



Greater Manchester Green City Region Partnership

Date: 18th March 2022

Subject: PERFORMANCE UPDATE – Q4 (Jan-Mar 2022)

Report of: Harry Catherall, Lead Chief Executive Green City Region

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

The report provides the usual update on progress of the Green City Region Partnership for the fourth quarter of 2021/22 and key milestones for the first quarter of 2022/23.

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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1. OVERVIEW OF PROGRESS

The update at Annex 01 (5 Year Environment Plan Performance Overview) contains a summary of key progress across all areas within the 5 Year Environment Plan. During the last quarter there are a number of key successes to be highlighted, set out below:

1.1 Energy

- Local Area Energy Planning (LAEP) - Stage Gate 2 completed. 3 new animations developed to engage with the region on LAEPs, New Smart Energy Tariffs and the LEM Market Maker Platform progressing. Trial of the OVO Heat Pump tariff underway using social housing residents who have applied to participate.
- Go Neutral Smart Energy Call Off Framework is live. GMCA partner support ongoing, including District opportunity summary slide packs and a financial modelling tool. Consultant scope of work drafted and circulated for comments.
- Energy Innovation Agency (EIA) – Peter Emery appointed as interim chair and the first Board meeting is set for 30th March. EIA staff continue to refine the budgets and deliverables which will form part of the contract. Draft contract currently being reviewed.
- Trafford Energy Park (TEP) – Initial feedback on the application submitted to the Strategic Innovation Fund (SIF) in November 2021 for delivery of the MUSHI project suggests the application has been unsuccessful. Awaiting formal confirmation.

1.2 Buildings

- Retrofit GM tender, a vehicle to accelerate the retrofitting of domestic 'willing to pay' properties, has been successfully completed. A Consortia will now be appointed to deliver the accelerator.
- Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) 3 has been confirmed successful and GMCA has been awarded the full grant amount of £15,534,045.

1.3 Transport

- 92km of the 100km Bee Active network challenge has now been completed. Active travel social prescribing feasibility study finalised with plans submitted to

Department of Transport. A further £5.4 million approved through Mayor's Challenge Fund (MCF). In total, 35 MCF work packages have secured full funding approval, with an associated total full approval commitment of circa £70.1 million.

- Clean Air Plan - The government has confirmed that the implementation a category C charging Clean Air Zone has been revoked and that a new plan is required to be submitted to the Secretary of State of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs by 1st July 2022. This will allow Greater Manchester to provide further evidence and a revised plan by July setting out how it will deliver legal levels of NO₂ in the shortest possible time, and no later than 2026.
- On-Street Residential Charging Fund bid - There is no clear commercial route for TfGM to make a bid into this scheme on behalf of Greater Manchester. TfGM to commission study into how the public sector can best influence the rollout of publicly accessible Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure.
- Outcome of ZEBRA (Zero Emission Bus Regional Areas) submission expected 28th Feb 2022. If successful, this scheme would deliver 170 zero emission buses in Greater Manchester by 2024, representing approximately 10% of the bus fleet.
- In Qtr. 4 there have been 12 bus retrofits completed with grant award funding of £168k. 2 new applications received for bus replacement funding (6 buses) with grant award funding in period of £96k. Clean Bus Technology Fund works have all been completed.

1.4 Sustainable Consumption and Production

- Revised SCP plan to go to Combined Authority meeting in April 2022 for comments and approval.
- Climate emergency e-learning essential training module for GMCA staff in development with GMCA People Services for completion by April 2022 with the potential for Districts to edit and rebrand for their own purposes.
- University of Manchester (UoM) 'One Bin' project to commence second household pilot study in Trafford between the 6th and 21st of May.
- Responses from government waste strategy consultations on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), Collection Consistency and Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) are expected end March 2022.
- [Greater Manchester Food Waste Action week campaign](#) to launch 7th March focusing on 'Wasting Food Feeds Climate Change'.

- Applications for the next round of the Recycle for [Greater Manchester Community Fund](#) of £220,000 will open 1st April 2022 until 31st May 2022.
- PAS 100 peat free [compost donation scheme](#) is now open for applications from community groups, educational settings and voluntary sector organisations. The compost is made from Greater Manchester's food and garden waste. Electrical item donation is now available at Household Waste and Recycling Centres as feedstock for Renew shops.

1.5 Natural Environment

- Defra seeking to appoint GMCA as a provisional responsible authority to develop a GM Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS). Sessions held with Districts and Natural Capital Group to plan for roll-out later in the summer.
- Environmental Land Management (ELM) Partnership's Irwell project final report completed, and showcase event delivered.
- Baseline and storm sampling protocols agreed for the GM micro plastics study. Designs produced for habitat improvement works at the Stanney Brook SBI in Rochdale. Initiation meetings held for Natural Course Phase 4 actions linking planners to Water Framework Directive objectives and tackling urban diffuse pollution.
- Response drafted to Defra's Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) consultation for submission by end of March 2022. BNG Offsite Need and Supply Assessment commenced with scoping review. Natural Environment Investment Readiness Fund (NEIRF) Round 2 application submitted on Greater Manchester BNG Investment Facility.
- One-day IGNITION showcase conference to be held on 30 March 2022 in central Manchester and livestreamed online. IGNITION Future Funding Streams Feasibility report and underlying reports for each business model are in the review stage, ahead of being published prior to the project concluding in April 2022. 16 public estate sites are in the final SuDS pipeline with back up sites identified (£1.4 to £2 million capex, 16,500m² captured, £2.5 million natural capital benefits.)
- Financial modelling for a district level Parks Foundation business model has been completed and a draft business case is currently being finalised. Parks Donation (7 parks) tap to donate contactless units have been installed and launched in 3 parks and scan to donate signage in 4 other locations.

- Green Recovery Challenge Fund programme in final stages with projects aiming to complete capital works and evaluations by the end of March 2022.
- Greater Manchester Green Social Prescribing Programme numbers increasing again as we move into Spring. Greater Manchester wide component of the programme is gaining traction with plans for the resource exchange to go live, mapping of nature-based interventions and a series of events to mark the halfway point in the pipeline.

1.6 Communications

- Greater Manchester Green Summit 2022 date and venue have been confirmed as 17th October 2022, The Lowry, Salford Quays. Sponsorship package drafted.
- Decarbonisation hybrid summit funded by SSE and organised by Green TV will take place on 6th/7th June at Museum of Science and Industry (MOSI). 10 workshops will be available covering a range of topics including transport, energy, retrofit, investment and skills.

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 the remaining Local Area Energy Planning (LEAP) and close the Local Energy Market project in line with the programme agreed with Innovate UK. Investment ready business cases and technical annexes completed and released.
- Support Salford, Rochdale, and Stockport Councils to put ERDF funded projects through the Go Neutral framework. Tender and appoint consultant to support Districts and bring forward pipelines for further competition.
- Energy Innovation Agency (EIA) business plan agreed by the Board and the funding agreement signed by the GMCA and Growth Company.

2.2 Buildings

- Complete current Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) programme of works by 30th June 2022 including further competitions for battery storage by GMFRS and Salford Council. PSDS 3 delivery to commence.
- Electricity Northwest to undertake risk review of grid connection budget allocations.
- Retrofit managing agent in place and delivering whole house medium term retrofit action plans.

2.3 Transport

- Recommend approach to achieving the Mayoral ambition for 500 miles of network to be delivered by 2024 and expectation of further government active travel funding. Continued progress of MCF scheme approvals and delivery and roll out of next phase of GM Cycle Hire to 1500 bikes on the ground.
- Review and redesign the measures within the GM Clean Air Plan. The GM Air Quality Administration Committee will be updated with progress and detail of the development of the review.
- Commission a study into the future of GM and Electric Vehicles to establish how the public sector can best influence the rollout of publicly accessible Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure.
- Develop City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) delivery plan to achieve electric vehicle bus spend.
- Continue to administer the retrofit and replacement funds to bus operators.
- Finalise GM Freight strategy and consider stakeholder engagement approach.

2.4 Sustainable Consumption and Production

- SCP plan approved at Combined Authority meeting in April 2022 and delivery plan commenced.
- SCP Challenge group to prioritise Local Levers proposals which include sustainable procurement, waste management and local planning.
- Progress textiles project with Local Enterprise Partnership, Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU), Boohoo and other partners.

- Launch Good Food vision on GM Green City website and continue to develop a work programme and toolkit.
- Briefing prepared to responses by Government on Waste Strategy consultations.

2.5 Natural Environment

- Further preparation in advance of publication of regulations and guidance by Defra in June/July 2022 which will set out requirements for statutory LNRS and determine the final scope/programme of work for roll-out in Greater Manchester.
- Peri Urban Test and Trial case studies to be finalised.
- Continue to deliver Natural Environment Investment Readiness Fund project at Chat Moss and restoration works at Botany Bay Woods, adjacent to Astley Moss East.
- Commence river water sampling for Greater Manchester micro plastics study. Appoint contractor to carry out invasive non-native species survey of the River Irwell catchment.
- Defra BNG Consultation GMCA response to be submitted and Need and Supply Assessment completed.
- IGNITION Living Lab data dashboard to be launched enabling the data collected at the Lab to be publicly accessible.
- Finalise Parks Foundation business case and accelerate Parks Donation trial.
- Greater Manchester Environment Fund 'Shovel-ready' projects brochure published. Community enablers workshop held to begin process of recruitment prior to Green Spaces fund launch.

2.6 Communications

- Issue sponsorship proposal for Greater Manchester Green Summit 2022.
- Continue to support hybrid decarbonisation summit.
- Continue discussion with NW Youth Focus for the refreshed plans for the GM Youth Combined Authority (YCA) with the environment being one of four themes for the next two years. New YCA membership to be in place for its next meeting on 10th March 2022.

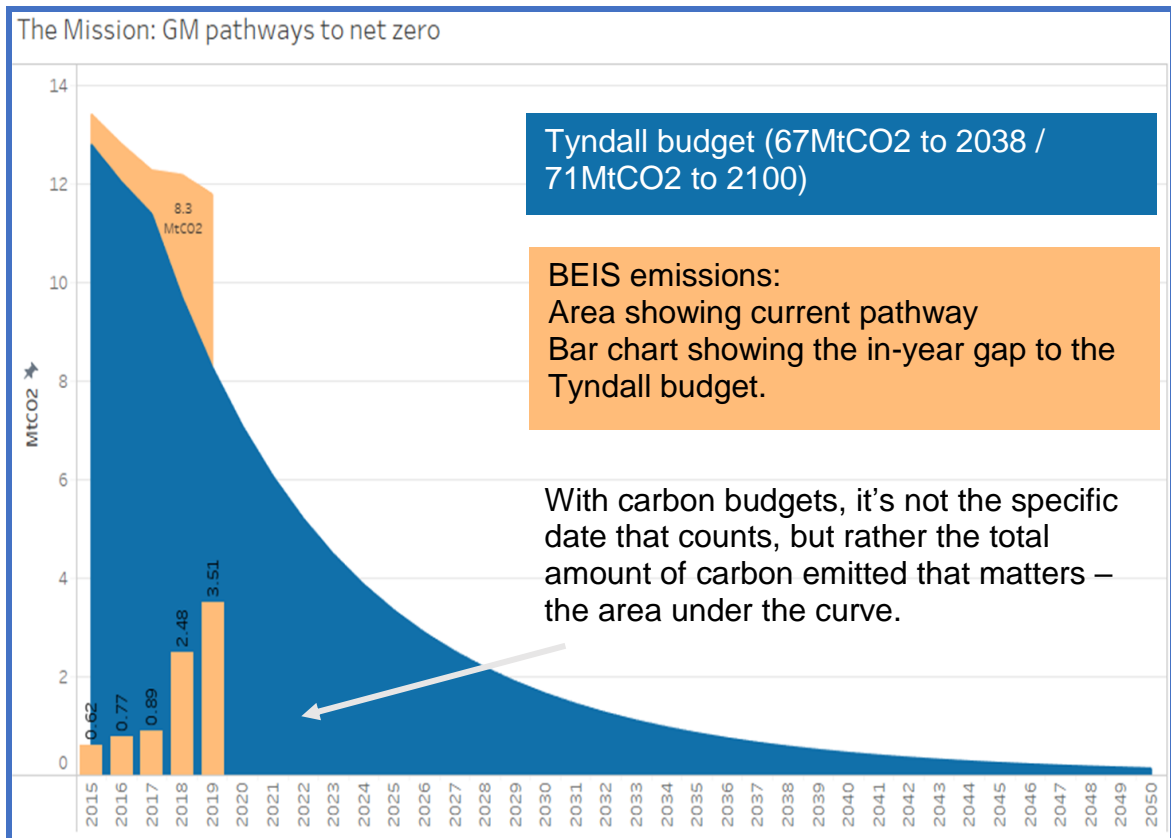
3. IDENTIFIED RISKS AND EMERGING ISSUES

- 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 (67MtCO₂). Across 2015-19, Greater Manchester’s emissions are 8.3MtCO₂ above the Tyndall budget, i.e. an additional 8.3MtCO₂ 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 2020/21 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:

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