

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GREEN CITY REGION PARTNERSHIP (THE PARTNERSHIP)  
HELD ON 18<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2020 VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

**PRESENT:**

Councillor Andrew Western	GMCA Environment Portfolio & Chair (Trafford Council)
Councillor Alan Quinn	Waste & Recycling Committee (Bury Council)
Councillor Oliver Ryan	Portfolio Deputy (Tameside Council)
Councillor Angeliki Stogia	Transport Committee (Manchester City Council)
Councillor Derek Antrobus	Planning & Housing Commission (Salford City Council)
Patrick Allcorn	Central Government Representative (BEIS)
Louise Blythe	BBC Academy (Chair Communications & Engagement)
Hisham Elkadi	Salford University
Mark Easedale	Environment Agency
Steph Everett	Homes England
Peter Emery	Electricity North West (Chair Energy Innovation)
Andy Gibson	Manchester Metropolitan University
Angela Needle	Cadent
Phil Korbel	Cooler Projects (Vice-Chair Communications & Engagement)
Bernard Magee	Siemens
Carly McLachlan	University of Manchester (Chair 5YEP Forum)
Roger Milburn	Arup (Strategic Infrastructure Board)
Darryl Quantz	Health & Social Care Partnership
Anne Selby	Wildlife Trust (Chair Natural Capital)
Will Swan	Salford University (Vice-Chair Low Carbon Buildings)
Nalin Thakkar	Manchester University

**Observers**

Tim Whitley - Arup (Observer)

Jessica Bowles - Bruntwood (Substitute for Chris Oglesby)

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mark Atherton	GMCA
Krista Patrick	GMCA
Lynda Stefek	TfGM
Kerry Bond	GMCA

**GMGCRP/11/20 INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES**

The Chair opened the meeting, welcomed all those present and introduced new members Sarah Price, GM Health and Social Care Partnership and Carl Moore, Homes England to the Board. On this occasion, the new members were represented by Darryl Quantz and Steph Everett respectively.

BOLTON	MANCHESTER	ROCHDALE	STOCKPORT	TRAFFORD
BURY	OLDHAM	SALFORD	TAMESIDE	WIGAN

Apologies for absence were received from Carl Moore, Lee Rawlinson, Robin Lawler, Hayley James and Megan Black.

**GMGCRP/12/20      DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

**GMGCRP/13/20      TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

**RESOLVED/-**

That the minutes of the last meeting dated 20 January 2020 be approved as a correct record.

a)      **MATTERS ARISING**

- Arising from minute GMGCRP/01/20 (Minutes), it was explained that due to the current pandemic, the Green Summit currently scheduled for 29<sup>th</sup> September 2020 will be re-scheduled or held virtually. A decision will be made following consultation with the GM Mayor.
- The Chair advised Members that Richard Jenkins has now left his role at Suez and therefore stepped down from the Partnership. A replacement representative from Suez will be nominated and invited to future meetings and to Chair the Consumption and Production Challenge Group.

**GMGCRP/14/20      PROGRESS REPORT Q4- 5 YEAR ENVIRONMENT PLAN**

The Partnership considered a report that provided an update on progress of Green City Region Partnership for the fourth quarter of 2019/20.

It was noted that most of the activity of the Greater Manchester (GM) 5 Year Environment Plan activity has continued through lockdown; the exception being those projects which require access to people's homes:

- The start of the Local Energy Management project has been delayed by 2 months following withdrawal by one of the partners; due to this, a 2 month extension has been granted. A replacement partner is currently being sought. Manchester City Council extended an offer of support on this project, should this be required.
- The Warm Homes Fund project has been completed - Installed 500 first time central heating systems and supported over 1500 fuel poor homes with advice and insulation measures. The Warm Homes Fund Project 2 has been agreed and will progress after lockdown.
- GM Solar Together PV scheme is still on course to deliver in excess of 530 installs; 5100+ solar panels; 1.7MW new generation; and leverage £1.6m of investment.

## **RESOLVED\**-

1. That the progress outlined in the report and the latest position set out in the dashboards attached at Annex 1 - Environment Team Performance Overview be noted,
2. That the 5 Year Environment Plan Performance at Annex 2 be noted.

## **GMGCRP15/20      GM COVID RECOVERY PLAN**

Members received a report on the environmental impacts of the Covid emergency, which provided a summary of the feedback received from a short engagement exercise with the GM Green City Region network, responding to the GM Covid Recovery Group's request to support the development of a Recovery Action Plan, detailed at Annex 1 of the report.

Members received a short presentation of the first draft of an Action Plan for the Environment Theme, focusing on the first phase of the release of lockdown running over the next 2 months, recognising that activity may need to begin now on the actions for the later phases of recovery to enable delivery of the desired outcomes further down the timeline. Members were asked to work with its established networks, ensuring the needs and views from across the system (including localities and communities) are represented in undertaking detailed action planning work to develop the Recovery Plan. As part of this action planning work, the Partnership were asked to review the initial risks and opportunities currently captured in the Areas for Action in Section 1 of Annex 2 of the report.

Discussion took place to agree:

1. What are 4/5 of the most important things to do to support a rapid economy / society restart, which will form the focus of system wide conversations coordinated via the GM Recovery Coordination Group, detailed in Section 2 of Annex 2; and
2. What are the 4/5 things that we should keep as part of Building Back Better, considering the changes to processes and practices that have occurred as part of the emergency response.

The following comments and questions were raised:

- It was suggested that emphasis should be given on initiatives such as clean air.
- Member were reassured that 'energy generation' includes reference to clean energy.
- That the strong connection between public and green and blue infrastructure should be given some focus going forwards.
- Survey work is underway on active transport, to establish why people have changed their behaviour and the key factors, an understanding of what people would like to see changed would enable a smooth transition.
- Are there any connections between the different streams of activity that could highlight tensions or co-benefits; Next steps are to compare the Environment Recovery Action Plan with others and combine into one cohesive plan which will highlight the tensions and co-benefits.

- Members were advised by Roger Milburn of two pieces of work on Digital Infrastructure that are running parallel.
  - The first being led by the GM Digital Infrastructure Group who agreed at their meeting on 14 May to create a plan not dissimilar to those discussed in this item, with input from both the public and private sectors, this piece of work will be finalised in next few days.
  - Secondly, the GM Infrastructure Board will meet on the 26 May to receive feedback from all the infrastructure providers on lessons learnt, risks and opportunities identified. The Board will also receive an updated report on Infrastructure Resilience led by the Infrastructure Commission. The Board also accommodate a lot of work on green and blue infrastructure, representatives from this Partnership sit on the Board.

The Environment Recovery Action Plan was presented detailing project timescales, owners and outcomes, Members were asked for their input on next steps of engagement. Discussion took place and the following points were raised:

- Private sector input: There is a need to identify further engagement with the private sector and include within the plan, the private sector are involved in the Challenge Groups, engagement with the GM Sustainable Business Partnership is due to commence, there will also be input from the GM LEP who are keen to engage with a wider cross section of the business community and are keen to take a lead on this.
- Need to prioritise identification of 2-3 projects to deliver, the Urban Forest Park, within the Mayor's Manifesto pledge would be a great opportunity.
- The Wildlife Trust are working on a bid with the NHS on Eco-Health which focusses on young people's mental health, they are also looking at a Volunteering Capacity Bid with City of Trees, these could be linked to recovery and green spaces.

Feedback was requested from members as to what indicators should be applied to the criteria to prioritise the action plan, the following points were raised:

- Speed to delivery.
- Highest impact and behaviour change.
- Links to employments centres - accessibility and maintenance of green space and alternative modes of transport.
- How can we capitalise on the positives of the lockdown both now and longer term, eg. we have produced less air and noise pollution, flexible working has produced a positive impact on family and local community.
- Recovery is about balancing the economy, the environment (including climate change/low carbon), social (including health and well-being).
- Along with private sector engagement, are there actions to capitalise on a shift in thinking in communities to allow them to take the lead and input their skills and resources and help make changes to their homes and local environment.

BEIS and a number of government departments are looking at different aspects of Covid recovery. The £9.2bn energy efficiency bid detailed in the budget manifesto in November wasn't included in the March budget as it is part of a wider infrastructure discussion which have been delayed waiting for a number of NIC reports. There will be a cross over with

climate and Covid economic recovery commitments. Looking at what projects with value are ready to begin and linking this with work and skills.

National funding was is provided for regional energy hubs to support project development and finance. Projects can be delivered either with grant support or potential low carbon finance loans which will allow programmes to get up and running by developing investment grade propositions.

#### **RESOLVED\-**

1. That the feedback received from the GM Environment Network to the questions posed by the GM Recovery Group at Annex 2 of the report be noted.
2. That the presentation detailing the first draft Recovery Action Plan for the Environment Theme be noted.
3. That notes of the GM Infrastructure Group and the GM Infrastructure Board will be circulated to Members of this Partnership.
4. That an additional column in the Action Plan be added for key contributors in addition to the task owner for clarity.
5. Roger Milburn liaise with Chris Oglesby to discuss and assist with GM LEP and private sector input/collaboration.
6. That an Action Plan Sub Group be set up to discuss and input on how the green agenda fits in with the recovery element of the Communications and Engagement Group Action Plan. Members to email Mark Atherton if they wish to be included in this piece of work.

#### **GMGCRP16/20          PROGRESS WITH CHALLENGE GROUPS**

Consideration was given to a report outlining the progress made by the Five Year Environment Plan (5YEP) Challenge Groups in developing their key priorities and subsequent Task and Finish Action groups. The accompanying presentation provided an overview of the Challenge Group priorities and how these are being delivered through Task and Finish Groups, with estimated timescales for each action.

#### **RESOLVED\-**

1. That the progress in developing the Challenge Groups and the Task and Finish Action Group activity be noted.

#### **GMGCRP17/20          THEMATIC DEEP DIVE - COMMUNICATIONS & BEHAVIOUR CHANGE**

The Partnership received presentations on Communications and Behaviour Change as part of the thematic deep dive requested by Members at a previous meeting,

The presentations focussed on specific tasks and a final overview update.

a) GMS Key Messages “Green City Region”

An update will be brought to a future meeting following review of the Green City Region messages.

b) Natural Environment Engagement Toolkit

The Partnership received a presentation detailing the work of the Natural Capital Communications Task and Finish Group, looking at the effective production of a design based toolkit to raise awareness of the natural environment work across Greater Manchester, the vision and how people can input.

The Communications and Behaviour Change Group welcomed the work and understand the importance and significance in terms of connecting people with regards to open spaces.

c) Carbon Literacy Programme

A presentation was received detailing the climate change training that has been carried out to date, what is being carried out virtually and the future pipeline, including:

- Trained 14,000 people, circ 50% in GM.
- Auto Trader are the first private sector FTSE 100 company on the programme.
- Other companies include: Electricity NW; Booking.com, BASF.
- Work funded across the public sector include: NHS, GM Fire, Universities, including MMU, 5 GM districts.

d) Communications and Engagement Group Update

The Partnership received an update, including:

- A number of task and finish groups are up and running and priority actions have been identified.
- Working with communication and behaviour change officers to look at a GM level rather than individual organisations.
- Case studies for organisations to feed into to support the work.
- Task & finish work has been greatly received.
- Looking for ambassadors at grass roots along with members of this Partnership.
- Actively involved in the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) and the Sustainability Conference.
- Members were asked to support the Behaviour Change Task & Finish Group by allowing their organisations Communication and Change Leads officers to commit some time each month to get involved in the group, and to share their best practices.
- Next steps are to share feedback and next steps and to re-work direction to short/medium term.

The Chair thanked Officers for their informative presentations.

## **RESOLVED/-**

- 1) That the content of the report and presentations be noted.
- 2) That Members agree to support the Behaviour Change Task & Finish Group by allowing their organisations Communication and Change Leads officers to commit some time each month to get involved in the Group, and to share their best practices.

## **REPORTS FOR INFORMATION**

### **GMGCRP/18/20      MODERN METHODS OF CONSTRUCTION: ACCELERATING HOUSING DELIVERY IN GREATER MANCHESTER: THE CASE FOR ADVANCED MANUFACTURING IN THE CITY-REGION**

Members received a paper providing a summary of the Strategic Outline Business Case project which identifies the optimal approach for accelerating housing delivery in Greater Manchester through modern methods of construction.

## **RESOLVED\-**

That the report be noted.

### **GMGCRP19\20      GREEN CITY REGION ANNUAL REPORT AND CLIMATE EMERGENCY DECLARATION UPDATE**

The Partnership received a report providing the first update and outlines of the actions agreed to deliver on the declaration and the opportunities to further reduce CO2 emissions from the GMCA's operations. The paper also provides a draft Annual Report for the GM 5 Year Environment Plan, launched in March 2019.

## **RESOLVED\-**

1. That the proposed GMCA Climate Emergency Action Plan for the first 12 months, July 2019-July 2020 at Annex A be noted.
2. That progress made against Climate Emergency actions be noted.
3. That the Annual Report for the GM 5 Year Environment Plan and the Environment Report 2019-20 at Annex B be noted.

### **GMGCRP20\20      DATES AND TIMES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

- Friday 24 July 2020, 10.00 am, via Microsoft Teams
- Friday 16 October 2020, 9.00 am, Board Room, GMCA
- Monday 25 January 2021, 10.00 am, Board Room, GMCA
- Friday 12 March 2021, 10.00 am, Board Room, GMCA