



## Greater Manchester Green City Region Partnership

**Date:** 25<sup>th</sup> January 2024

**Subject:** GREATER MANCHESTER MISSION TO JAPAN AND MOU SIGNINGS

**Report of:** Sean Owen, Head of Low Carbon, GMCA

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### Purpose of Report

This paper provides an update on the recent GM trade mission to Japan and the ensuing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) agreements that have, or are in the process of, being signed.

### Recommendations:

The Green City Region Partnership is requested to:

1. Note the report and progress arising from the recent mission to Japan;
2. Note the potential for furthering closer ties through the opportunity that the Osaka World Expo in 2025 provides;
3. Note the scale and innovation potential of the collective signatories of the MoUs which have the potential to accelerate GM's low carbon transition.

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## **1. Greater Manchester Mission to Japan**

- 1.1. The Greater Manchester mission to Japan in mid-December 2023, led by Mayor Andy Burnham and Cllr Bev Craig, built on the success of the officer-level trip to Japan in 2022 and a visit from Osaka city delegates in January 2023.
- 1.2. The trip aimed to strengthen bilateral ties in: diplomacy; trade and investment; net zero; innovation; culture & sport and the possibility of closer cooperation via the Osaka Expo 2025.
- 1.3. From a low carbon perspective, the trip included: visits to Daikin's headquarters (to build on the success since signing the MoU with them in February 2023); a visit to Panasonic's RE100 fuel cell solution demonstration site; plus exploring ways to further develop renewable deployment with SSE Energy, Pacifico, Eliiy Power (a medium sized battery manufacturer), Hitachi, Kansai Electric Power (part owner of Electricity North West), Mitsui and Nippon Electric Glass.
- 1.4. In addition to the above, visits also took place to Deloitte, Mitsubishi, Toshiba, Mizkan and Keidanren, as well meetings with the Mayors of Tokyo and Osaka.

## **2. Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs)**

- 2.1. As a result of the trip, several MoUs are being agreed to forge partnerships to assist with GM's goal of reaching carbon neutrality by 2038. They include:
- 2.2. Signing a new partnership deal at a city-level between Greater Manchester and Osaka to deliver on net zero targets, promote trade and investment, and boost innovation and education links between universities. The deal is the first of its kind between a UK city-region and Japanese counterpart since the UK agreed a trade agreement with Japan in 2020.
- 2.3. Signing an MoU with a consortium led by Panasonic on 15<sup>th</sup> January, to help prove the real-world application of their innovative RE100 technology hydrogen fuel cell, which can provide renewable heat and power to larger energy users such as hospitals. This will bring several stakeholders together to collaborate: GMCA, Panasonic, Manchester Metropolitan University, Carlton Power, SSE Energy and Electricity North West Ltd.

- 2.4. Ties were strengthened with Daikin, following the MoU signed with them in February 2023. Since which Daikin have installed over 300 heat pumps across the city-region, are providing training to ~45 college trainers to be able to deliver the Low Carbon Heat Technician apprenticeship and are working with their local installer network on an innovative, UK-first heat pump installation offer through the GM Retrofit Portal.
- 2.5. Work is ongoing with Hitachi who are keen to sign an MoU with the GMCA and TfGM to further investigate a range of technology solutions within their portfolio, covering rail, low carbon technology and digital (data).
- 2.6. The trip also stimulated further discussion between the GMCA and SSE Energy to further crystalise this relationship with an MoU to investigate areas of mutual interest in the deployment of energy solutions.