

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GREATER MANCHESTER GREEN CITY REGION PARTNERSHIP  
(THE PARTNERSHIP) 2019/20 HELD ON FRIDAY 18 OCTOBER 2019, BOARD ROOM, GMCA,  
CHURCHGATE HOUSE, 56 OXFORD STREET, MANCHESTER M1 6EU**

**PRESENT:**

Councillor Andrew Western (Chair)	Green City Region Portfolio Holder & Chair (Trafford Council)
Councillor Alan Quinn	Bury Council (Waste & Recycling Committee Representative)
Councillor Angeliki Stogia	Manchester City Council (Transport Committee Representative)
Councillor Derek Antrobus	Salford City Council (Planning and Housing Commission Representative)
Anne Selby	LWT (Natural Capital Chair)
Carly McLachlan	Tyndall Centre (5 YEP Forum Chair)
Prof Will Swan	Salford University (Buildings Vice Chair)
David Marshall	Environment Agency Representative
Patrick Allcorn	BEIS (Central Government Representative)
Darryl Quantz	Greater Manchester Health & Social Care Partnership
Peter Emery	ENWL (Energy Chair)
Richard Jenkins	Suez (SCP Chair)
Phil Korbel	Cooler Projects (Comms Vice Chair)
Louise Blythe	BBC Academy (Comms Chair)
Andy Holden	Manchester Metropolitan University
Robin Lawler	Northwards Housing (Buildings Chair)

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mark Atherton	GMCA
Simon Nokes	GMCA
Megan Black	TfGM
Jenny Hollamby	GMCA
Sean Owen	GMCA

**PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE:**

Andy Barrow	Rochdale Resident
-------------	-------------------

**GMGCRP/01/19 INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Eamonn Boylan (GMCA), Chris Matthews (United Utilities), Roger Milburn (Arup), Mark Pilling (Siemens), Hisham Elkadi (Salford University); Lee Rawlinson (Environment Agency), Nalin Thakkar (Manchester University) and Simon Warburton (TfGM).

BOLTON  
BURY

MANCHESTER  
OLDHAM

ROCHDALE  
SALFORD

STOCKPORT  
TAMESIDE

TRAFFORD  
WIGAN

The Chair opened the meeting, welcomed all those present and introductions took place around the table.

#### **GMGCRP/02/19 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS**

Whilst there was no urgent business, the Chair drew the Partnership's attention to:

- The GMCA's climate change emergency declaration was agreed at the GMCA meeting on Friday 26 July 2019.
- Greater Manchester's 5 Year Environmental Plan would be showcased in the C40 Cities 100 report
- The 5 Year Environmental Plan had also won an award at the Low Carbon Expo in Nanning, China.

#### **GMGCRP/03/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations received in relation to any item on the agenda.

#### **GMGCRP/04/19 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 29 JULY 2019**

##### **RESOLVED/-**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 29 July 2019 be approved as a correct record.

1. Arising from minute LCHB/29/19 (Mission Based Approach – Presentation), the Chair advised that the deep dives into the key themes would commence from January 2020. The Chair asked the Challenge Group Chairs to organise a schedule of items/visits for each meeting.
2. Arising from minute LCHB/31/19 (Governance Changes and Terms of Reference), it was noted that Professor Will Swan (University of Salford) had been asked to be Deputy Chair of the Low Carbon Buildings Challenge Group, Stuart Easterbrook (Cadent) had been asked to be the Deputy Chair of the Energy Innovation Challenge and Amanda Reid (Manchester Metropolitan University) had been asked to be the Deputy Chair of the Sustainable Consumption and Production Challenge Group.
3. Arising from minute LCHB/32/19 (Collective PV/Battery Procurement), it had not been possible to offer a low cost loan this time for Solar Together, but if the scheme was successful, it could be offered in the future. 2,000 expressions of interest had been received.

#### **GMGCRP/05/19 IMPLEMENTING THE 5 YEAR ENVIRONMENT PLAN**

A report was considered that provided the usual update on progress of the GM Green City Region Partnership for the second quarter of 2019/20.

The annexes to the report contained a summary of key achievements during the last quarter across the areas within the 5 Year Environmental Plan. A number of key successes were also highlighted within the report.

The main discussions referred:

- Work would take place with the Low Carbon Buildings Challenge Group around improving housing stock data. The GMCA had successfully bid for LGA funding to undertake a housing stock condition survey.
- The Greater Manchester Mayor had signed the Milan Urban Food Pact supporting sustainable, healthy, affordable food for all, which needed building into wider policy. Work looking at how food was managed in the city region was needed.
- The Low Carbon Buildings Challenge Group would respond to the Future Homes Standard consultation by 10 January 2020.
- It was confirmed that the impacts of new housing standards had been considered in terms of the Greater Manchester's Plan for Homes, Jobs and the Environment (was Greater Manchester Spatial Framework). Quality assurance processes should take account of building regulations for new build. A small plot of eco houses would be built in Bury to show there was an alternative to regular builds.
- Influencing Government policy would be important. There should be one consistent message to Government across all groups.
- It was noted that Modern Methods of Manufacturing had been published. It was reported that GM specific work on Modern Methods of Construction was taking place and could be brought back to the Partnership for consideration.
- A discussion took place about enforcement of building regulations and the use of approved inspectors rather than building control. It was suggested that this could be a Local Authority (LA) task. There was also a fundamental issue about how buildings were signed off.

#### **RESOLVED/-**

1. That the Partnership noted the progress outlined within the report and the latest position set out in the dashboards attached to the report at Annex 01 (Environment Team Performance Overview) and Annex 02 (5 Year Environment Plan Performance).
2. That Modern Methods of Construction be considered at a future meeting.

The Partnership received a presentation on progress developing the Challenge Groups since the last meeting.

It was explained that this would be followed by a deeper dive into each of the Challenge Group outcomes and proposed Task and Finish Groups by the Chairs of those Groups. Each of the Chairs were invited to comment on how their Challenge Group operated, including, Terms of Reference, membership, next steps and any issues arising from the Group.

#### **GMGCRP/06/19A      LOW CARBON BUILDINGS CHALLENGE GROUP**

Consideration was given to a report that outlined the progress made in establishing a Low Carbon Buildings Challenge Group as agreed at the last meeting of the GM Green City Region Partnership.

The Chair of the Group provided a verbal summary from the first meeting, which took place on 10 October 2019. The Group discussed using existing groups to support the work of the Challenge Group, embedded energy, planning implications and behavioural change.

A lengthy discussion took place about the current delivery model being insufficient to realise retrofit ambitions in the long term view.

#### **RESOLVED/-**

1. That the Partnership noted progress in developing the Low Carbon Buildings Challenge Group priorities.
2. The Partnership noted the issues arising from the last meeting of the Group and next steps (Sections 2 and 3 of the report).
3. That the Partnership agreed the proposed Terms of Reference for the Low Carbon Buildings Challenge Group attached to the report.

#### **GMGCRP/06/19B      ENERGY INNOVATION CHALLENGE GROUP**

The Partnership considered a report that outlined the progress made in establishing an Energy Innovation Challenge Group as agreed at the last meeting of the GM Green City Region Partnership.

The Chair of the Challenge Group explained that discussions at the meeting on 7 October 2019 covered work through the Strategic Infrastructure Group, gaps and local engagement, membership, the energy master-planning, the hydrogen strategy, managing transitions, targets and on shore wind.

**RESOLVED/-**

1. That the Partnership noted progress in developing the Energy Innovation Challenge Group priorities.
2. The Partnership noted the issues arising from the last meeting of the Group and next steps (Sections 2 and 3 of the report).
3. That the Partnership agreed the proposed Terms of Reference for the Energy Innovation Challenge Group attached to the report.

**GMGCRP/06/19C      NATURAL CAPITAL CHALLENGE GROUP**

A report was considered that outlined the progress made in establishing a Natural Capital Challenge Group as agreed at the last meeting of the GM Green City Region Partnership.

The Chair explained that the existing Natural Capital Group would be the Challenge Group. Discussions at the meeting, which took place on 27 September 2019 covered the Environment Act, policy and metrics, nature recovery network, climate change/biodiversity emergency agreement, new funding, environmental education, ecotherapy and health.

**RESOLVED/-**

1. That the Partnership noted progress in developing the Natural Capital Challenge Group priorities.
2. The Partnership noted the issues arising from the last meeting of the Group and next steps (Sections 2 and 3 of the report).
3. That the Partnership agreed the proposed Terms of Reference for the Natural Capital Challenge Group attached to the report.

**GMGCRP/06/19D      SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION CHALLENGE GROUP**

A report was presented that outlined the progress made in establishing a Sustainable Consumption and Production Challenge Group as agreed at the last meeting of the GM Green City Region Partnership.

The first meeting of this Group took place on 2 October 2019. The Chair explained that discussions covered municipal waste, responsible consumer, communications work and messages across groups, solar panels, consumer behaviour, data, the Waste & Resources Committee, the English waste strategy, the food strategy and health benefits.

**RESOLVED/-**

1. That the Partnership noted progress in developing the Sustainable Consumption and Production Challenge Group priorities.

2. The Partnership noted the issues arising from the last meeting of the Group and next steps (Sections 2 and 3 of the report).
3. That the Partnership agreed the proposed Terms of Reference for the SC&P Challenge Group attached to the report.

#### **GMGCRP/06/19E      COMMUNICATIONS AND BEHAVIOUR CHALLENGE GROUP**

Consideration was given to a report that outlined the progress made in establishing a Communications and Behaviour Challenge Group as agreed at the last meeting of the GM Green City Region Partnership.

This Group met on 11 October 2019 and discussed work across the areas, communications and engagement, functionality, overarching messages, carbon literacy training and common threads for Greater Manchester.

It was suggested that the membership was quite narrow and everybody was encouraged to attend the next meeting on 17 December 2019. The Group was open to fresh ideas from all sectors.

#### **RESOLVED/-**

1. That the Partnership noted progress in developing the Communications and Behaviour Challenge Group priorities.
2. The Partnership noted the issues arising from the last meeting of the Group and next steps (Sections 2 and 3 of the report).
3. That the Partnership agreed the proposed Terms of Reference for the Communications and Behaviour Challenge Group attached to the report.

#### **GMGCRP/06/19F      5 YEAR ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN FORUM**

A report was considered that outlined the progress made in establishing a 5 Year Environmental Plan Forum as agreed at the last meeting of the GM Green City Region Partnership.

The Chair advised that the main discussions that took place at the first meeting on 23 September 2019 covered connections between the Challenge Groups, the critical friend role and how to support the development of the 5 Year Environmental Plan.

#### **RESOLVED/-**

1. That the Partnership noted progress in developing the 5 Year Environmental Plan Forum priorities.

2. The Partnership noted the issues arising from the last meeting of the Group and next steps (Sections 2 and 3 of the report).
3. That the Partnership agreed the proposed Terms of Reference for the 5 Year Environmental Plan Forum attached to the report.

The Partnership raised a number of questions, comments and concerns about the work of the Challenge Groups, which were noted as:

- A Member suggested that the Challenge Groups could be renamed as Action Groups.
- It was agreed that a plain English narrative about the 15% year-on-year carbon reduction in emissions would be developed for key stakeholders.
- It was recommended by a Member that the GMCA should lead by example and explain what it was doing to become carbon neutral.
- As part of the communications work, a website would be set up to advertise the work and key messages of the Partnership.
- A question was raised regarding LAs and what part they were playing in delivering the 5 Year Environmental Plan; was there a coherent approach.
- It was suggested that the cultural aspect had been omitted from the Communications and Behavioural Change Challenge Group. A Greater Manchester climate change communications strategy was needed along with key messages.
- A concern was raised about the mandatory national 10% biodiversity gain requirements in 25 Year Environmental Plan and whether that was deliverable.
- It was reported that Bury Council had been unsuccessful in the Urban Tree Challenge and Greater Manchester should put pressure on the Forestry Commission to get their share. The Chair of the Natural Capital Challenge Group explained that each LA should have a receptor site. Net gain should not stop development but allow spend in high need areas.
- Regarding the tree cover target, a concern was raised about the metrics not being adequate. Work was needed to understand the scale and required funding.
- It was noted that there were strong links between the Challenge Groups. However, there must be synergy between the Groups and Terms of Reference. A cross functional piece of work was required. It was suggested that overlapping membership and a Challenge Group Chair's meeting would be beneficial.
- Transport impacts should be considered across the Challenge Groups.
- A discussion took place about building the business cases for investment that included health benefits. It was explained that a cost benefit analysis tool, linked with the

Treasury's Green Book, which represented health outcomes had been adopted and was ready to use.

**Resolved/-**

1. That a narrative about the 15% year-on-year reductions in emissions this year would be developed for key stakeholders.
2. GMCA would develop a one page briefing in actions already underway, in advance of the next Climate Strike.

**GMGCRP/07/19      AIR QUALITY UPDATE**

TfGM's Head of Logistics and Environment provided a verbal update about the Clean Air Plan. It was explained that the proposed package of measures was being developed and public consultation would take place. In the interim, engagement would take place with various groups. Clarification from Government about available support and was expecting next week.

The Greater Manchester Clean Air Roadshow took place on 10 September 2019 and was well attended. The event raised awareness of the Clean Air Plan.

Proposals about transport impacts and the Challenge Groups structure would be brought to a future meeting for consideration.

**Resolved/-**

1. That the update be noted.
2. That proposals about transport impacts and the Challenge Group structure would be considered at a future meeting.

**GMGCRP/08/19      LOCAL ENERGY MARKET BID**

The Partnership received a presentation on Greater Manchester's recent application to Powering Future Energy Revolution fund for £6m to design a Greater Manchester Local Energy Market.

It was emphasised that should be project be successful, it would prepare the way for commercialisation of energy services. It was a very important project worth £6.2m, which would help deliver targets. A result was expected in November 2019, with a project start date on 1 January 2020. It was clarified that the funding was 50:50 match funding.

Should the funding bid be unsuccessful, it was explained that there was a Plan B, work was already taking place, but it would not be of the same scale or speed.

**Resolved/-**

That the update be noted.

## **GMGCRP/09/19 ENERGY TRANSITION REGION UPDATE**

A report was considered that outlined the progress made in developing a high level business case and GM Wide Energy Transition Region.

It was explained that the report would be finalised based on comments received and would then be assessed by partners who might wish to take a funding bid forward.

### **Resolved/-**

1. The progress in developing the Energy Transition Region proposal was noted by the Partnership.
2. That the Partnership noted the Energy Transition Region Draft Strategic Outline case detailed at Annex 01 of the report.

## **GMGCRP/10/19 DATE AND TIME OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

The dates and of future meetings were noted as:

- Monday 20 January 2020
- Friday 24 July 2020

All meetings would take place at 10.00 am, Boardroom, GMCA.