

Waste and Recycling Committee

Date: 13th July 2023

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 provide new Members of the Committee with an overview 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:

The Committee is requested to:

1. Note the progress of the delivery of the SCP Plan and the key areas of activities over the coming years; and
2. Note the start of the process to produce the next 5-year Environment Plan and request that a report be considered at the next meeting of the committee.

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 implications of the recommendations set out within the report.

Financial Consequences – Revenue

The SCP Work Plan (Annex 01) 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 Plan

Annex A: SCP Work Plans 2023-24

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 how the key priorities identified in the SCP Plan are progressing.

2. Sustainable Consumption and Production Plan

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.

A copy of the SCP Plan is attached at Appendix A of the report.

3. Delivery of the SCP Plan

As with the 5-year Environment Plan, the SCP Plan is a Greater Manchester Plan and acknowledges that the Combined Authority is only one contributor to the delivery of the Plan and needs several other contributors.

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.

To deliver the SCP Plan, each Priority has its own work programme which sets out the areas of focus, budget assigned or required (Annex A).

3.1 Moving to a Circular Economy (Annex A1)

To move Greater Manchester to a circular economy, the Challenge work is focusing on 3 key areas: Textiles, Plastics and Procurement.

- Textiles: A business to business platform has been established and a funding application has been submitted by Manchester Metropolitan University and University of Manchester, supported by GMCA and other stakeholders to develop a feasibility study regarding the creation of a circular economy for low grade materials;
- Plastics: 2 sub-groups have been created with a focus on plastics. One is focused on Single Use Plastics and the delivery of the Public Sector Pact which all Districts have pledged to deliver (see work programme Annex A5) and the other, which has just been agreed by the challenge group at their last meeting on 12th June, is to establish a group focused on the implications of England's Waste Strategy and looking at creating a vision for the future which will look at technology and sustainable end markets. The first meeting is likely to be held next month, which will set a work programme, with timescales and targets; and
- Procurement: Already completed is ensuring that environment criteria is within the refreshed Social Value Framework. The next piece of work, which is currently out to tender is the carbon footprint analysis for the Combined Authority, paying particular attention to scope 3 emissions with a detailed analysis of the last 3 financial years spend profile and investments. Phase 2 of the work will then produce an action plan and toolkit to enable the Authority to reduce its emissions in areas where the most impact can be achieved.

3.2 Managing Waste (Annex A2)

Work is continuing to fully understand the implications of England's Waste Strategy. Upon establishing more certainty, work will commence on drafting a Greater Manchester Waste Strategy. Elements of managing waste have also been integrated into both Textile and Plastics subgroups, the reducing Food waste sub-group and behaviour insights work stream.

3.3 Reducing Food Waste (Annex A3)

Good Food GM – A vision of GM has been produced and the elements from the vision will form part of the new Food sub-group.

Research – As part of the behaviour insights work that has been commissioned (see below) a section on food has been incorporated.

3.4 Sustainable Lifestyles (Annex A4)

Behaviour Insights – Work has been commissioned with TfGM to undertake some initial behaviour insights work to gain Greater Manchester's views on the Environment. 3 focus groups have been undertaken to date, along with interviews with a small proportion of digitally excluded people. A survey of 1,500 people is currently being undertaken. Findings of this work will be considered by the newly founded Behaviour Insights sub-group.

Green Summit 2023 – Work is on-going for the next Green Summit which is being held at the Lowry on 2nd October. The sponsorship package has been sent to stakeholders to ensure that the event is cost neutral to the Combined Authority.

Climate Change Awareness – An internal climate change awareness e-module has been produced and has been very well received by staff. The module has been made available to local authorities and other public sector bodies and is being used by other organisations. The plan is to adapt the e-module to enable the course to be uploaded to the Green Cities website so anyone can take the course.

4. New 5 Year Environment Plan

As mentioned above, Greater Manchester's first 5-year Environment Plan was launched in 2019 and set out ambitious targets with the mission to start the journey to become carbon neutral by 2038. With that plan ending in 2024, work has recently commenced on planning to produce the new 5-year plan (2024 – 2029). This means whilst the SCP plan was approved by the Combined Authority last year, it is only a 3-year plan therefore it only goes up to 2026, therefore additional metrics and targets will need to be agreed within the SCP section within the new 5-year plan. Given the uncertainty still around England's Waste Strategy, careful consideration will be needed as to what those metrics may be. In light of this, it is proposed that a report regarding the production of the 5-year Environment Plan and particularly the SCP section within the plan be considered at the next meeting of this Committee.

5. Recommendations

The Committee is requested to:

1. Note the progress of the delivery of the SCP Plan and the key areas of activities over the coming years; and
2. Note the start of the process to produce the next 5-year Environment Plan and request that a report be considered at the next meeting of the committee.