

Waste and Recycling Committee

Date: 23 March 2022

Subject: Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) Update – Part A

Report of: Sarah Mellor, Head of Sustainable Consumption and Production,
Environment Team

Purpose of Report

The purpose of the report is to provide the Committee with an overview of the 5 year Environment Plan and the theme of Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) that sits within that plan.

Recommendations:

Members of the Committee are recommended to:

1. Note and comment on the report and presentation provided at the meeting; and
2. Request that regular updates be provided at future meetings.

Contact Officers

Sarah Mellor, Head of Sustainable Consumption and Production, Environment Team:
sarah.mellor@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk

Equalities Impact, Carbon and Sustainability Assessment:

Impacts Questionnaire		
Impact Indicator	Result	Justification/Mitigation
Equality and Inclusion	G	The Plan looks to raise awareness through community engagement and involvement
Health		
Resilience and Adaptation		
Housing		
Economy	G	Moving to a circular economy can have a positive social, economic and environmental effect on the conurbation By creating a circular economy it should identify gaps and skills and stimulate economic growth in those areas Innovation is key to developing solutions and end markets for difficult materials Inward investment could potentially through innovation
Mobility and Connectivity		
Carbon, Nature and Environment	G	The SCP Plan looks to reduce carbon emission through its 4 key priority areas
Consumption and Production	G	The SCP Plan focuses on key priority areas, as set out in the report, to reduce the level of waste produced A number of projects are currently in place to look at minimising construction waste Managing waste sustainability as possible is a key priority within the plan Moving to a circular economy is a priority with the SCP Plan PlasticFreeGM continues to be a priority within the SCP work programme
Contribution to achieving the GM Carbon Neutral 2038 target		The SCP Plan and work programme are a critical element to the delivery on GM achieving Carbon Neutral by 2038. As SCP covers a wide range of areas, ensuring that the work programme is sufficiently resourced would improve the contribution to delivery of the overall plan.
Further Assessment(s):	N/A	
	 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.

Risk Management

All risks regarding the delivery of the 5YEP and SCP theme are set out in the Environment Team's Risk Register. There is nothing identified within the SCP section of the register which is currently identified as 'red' status.

Legal Considerations

There are no legal considerations outlined within the report.

Financial Consequences – Revenue

The SCP Work Plan sets out expenditure that is within the budget forecasts (2021/22 & 2022/23) for certain areas of work.

Financial Consequences – Capital

There are no capital consequences within the report.

Number of attachments to the report: 1 - Appendix A: SCP Work Plan

Background Papers

[5 year Environment Plan](#)

Tracking/ Process

Does this report relate to a major strategic decision, as set out in the GMCA Constitution

No

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? N/A

1. Introduction/Background

After a year of intensive consultation, the 5-year Environment Plan (5YEP) was launched at the second Green Summit in 2019. This report will provide the Committee with an overview of the plan and then explain in more detail the priorities within the Sustainable Consumption (SCP) theme. The report is supported with a presentation which will be presented at the meeting illustrating current projects which are supporting the delivery of the 5YEP and SCP theme.

2. 5-year Environment Plan (5YEP)

The 5YEP was launched in 2019 and sets the ambitious target for Greater Manchester to become carbon neutral by 2038. The Plan is based on a scientific and mission-based approach and is broken down in 6 interconnecting themes: Buildings, Energy, Natural Environment, Resilience and Adaptation, SCP and Transport.

3. Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP)

3.1 The SCP Plan and its 4 Key Priority Areas

The SCP theme focuses on valuing resources and reducing waste, the plan is currently being finalised and covers 4 key priority areas:

1. Moving to a Circular Economy

The aim of this priority is to create a circular economy where all resources are valued and waste is kept to an absolute minimum. Within the Plan we are looking to primarily focus on 3 key areas:

Sustainable Product Design – we need to make more sustainable products that move us away from a ‘throw away’ society and enable resources to be in use for as long as possible. To achieve this, we need to increase the reusability and recyclability of all components created.

Resource efficiency – to maximise resource efficiency by moving away from linear business models to circular economy models, minimising the use of raw materials and reducing waste at source.

Sustainable Procurement – we need to ensure that we are procuring the most environmentally sustainable products by embedding environment criteria within procurement policy and throughout our decision-making processes.

2. Managing Waste as Sustainably as Possible

Within this priority the key components within the plan are split into 3 key areas:

- Promoting the waste hierarchy, ensuring that as little waste is sent to landfill as possible. This covers all waste produced within the conurbation and not just household waste;
- Undertaking analysis of the implications to Greater Manchester in implementing England's Resource and Waste Strategy; and
- Using innovation to tackle difficult waste streams which currently have limited sustainable end markets.

3. Reducing Food Waste

The aim of this priority is to reduce avoidable food through a sustainable food system approach. We need to reduce the overall amount of food waste generated, ensure we maximise redistribution to ensure that those who are living on poverty can access such services, ensure that everyone within the conurbation has access to affordable healthy food, increase home growing and composting and stimulate local markets, through a full system approach. To achieve this, we will be working with:

- Public sector bodies, through procurement strategies and other initiatives such as the 'no child goes hungry' campaign.
- Exploring a Good Food Charter to be incorporated within the social value framework.
- Working, through Good Food GM, with stakeholders on the delivery on the Good Food Vision
- R4GM and stakeholders on food waste campaigns.

4. Moving to Sustainable Lifestyles

75% of our carbon emissions are attributed to households. This means climate change is impacted by the food we eat, the things we buy and throw away, how we travel and how

we heat and power our homes. To enable the city region to become carbon neutral we all have a role to play to reduce our own personal carbon footprint by making more sustainable lifestyle choices.

What do we mean by sustainable lifestyles? Sustainability means meeting our own needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet theirs, so living more sustainable lives looks to reduce waste, reduce our carbon footprint and choose products that are environmentally and socially responsible. It recognises that no one can do everything, but everyone can do something; small changes can make a difference.

As well as the development of the [Green Cities website](#) and review of social media channels, we are continuing to deliver a communications plan with our internal and external stakeholders to work together to educate, raise awareness and develop campaigns which will engage with GM citizens and encourage them to make more sustainable life choices.

3.2 Work Programme

The current SCP work programme is set out at Appendix A and each element will be explained in more detail within the presentation at the meeting.

4. Recommendations

The GMCA Waste Committee is requested to:

1. Note and comment on the report and presentation provided at the meeting; and
2. Request that regular updates be provided at future meetings.