

Waste and Recycling Committee

Date: 13 July 2022

Subject: Sustainable Consumption and Production Update

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

Purpose of Report

The purpose of the report is to update Members of formal approval for the publication of the Greater Manchester Sustainable Consumption and Production Action (SCP) Plan and outline the framework for Greater Manchester's key activities in this area of work over the coming years.

The SCP Plan forms part of the suite of documents sitting underneath the GM 5-year Environment Plan.

Recommendations:

Members of the Committee are requested to:

1. Note the GMCA's formal approval of the SCP Plan for publication (Appendix B);
and
2. Endorse the framework and approve the key areas of activities over the coming years set out in the workplan (Appendix A).

Contact Officers

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Equalities Impact, Carbon and Sustainability Assessment:

Results of the [Sustainability Decision Support Tool](#) to be included here:

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 GM 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 implication of the recommendations set out within the report.

Financial Consequences – Revenue

The SCP Work Plan (Appendix 2) sets out expenditure that is within the budget forecasts (2022/23) for certain areas of work. Actions for future years may require additional funds. If so, these would be subject to a separate detailed business case being approved.

Financial Consequences – Capital

There are no capital consequences within the report. Actions for future years may require additional funds. If so, these would be subject to a separate detailed business case being approved.

Number of attachments to the report: 2:

Appendix A: SCP Work Plan 2022-23

Appendix B: SCP Plan

Background Papers

[The Greater Manchester 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 GM Green Summit in 2019. The 5YEP sets out the high-level priorities of the Sustainable Consumption (SCP) Theme which have been progressed. In the intervening period, work has been undertaken to gather evidence and form a consensus on the priority actions required to deliver a SCP Programme for the city region. This work forms the basis of the SCP Plan presented today.

This report sets out the key priorities identified in the SCP Plan (Appendix B) along with the SCP work programme for the 2022-23 financial year (Appendix A).

2. Sustainable Consumption and Production Plan (SCP)

The SCP Theme of the GM 5 Year Environment Plan focuses on valuing resources and reducing waste. It also supports our carbon neutral ambitions by identifying actions which will reduce our Scope 3 emissions. The SCP plan is now being finalised for publication and covers 4 key priority areas:

- Moving to a Circular Economy;
- Managing Waste Sustainably.
- Reducing Food Waste; and
- Moving to Sustainable Lifestyles.

2.1 To Move Greater Manchester to Becoming a Circular City

The aim of this priority is to move towards a more circular economy, where all resources are valued, and waste is kept to an absolute minimum. The Plan primarily focuses on 2 key areas:

Industry

- 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; and

- Business to Business Approach (B2B) – to create a circular economy we need to engage with all organisations within the sector to understand all the component elements within that industry.

Policy Development & Innovation:

- Sustainable Procurement – we need to ensure that we are procuring the most environmentally sustainable products by embedding environment criteria and promoting circular economy procurement principles within procurement policy and throughout our decision-making processes;
- Resource/Consumption Mapping – to fully understand the scale of change required we need to understand the resources we are using; and
- Innovation – to ensure we can reduce the use of all raw materials; innovation will be critical to find solutions throughout the lifecycle of products and drive the development of a circular economy.

2.2 To Manage Waste As Sustainability As Possible

Turning the majority of waste produced into valuable resources is critical to Greater Manchester becoming a circular city region, so we need to manage our waste as sustainably as possible. This means that we need to reduce the amount of waste produced (through prevention and reuse), recycle as much as possible whilst increasing the quality/value of materials so raw materials use is minimised. To continue to make progress, this priority will focus on 3 main elements:

- 1. Business Waste** - We need to fully understand municipal waste arisings within the city region, meaning that we need not only to understand household waste, but also business municipal waste data flows and behaviours to reduce the level of waste arisings and increase recycling.
- 2. Policy Development and Innovation**
 - **England's Resource and Waste Strategy**

We need to better understand the implications of the newly enacted Environment Act and make informed decisions, based on the environmental and economic impacts of new service provisions and waste management requirements. This will shape the next Greater Manchester Waste Strategy;

- **Policy Development**

To make waste management effective, we need to ensure that the correct infrastructure is in place to make reducing, reusing, and recycling as easy as we possibly can; and

- **Innovation**

We need to maximise recycling by using innovation to create sustainable solutions and establish 'end markets' that will reduce the amount of raw materials required in product design.

3. **Household Waste** – to meet our ambition to become a carbon neutral city region, we need to reduce waste arisings and maximise recycling, both in terms of quantity and quality. Waste generated by households, and how that is processed, is important to both moving to a more sustainable lifestyle and becoming a circular economy city region.

2.3 Reducing Food Waste

The aim of this priority is to reduce avoidable food waste arising through a sustainable food system approach. We need to reduce the overall amount of food waste generated, maximise redistribution to ensure that those who are living in financial stress 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 Food Security Action Network and '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; and
- Working with R4GM and stakeholders on food waste campaigns.

2.4 Moving to Sustainable Lifestyles

Our households are directly contributing to around 20% of environmental pressures, mainly from the fuel we consume in our vehicles and homes. In addition, 55%¹ of total national consumption ends up in our households and private households' consumption, meaning that 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 GM [Green Cities website](#) and review of our 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.

¹ [Environmental pressures from European consumption and production — European Environment Agency \(europa.eu\)](#)

3. Next Steps - Work Programme

Following approval of the SCP Plan at the June Combined Authority meeting, the Plan provides the framework for Greater Manchester's key activities in this area of work over the coming years.

The SCP Plan will be delivered by a Challenge Group of public, private, third sector and academic partners, formed under the GM Mission Based Approach, reporting in to GMCA via the Green City Region Partnership.

Work has already commenced on identifying key activities to start the delivery of the Plan and this will be the main focus of the presentation to the Committee. Areas covered will be:

Priority 1: Moving to a Circular Economy (CE)	Priority 2: Managing Waste as sustainably as possible	Priority 3: Reducing Food Waste	Priority 4: Sustainable Lifestyles (SL)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reduces - Driving Policy Development• Roadmap to CE: Textiles - including new Business to Business Platform• Sustainable Procurement Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• England's Resource & Waste Strategy• GM's Zero Waste Strategy• Business Waste - maximising local levers• Transform: 3D Printing in Plastics• One Bin to Rule them all - Plastics Recycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Food Procurement Strategy• Feasibility of GM Food Distribution Tool to maximise reach & reduce food waste• Delivery model for GM Sustainable Food City Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Behaviour Insight research with TFGM• Production & delivery of SL Communications Plan• Green Summit• Listening Event with Schools• Development of Internal Climate Change e-learning module

The proposed first year of delivery (2022/3) is set out in the attached SCP work programme (Appendix A), with associated budgets highlighted where they have currently been identified.

4. Recommendations

The Committee is requested to:

1. Note the GMCA's formal approval of the SCP Plan for publication (Appendix B);
and
2. Endorse the framework and approve the key areas of activities over the coming years.