



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF  
THE GREEN CITY REGION PARTNERSHIP HELD VIRTUALLY ON  
FRIDAY 18 MARCH 2022 AT 10.00 AM**

**PRESENT:**

Councillor Neil Emmott	GMCA Environment Portfolio & Chair (Rochdale Council) (Chair)
Councillor Alan Quinn	Waste & Recycling Committee (Bury Council) (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Steve Adshead	Transport Committee (Trafford Council)
Councillor Mike McCluster	Planning & Housing Commission (Salford City Council)
Harry Catherall	GMCA Environment Portfolio Lead Chief Executive (Oldham Council)
Paul Bircham	(For Peter Emery) Electricity North West (Chair Energy Innovation)
Carly McLachlan	University of Manchester (Chair 5 YEP Implementation Forum)
Louise Marix-Evans	Quantum (Vice-Chair 5 YEP Implementation Forum)
Will Swan	Salford University (Chair Low Carbon Buildings)
Anne Selby	Independent Member (Chair Natural Capital)
Louise Blythe	BBC (Communication & Engagement Chair)
Phil Korbel	Cooler Projects (Communication & Engagement Vice-Chair)
Helen Boyle	Cadent Gas (Vice-Chair Energy Innovation)
Steve Connor	Creative Concern
Patrick Allcorn	BEIS
Mark Easedale	Environment Agency
Hisham Elkadi	University of Salford
Claire Igoe	(For Sarah Price) GM Health & Social Care Partnership
Bernard Magee	Siemens
Carl Moore	Homes England
Liz Price	(For Andy Gibson) Manchester Metropolitan University

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mark Atherton	Director of Environment, GMCA
Sam Evans	Head of Natural Environment, GMCA
Todd Holden	Energy Policy and Programmes Lead, GMCA
Andrew Hunt	Green Energy and Sustainability Manager, Oldham Council

BOLTON  
BURY

MANCHESTER  
OLDHAM

ROCHDALE  
SALFORD

STOCKPORT  
TAMESIDE

TRAFFORD  
WIGAN

## **OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

David Taylor

Executive Director, Waste, GMCA

## **GMGCRP/13/22 INTRODUCTION AND APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Peter Emery (Electricity North West – Paul Bircham Deputy), Neil Hind (NHS), Colette McKune (For Housing), Carly McLachlan (University of Manchester for part - Louise Marix-Evans Deputy), Lesley Worswick (Environment Agency), Kristina Poole (PHE), Andy Gibson (Manchester Metropolitan University – Liz Price Deputy), Jessica Bowles and Chris Oglesby (Bruntwood).

## **GMGCRP/14/22 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS**

The Chair reported that since the last meeting:

- A refresh of the Greater Manchester Strategy was launched on 14 March 2022. The strategy signalled Greater Manchester embarking upon an ambitious and transformative new era, one that was greener, fairer, and more prosperous for everyone living and working in Greater Manchester. Several Partnership Members spoke at the event which also saw the announcement of the Green Spaces Fund (on today's agenda) and the RetrofitGM Accelerator (presented to the last meeting) which would be delivered by a local consortium.
- GMCA had been successful in its bid for Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme Wave 3 funding. Greater Manchester had been awarded the full bid amount of £15.5m grant to extend the retrofit of public buildings this year.

## **GMGCRP/15/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

To receive declarations of interest in any item for discussion at the meeting. A blank form for declaring interests had been circulated with the agenda.

Bernard Magee (Siemens) declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest by virtue of him taking part in the GMCA supported Local Energy Market trial being conducted by OVO Energy.

Steve Connor (Creative Concern) declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in Item 11 (Greater Manchester Retrofit Plan) by virtue of his company (Creative Concern) being a sub-contractor of retrofit works, a co-operative that won a tender to work on the Greater Manchester Retrofit Accelerator. The attendee would withdraw from the meeting at the relevant point and not take part in any discussion.

**GMGCRP/16/22 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING DATED  
15 OCTOBER 2022**

**Resolved/-**

That the minutes of the previous meeting dated 15 October 2022 be approved as a correct record.

**Matters Arising**

- Arising from minute GMGCRP/02/22 (Clean Air Zone), Members who wish to be kept abreast of Clean Air Zone developments should sign up for updates on [www.CleanAirGM.com](http://www.CleanAirGM.com).
- Arising from minute GMGCRP/04/22 (To Approve the Minutes of the Last Meeting dated 15 October 2021), an item on Infrastructure key messages had been added to today's agenda under Item 7 (Changes to Challenge Groups and Infrastructure Lobbying Points).
- Arising from minute GMGCRP/05/22 (Progress Report 5 Year Environment Plan (YEP)), an item on Greater Manchester's Electric Vehicle (EV) Strategy would be presented to the 15 July 2022 meeting when a provider had been appointed for the Partnership to feed into the review. If required, a separate meeting could be organised for Elected Members with a specific interest on costs.

**GMGCRP/17/22 PROGRESS REPORT 5 YEP**

The report provided the usual update on progress of the Green City Region Partnership for the third quarter and key milestones for the fourth quarter of 2021/22.

Attention was drawn to the following:

- Peter Emery from Electricity North West had been appointed as the interim Chair of the Greater Manchester Energy Innovation Agency (EIA). The first meeting would take place on 30 March 2022 and the first EIA engagement with Greater Manchester innovators would take place at an event on 28 April 2022.
- Regarding the Clean Air Plan, the Government had confirmed that the implementation of a category C charging Clear Air Zone had been revoked and that a new plan was required to be submitted to the Secretary of State of the Department of Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) by 1 July 2022.
- Applications for the next round of the Recycling for Greater Manchester Community Fund of £220k would open on 1 April 2022 until 31 May 2022.
- Defra would appoint GMCA as a responsible authority to develop a Greater Manchester Local Natural Recovery Strategy (LNRS) this year. Sessions would be held with Districts and the Natural Capital Group to plan for a rollout later in summer 2022.

Before the next Partnership meeting on 15 July 2022, the two key events would be organised:

- A one-day IGNITION showcase conference to be held on 30 March 2022 in central Manchester and livestreamed on-line. This would bring the IGNITION project to a close and highlight the achievements made on innovating finance for nature-based solutions to tackle climate change.
- A hybrid Decarbonisation Summit, funded by SSE and organised by Green TV would take place on 6/7 June 2022 at the Museum of Science and Industry (MOSI). Ten workshops would be delivered covering a range of topics including transport, energy, retrofit, investment, and skills. The audience for this was from across the North West and wider.

The following would be completed in the coming quarter:

- The Local Area Energy Plans for all ten Districts.

- Wave 1 of the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme.
- The review and redesign of the measures within the Greater Manchester Clean Air Plan.
- The final draft of the Greater Manchester Freight Strategy.
- The Parks Foundation business case and accelerated the Parks Donation trial.
- Salford, Rochdale and Stockport Councils to put ERDF funded projects through the Go Neutral renewable energy framework.

In terms of the Green Summit:

- This year's Greater Manchester Green Summit date and venue was confirmed as 17 October 2022 at the Lowry, Salford Quays, Manchester. The Board was asked to pencil the date in their diaries.

The Partnership discussed the Clean Air Zone and the ministerial directive.

#### **Resolved/-**

1. That the Partnership noted the progress outlined in the report and the latest position set out in the dashboard attached to the report at Annex 01 (5 Year Environment Plan (5YEP) Performance Overview).
2. The Partnership noted and diarised the date of the next Green Summit on 17 October 2022 at the Lowry, Salford Quays, Manchester.

#### **GMGCRP/18/22 WORK PROGRAMME 2021 AND CHALLENGE GROUP UPDATES**

Consideration was given to a report that outlined the progress made by the 5YEP Challenge Groups in developing their key priorities through Task and Finish Action Groups.

The presentation that accompanied the report provided an overview of the Challenge Group priorities and how they were being developed through Task and Finish Action Groups. The Chairs of the Challenge Groups were asked about the most significant barriers to progress and how they would be mitigated.

Discussions surrounded public sector decarbonisation, funding, the energy crisis, and fuel poverty, retrofit programmes, messages for BEIS, ash die back, solutions and funding, and an opportunity, along with the West Midlands, for a devolution trailblazer conversation with Government to realise targets.

### **Resolved/-**

1. That the Partnership noted the progress in developing the Mission Based Approach and the associated Challenge Group and Task and Finish Action Group activity.
2. That the work programmes be presented at the next meeting on 15 July 2022.
3. That the Natural Capital Group consider ash die back, solutions, funding, and report back at a future meeting.
4. That transport activity be considered at the next meeting on 15 July 2022.
5. That the Challenge Groups consider the conversation with Government about devolution and send the GMCA's Director of Environment any thoughts on ways to achieve targets.

### **GMGCRP/19/22      CHANGES TO CHALLENGE GROUPS AND INFRASTRUCTURE LOBBYING POINT**

The report being considered outlined proposals for changes to the way some of the Challenge Groups operated and also presented key infrastructure lobbying points considered by the Strategic Infrastructure Board, as requested at the last meeting.

The Challenge Group Chairs and Vice-Chairs had met to understand how activities to deliver the 5YEP could be accelerated. The report reflected their discussions and proposals for change.

The Partnership discussed feedback from the Climate Change Committee visit, a strategic approach to funding, Strategic Infrastructure Board key messages and lobbying points, the importance of the increased amount of rain on flood risk, sustainable drainage and local plans.

### **Resolved/-**

1. That the Partnership noted the discussion by Challenge Group Chairs and Vice-Chairs on how to accelerate progress on the Mission Based Approach and the associated Challenge Groups and Task and Finish Action Group activity.
2. That the Partnership's comments on the proposals for changing the way that Challenge Groups operated (Section 3 of the report) be noted.
3. The key strategic infrastructure messages identified by the Strategic Infrastructure Board (Annex 01 of the report) be noted and that a similar exercise be undertaken for wider key messages (non-infrastructure related).
4. The Partnership agreed that the revised Terms of Reference for each of the Challenge Groups would be presented to the next meeting of the Partnership on 15 July 2022 for agreement alongside a prioritised work programme for 2022/23.

### **GMGCRP/20/22 ENERGY CHALLENGES PRESENTATION**

A presentation was provided by ENWL about energy challenges in the pathway to net zero.

It was noted there were two areas of energy activity where significant activity was not taking place in GM. These were the co-ordinated roll out of private EV charging points and solar photovoltaic (PV) to Greater Manchester businesses.

The Partnership was asked for feedback from the presentation. There was some tension between meeting science-based targets through tackling the decarbonisation of heat and focussing activity on measures, which were more readily deployable that needed to be balanced.

The Partnership discussed types of hydrogen and carbon offsetting, offshore wind, electricity, and the capacity/infrastructure to deliver, the role of the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and businesses, the importance EV and PV take up, domestic heating challenges and efficiency, political support, the no regret options and actions, non-scienced base pathways, the Clean Air Zone, EV vehicle supply chain and the cost of EV vehicles, the current transport system and public transport, District finances and capacity and the appetite of the business sector.

**Resolved/-**

1. That the presentation be received and noted.
2. That the Energy Innovation Challenge Group be asked to initiate activity on EV infrastructure and PV deployment with Greater Manchester businesses.

**GMGCRP/21/22      GREATER MANCHESTER GREEN SPACES FUND**

The report set out draft proposals for the delivery of the Greater Manchester Mayor's Green Spaces Fund (the fund), which was a key commitment to improving green spaces, and access to them, across the city-region. The fund was announced at the Greater Manchester New Era event on 14 March 2022.

It was explained that, at its next meeting, the GMCA Executive would consider declaring a biodiversity emergency. The report being considered was just one of the ways that Greater Manchester was helping to restore biodiversity.

The Partnership welcomed the fund and discussed the connection with the IGNITION project, the mapping tool and how it would be used to assess bids to the fund, targeting areas with the least social capital and green areas, applications for green walls, alleys and roofs, the use of resources and networks already available and messages to ward Councillors.

**Resolved/-**

That the Partnership noted and commented on:



- The need for investment in the city-region's green spaces.
- The proposed aims of the fund.
- The types of projects it was proposed the fund would support.
- The proposed support for enabling community participation and action.
- The funds budget allocation.
- The proposed timeline for delivery of the fund over the next two years.
- The arrangements for administration and delivery of the fund.

## **GMGCRP/22/22     SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION & PRODUCTION ACTION PLAN**

It was explained that the Partnership had previously received a presentation on the draft Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) Action Plan. The comments received had been incorporated and significant work had been undertaken to clarify the proposed actions.

The purpose of the report was to seek feedback on the penultimate draft plan, prior to submission to the GMCA Executive for approval in May 2022.

The Board discussed the English Waste Directive and potential changes to waste collections.

### **Resolved/-**

1. That the Partnership endorsed the plan for consideration by the GMCA Executive in April 2022.
2. That any final feedback be sent to the Head of SCP ([sarah.mellor@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.mellor@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk)).

## **GMGCRP/23/22     GREATER MANCHESTER RETROFIT PLAN**

Having declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in this item, Steve Connor (Creative Concern) withdrew from the meeting at this juncture.

The final Retrofit Action Plan, launched on 14 March 2022 was included within the agenda pack for the Partnership's information.

## **GMGCRP/24/22    DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting, which would be the Annual General Meeting (AGM)) was scheduled to take place virtually at 10.00 am on Friday 15 July 2022.

It was confirmed that the January 2023 meeting would take place on 27 January 2023 and not 15 January 2023 as stated on the agenda front sheet (second page).