



Greater Manchester Green City Region Partnership

Date: 19 October 2023

Subject: Integrated Water Management Plan

Report of: David Hodcroft - Infrastructure Lead (GMCA Place Directorate), GMCA

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

To provide a briefing to the Green City Region Partnership on the Greater Manchester Integrated Water Management Plan approved by the GMCA on 30 June 2023 (with the annual business plan approved on 29 September 2023.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Green City Region Partnership Members are requested to:

1. Note the decision made by the GMCA on 30 June and 29 September in relation to the Integrated Water Management Plan (para 1.1)
2. Note how Scrutiny Committee recommendations will be taken forward through the Integrated Water Management Plan (Annex A)
3. Note the summary of the Annual Business Plan (Annex B) as presented on the 11 September.
4. The main outputs to be delivered by March 2024 (paragraph 2.3)
5. Consider whether there are any issues highlighted in the report which are relevant to the partnerships work programme for the forthcoming municipal year.

CONTACT OFFICER:

David Hodcroft – GMCA Infrastructure Lead

1. Introduction / Background

- 1.1 A briefing on the Integrated Water Management Plan (IWMP) was presented to the Green City Region Partnership when it met on the 27 January 2023.
- Recommendations on Integrated Water Management from [GMCA Scrutiny Committee](#) were presented to the Greater Manchester Combined Authority when it met last May. [The Integrated Water Management Plan \(IWMP\)](#) was approved by the GMCA when it met on the 30 June where the following decisions were made:
1. *That the draft Integrated Water Management Plan, (Annex A) and next steps for engagement, be approved.*
 2. *That it be noted that the recommendations from GMCA Scrutiny Committee, as presented to the Combined Authority on the 31 May 2023, will be taken forward through the Integrated Water Management Plan*
 3. *That the actions and next steps, agreed at the 31 March 2023 Mayoral round table be noted.*
 4. *That the proposal to submit an Annual Business Plan on activities and resources required to deliver the Integrated Water Management Plan to the GMCA be approved.*
 5. *That the proposed review of existing GMCA governance structures to strengthen accountability, scrutiny and provide clarity of responsibility, in accordance with the principles for good governance (attributes for integrated water management) from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) be approved.*
 6. *That the funding and resource plan (business plan) be submitted to the GMCA in September 2023.*
 7. *That the intention for the Environment Agency, United Utilities and the GMCA to extend the existing collaboration agreement in relation to the implementation of the Integrated Water Management Plan be noted.*
 8. *That love and condolences be expressed to the family and friends of Abby Walton following a tragic open water incident in Tameside.*

- 1.2 The Integrated Water Management Plan is a joint Plan between the GMCA, the Environment Agency and United Utilities, it responds to the recommendations from the [GMCA Scrutiny Committee](#) (Annex A) to the GMCA in May 2023 and builds on the [memorandum of understanding between the parties agreed in 2021](#).
- 1.3 As the GMCA heard from the Chief Executives of the Environment Agency and United Utilities when met in June, Greater Manchester is nationally leading on this agenda and a significant infrastructure investment programme is being developed by United Utilities that will benefit Greater Manchester.
- 1.4 The government has committed to several reforms nationally through the [Environmental Improvement Plan \(2023\)](#) and [Plan for Water \(2023\)](#) with Integrated Water Management reflected within the [devolution deal](#) agreed with government earlier this year which states that: *“the government agrees that Greater Manchester will be a testbed to explore and develop options for how flood risk management, including other relevant adaptation activities, can best be addressed and accelerated at the local level. This could include:*
 - a. *Examining how adoption of an ecosystem services approach can deliver cobenefits for the economy and citizen health.*
 - b. *Sharing of best practice approaches and learning on integrated water management to inform government reforms to local flood risk management planning.*
 - c. *Piloting ‘revenue stacking’ and the blending of public, private, and philanthropic finance to fund projects at scale; or*
 - d. *Early testing of proposals from any government strategies on these issues in development”.*
- 1.5 The Integrated Water Management Plan aims to create a paradigm shift in water management. The plan provides a vision for water management as it should be, with positive outcomes for people, place and environment considered as a whole. The paradigm shift needs a new way of funding and resourcing the appropriate capacity to deliver this ambition.

2. Business Plan

2.1 The Integrated Water Management Plan, agreed by the GMCA in June 2023, includes seven workstreams:

- Workstream 1 - Living Integrated Opportunity Programme
- Workstream 2 - Digital Platform
- Workstream 3 - Adaptive Policies and Standards
- Workstream 4 - The Partnership
- Workstream 5 - Skills and Resources
- Workstream 6 - Integrated Investment Plan
- Workstream 7 – Marketing and Engagement

2.2 Following on from the GMCA approval, a more detailed Business Plan has been developed to identify the components of the Plan that will be delivered by 31 March 2024 and the resources required, this was approved by the GMCA when it met on the 29 September. The Business Plan was outlined at a 3rd Mayoral Round table on the 11 September (see Annex B). An annual progress report and business plan for FY 24/25 will be presented to the GMCA when it meets in March 2024.

2.3 The main outputs that will be delivered by March 2024 are:

1. Establishment of the Integrated Water Management Team, implementation of team culture and charter and sharing of resources across GMCA, EA and UU.
2. Further development of the living integrated opportunity programme (projects and interventions within geographical locations and catchments).
3. Identification and progression (from concept to business cases) of the first tranche of geographical clusters to demonstrate the impact and delivery of better outcomes.
4. Confirmation of the skills and graduate/apprenticeship programmes across the CA, UU, and EA for integrated water management to commence in September 2024.
5. Review of the existing GMCA governance structures to strengthen accountability, scrutiny and provide clarity of responsibility in accordance with the principles for good governance (attributes for integrated water management – Annex B)).

6. Establishment of the partnership board in accordance with the governance framework (output 5 above).
 7. A communication and engagement plan outlining who will be engaged, when and how during 2023-24.
- 2.4 The Business Plan details the roles required and an interim Integrated Water Management Plan Team has been established. United Utilities will deploy additional resources (FTEs) following a recruitment exercise this summer and a restructure this autumn. Additional resources (FTEs) are being provided by the Environment Agency and external consultancy support will be utilised until the end of September 2023 and March 2024 (senior analyst only).
- 2.5 The team can't operate or deliver in isolation; successful delivery of the business plan will rely on interdependencies between various teams across the GMCA, the Local Authorities and Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) and the GMCA is seeking support from the Greater Manchester system to ensure successful delivery.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Recommendations appear at the front of this report.

ANNEX A – Table setting out how the GMCA Scrutiny Committee recommendations will be taken forward through the Integrated Water Management Plan

GMCA Scrutiny Recommendations	IWMP Workstream (number)
1. Increase awareness.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 – Marketing and Engagement
2. A clear owned plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Integrated Water Management Plan (and 7 workstreams)
3. Strong governance framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 – The Partnership and recommendations to GMCA (Annex E)
4. Effective use of knowledge, skills, and resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 – Skills and resources
5. Ensuring social justice is at the heart of action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritizing and social value weighting within 1 (integrated opportunity programme and 6 (integrated investment plan)
6. Influencing planning laws and guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 (policies and standards), 7 - (Marketing and engagement) and devolution deal commitment.
7. Improving advice and information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 - (Marketing and engagement), use of GMCA website, engagement team and working with the 10 LAs. Green Summit in October.
8. Effective measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 (integrated opportunity programme and 6 (integrated investment plan)
9. Learn from others.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have established engagement/information sharing with London and Partnerships in London, Yorkshire, and Northumbria.
10. Further areas for scrutiny review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Plan to be reviewed by Scrutiny Committee on 27 September 2023

ANNEX B – 11 September Mayoral Round Table Presentation Slides

Presentation attached separately.