



## Greater Manchester Green City Region Partnership

Date: 27<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Subject: PERFORMANCE UPDATE – Q3 (Oct-Dec 2021)

Report of: Mark Atherton, Director Environment, GMCA

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### **PURPOSE OF REPORT:**

The report provides the usual update on progress of the Green City Region Partnership for the third quarter and key milestones for the fourth quarter of 2021/22.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The Partnership is recommended to:

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

### **CONTACT OFFICERS:**

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BOLTON  
BURY

MANCHESTER  
OLDHAM

ROCHDALE  
SALFORD

STOCKPORT  
TAMESIDE

TRAFFORD  
WIGAN

# 1. OVERVIEW OF PROGRESS

The update at Annex 01 (5 Year Environment Plan Performance Overview) contains a summary of key progress 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) Phase 2 progressing with Oldham and Stockport complete. Tameside due by end January 2022. Rochdale LAEP to be moved into Phase 3 to maximise the efficiency of ESC resources (Rochdale is 4 weeks away from completion). Modelling for the remaining LAEPs, Bolton Wigan and Trafford (Phase 3) is on-going. Bruntwood continue to complete the designs for their Heat as a Service (HaaS), however covid has impacted on end user engagement.
- Installation of Electric Vehicle (EV) chargers, modifications to existing Daikin Heat Pumps and Sonnen Batteries continues. However, due to the energy crisis, OVO have delayed the release of their proposed heating and mobility Value Sharing Propositions (VSP) energy tariff until Qtr. 1 2022.
- 33 potential investors have been interviewed by REGEN on the development of an investment business case
- The LEM animation has been amended to demonstrate the progression of the platform design works. Communications issued across several social media platforms.
- Go Neutral Smart Energy Call Off Framework tendered and evaluated. Site prioritisation and shortlisting activity completed. Regular drop-in sessions with districts established. Draft financial modelling tool completed.
- Energy Innovation Agency (EIA) - All partners have signed the revised Consortia agreement. The draft business plan has been reviewed by the partnership and requires further work. Work continues to hone the EIA commercial offer and create the resourcing plan. Partner organisations have nominated representatives to the board and agreed that an interim Chair should be sought for circa 12 months whilst the Agency goes through its initial development phase.

- Trafford Energy Park (TEP) planning application submitted. Enabling works completed to establish the development platform for the Cryobattery and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) projects.
- Application submitted to the Strategic Innovation Fund (SIF) in November 2021 to deliver a project (MUSHI) to explore costs and opportunities to use existing distribution networks and existing sites that may be options for small to medium scale green hydrogen production. This work is designed to understand the future business case around hydrogen to feed into TEP.

## 1.2 Buildings

- The tender for the establishment of RetrofitGM, a vehicle to accelerator the retrofitting of domestic scale properties has been issued, with a closing date of 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022.
- The Retrofit taskforce action and implementation plan has been completed and is with the designers.
- Agreement obtained from BEIS to extend the Green Homes Grant for phase 1B and phase 2 delivery to June 2022. Procurement exercise completed for additional delivery partners for Phase 2.
- Discretionary extension for Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) has been granted for those projects that cannot be completed by March 2022. Underspend of circa £6m - strategy has been agreed with Salix and delivery partners to allocate surplus monies to new battery storage projects. PSDS 3 application prepared and submitted. Technical review is underway by Salix technical team and clarifications have been agreed. Salix deadline to close this out is 21<sup>st</sup> January 2022. Partners currently reviewing responses to clarifications.
- Consultation on the Good Landlord Scheme with council enforcement teams completed and emerging priorities for spending shared.

## 1.3 Transport

- Greater Manchester Cycle Hire launched in Salford and Manchester with first 250 bikes celebrated and 10,000 miles ridden in first month. Full approval granted for £500k Stockport Hazel Grove scheme.

- Side road zebra study published showing that zebra markings on side roads lead to drivers giving way 65% more than where there is no marking. TfGM to seek regulatory approval from the Department for Transport.
- Clean Air Plan - The M1SP motorhomes and A575 and A580 at Worsley consultations have been analysed and are to be determined by elected members in January 2022. Installation of the Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) and Clean Air Zone signs are underway. Communications on clean air preparation and funding support (£120m) have commenced.
- [Electric Vehicle \(EV\) tariff](#) launched for Be.EV network.
- 2 rapid chargers installed at Wythenshawe Station and A6 Crescent in Salford. Discussions with Trafford Centre ongoing but unlikely to proceed. Exploration of further sites continues including Manchester Airport.
- Submission of final Business Case for Zero Emission Bus Regional Areas fund due January 2022. If successful, would secure sufficient funds to convert Stockport Bus Depot to 100% Zero Emission Bus operation by 2025.
- In Qtr. 3 there have been 3 new funding applications to support the retrofit of 16 buses with grant award funding of £256k. Total of £3,287k grants paid out to operators and 231 retrofits completed in period. 12 new applications received for bus replacement funding (35 buses) with grant award funding in period of £0.560k.

## 1.4 Sustainable Consumption and Production

- Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) plan has been amended and strengthened following recommendations from SCP Challenge Group.
- Bee Net Zero launched at Green Summit to help and support businesses in Greater Manchester (GM) to become zero carbon by sign posting to existing services. Objective to reduce carbon footprint of GM economy by 10% per year.
- Renew Hub is now open with pods in use. Tours are available through Recycle for Greater Manchester (R4GM) team. There is an official spring launch planned with the Mayor.
- Options paper drafted for Boohoo's consideration on textile (clothing) reuse and recycling schemes.
- Buy, Keep, Eat, Repeat the Greater Manchester wide food waste campaign delivered through radio, TfGM advertising and digital screens. Continuing through to March 22.

- Discounted compost bokashi bin offer sold 500 bins to-date.
- Good Food Vision launched at GM Green Summit. Currently being developed to meet accessibility standards for launch on GM Green City website and wider circulation.
- One Bin project with University of Manchester (UoM) continuing with research into plastic waste sorting, tagging technologies of plastic packaging and development of collective business model.

## 1.5 Natural Environment

- Draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) published as part of pilot report in Oct 21 alongside mapping outputs. GMCA response submitted to Defra consultation on roll-out of LNRS under Environment Act.
- Delivery of Peri Urban and ELM Partnership (EPIC) project and development of the Natural Environment Investment Readiness Fund pilot at Chat Moss in Salford ongoing.
- Draft Phase 3 Natural Course interim report submitted to the EU for review. Field sample locations and contractor agreed with Districts for study of micro plastic contamination of watercourses in GM. Approach agreed to deliver habitat improvements and flood risk mitigation at Stanney Brook, Rochdale. Reports outlining water governance approaches in Greater Manchester produced.
- Delivery of Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Off Site Study Implementation Plan actions is continuing. Natural Environment Investment Readiness Fund (NEIRF) round 2 bid in development with partners as part of Greater Manchester Environment Fund (GMEF) to support development of BNG off site market delivery mechanism and capacity.
- GMEF Support Officer recruited and Green Spaces Fund progressing. Green Recovery Challenge Fund (GRCF) projects are progressing well and preparing for evaluation/end of project reports.
- IGNITION spatial mapping planning tool to identify priority areas for green infrastructure implementation in development. Communications planning underway for end of project dissemination, including a final event in March 2022. Work is ongoing with United Utilities and Lead Local Flood Authorities on a business case for co-investment in a pipeline of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) installations.

- Over 230 referrals received to date through Greater Manchester Green Social Prescribing Programme. There has been a drop off in referrals and participation going into Winter which will likely impact numbers until at least March 2022 when the weather improves.

## **1.6 Communications**

- Greater Manchester Green Summit delivered with over 850 attendees and 50+ exhibitor stalls. Twelve breakout sessions took place during the day, alongside two plenary sessions hosted by the Mayor. Feedback from attendees has been overwhelmingly positive. The live stream from the day is available on the [GMGreenCity website](#).
- COP26 Northwest programme of activity delivered with 881 visitors at events including online attendees. Events included COP26 Regional Roadshow, four roadshow flagship events and six site visits at strategic locations capturing carbon stories.
- GM Youth Combined Authority (YCA) Members represented at Greater Manchester Green Summit and COP26 in Glasgow. Emma Greenwood (YCA) agreed with Steve Rotherham (Liverpool Metro Mayor) to commit to a joint NW Youth Commission with GM playing a leading role. The YCA will be working with Grand Lyon (France) along with other European Cities on green issues.

## **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**

- Complete Local Area Energy Planning (LAEP) Phase 2 delivery. Continue to finalise modelling for the remaining LAEPs (Phase 3) with completion programmed for the end of Apr 2022. A final report covering the whole of the GM region (10 LAs) to be produced by ESC by June 2022.
- Issue Go Neutral framework award letters. Prepare and issue pipeline summary slide packs and financial modelling tool to Districts and continue to support with

preparation of portfolio of opportunities to tender via the call off framework.

Complete evaluation of framework for its suitability for ERDF projects and support projects to run mini competitions. Publicise the framework to other public sector organisations.

- Appoint the Energy Innovation Agency (EIA) interim Chair, hold initial board meeting and agree Business Plan, and finalise contracts.
- Trafford Energy Park - Planning process for the hydrogen scheme to continue with final determination due imminently. Decision on SIF application expected Feb 2022. Subject to successful outcome, work will commence on the research project.

## **2.2 Buildings**

- Complete the procurement of Retrofit GM and undertake the kick-off meeting with the winning bidder. Publish the final Retrofit action and implementation plan and commence its delivery.
- Onboarding of additional delivery partners for Green Homes Grant to be completed via the NW Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS). All retrofit assessments to be completed for eligible residents before March 31st.
- Partners will focus on completing Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) projects by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022. If this is not possible, the extensions will be agreed subject to having a credible completion plan by 30th June 2022 in place.
- PSDS 3 - Close out technical queries to PSDS 3 submission. Decision on PSDS 3 application expected February 2022. Subject to successful programme, legal agreements will be prepared.
- Research with private rented sector stakeholders for Good Landlord Scheme to be completed and budget allocations agreed.

## **2.3 Transport**

- Publish update on commitment to complete 100km of the Bee Active network. Secure new capital funding from DfT as part of Active Travel Fund, Social Prescribing and Mini Hollands projects.

- The findings of the Clean Air Zone report which looked at concerns relating to the supply of Clean Air Zone compliant vehicles and people's ability to upgrade to be considered by Greater Manchester's Air Quality Administration Committee.
- Monitor network usage of Be.EV tariff and wider market tariffs.
- Commission two further rapid charging points and explore options for installation of remaining two chargers to complete funding requirements. Continue discussions with DfT regarding the On-Street Residential Charging Fund.
- Continue to engage with trade regarding the funding opportunities offered by the GM Clean Air Plan.
- Submit final Business Case to the DfT on Zero Emission Bus Regional Areas fund.
- Continue to administer the retrofit and replacement funds to bus operators. Complete the Clean Bus Technology Fund (CBTF) roll out.
- Ensure GM Freight Roadmap for reducing freight emissions meets requirements of 2040 framework.

## **2.4 Sustainable Consumption and Production**

- SCP Challenge group to prioritise Local Levers proposals which include sustainable procurement, waste management and local planning.
- Revised SCP plan to go to Combined Authority meeting in March 2022 for comments and approval.
- Bee Net Zero expansion to offer further support to businesses including switching to renewable energy, transitioning to Electric Vehicles, improving energy efficiency and driving down emissions.
- Click and collect online sales system to be launched for goods sold through Renew shops.
- Preferred options from textiles options paper to be developed into a fully researched and costed proposal with Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU), Boohoo and other partners.
- Commence 'Plan Your Scran' messaging targeting a younger audience through social media and Instagram reels as part of Buy Eat Keep Repeat campaign.
- Continue with compost bin campaign and provide communications toolkit to Districts.



- Renew compost expected to be on sale in Renew shops from March 2022 onwards.
- Launch Good Food vision on GM Green City website and continue to develop a work programme and toolkit.

## **2.5 Natural Environment**

- Initial preparation and scoping work for roll-out of LNRS.
- Continue to explore the opportunities to restore peatland across Greater Manchester and develop new land use approaches that result in reduced carbon emissions.
- Submit revised Phase 3 Natural Course Interim Report to the European Commission and begin work on Natural Course Phase 4 actions.
- Agree design of Stanney Brook improvement works, and agree baseline and storm sampling protocols as part of study of micro plastic study. Contribute to the draft River Basin Management Plan consultation.
- Strategic delivery of offset sites and habitat banks to be considered as part of BNG Off Site Needs and Supply Assessment and formal version of LNRS. Submit NEIRF Round 2 bid.
- IGNITION end of project event to take place end of March 2022. Publish feasibility report and business model reports.
- Expected to launch Green Spaces Fund April 2022 through GMEF and shovel-ready projects brochure to be published.
- Commence scoping of valuation study for Mayfield development to analyse how the development has delivered wider environmental net gain/natural capital value.
- Greater Manchester Green Social Prescribing (GMGSP) to support green and mental health providers to deliver green social prescribing programmes.

## **2.6 Communications**

- Commence planning for Greater Manchester Green Summit 2022 including development of a sponsorship package as a priority.
- Support COP hybrid decarbonisation event funded by SSE and organised by Green TV to be held in June 2022 at Museum of Science and Industry (MOSI). Expected audience of 200 plus virtual.

- Complete schools web platform trial on Greater Manchester Pilot schools to sense check usability and outcomes. The next stage (pending grant funding) is to expand wider across the city-region.
- Follow up communication and engagement activity with [Global Action Plan School Climate Action Planner](#).

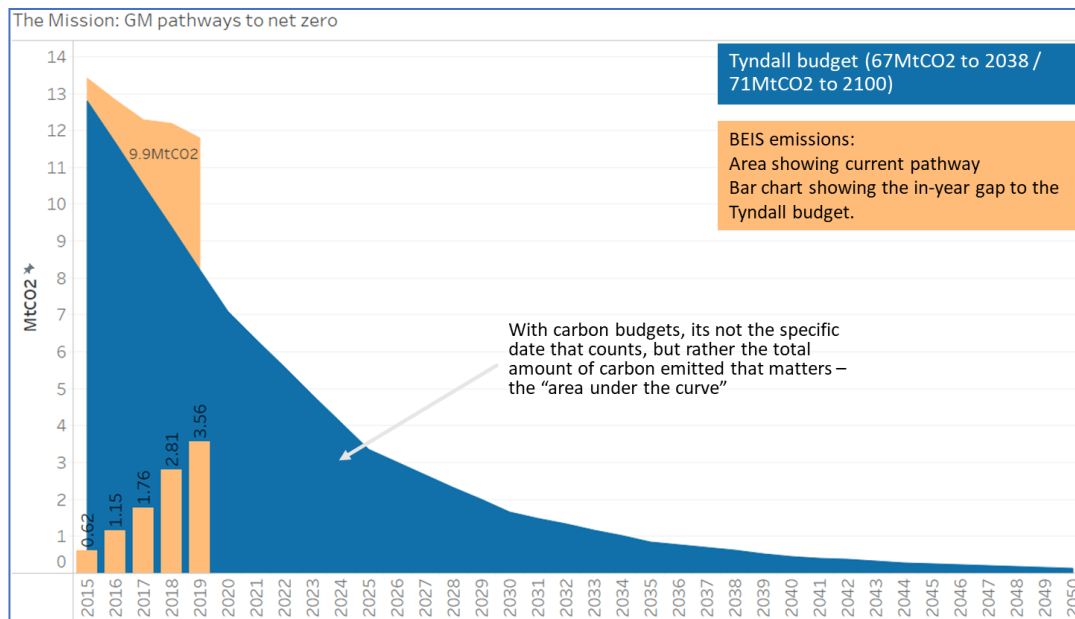
### 3. IDENTIFIED RISKS AND EMERGING ISSUES

- 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 (5 Year Environment Plan Performance Overview).

#### Key risks:

- **Failure of the 5 Year Environment Plan to achieve a step change in reducing carbon emissions.** To achieve the 2038 mission, the 5 Year Environment Plan outlines our ‘fair’ carbon budget contribution of 67 mega tonnes for 20 years (2018-2038). The critical focus is not exceeding our total budget (67MtCO<sub>2</sub>). Across 2015-19, Greater Manchester’s emissions are 9.9MtCO<sub>2</sub> above the Tyndall budget, i.e. an additional 9.9MtCO<sub>2</sub> savings need to be made on top of the Tyndall budget. This gap has been increasing year on year and the key point is that significant cuts must happen now. Action to reduce emissions is already being taken but under our current level of activity we will have exhausted our carbon budget in 6 years.



- **Failure to meet ambitious recycling and waste diversion targets.** Current household waste recycling rate is 48%. Verified 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 Green Homes Grant (LAD).** Agreement has been obtained from BEIS to extend the Green Homes Grant for phase 1B and phase 2 delivery to June 2022. Procurement exercise completed for additional delivery partners for Phase 2.
- **Level and depth of retrofit required to meet our overall ambitions is highly challenging.** The decarbonisation of GM homes through deeper whole house retrofit is being mitigated by the publication of a Retrofit Report that sets the priorities and framework for action and, as part of that the Retrofit Challenge Group along with the Retrofit Taskforce is focused on delivering home and building retrofit at scale. GM has also joined a consortium, led by the UK Green Buildings Council including West Yorkshire, London and the West Midlands and funded by Climate-KIC to develop proposals for city-led retrofit. 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 dashboard attached at:
  - a. Annex 01 (5 Year Environment Plan Performance Overview)