mark Easdale	Environment Agency

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Simon Nokes	GMCA
Mark Atherton	GMCA
Sam Evans	GMCA
Darryl Quantz	Public Health England (GM)
Megan Black	TfGM
GM Youth Council Representatives	

LCH/19/13 INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES

The Chair opened the meeting and extended a warm welcome to all those in attendance. A particular welcome was extended to representatives of the GM Youth Council who were attending to provide comments on climate change and the 5 Year Environment Plan.

Introductions took place.

LCH/19/14 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Roger Milburn, noted that as Arup was involved in the development of the Clean Air Plan, he declared an interest in any discussions relating to that item.

CH/19/15 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18 JANUARY 2019 AND ACTIONS ARISING

The minutes of the Low Carbon Hub Board meeting held on 18 January 2019 were submitted.

RESOLVED/-

That the minutes of the meeting held on 18 January 2019, be approved as a correct record, subject to noting that Mark Easdale was in attendance as a representative of the Environment Agency.

LCH/19/17 QUARTER 4 PERFORMANCE UPDATE (JANUARY – MARCH 2019)

Mark Atherton, Assistant Director, Environment, introduced a report which provided Board members with an update on progress of the Low Carbon Hub for the fourth Quarter 2018/9.

Members noted that the update, at Appendix 1 to the report, detailed areas of progress against the announcements from the 2018 Green Summit across the themes set out in the GM Climate Change Low Emission Implementation Plan, over the last quarter (October-December 2018) and highlighted a number of key successes. The comments of Board members on the proposed next steps, as outlined in the appendix to the report, were also sought.

RESOLVED/-

- 1) That the updates on the Announcements from the 2018 Green Summit from across the Low Carbon Hub's accountable bodies, as attached at Annex 01 to the report be welcomed and noted.
- 2) That the recommended next steps, as set out at Appendix 1 to the report, be supported.

LCH/19/18 DRAFT 5 YEAR ENVIRONMENT PLAN

A paper on the draft 5 Year Environment Plan was presented to GMCA on 1st March (Annex 01). The draft 5 Year Plan (annex 02) is intended as a high-level document, with further detail provided in related Thematic Plans. The Thematic plans have been developed with partners and consultancies over the past 12 months and will be completed over the next few months.

The purpose of this paper is to present the 5 Year Plan to the Board for comment, subject to design and minor changes, prior to seeking final approval from GMCA on 29th March, following the Green Summit on 25th March. A presentation was also provided which outlined:-

- a) Our 5 Year Plan for the Environment is part of a bold set of plans to create a city region fit for the future.
- b) 5 environmental threats and challenges to Greater Manchester namely, Climate change – mitigation, Air Quality, Production and consumption of resources, Natural Environment, Climate change – resilience and adaptation and 3 opportunities of People, Place and Economy in tackling them.
- c) The Model used in informing the scale of the challenge.

- d) What was needed to be done over the next 5 years in terms of our energy supply, our energy demand in our buildings, our travel and transport, our consumption and production of resources, our natural environment and our resilience and adaptation to climate change.
- e) Set out our overall approach, which seeks to: establish the UK's first city region Clean Growth Mission for carbon neutral living by 2038; driving innovation; the rapid deployment of energy technologies and improved resource efficiency.
- f) Members noted that this ambition will involve:
 - a. defining an ambitious goal and using this to create a long-term policy landscape;
 - b. collectively setting out tasks to mobilise people and groups to come together in new ways;
 - c. the next step is to launch the Mission and agree challenge projects which will form part of it, which this plan and its priorities provide the basis for.

In welcoming the report and presentation, the Chair highlighted that the Plan was aligned to the Local Industrial Strategy and that energy generation and building retrofit were key models of this.

The need for good communications in promoting this Plan was highlighted. Board members noted that the cost, if this work did not happen, in terms of health, the environment and economically, was a strong message.

In response to an enquiry regarding the length of time programmed to make these important changes, Members noted that the plan was for 5 Years and these formative years would be crucial achieving the longer term 2038 target.

In welcoming the plan, a Board member highlighted the importance of the impact on health that air quality has and that the inclusion of the comments of the Health and Social Care Partnership would be beneficial.

RESOLVED/-

- 1) That the contents of the GMCA paper, as set out at Annex 1 to the report, be noted.
- 2) That the comments on the draft 5 Year Plan (Annex 02) be noted.

LCH/19/19 COMMENTS ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE 5 YEAR ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN

Representatives of the GM Youth Council presented their thoughts on Climate Change and the Five Year Environmental Plan and highlighted the initiatives and campaigns they were supporting to promote carbon literacy.

Board members noted that that, in terms of the plan, younger people generally prefer to access such documents electronically and read a concise version.

The Board noted that young people had also identified that schools and other public buildings needed to be encouraged to be more energy efficient. The role of developing a curriculum for life will enable opportunities for greener jobs in GM and to encourage a culture shift where people repair items rather than discarding them to landfill and replacing them. The potential to incentivise people to recycle properly would be beneficial.

A Board member suggested that the aspirations of the Youth Council be explored and be brought to future meetings of the Low Carbon Hub Board.

RESOLVED/-

- 1) That the contents of the report be noted.

LCH/19/20 GM CLEAN AIR PLAN: UPDATE JANUARY 2019

The Board received a report that was considered by the GMCA on 1 March 2019 providing an update on progress in the preparation of a GM feasibility study detailing the options available, subject to full funding by Government, to address nitrogen dioxide exceedances, and outlined a broad direction of travel in relation to the next steps and decision-making.

Members noted that the plan would also take into account the wider socio-impacts in terms of air quality and the potential role of Highways England in the development of this strategy, given that road traffic remains a significant contributor to NO₂ emissions. The report highlighted that in order to address this issue the Mayor is minded to introduce a penalty regime for non-compliant vehicles.

The report explained that there was a need to provide a clear communication process to assist individuals to understand the health implications involved with air quality and how they can contribute to improving such. It was highlighted that 'reward drives behavioural change' and for this reason, the Plan may need to include incentives to change.

Members noted that natural pollution barriers, such as trees, did fit into GM's wider objectives and this Plan looks at improving air quality across the conurbation, as soon as possible.

A Member commented that GM could link with a number of initiatives taking place across cities in the UK and learn from best practice rather than work in isolation.

Members noted that there were a considerable number of older buses operating in Greater Manchester powered by diesel engines, contributing to NO₂ emissions. The challenge faced by GM was that as the Mayor does not control the majority of public transport services, it was therefore crucial to gain national support from Government to support this.

RESOLVED/-

- 1) That the report be noted.
- 2) That the PowerPoint presentation be shared with Board members.

LCH/19/21 ALL OUR TREES – GM TREE AND WOODLAND STRATEGY UPDATE

Tony Hotherall, City of Trees, introduced a paper which provided Board members with an update on the development of the GM Tree and Woodland Strategy (All Our Trees), by City of Trees, on behalf of the GM Forests Partnership. Members noted that the report set out the revised structure and intended timescales for delivery. The paper also presents outputs from the two main elements of the Strategy's evidence base: headline findings from the i-Tree exercise to model the scale, function and value of GM's urban forest; and example results from the data mapping exercise employed to prioritise locations for new tree planting.

Advice and support was sought from the group on format of consultation with and the process for approval and sign-off by GMCA.

In noting the report, the Chair recommended that an evidence base be developed in relation to the scaling up of tree planting in Greater Manchester and highlighted that there was a need to ensure that the right species of trees which benefit air quality the best, are considered.

RESOLVED/-

That the structure and evidence base and approval steps, as set out in the report, be noted and that the format be supported.

LCH/19/22 GREEN SUMMIT 2019 UPDATE AND PROPOSAL

Mark Atherton, Assistant Director, Environment, introduced a report which provided Members with an update on the development of the 2019 Green Summit, event proposals and the work of the GM Green Summit Steering Group since the last Low Carbon Hub Board meeting.

The Board was pleased to note that take up for the event was huge and that there was a waiting list of delegates.

RESOLVED/-

Note and comment on the contents of the report.

LCH/19/22 GREATER MANCHESTER INFRASTRUCTURE FRAMEWORK

Simon Nokes, Executive Director of Policy and Strategy introduced a report that was considered by the GMCA on 11 January 2019 which provided a briefing on the Greater Manchester Infrastructure Framework and the establishment of the Greater Manchester Strategic Infrastructure Board.

RESOLVED/-

That the update on the establishment of the Greater Manchester Strategic Infrastructure Board, be noted.

LCH/19/23 GREATER MANCHESTER SPATIAL FRAMEWORK UPDATE

Members noted that this item was to be deferred to the next meeting of the Low Carbon Hub.

LCH/19/24 ANY OTHER BUISNESS

a) Festival of Nature

Anne Selby reminded members that the Manchester Festival of Nature was taking place at the end of June. All members were welcome.

RESOLVED/-

That the update be noted.

LCH/19/25 FUTURE MEETING DATES

RESOLVED/

That it be noted that the next Low Carbon Hub meeting will be held on:

- Friday 19 July 2019, 10.00 – 12.00 at Churchgate House, Oxford Road, Manchester, M1 6EU