

**MINUTES OF THE GM HOUSING, PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD TUESDAY 01 FEBRUARY 2022 AT THE TOOTAL BUILDINGS - BROADHURST HOUSE, 56 OXFORD STREET, MANCHESTER, M1 6EU**

**PRESENT:**

Bolton	Councillor John Walsh (Chair)
Bury	Councillor Martin Hayes
Manchester	Councillor Mandie Shilton-Godwin
Oldham	Councillor Barbara Brownridge
Rochdale	Councillor Linda Robinson
Stockport	Councillor Colin MacAlister
Stockport	Councillor Janet Mobbs
Tameside	Councillor Mike Glover
Trafford	Councillor Akilah Akinola
Trafford	Councillor Kevin Procter
Wigan	Councillor Fred Walker

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

GMCA	David Taylor
GMCA	Mark Atherton
GMCA	Joanne Heron
GMCA	Ninoshka Martins

**HP&E 21/38 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ashley Dearnley (Rochdale), Liam Billington (Tameside) and Stuart Dickman (Salford).

**HP&E 21/39 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no Chair's Announcements and urgent business.

**HP&E 21/40 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declaration of interests were received.

<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>

The minutes of the previous meeting, held on 09 December 2021 were submitted for approval.

**RESOLVED/-**

That the minutes of the Housing, Planning & Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee held on 09 December 2021 be approved.

**FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS**

Consideration was given to a report that provided an overview of the latest Forward Plan of Key Decisions (Appendix A) to identify areas of focus for the committee.

**RESOLVED/-**

That the latest Forward Plan of Key Decisions be noted.

**WORK PROGRAMME**

Consideration was a report that provided a summary of the items that would be considered by the Committee during the 2021-2022 municipal year.

It was requested for the following items be added to the work programme for the 2022 – 2023 municipal year:

- Bus Franchising
- Walking and Cycling
- Climate Action Plan
- Flood Risk
- Highways Agency Update

Members were advised to share any additional items that they would like to be incorporated in the 2022 - 2023 work programme with the secretariat after the meeting.

**RESOLVED/-**

That the Work Programme be noted.

Consideration was given to a presentation that provided an update on the development of the Resources and Waste Strategy (RaWS) and the potential implications for waste management in Greater Manchester (GM).

The following comments were made:

It was recognised that having several waste containers would not be reasonable for every household in GM particularly for residents who lack storage space and can be challenging for those that are disabled.

A member queried as to whether it would be practical to invest in collection or recycling points across GM rather than relying on residents to segregate their waste. It was reported that government's waste and recycling advisors had recommended the curb side collection system, based on performance measures as it was cost effective to sort waste.

Members recognised that there was a need to issue clear guidance on recycling placements for each container in order to allow collection of a clean stream of recyclable materials. It was noted that having a complicated waste disposal system would likely increase fly tipping and therefore it would be useful for local authorities to factor in associated costs.

A member stated that it would be beneficial for bin storage to be a requisite for new developments to meet the challenges around the lack of space for bin storage.

With regards to the deposit scheme, a member sought to understand how the scheme would work and who would benefit from the sale of recyclables. It was reported that the Deposit Return scheme had been designed to encourage recycling on the go and that revenue generated from the sale of recyclables would be available through the Extended Producer Responsibility fund for local authorities to access.

It was recognised that the introduction of the Deposit Return scheme could result in residents collecting significant volumes of material to recycle at reverse vending machines however it was noted that there was no clear data yet to indicate how this would affect the Extended Producer Responsibility payments to local authorities.

A member sought to understand the reason for garden waste not being recycled using an anaerobic digester. In response, it was stated that due to its woody nature garden waste would not be suitable for anaerobic digestion and therefore would be recycled through open composting as it has proved to be a cheaper and viable process.

It was reported that a few supermarkets had launched a recycling point and therefore a member sought to understand whether GM had any performance figures on this trail. It was reported that this was a local short-term trial that had recently been launched hence there was no data yet on performance.

However, it was recognised that the onus lied with retailers to reduce the use of poor-quality materials and design packaging that could be easily recycled. It was reported that through the Extended Producer Responsibility regime for packaging Government would seek to put the cost back to polluter industries.

A member sought to understand whether there were any plans in the strategy to tackle commercial waste. Members were advised that elements of the EU Waste Framework were being incorporated into the UK's law which includes the recycling obligation for industries. It was reported that plans to tackle commercial waste had also been included in other aspects of the strategy. Members were advised that a further update would be brought to the committee once the next consultation responses and guidance were released by Government.

Members were advised that a work stream had been established that was looking at developing a strategy that was focused on Sustainable Consumption & Production. It was reported that it was intended for the plan to be submitted for consideration at the GMCA meeting in March and that regular progress updates would be reported into the Green Partnership Board.

## **RESOLVED/-**

That the report be noted.

That a further update be brought to the Committee once the next consultation responses and guidance were released by Government.

**HP&E 21/45**

### **GREATER MANCHESTER GO NEUTRAL - SMART ENERGY OPPORTUNITY PIPELINE**

Consideration was given to a presentation that outlined update on the Go Neutral Smart Energy call-off framework, that had been developed to support the city region's public bodies in optimising renewable energy generation and storage on their estates and assets. The Go Neutral Framework aims to accelerate the delivery of up to 300MW of renewable generation across the conurbation over the next 3 years through the creation of portfolios of smart energy opportunities.

The following comments were made:

A member sought to understand how car parks would be utilised in terms of generating green energy and the benefits to investors. In response, it was stated that it was intended that photo voltaic cell would be installed on the roof space of carports for the purpose of energy generation and that this investment would in the long run would generate an estimated 9% return for investors.

It was noted that there was a need to develop a deliverable pipeline of smart energy opportunities via a range of investment and delivery models. Therefore, a member queried whether in addition to solar power, there was an opportunity to harness hydro-energy from rivers. Members were advised that work was being done utilising the Rural Community Energy Fund to identify a pipeline of projects for the purpose of hydro-energy generation.

Members welcomed the initiative to install a battery storage system to store unused energy that would be generated by solar panels and noted the need to develop schemes that would encourage residents to opt for battery storage.

In terms of the framework, it was reported that the intention was to retrofit the entire GM public buildings with the view to create a smart energy network that would allow local authorities the opportunity to effectively manage the electricity generated.

With regards to the investment from the 10 GM local authorities, members were advised that there was no financial obligation in setting up the framework. However, if needed GMCA would support local authorities to access necessary funding to develop and deliver their projects.

**RESOLVED/-**

1. That the progress made in establishing the Go Neutral – Smart Energy Framework be noted.
2. That it be noted that if viable projects are achieved, GMCA partners would require additional support to access funds to further develop and deliver the projects.
3. That the environmental outcome to substantially reduce carbon emissions of Greater Manchester's public estate, through new and additional renewable energy generation and storage capacity, be noted.

**HP&E 21/46**

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

- 8 March 2022; 10:30 am