

GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED AUTHORITY

DATE: 24 September 2021

SUBJECT: GMCA, Environment Agency and United Utilities Memorandum of Understanding

REPORT OF: Paul Dennett City Mayor of Salford and Greater Manchester Portfolio Lead, Housing, Homelessness and Infrastructure and Steve Rumbelow Portfolio lead Chief Executive for Housing, Homelessness and Infrastructure

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

To agree to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Environment Agency and United Utilities.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The GMCA is requested to:

1. To agree to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Environment Agency and United Utilities (Appendix A).
2. To note the common areas of interest and outcomes (para 3.4 and Appendix B)
3. To agree to receive an annual report on progress, success and any issues/barriers to delivery.

CONTACT OFFICERS:

[Steve Rumbelow](#) Lead Chief Executive for Housing, homelessness and Infrastructure

[Andrew McIntosh](#) – Place Making Director (GMCA)

[David Hodcroft](#) – Infrastructure Lead (GMCA)

Equalities Implications: How water is managed (and if not sustainable) tends to disproportionately affect and impact those who live in more deprived areas, the most vulnerable and least likely to be able to afford insurance or adapt to climate change. The MOU is aiming to create places that are livability, resilience and ensuring that new development is sustainable.

Climate Change Impact Assessment and Mitigation Measures –

Impacts Questionnaire		
Impact Indicator	Result	Justification/Mitigation
Equality and Inclusion	G	How water is managed (and if not sustainable) tends to disproportionately affect and impact those who live in more deprived areas, the most vulnerable and least likely to be able to afford insurance or adapt to climate change. As per question 1. As per question 1. As per question 1.
Health	G	
Resilience and Adaptation	G	Flood risk is one of the greatest climate risks to Greater Manchester, responding to this risk increases the resilience of people and places. As per question 1. As per question 1. As per question 1.
Housing		Managing water - flood risk, drainage, green infrastructure and biodiversity netgain is a requirement of the statutory planning process.
Economy	G	
Mobility and Connectivity		
Carbon, Nature and Environment	G	Water management - and impacts such as flooding goes hand in hand with measures to improve water quality, reducing diffuse pollution and carbon emissions.
Consumption and Production	G	The MOU includes an outcome and measures of success for sustainable consumption and production with specific aims and objectives.
Contribution to achieving the GM Carbon Neutral 2038 target		
Further Assessment(s):		Equalities Impact Assessment and Carbon Assessment
	Positive impacts overall, whether long or short term.	Mix of positive and negative impacts. Trade-offs to consider. Mostly negative, with at least one positive aspect. Trade-offs to consider. Negative impacts overall.

Carbon Assessment		
Overall Score	#DIV/0!	
Buildings	Result	Justification/Mitigation
New Build residential	#DIV/0!	
Residential building(s) renovation/maintenanc	N/A	Not applicable
New Build Commercial/Industrial	N/A	Not applicable
Transport		
Active travel and public transport	N/A	
Roads, Parking and Vehicle Access	N/A	
Access to amenities	N/A	
Vehicle procurement	N/A	
Land Use		
Land use	TBC	
	No associated carbon impacts expected.	High standard in terms of practice and awareness on carbon. Mostly best practice with a good level of awareness on carbon. Partially meets best practice/ awareness, significant room to improve. Not best practice and/ or insufficient awareness of carbon impacts.

Risk Management:

N/A

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<u>BURY</u>	<u>OLDHAM</u>	<u>SALFORD</u>	<u>TAMESIDE</u>	<u>WIGAN</u>

Legal Considerations:

N/A

Financial Consequences – Revenue:

N/A

Financial Consequences – Capital:

N/A

Number of attachments to the report: 2 – Appendix A and Appendix B

Comments/recommendations from Overview & Scrutiny Committee: N/A

BACKGROUND PAPERS:

[Greater Manchester Infrastructure Framework \(2019\)](#)

[Greater Manchester 5 year Environment Plan \(2019\)](#)

TRACKING/PROCESS		[All sections to be completed]
Does this report relate to a major strategic decision, as set out in the GMCA Constitution		Yes
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		Please state the reason the report is exempt from call-in
GM Transport Committee	Overview & Scrutiny Committee	
N/A	[Date considered by the relevant Overview & Scrutiny Committee]	

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 There are demonstrable benefits in having a single joined up conversation with individual infrastructure providers to overcome barriers to integrated planning and delivery. In early 2019, the Greater Manchester Combined Authority established the Strategic Infrastructure Board (SIB) reporting jointly to the LEP and the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) political portfolio holder for Housing, Homelessness and Infrastructure. The SIB and engagement with the key infrastructure providers such as Electricity North West, Cadent, the Environment Agency and United Utilities has been instrumental in creating the collaborative ecosystem for infrastructure delivery across Greater Manchester.
- 1.2 The GMCA received a report last July outlining issues and proposed response to flood risk and water management in Greater Manchester. The report highlighted that GMCA officers are working with United Utilities (UU), the Environment Agency (EA) and other infrastructure providers to identify shared outcomes and ways to strengthen day to day working.
- 1.3 This report sets out the proposed approach to this partnership working it is not simply an “environment” issue it’s about places, livability, resilience, delivering new development differently.

2. PARTNERSHIP REVIEW

- 2.1 The GMCA, UU and EA have developed a productive partnership, particularly over the past 4 years, to drive forward the environmental, development and infrastructure agendas in Greater Manchester. This includes:
 - Strategy and policy – worked closely together in setting out the environmental ambitions for the city-region, particularly in the commitments both organisations made in the 5 Year Environment Plan, policy and supporting evidence based for Places for Everyone and in the shared challenges set out in the Infrastructure Framework.
 - Governance and partnerships – the EA/UU are an active member in our key senior environment and infrastructure boards, particularly the Green City Region Partnership, Strategic Infrastructure Board and the Planning and Housing Commission. The CA sends three political representatives to the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee.
 - Project delivery – we have worked closely together on key projects for example:
 - Strategic developments site such as Mayfield, Victoria North, Gateway North, Carrington, Godley Green and Stockport MDC.
 - Projects such as Urban Pioneer, IGNITION and Natural Course
 - Practical arrangements – in addition to partnership working on projects, these activities have been underpinned with ongoing secondments of EA staff into the GMCA (the CA picks up 50% of the staffing costs) and UU engagement with research/EU funded projects and individual development proposals.

- 2.2 A review was undertaken by GMCA, EA and UU during spring 2021 to question whether:
- a. Existing joint working is optimised
 - b. There are any gaps
 - c. There is activity not adding much value
 - d. The right people are connected

3. PROPOSED APPROACH

- 3.1 The aim is to:
- a. Ensure all parties have a common understanding of what we are trying to achieve together and can see the value in doing so.
 - b. Agree governance arrangements.
 - c. Create the structures to drive action planning and delivery and most importantly.
 - d. Align a complex system of legislation, funding arrangements and organisations to achieve tangible and measurable outcomes within Greater Manchester.
- 3.2 The approach is more than a change to operational governance. The outcomes the partnership is aiming to achieve are a reduction flood risk, improvements in water quality and efficiency, more resilient and livable places and developments, enhancement to natural capital, reduction in carbon emissions and an increase in investment into Greater Manchester
- 3.3 The partnership will inform business and investment planning, for example (UU's) next price review and investment cycle. It will help partners to allocate resources and monitor progress to make this a success, leverage funding to deliver agreed outcomes, including integration of funding within priority places/strategic growth locations.
- 3.4 Further detail on outcomes and measures of success are outlined in Appendix B, these revolve around five common areas identified, these are:
- a. Place Based Planning
 - b. Sustainable consumption
 - c. Sustainable production/low carbon
 - d. Enhancing Natural Capital
 - e. Resilience to climate change
- 3.5 For each of these areas, a strategic outcome has been identified, followed by measures of success. Individuals from the CA/UU/and EA have been assigned to the thematic working areas. Each group has been tasked with identifying where efficiencies and joint working can be optimized (as set out in para 2.2).
- 3.6 The working groups will report to a collaborative team who report on and filter issues to the existing trilateral meetings between the CA, UU and EA Directors.
- 3.7 Each group has been tasked with identifying:
- a. a terms of reference
 - b. to undertake a gap analysis against the outcomes and measures of success

- c. Identify and agree the top 5 priorities for the next 12 months and the outputs in the next 6 months
- d. To identify existing activities or existing meetings that can be replaced (or disbanded).
- e. Producing an action plan with outputs and timescales.

3.8 Green and blue infrastructure is one of the eleven infrastructure challenges set in the Greater Manchester Infrastructure Framework. An update on this challenge and a progress report was provided to a meeting of the Strategic Infrastructure Board on the 14 July.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 The GMCA is requested to:

- 1. To agree to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Environment Agency and United Utilities (Appendix A).
- 2. To note the common areas of interest (para 3.4 and Appendix B)
- 3. To agree to receive an annual report on progress, success and any issues/barriers to delivery.

APPENDIX A – MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

TERMS OF REFERENCE

September 2021

1. Shared ambition

The purpose of the partnership is to influence and deliver sustainable growth and development in Greater Manchester by improving flood risk resilience, enhancing the environment, driving circular economy approaches and supporting regeneration

2. Objective

The primary objective of the United Utilities/Greater Manchester Combined Authority and Environment Agency strategic partnership is to drive the delivery of the following long term outcomes for the Greater Manchester area.

Outcomes:

1. Co-owned place based plans are in place to deliver the shared outcomes and delivery is supported by co-funding
2. Progressive improvements are made in the resilience of areas at risk of flooding or other impacts due to climate change
3. All future developments and critical infrastructure are resilient to flooding and the impact of climate change with opportunities also taken to improve risk in existing areas.
4. Regeneration is routinely used to enhance resilience to impacts of climate change
5. Long term reductions in per capita consumption of water are delivered reaching 110 l/head/day by 2050
6. Long term reductions in per capita flow and non flushables received in the sewer network are achieved
7. Carbon net zero is achieved for Greater Manchester is achieved by 2038
8. Opportunities to drive a more circular economy for materials are understood and exploited
9. A biodiversity net gain system in place with associated habitat banks to support offsite delivery from new development
10. Nature based solutions play their part in the achievement of net zero carbon for Greater Manchester by 2038
11. Good ecological status is achieved for water bodies within Greater Manchester

3. Membership

Members of the group will include representation from United Utilities (UU), Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) and Environment Agency (EA). Representatives from wider partner organisations, including local authorities, non-governmental organisations will be considered as the Strategic Partnership matures.

4. Geographical extent

The geographical extent of the group will be the Greater Manchester area, although the Partnership will look to identify specific areas where opportunities to deliver aligned activities can be maximised. Furthermore, the partnership will also draw on national networks to harness convening power, dissemination of best practice, advocacy and expertise. There may also be occasions where it is appropriate to go outside the Greater Manchester boundary where there is significant influence in Greater Manchester, for example through hydraulic connectivity.

5. Governance & methods of working

The partnership will have the following governance and methods of working:

- A Strategic Partnership Group (officer / Director level) working as a steering and oversight group, represented by UU, GMCA and EA. The Group will hold bi-monthly meetings.
- A Collaborative Team made up of leads for specific workstreams that address key deliverables and build a programme of activities. This collaborative team will coordinate and interact with the workstreams and project collaborators and report into the Steering Group.

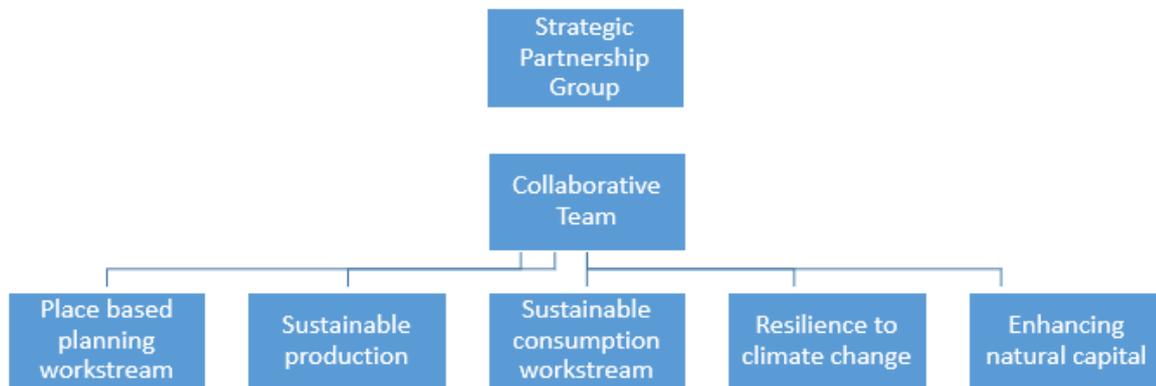


Figure 1 - diagram illustrating proposed working arrangements

6. Costs and funding

It is anticipated that GMCA, EA and UU will cover their own costs for contributing time to the partnership. Where specific initiatives are identified as requiring funding. The collaborative team will work to identify potential funding sources and seek agreement of the steering group before progressing with funding applications.

7. Review

This Memorandum of Understanding will be reviewed annually along with the membership to ensure all aspects remain current, relevant and appropriate.

As approved by the Greater Manchester Combined Authority 24 September 2021

APPENDIX B – THEMES, OUTCOMES AND MEASURES OF SUCCESS

Memorandum of Understanding



Water for the North West

Sustainable Consumption

- Strategic Outcome 5:* Long term reductions in per capita consumption of water are delivered reaching 110 l/head/day by 2050
- Strategic Outcome 6:* Long term reductions in per capita flow and non-flushables received in the sewer network are achieved
- Strategic Outcome 7:* Opportunities to drive a more circular economy for materials are understood and exploited

What does success look like?

An industrial symbiosis plan for materials management is in place leading to more efficient use of materials through connecting organisations

Residents of Greater Manchester are influenced to not pave over the area around their homes

Residents of Greater Manchester receive coordinated influencing campaigns to help them improve sustainability in their homes around use of resources such as carbon and water leading as well as what they discharge into the sewer network leading to behaviour change.

Place based planning

Strategic Outcome 1: Co-owned place based plans are in place to deliver the shared outcomes and delivery is supported by co-funding

What does success look like?

The systems, processes, data and resources are available to enable for place based planning to support sustainable development. These are being deployed systematically across GM to deliver place based plans.

The governance arrangements are in place to support not just development but delivery of place based plans

Natural capital markets are developed to drive more co-funding of investments

Projects/infrastructure/developments are delivered in a collaborative way and a pipeline of future schemes have been identified along with an investment strategy

Resilience to climate change

Strategic Outcome 2: Progressive improvements are made in the resilience of areas at risk of flooding or other impacts due to climate change

Strategic Outcome 3: All future developments and critical infrastructure are resilient to flooding and the impact of climate change with opportunities also taken to improve risk in existing areas.

Strategic Outcome 4: Regeneration is routinely used to enhance resilience to impacts of climate change

What does success look like?

The partners have a collective view of areas at risk and areas where interventions are required, supported by integrated models and data sharing

Future plans for resilience have been identified as part of an 'adaptive' pathways approach

Barriers to maximising opportunity for nature-based solutions (particularly sustainable drainage systems) are identified and a joint plan is delivered to overcome them

Space is routinely made for water in new development and regeneration, leading to a step change in the uptake of green infrastructure and nature-based solutions across catchments and urban areas

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Sustainable Production/Low Carbon

Strategic Outcome 5: Long term reductions in per capita consumption of water are delivered reaching 110 l/head/day by 2050

Strategic Outcome 8: Carbon Neutrality for Greater Manchester is achieved by 2038

What does success look like?

Collaborative approaches to energy generation/low carbon investment are identified and delivered such as heat networks, biomethane, H2, smart energy systems and utilisation of land assets

New development and infrastructure supports net zero carbon and water efficiency

Enhancing natural capital

Strategic Outcome 9: A biodiversity net gain system in place with associated habitat banks to support offsite delivery from new development

Strategic Outcome 10: Nature based solutions play their part in the achievement of net zero carbon for Greater Manchester by 2038

Strategic Outcome 11: Good ecological status is achieved for water bodies within Greater Manchester

What does success look like?

Opportunities to deliver biodiversity net gain are optimised to deliver wider benefits such as carbon sequestration, improved water quality, access and recreation particularly where they can address social and environmental inequality

The key partners responsible for urban diffuse pollution are driving a shared plan to address the issues

Opportunities to deliver progress towards net zero through nature based solutions are exploited such as peatland restoration and tree planting

Plans are in place to support the adaptation of the natural environment to climate change eg. managing warmer rivers, lower flows, wildfire risk

Opportunities to deliver landscape scale nature recovery are capitalised on

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