

GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED AUTHORITY

Date: 14th February 2021

Subject: Climate Emergency 6 Month Update

Report of: Councillor Andrew Western, Portfolio Leader for Green City Region and
Alison McKenzie-Folan, Portfolio Lead Chief Executive for Green City Region

PURPOSE OF REPORT

GMCA declared a climate emergency at its meeting on 26th July 2019 and required that progress reports be reviewed every 6 months. This paper outlines the actions undertaken since the last progress report in June 2020.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

GMCA is requested to:

1. Note the paper and the progress against the GMCA Climate Emergency declaration (Fig.1)
2. Note and disseminate to elected members the GM Green City Region briefing on delivery against the GM 5 Year Environment Plan for September-December 2021 (Annex).

CONTACT OFFICERS:

Mark Atherton mark.atherton@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk

Equalities Implications:

<u>BOLTON</u>	<u>MANCHESTER</u>	<u>ROCHDALE</u>	<u>STOCKPORT</u>	<u>TRAFFORD</u>
<u>BURY</u>	<u>OLDHAM</u>	<u>SALFORD</u>	<u>TAMESIDE</u>	<u>WIGAN</u>

There are no immediate equalities implications of this paper. Future iterations of the Members briefing will be reviewed to ensure alignment with accessibility protocols.

Climate Change Impact Assessment and Mitigation Measures –

Delivery of both the GMCA Sustainability Strategy and the 5 year Environment Plan will act to reduce carbon emissions across the organisation and conurbation respectively.

Risk Management:

There are reputational risks associated with any non-delivery of GMCA’s aims under the Declaration. Current progress is on track, however future delivery of decarbonization measures across the GMCA estate needs to be accelerated.

Legal Considerations:

The GMCA’s climate emergency declaration is non-statutory and not legally binding.

Financial Consequences – Revenue:

There are no financial implications associated with the recommendations of this paper.

Financial Consequences – Capital:

There are no financial implications associated with the recommendations of this paper.

Number of attachments to the report: 1

Green City Region members briefing (Q3).

Comments/recommendations from Overview & Scrutiny Committee

The Green City Region members briefing (Annex) was circulated to Scrutiny for comment in January. No feedback at the time of writing.

BACKGROUND PAPERS:

GMCA Climate Emergency Declaration – GMCA Paper - July 2019

TRACKING/PROCESS		
Does this report relate to a major strategic decision, as set out in the GMCA Constitution		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 relevant Scrutiny Committee on the grounds of urgency?		No
GM Transport Committee	Overview & Scrutiny Committee	
N/A	4 th February (Annex only)	

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 GMCA declared a climate emergency at its meeting on 26th July 2019. Following this decision, the actions arising were developed into an Action Plan for the first 12 months (Annex A) divided into Administrative, Governance and Operational actions. The Action Plan has now been largely completed (See Fig1.) and will be subsumed into the GMCA refresh of its internal sustainability strategy.
- 1.2 GMCA's existing sustainability strategy has provided a focal point for sustainability activity across the organisation. The planned refresh of the strategy has been slowed due to Covid, however internal consultation is now back underway and will be concluded by the end of January. It is anticipated that the updated Strategy will be completed by the end of March and launched in April.
- 1.3 The refreshed strategy will be updated to reflect how the organisation intends to support both the delivery of the GM 5 Year Environment Plan and requirements of the Climate Emergency declaration. It will feature action plans to drive progress in key carbon reduction areas e.g. heat decarbonisation and fleet management. It will set out a carbon reduction pathway for the organisation with indicative costs.

2.0 GMCA CLIMATE EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN - PROGRESS SINCE JUNE 2020

- 2.1 The Administrative and Governance actions of the Climate Emergency Action Plan (Fig. 1) have been progressed and are complete. All the Operational actions have been progressed but some have slipped from the original timescale. The outstanding actions which will be completed over the next quarter include:
- Undertake a systemic evaluation of GMCA's existing programmes from a carbon perspective - to be commenced in February.
 - Development of a sustainability appraisal tool for GMCA decision papers - to be operational in March.
 - Review of local authority levers for behaviour change, including public procurement mechanisms – to be commenced in February.
 - Complete carbon literacy training of all Senior Managers and Extended Leadership Team before extending training to staff with buildings, energy, transport and procurement responsibilities – online training course to be devised this quarter

The learning from each of these activities will be shared with District colleagues to allow for replication where desired.

- 2.2 From January 2021, GMCA and GMFRS will run internal communications to staff throughout the year. The objective is to raise awareness of the climate emergency and the progress made by GMCA and GMFRS on improving the energy efficiency of our buildings and improvements in processes such as procurement and investment. Internal communications will also engage and motivate staff to make individual changes to their own carbon footprint both at work and from a personal perspective. The communications will be adapted according to our working arrangements in response to COVID, taking into account the fact that more people may be working at home.
- 2.3 Internal communications will include an improved intranet page where all environmental information is in one place; for example, cycle scheme, internal recycling facilities. Internal channels will include regular mention of environmental issues. National awareness days will be promoted as well as relevant projects currently run by the GMCA Environment team such as the Green Homes Grant Fund and Big Clean Switch.
- 2.4 The Climate Emergency Action Plan also sets out how GMCA will support Districts and the wider conurbation to deliver the GM 5 Year Environment Plan, utilising a Mission Based Approach. The Governance arrangements for the Mission Based Approach are largely working well however will be tweaked following the first year of operation to further improve delivery. A new Green City Region Board, comprising lead Environment Portfolio elected members from each District, has been established and has met twice.
- 2.5 At its first meeting, the Board received an overview of the GM 5 Year Environment Plan and related programmes. At its second meeting, the Board reviewed established programmes for decarbonizing the public estate, increasing energy efficiency in fuel poor homes and decarbonizing transport and provided advice on the future development of these programmes. The Board also received a presentation on the Climate Emergency work of one District (Wigan MBC) with a view to sharing the learning across all 10 Districts.
- 2.6 A quarterly Member's briefing report has also been produced for the Board (Annex 1). To raise awareness of the progress made across all Districts, it is suggested that this report should be disseminated more widely to elected Members across the Districts. Key highlights include: securing £10m investment for energy efficiency measures in domestic properties; establishing an Energy Innovation Agency with GM Universities and private sector partner and bidding for £80m for carbon reduction measures across the public estate.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 GMCA is requested to:

1. Note the paper and the progress against the GMCA Climate Emergency declaration (Fig.1)
2. Note and disseminate to elected members the GM Green City Region briefing on delivery against the GM 5 Year Environment Plan for September-December 2021 (Annex).

Fig 1. Climate Emergency Commitments - Action Plan		Progress Update
Administration	To declare a 'climate emergency' to support the delivery of the Greater Manchester 5 Year Environment Plan.	Completed 26 th July 2019
	That the Mayor will write to the Prime Minister to inform them that GMCA has declared a climate emergency and ask them to provide the resources and powers necessary to deal with it.	Completed September 2019
	Report to GMCA every six months on progress and actions that GMCA needs to take to address this emergency and how it will work with GM Districts to develop a Mission Based Approach to implementation.	Completed - timetabled in Agenda items to GMCA at appropriate intervals (every 6 months)
Governance	To establish a Green City Region Board and Partnership Group, building on the existing Low Carbon Hub Board.	Completed - Green City Region (GCR) Partnership (external) fully established and operational for 18 months. New GCR Board (elected members from 10 Districts) established in September 2020 and has met twice.
	To take a mission based approach to achieving this target date as part of our Local Industrial Strategy agreed with Government, and to ensure we maximise the economic opportunities presented by the move to carbon neutrality	Completed - Mission based approach developed and established. Thematic Challenge and Task & Finish groups operational and active. A review of the structure and operation of the Mission Based Approach has been undertaken after the first year of operation and will be tweaked to further improve delivery this year.
	Monitor progress against the carbon budgets set out in the 5 Year Environment Plan and to achieve a challenging target date of 2038 for carbon neutrality or earlier if possible	All GCR Board and Partnership meetings have received detailed Quarterly update reports. Currently working with partners to assess how to improve KPI monitoring arrangements for the 5 Year Environment Plan.
Operations	To task a director level officer with responsibility for reducing as rapidly as possible, the carbon emissions resulting from the GMCA's activities.	Completed - Assigned responsibility to Mark Atherton (Director of Environment)
	Consider systematically the climate change impact of each area of the GMCA's activities	Tender prepared to systemically evaluate GMCA's existing programmes from a carbon perspective, to be let in February. Tender let in January to review local authority levers, including public procurement eg forward procurement commitments for behaviour change.
	Make recommendations and set an ambitious timescale for reducing these impacts in line with the tasks set out in the 5 Year Environment Plan;	Produced report on GMCA's operational carbon footprint and actions required to reduce this including monitoring of staff business travel. Will develop a refreshed GMCA Sustainability Strategy by April 2021 using existing Environmental Management System and produce business cases for priority projects e.g. PV, Fleet
	To assess the feasibility of requiring all report risk and procurement assessments to include Carbon Emission Appraisals, including presenting alternative approaches which reduce emissions wherever possible.	Included a brief climate change impact assessment and mitigation measures on all GMCA reports from November 2019. Now working with Tyndall Centre to develop an evaluation tool for all GMCA decision papers – to be operational in March 2021.
	To equip staff, particularly those involved with buildings, energy and transport management and procurement of goods and service, with an awareness of the CO ₂ costs and impacts of everyday activities, and the ability and motivation to reduce emissions	Three training sessions held for staff as part of 'learning at work' weeks. Still need to complete carbon literacy training of all Senior Managers and Extended Leadership Team before extending training to staff with buildings, energy, transport and procurement responsibilities
Completed		Commenced/On track
		Delayed/Behind schedule

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