

Greater Manchester Combined Authority

Date: May 2023

Subject: GMCA Sustainability Strategy 2022-26 Update

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

Purpose of Report

This report follows on from the approval and launch of the GMCA Sustainability Strategy (2022–2026) in August 2022 and provides a 6-month progress report. The report provides an overview of progress against the Strategy during 2022/23 and outlines actions proposed for 2023/24.

Recommendations:

GMCA is requested to:

1. Note the content and detail within the report.
2. Agree the outlined actions proposed for 2023/24 in respect of the GMCA's corporate Sustainability Strategy.
3. Circulate the Members briefing (Annex 01) to Councillors for information.

Contact Officers

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Equalities Impact, Carbon and Sustainability Assessment:

Recommendation - Key points for decision-makers			
Insert text			
Impacts Questionnaire			
Impact Indicator	Result	Justification/Mitigation	
Equality and Inclusion			
Health			
Resilience and Adaptation	G	Progresses the GMCA approach to climate adaptation including progression of a climate adaptation strategy Progresses the GMCA approach to climate adaptation including progression of a climate adaptation strategy Strategy actions focus on climate adaptation including progression of green infrastructure within the GMFRS estates programme	
Housing			
Economy			
Mobility and Connectivity			
Carbon, Nature and Environment	G	Fleet decarbonisation is a prominent activity outlined within the sustainability strategy and paper outlines actions set for 2023/24 that will address fleet electrification. Estate programme has biodiversity embedded via the sustainability strategy. Paper outlines the GMCA approach to decarbonisation of their own operations.	
Consumption and Production	A	Sustainable consumption is a key element outlined within the sustainability strategy and actions are assigned to deliver against this. GMCA participating in the GM SUP working group as outlined within the action plan. Significant estates programme underway including new build stations which will lead to construction waste although significant amount of waste at Blackley FS will be used to infill existing basement.	
Contribution to achieving the GM Carbon Neutral 2038 target		The paper outlines the GMCA approach to decarbonisation and wider sustainability improvements including contribution towards the 2038 carbon neutral target.	
Further Assessment(s):	N/A		
G Positive impacts overall, whether long or short term.	A Mix of positive and negative impacts. Trade-offs to consider.	R Mostly negative, with at least one positive aspect. Trade-offs to consider.	RR Negative impacts overall.

Risk Management

There are no key risk management considerations to be considered within the detail of the paper. Individual projects delivered as part of the Sustainability Strategy will feature individual project risk registers.

Legal Considerations

There are no legal considerations to be considered within the detail of the paper.

Financial Consequences – Revenue

Ongoing energy costs associated with the estate are impacted by carbon reduction schemes and these are monitored via the GMFRS Sustainability Team in partnership with the GMCA Finance Team. (paragraph 2.5)

Revenue budget is also assigned to projects proposed for 2023/24 where consultancy support is required. (section 4)

Financial Consequences – Capital

Schemes at GMFRS stations in respect of carbon reduction are funded via GMFRS capital budgets with budgets assigned to individual schemes (paragraph 4.2).

EV charging infrastructure capital funding to be agreed following closure of procurement exercise (paragraph 4.3).

Number of attachments to the report: 1

Comments/recommendations from Overview & Scrutiny Committee

The paper has not been reviewed by Scrutiny.

Background Papers

Appendix 1 – Green City Region Members Briefing April 2023

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?

No

1. Introduction/Background

1.1 GMCA launched the Sustainability Strategy (2022–2026) in August 2022 to support sustainability performance in respect of the organisations own environmental impact. The strategy covers the core activity of GMCA and GMFRS and all sustainability impacts associated with this activity including:

- Activities delivered, and associated sustainability impacts, from our head offices;
- Sustainability impacts arising from the assets operated by, and the activities delivered by GMFRS; and
- Sustainability impacts arising from activities undertaken and the assets directly operated by GMCA Waste & Resources Team, including closed landfill sites and other land assets.

1.2 The strategy is built around five priorities where we will focus our efforts over the next five years:

- Rapidly reducing our carbon footprint;
- Protecting and enhancing the environment;
- Using our resources efficiently and responsibly;
- Adapting to a changing climate; and
- Being sustainability leaders.

1.3 The strategy was developed following a thorough engagement process with key stakeholders and wider staff groups across the organisation and monitored via the GMCA Extended Leadership Network. Through this process, key themes were identified and the strategy pillars from which the overall strategy was developed were identified: people, planet and public purse.

1.4 As part of GMCA's wider leadership role, work is undertaken with Districts and other partners to deliver activity against the Greater Manchester Five Year Environment Plan. The latest quarterly Members Briefing for Councillors, which highlights progress against the Five Year Environment Plan, is provided at Annex 01.

2. Sustainability Strategy Targets and Progress

2.1 Each priority area of the strategy features a target for 2026 as well as annual milestone targets. These are outlined within the table below along with progress against them as of January 2023:

Priority	2026 Target	2022/23 Target (to be achieved by March 2023)	Progress as of March 2023	RAG Rating
Rapidly reducing our carbon footprint	Reduce emissions from our buildings and vehicles by 50% (from 18/19 baseline)	Reduce emissions from buildings and fleet by 12%	Emissions 8% lower than 18/19 baseline	
Protecting and restoring the environment	Fully embed environmental protection into our emergency response activities	Agree an initial approach to environmental protection training with the Environment Agency	Initial scope agreed with Environment Agency and actions planned for 23/24	
Using our resources efficiently and responsibly	80% of our supply chain committed to supporting our carbon neutral target	10% of our supply chain will have a demonstrable commitment to our carbon neutrality target	During Q4, 12.1% of suppliers engaged had a demonstrable commitment to our carbon neutrality target (10.5% the average for 2022/23)	
Adapting to a changing climate	Develop a climate change adaptation strategy based on future risks and opportunities	Deliver a climate change risk and opportunities assessment	Climate change risk workshop held on 6 th March 2023	
Being sustainability leaders	Train all our staff in understanding the climate emergency and their role in tackling it	95% of all staff will have completed the climate change e-learning package	90.1% of staff completed climate change e-learning	

2.2 Progress in respect of the GMCA scope 1 and 2 carbon footprint is monitored via the monthly KPI reporting process. Figures 1 and 2 below provide an overview of the progress in scope 1 and 2 emissions reduction as well as the composition of the GMCA scope 1 and 2 carbon footprint.

Figure 1

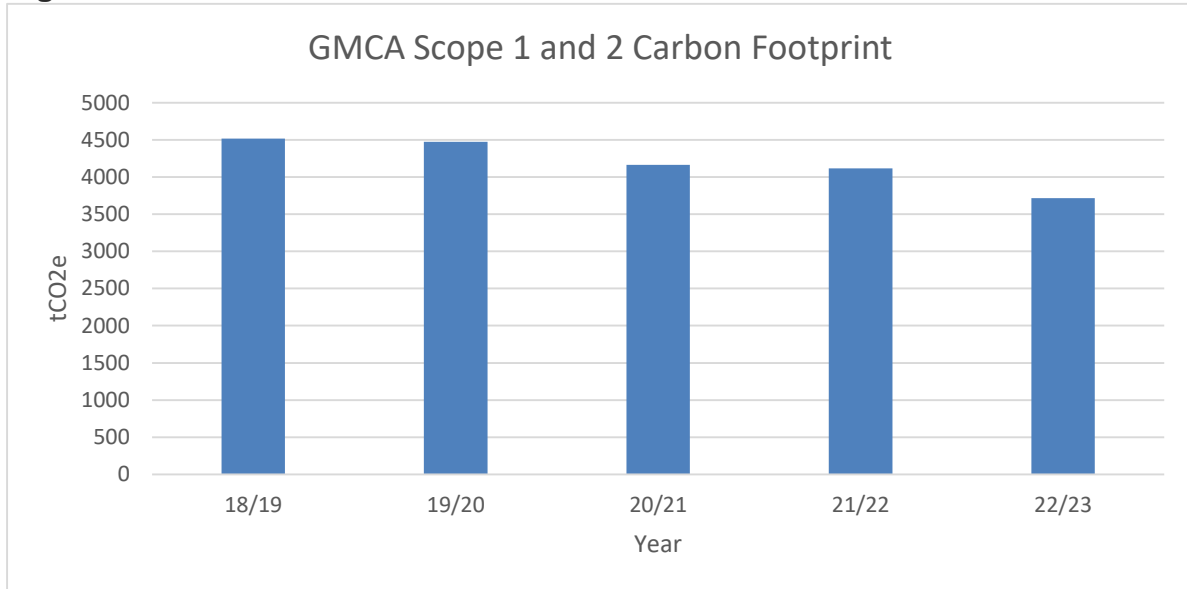
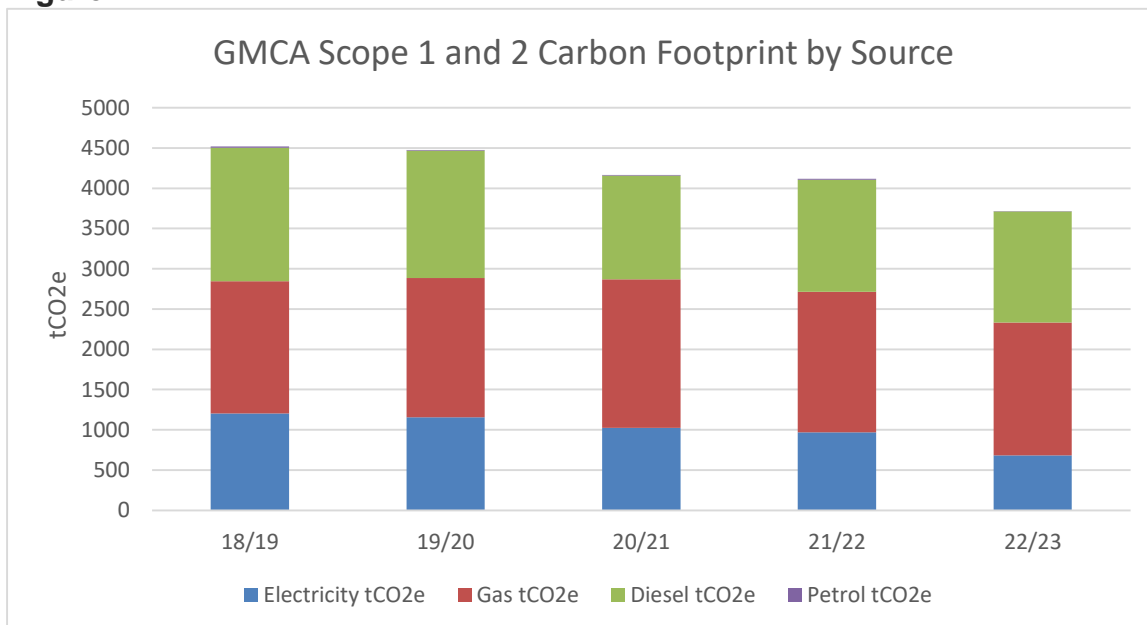


Figure 2



2.3 Significant progress has been made in reducing gas and electricity consumption at GMCA. Measures to achieve reductions in electricity consumption include widescale installation of LED lighting, solar PV and voltage optimisation. Gas consumption has been significantly reduced following the historic installation of Building Management Systems and high-efficiency gas boilers as well as through improvements to building fabric. Equally, the Incident Command Academy at Bury Training Site has had air source heat pumps installed and no longer consumes gas whilst Wigan Community

Fire & Ambulance Station and the Visitor Centre at Bury Training Site feature air source heat pump and gas hybrid heating systems.

- 2.4 Despite a decrease in gas consumption between 2021/22 and 2022/23, emissions associated with gas consumption increased as a result of the carbon intensity of grid supplied gas increasing over the same period.
- 2.5 As the organisation transitions from fossil fuel heating and fossil fuel powered vehicles to electrified modes of heating and transport, there is a likelihood that electricity consumption and associated emissions will increase.

3. Successes – 2022/23

- 3.1 GMFRS delivered 2 solar PV schemes and 18 LED lighting schemes via £620,000 PSDS grant funding that will reduce emissions by 32 tonnes per annum and reduce energy costs by £135,000.
- 3.2 Delivery of the refurbishment of the Incident Command and Leadership Academy at Bury Operational Training Site which features solar PV, LED lighting and air source heat pump. The building no longer utilised fossil fuel heating.
- 3.3 Commissioned carbon neutrality surveys at all GMFRS stations to be retained within the estate to support identification of pathways to carbon neutrality via the estates scheme.
- 3.4 Orders placed for 13 electric vehicles (cars and vans) to replace petrol and diesel ICE vehicles within the GMFRS fleet.
- 3.5 GMFRS introduced a wildfire burns suppression team as well as specialist equipment based at wildfire stations which will improve operational capability in regards to wildfire incidents.
- 3.6 Launch of the GMFRS Prevention Strategy featuring key activity around prevention of fire but also around environmental linked incidents such as wildfire.
- 3.7 GMCA launched an electric vehicle salary sacrifice scheme to enable staff to access electric vehicles through a lease scheme before tax.
- 3.8 Introduction of video conferencing facilities across the estate including at Tootal Buildings to improve hybrid working opportunities across the organisation and reducing the reliance on staff business travel.

- 3.9 Established a supplier commitment measurement tool to establish supply chain commitments towards GMCA carbon neutrality plans as well as wider social commitments including real living wage and modern slavery.
- 3.10 Consolidation of confidential waste contract into main waste and recycling services contract.
- 3.11 Cross-working group amongst Combined Authorities established to support identification of best practice in regard to sustainable investment.
- 3.12 Activity has started to explore the potential for introducing a salary sacrifice scheme to support staff in retrofitting carbon reduction measures to their home.
- 3.14 Some activities have been aborted and the reasoning behind these varies. For certain projects (e.g. Oldham ASHP scheme), technical feasibility was the reason behind the scheme being aborted.
- 3.15 Other schemes were aborted at this stage due to the business need not being strong enough to progress at this stage although these projects may be revisited in the future (e.g. enhanced drone capability).
- 3.16 Some activity related to grant funding and these were aborted due to bids being unsuccessful in respect of Low Carbon Skills Fund as well as GMFRS being unable to progress a bid for Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme phase 3b.

4. Planned Activities – 2023/24

- 4.1 Actions to progress the Sustainability Strategy towards the intended outcomes outlined within the strategy, including targets, are outlined within Sustainability Strategy annual delivery plans.
- 4.2 Carbon reduction schemes will progress at 6 fire stations and involves the removal of gas heating systems at 6 fire stations whilst new build activity will commence at 2 fire stations with carbon reduction and sustainability being a key element of the schemes.
- 4.3 EV charging infrastructure will be installed at 18 fire stations and 13 electric vehicles will be introduced to the fleet.
- 4.4 An assessment of the scope 3 emissions at GMCA will be conducted with work plans implemented following the calculation to reduce these where viable.
- 4.5 GMCA will develop a sustainable procurement policy to establish our organisational principles in respect of this area and develop relevant toolkits and flow maps to

support colleagues in embedding sustainability into future procurement and commissioning activity.

- 4.6 Internal communications will continue to focus on the climate emergency and sustainability to support our staff in contributing to our ambitions and a staff network will be launched to enable staff to contribute to our wider ambitions in this area.
- 4.7 The Sustainability Strategy Annual Delivery Plan is maintained by the GMFRS Sustainability Team and progress is monitored via the quarterly Sustainability Strategy Steering Group.

5. Resource Requirements – 2023/24

- 5.1 Owners of the actions detailed within the Sustainability Strategy Annual Delivery Plan are responsible for identifying delivery mechanisms and associated resource requirements for identified actions.
- 5.2 As the actions outlined within the delivery plan progress, there is a likelihood that further resource requirements may be identified and it is proposed that these are reported via the Sustainability Strategy Steering Group with individual business cases prepared to identify these.

6. Recommendations

GMCA is requested to:

1. Note the content and detail within the report.
2. Agree the outlined actions proposed for 2023/24 in respect of the GMCA's corporate Sustainability Strategy.
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