



Greater Manchester Green City Region Partnership

Date: 4 April 2024

Subject: Challenge Group Updates

Report of: Challenge Group Chairs/Vice Chairs

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

The purpose of this report is to outline the progress made by the 5 Year Environment Plan (5YEP) Challenge Groups in developing their key priorities through Task and Finish Groups

The accompanying presentation provides an updated overview of the Challenge Group priorities and how these are being delivered through Task and Finish Groups.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Partnership is asked to:

- Note the progress in developing the Mission Based Approach and the associated Challenge Groups.
- Consider any particular issues raised by the Challenge Group Chairs or Vice Chairs.

CONTACT OFFICERS:

Mark.Atherton@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk

Robyn.Smith@greatermanchesrer-ca.gov.uk

1.0 INTRODUCTIONS

The purpose of the Challenge Groups is:

- Deliver the 5YEP work programme
- Report back on progress and key challenges/barriers to the Green City Region Partnership
- Utilise lobbying/influencing function when appropriate to drive agenda.
- Work in collaboration with other challenge groups to identify cross cutting issues.

All challenge groups have given their feedback on the development of the 5 Year Environment Plan including the existing vision and the draft LA actions. This feedback is now being collated and will be brought to the next round of challenge groups for further discussion.

2.0 GREEN COMMUNICATION DELIVERY CHALLENGE GROUP

Topics discussed

Since the last partnership meeting the challenge group has continued its work on three main work streams

- 1) Campaign sharing and amplification – a document has been developed to track all partners campaigns.
- 2) Feel the Benefit Campaign – has now been launched and aims at increasing awareness of and engagement with the home energy upgrade support available to GM residents.
- 3) Resident top tips – materials developed by challenge group organisations to communicate top actions for residents is being collated to support alignment of communications to GM residents.

Future priorities/work/topics

- Supporting 5YEP communications
- Continuing to utilise each other's channels and networks to amplify communications.
- Early engagement in the development of the next Green Summit
- Opportunity to look at influencing behaviours e.g. communicating the top 10 actions people can take.

3.0 LOW CARBON

Topics discussed

The last meeting of the challenge group focused on three key updates

- 1) 5YEP Development
- 2) Net Zero Accelerator
- 3) ENWL Connections Reform

Challenges/opportunities raised

- Further suggestions were given on additions to the next 5YEP including challenges with resources, waste heat from data centres and behaviour change.
- The group expressed interest in seeing future updates on the Net Zero Accelerator as it develops.
- The group expressed the need to understand the national link on the ENWL Connections Reform.

Future priorities/work/topics

- Retrofit and decarbonisation of heat were identified as the key areas of challenge to explore at future meetings.
- A future draft of the 5YEP will be brought to the next meeting.

4.0 NATURAL CAPITAL GROUP

Topics discussed

The Natural Capital Executive Group's recent meeting included presentations on

- Local Nature Recovery Strategy
- 5YEP Development
- Engagement and Communications
- Developing a GM Project Map
- Environmental Land Management Scheme

Challenges/opportunities raised

- The need to ensure the LNRS and 5YEP are linked up and that the role of each is clearly defined.
- To continue to engage the group on the Peatland recovery work being led by Natural England and a possible group being set up to explore issues further.
- There was a significant discussion on the engagement item with suggestions that more could be done to promote and gain funding for volunteering opportunities.
- Flagged the stakeholder gaps that the NCG might wish to address but also the need to join up with other Challenge Groups to engage some stakeholders, such as developers, collectively.

Future priorities/work/topics

- Continued engagement on the 5YEP and LNRS
- A Climate Adaptation Plan is being developed that this group will contribute towards.

5.0 SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

Topics discussed

At the last meeting the Challenge Group had updates on the following items;

- GM Fashion and Textiles from MMU.
- The 5YEP and had a chance to feedback on the waste and resources section.

Challenges/opportunities raised

- A discussion was held on the new subgroups that are being set up with an ask made to members to consider which task and finish group they would like to join.
- The group provided feedback on the 5YEP development.

Future priorities/work/topics

- Continued engagement on the 5YEP.

6.0 FIVE YEAR ENVIRONMENT PLAN FORUM

Topics discussed

- 5YEP development
- LTP development

Challenges/opportunities raised

- The group provided feedback on the air quality and waste and resources actions in the plan.
- There was discussion on how the LTP and 5YEP linked together ensuring that they are aligned.

Future priorities/work/topics

- Continued engagement on the 5YEP.
- To bring back the lobbying work and discuss next steps.
- Greenwash free city initiatives.