Greater Manchester Green City Region Partnership

Date: **29th July 2021**

Subject: **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 first quarter of 2021/22.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Partnership is recommended to:

1. Note and comment upon the progress outlined in this report and latest position set out in the dashboards attached at:
    a. Annex 01 (Environment Performance Overview) and
    b. Annex 02 (5 Year Environment Plan KPIs).

CONTACT OFFICERS:

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1. OVERVIEW OF PROGRESS

The updates at Annexes 01 (Environment Team Performance Overview) & 02 (5 Year Environment Plan Performance) contain 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, set out below:

1.1 Energy

- Local Area Energy Planning (LAEP)/LEM - Bury LAEP issued. Bruntwood installed 6 trial EV chargers and 5 V2G chargers with the support of Hitachi and the Manchester University NHS trust. Daikin and Northward Housing are completing the installation of 153 retrofits to existing Air Source Heat Pumps (ASHPs) in Northward building stock. Carbon Co-op are progressing well with all the required end user engagement requirements. Bruntwood with the support of Upside Energy have completed the initial high-level design of the Market Making platform. REGEN have continued with discussions with key partners for the development of the business case ref investment and to date have interviewed a possible 16 potential investors.
- Decarbonisation of Heat (DEEP) Phase 2 outline business cases being developed across public buildings, schools, NHS and social housing.
- Site prioritisation activity completed for Go Neutral Tranche 1 partners. Partners reviewing assets with a view to confirming a shortlist for a call-off framework by mid-July. Data collection activity completed for Tranche 2 partners. Work commenced on scoping requirements for the procurement framework.
- Agreement to host Energy Innovation Agency (EIA) Staff within the Growth Company and MIDAS has been secured, and interview process is ongoing. Hitachi EU have joined the partnership.
- MoU signed between Carlton Power, MMU, GMCA, Trafford Council, Cadent Gas, ENWL to enable the development of the Trafford Energy Park concept and provide long term H2 offtake commitments. Discussions underway with community energy group and UU re potential solar farm and private wire connection.
- ENWL have replaced their core Operational IT systems with a new Advanced Distribution Management System (ADMS) to utilise network capacity, especially during network abnormalities. Digitisation of ENWL communication links to substations and replacement of non-smart grid capable field telemetry equipment is now complete. Active Network Management (ANM) is on track for delivery during 2022.

1.2 Buildings

- Initial market engagement on Retrofit has started through the Buildings Challenge Group Heat Pump Accelerator. Wider engagement with the extended value chain has not yet commenced. This is in part due to short term capacity constraints arising from the Energy Innovation Agency Workstreams; and a desire not to

reduce the impact of the Retrofit Task Force and to reflect its considerations in the early market engagement.

- Co-production model for deployment of additional enforcement capacity as key element of approved GM Good Landlord Scheme underway with districts staged implementation likely.
- Green Homes Grant (GHG LAD) phase 1A extended by national government to August 21, with an additional £17m secured for GHG Phase 2. 2100 leads generated for all phases, with installs being completed across the region.
- Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund - Revised programmes submitted which now capture extended delivery timescales out to Mar 22. Significant progress made on grid connections and planning applications are underway. Several partners have completed tender exercises and contractors appointed on circa 50% of schemes. The Manchester College has joined the consortium with an allocation of £1.5m from programme underspend. Work is continuing on heat decarbonisation plans. Template for the toolkit prepared and majority of site surveys completed.

1.3 Transport

- GM Cycle Hire announced Beryl Bikes as it's supplier to deliver 1500 bikes and related docking stations from November 2021 as part of phase 1 in regional centre Salford, Manchester and Trafford to become part of integrated public transport system.
- Mayor's Challenge Fund (MCF) has now approved £84m of schemes including £40m of full business case approvals. Targeting completion of 100km of Bee Network routed before the end of 2021.
- GM Interim Active Travel Design Guide, compliant with the new government LTN 1/20 cycle design guide, adopted by GMCA to apply to all active travel investment irrespective of funding source.
- CleanAirGM - Following a review of all the information gathered through the eight-week long public consultation in 2020, and wider data, evidence and modelling work, the final Clean Air Plan has now been published. The plan will be considered by decision makers in the ten GM local authorities by the end of July 2021.
- Be.EV network established via EVCI Contract. On-Street Charging Grant fund bid making strides. Development work carried out by mapping team, now at a costing/feasibility stage.
- Taxi charging project advancing, site shortlisting almost complete. Discussions on-going for schedule. Final stages of developing Be.EV Taxi Membership for GM Licensed drivers.
- Funding secured via Clean Air Plan proposals to support the uptake of Zero Emission capable taxis. Funding ranges between £10k - £6k dependent on the vehicle type.
- In relation to TfGM's Fleet - Infrastructure supply approved and order placed with the supplier. Electric vehicle tender process to be refreshed due to a change in government funding for battery electric vehicles, trials of alternative battery electric vans in progress due to the increase in the number of solutions now available.

- Government have developed the Zero Emission Buses Regional Areas (ZEBRA) Scheme to facilitate the systematic upgrade of infrastructure across a regional area to support the deployment of new zero emission bus. Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) have approached bus operators working in Greater Manchester and with Stagecoach and intend to jointly submit an Expression of Interest to the fund.
- Framework tender issued for the potential supply of a range of battery electric buses, single deck, double deck and double deck with guide wheels.
- As at the end of May, there have been 63 applications made by 18 operators through Clean Bus Fund (CBF). The total number of buses eligible for retrofit funding that has been approved is 756. The total funding that has been approved is just over £11.7 million. £0.639m funds paid out to operators in the Qtr. First retrofits commenced in early May and will continue throughout the year. The Clean Bus Technology Fund (CBTF) is scheduled to be completed by the end of Sept 21, delays due to changes in funding criteria.
- GM Freight Roadmap development progressing with engagement with Districts on potential opportunities in their area.

1.4 Sustainable Consumption and Production

- Local Levers phase 1 and 2 completed and an analysis of potential areas to explore in more detail has been produced. 4 out of 6 key areas of potential impact are around procurement. Others include planning and investment.
- 46 businesses supported on carbon reduction with 26 grant applications approved, leveraging £94,457 of private sector investment, 889 tCO2e/annum savings, business cost savings £282,089/annum. A further 43 businesses supported on eco innovation and sector development.
- One Bin project with University of Manchester (UoM) is progressing. Trafford selected as trial area for phase 1 due to commence in Autumn 2021. Phase 2 will be in Rochdale. Application awaiting sign off by UoM Ethics Committee. Research assistant recruited.
- The first two 'Renew' shops selling pre-loved household items have opened at Arkwright Street in Oldham and Woodhouse Lane HWRC in Trafford. The third shop at Boysnope Wharf in Salford will be open at the end of June. https://recycleforgreatermanchester.com/renew/
- Applications to the Community Fund to support Greater Manchester community and voluntary sector to deliver projects to reduce waste received over 60 applications.
- Public Sector single use plastics spend review in catering is now complete. Final report has been circulated to Heads of Procurement and Catering leads in districts. A presentation was given at the NW Caterers Forum on 16th June.
- Second round of EPR and DRS consultation responses have been submitted. Response on Consistency in Household and Business Recycling is being reviewed for submission prior to 4 July 2021. Work has commenced on a bio-waste strategy for how we manage this waste stream from 2026.

- The national Food Waste Action Week ran from 1-7 March 2021 supported by GMCA. Research is underway with residents across the city region to understand behaviours linked to food waste. This will lead to the development a GM wide food waste prevention/recycling campaign.

1.5 Natural Environment

- Draft Local Nature Recovery (LNRS) submitted to Defra. All outcomes of the pilot and associated funding from Natural England concluded on time and within budget.
- The Lancs Wildlife Trust led Environmental Land Management scheme (ELMS) tests and trials completed 4 case studies and fed key learnings to Defra about the development of ELMs going forward. Groundwork ELM just commencing.
- Restoration of peatland – Salford Local Plan progressing and partners looking at possible peatland restoration activities on Chat Moss. Restoration works completed at Botany Bay Wood adjacent to Astley Moss East Quarry and Little Woolden Moss. Lancs Wildlife Trust awarded £670K from Biffa Award for further peatland and habitat restoration work.
- Natural Course Phase 4 Request for Amendment submitted to the EU following positive feedback on draft submission. River habitat surveys completed within the Whittle Brook waterbody and final report drafted. Site management plans progressed for 4 waterside wildlife sites across GM. Practical works to reduce diffuse water pollution pressures on Moston Brook in Oldham and Manchester districts commenced. GM Water Forum held as part of virtual GM Natural Capital Group conference. Conference received over 400 sign ups.
- Water company bid to OFWAT for resources to be brought forward partially successful. United Utilities commissioned consultants to produce materials for domestic misconnections campaign.
- 50 officers and members completed Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) training in March 2021. Resources uploaded to stand alone page on GMCA website. Draft BNG Off Site Implementation Plan produced for review by Steering Group and to agree key leads for actions. Greater Manchester Ecology Unit (GMEU) resourcing considered by POG subgroup with paper produced by Tameside Council for review.
- IGNITION Living Lab opened and launched in June. In-depth modelling taking place on Funding Stream 1 (FS1). Commissions commenced on Neighbourhood SuDS, green roof mapping and park foundations. Testing potential of voluntary individual giving to fund/match fund added value projects in Public Parks and Greenspaces.
- Recruitment of Greater Manchester Environment Fund (GMEF) team underway, and website launched. Terms of Reference, structure and objectives agreed. Project pipeline in development alongside offer to corporates.
- GM Natural Capital User Guide launched. Working with the Transport Delivery Group to understand how approaches are more widely embedded in business case development.
- Green Social Prescribing (GSP) programme is now established with delivery underway. 5 Test and Learn sites have been commissioned - Sow the City (Mcr), Lancashire Wildlife Trust (Bury), Salford CVS (Salford), Petrus (Rochdale) and a

GM wide initiative to create a wider stakeholder group and resource exchange, delivered through City of Trees.

1.6 Communications

- Supplier appointed and work on new GM Green City Region website commenced with initial design concepts received.
- Brief written for YCA Environment Working Group to develop personas for young people to aid website development.
- Continuation of work with wider NW Strategic Group to finalise regional pathway to COP including 2 themed NW events taking place during COP26. Provisional booking of Carbon Bus Tour (of UK) on 8th October.
- GM Green Summit confirmed for 18th October at The Lowry, Salford Quays.
- Scope of training being finalised prior to engaging GMCA e-learning developers on online carbon literacy portal.
- Platform provider to assist schools with web ready resources to engage and deliver action on climate change and sustainability at a local level has been procured via Stockport Council.

2. KEY ANTICIPATED ACTION IN THE NEXT QUARTER

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

2.1 Energy supply

- Issue Salford and Manchester LAEP and review. Commence Phase 2 of the LAEPs with a further 4 LAs concluded by Oct 21. Bruntwood to conclude their ‘heat as a service’ design and installation of a further 19 EV chargers. Complete installation of 153 trial retrofit ASHPs and onboarding to the Market Maker platform. New domestic "heat as a service" tariff to be finalised. OVO to progress with the installation of 6 Sonnen batteries. REGEN to continue developing the Investment business which will be supported by Cornwall Insight providing regulatory control and advice. LEM animation and press releases issued.
- DEEP Phase 2 outline business cases completed.
- Undertake site prioritisation activity for Go Neutral Tranche 2 (July). Tranche 2 partner review and confirm shortlist by mid-Aug. Set-up call-off framework and conduct market engagement activity in August. Tender call off framework (Sept).
- Subject to notice periods onboard the EIA Director and the first of the Business Development Leads.
- Progress planning requirements (expected Q4 2021) and connection application for Trafford Energy Park concept. Technology Procurement planned for Q3 2021 with the intention to procure and finance the initial phase of H2 electrolyser Q1 2022.

2.2 Buildings

- Complete Retrofit market engagement and commence the procurement process.
- Complete the GHG LAD 1A/B programmes, while bidding on behalf of the region for Sustainable Warmth Funding (GHG LAD 3).
- Deliver and install required monitoring equipment for the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme, with initial data sets starting to be captured.
- Tender exercises for Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund to be completed, installations works to continue and completed where identified in programme. Heat decarbonisation plans to be completed and opportunities for PSDS 3 identified.

2.3 Transport

- GM application for Active Travel Fund 2021/22 to be submitted to the DfT ahead of August deadline including expressions of interest for exercise on prescription and Mini Hollands programmes.
- GM Cycle Hire docking station site identification, approvals process and further stakeholder engagement.
- Final Clean Air Plan considered by ten Greater Manchester local authorities (by end July 2021). Subject to local authority approval, a consultation will be held on the proposed inclusion of M1SP class motorhomes within the scope of Clean Air Zone charges (September/October 2021). Subject to local authority approval, a consultation will be held on a modification to the Clean Air Zone boundary to include the A575 and A580 at Worsley (September/October 2021).
- EVCI Strategy to be considered by GMCA in July. Accompanying website to be finalised.
- On-Street Charging Grant Fund to be completed for submission in October 2021. Agree sites for OZEV taxi and agree designs with Iduna.
- Taxi membership to be completed. Implementation of tariff to be determined by TfGM/GMCA CEO.
- 10 more rapid chargers to be completed as part of Early Measures.
- Continue to engage with trade regarding the funding opportunities offered by the GM Clean Air Plan to support the uptake of Zero Emission capable taxis.
- Successful tenderers to be added to the framework for supply of battery electric buses. A detailed Ultra Low Emission Bus specification to be produced. A mini competition to be conducted for the supply of the buses.
- Continue to administer retrofit funding to remaining applicants of the Clean Bus Fund. Retrofit works will continue throughout the quarter.
- Socialisation and stakeholder work on GM Freight roadmap development.

2.4 Sustainable Consumption and Production

- Complete Local Levers phase 3 in-depth analysis of prioritised levers.
- Launch the Journey to Net Zero programme to support GM SMEs to develop strategic actions plans to deliver on targets. Grow the low carbon network and

capture jobs created from support delivered to date. Ongoing additional work to support Innov8 – Innovation Cohort.
- Commence recruitment of households for One Bin Phase 1 trial in Trafford.
- Shortlist Community Fund applicants. Report of recommendations to be submitted to the Greater Manchester Environment Fund Trustee Board (GMEFTB) on 7 July. Successful projects to be notified by 15 July 2021.
- Open third of HWRC re-use shop at Boysnope Wharf in Salford.
- Anticipated that Government will publish its response to the consultations in Autumn 2021. Awareness raising reports to be circulated to Members and senior officers.
- Consider next steps for Public Sector Single-Use Plastics reduction including further research to understand main buying/supply routes, check price points with suppliers on alternatives, set minimum purchasing requirements across GM.

2.5 Natural Environment

- Publication of the outcomes of the LNRS pilot alongside mapping products (on Mapping GM) and a call for green sites tool.
- Feedback on all 3 ELMS Test and Trial Pilots at Natural Capital Group (NCG) meeting on 2nd July and explore how to feed into LNRS and GMEF.
- Working with NE to agree peatland targets for GM 5Year Environment Plan
- Receive approval from EU for Natural Course Phase 4 work programme. Appoint consultant to carry out study of micro plastic contamination of rivers in GM. Site management plans for 4 waterside wildlife sites in GM and practical works on Moston Brook completed. Report on GM water governance structures drafted.
- Promote water company domestic misconnections campaign to households within Greater Manchester.
- BNG Off Site Implementation Plan to be signed off by Steering Group with leads agreed. Commence delivery of actions. GMEU resourcing to be considered further by POG.
- Commence engagement activities at the now opened IGNITION Living Lab. Progress FS1 through to a decision on investability. Progress consultant commissions on parks foundation, neighbourhood SuDS and green roof mapping.
- Commence Investment Readiness Fund proposals (subject to funding). Progress Salford Parks donation pilot.
- Progress funding application discussions with National Lottery Heritage Fund (LNHF). Start to engage with corporates and other buyers re Corporate Social Responsibility and off-setting products.

2.6 Communications

- Progress to development stage of GM Green City Region website and content upload. New site to launch August 2021.

- Review personas brief, taking into account limited meeting time with YCA group, and work with group to develop behaviour change content and support for pre-COP events.
- Finalise pathway of NW Net Zero events leading up to and as part of COP26. Engagement of Schools in GM with Together for Our Planet school pack.
- GM Green Summit venue agenda to be outlined and content curated.
- Completion of the content and platform creation for schools.

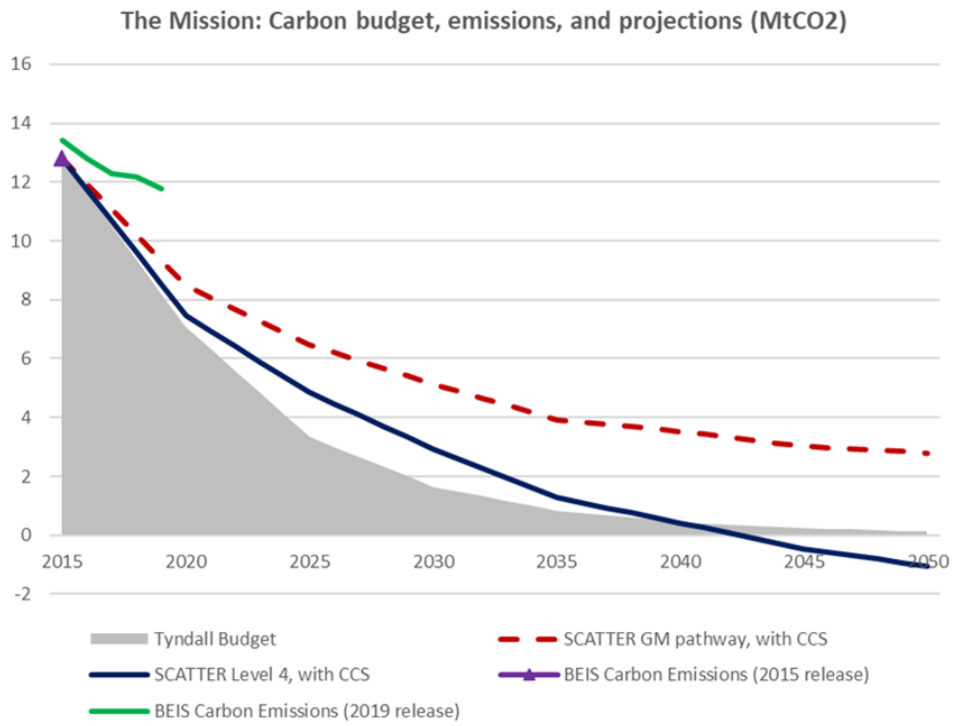
3. IDENTIFIED RISKS AND EMERGING ISSUES

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" (see Annex 01 - *Environment Performance Overview*).

Key risks:

- **Failure of the 5 Year Environment Plan to achieve a step change in reducing carbon emissions**. The release of data for 2019 shows a reduction of 3.24% in estimated emissions (0.76% reduction in 2018). Actual performance is lagging by 18.8% against Five Year Plan target (based on cumulative emissions from 2015 to 2019). NB: BEIS figures are revised year-on-year, so the starting point for emissions has shifted in time. The 2019 BEIS release has the 2015 figure 4.8% higher. Therefore, the 'gap to Tyndall' is inflated, this would mean we would need to take a steeper trajectory to keep within 71MtCO2 by 2038.



- **Failure to meet ambitious recycling and waste diversion targets**. Current household waste recycling rate is 48%. Unverified figures for 2019/20 show no increase in recycling rate, remaining at around 48%. With diversion from landfill increasing to over 98%. Measures continue to be implemented to increase recycling rates at HWRCs and household kerbside recycling to deliver against 2025 target.
- **Failure to deliver the aims of the IGNITION project.** This is being managed through the governance arrangements in place for the project. Finance Earth is supporting GMCA and Environment Agency engagement with United Utilities to understand potential solutions to increase investment.
- **Level and depth of retrofit required to meet our overall ambitions is highly challenging.** The decarbonisation of GM's homes through deeper whole-house retrofit is being mitigated by the publication of a *Retrofit Report* 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. An initial Market Engagement event is planned for the 19 July to help shape the Retrofit Accelerator Tender and help applicants consider how they may form consortia to successfully respond to the challenge. 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.

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 dashboards attached at:

    a. Annex 01 (Environment Performance Overview) and
    b. Annex 02 (5 Year Environment Plan KPIs).