



Greater Manchester Green City Region Partnership

Date: 15th July 2022

Subject: PERFORMANCE UPDATE – Q1 (Apr-Jun 2022)

Report of: Mark Atherton, Director Environment, GMCA

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report provides the usual update on progress of the Green City Region Partnership for the first quarter of 2022/23 and key milestones for the next quarter.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Partnership is recommended to:

1. Note and comment upon the progress outlined in this report and latest position set out in the dashboard attached at:
 - a. Annex 01 (5 Year Environment Plan Performance Overview)

CONTACT OFFICERS:

Contact Officer: Mark Atherton, GM Director of Environment
Mark.atherton@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk

1. OVERVIEW OF PROGRESS

The update at Annex 01 (5 Year Environment Plan Performance Overview) contains a summary of key progress across all areas within the 5 Year Environment Plan. During the last quarter there were a number of key successes to be highlighted, set out below:

1.1 Energy

- Local Area Energy Planning (LAEP) - All 11 LAEPs (one per District plus GM) have now been completed and an overarching regional plan developed.
- DEEP Phase 3 (Heat and Energy Network Opportunity Areas) - The programme team, continue to work with the Districts, including Tameside's revised Ashton heat network using Geothermal. LAEP data has been reviewed to validate and confirm that the proposed locations for future heat zones are correct.
- Go Neutral Smart Energy – One contract has been procured through the Call Off Framework. circa 0.45MW battery storage at £0.85m (SCC); procurement exercise completed for consultancy commission to support Districts with compiling opportunities to take through the framework (Tameside, Salford and Rochdale accepted the offer); SCC have issued an Expression of Interest (EOI) for a 2MW ERDF funded solar farm; and there are 6 live signed access agreements for solar PV and battery storage schemes that total ~ £18m contract value (£14.5m of which is for investment outside of the GM city region - Blackpool Council). These are expected to come to market over the course of the next 2 years.
- Energy Innovation Agency (EIA) – Inaugural launch event held on 28th March, attracting a broad spectrum of stakeholders and innovators. Year 2 business plan agreed and EIA team progressing pipeline of development ideas.

1.2 Buildings

- Retrofit GM - Contract signed with Retrofit Works as part of a wider consortia. [Your Home, Better](#) brand identity, marketing collateral and website developed, and delivery commenced.
- Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) - Work on PSDS 1 completed and PSDS 3 activity is underway; Bolton Council has formally withdrawn from the scheme and Trafford Council has withdrawn two projects, work is underway to

identify potential replacement schemes; and ENWL has completed initial review of grid connections and an additional budget of ~£330k has been advised.

- Submission made to Phase 3 of the Low Carbon Skills Fund (LCSF) to provide fifty-three heat decarbonisation plans (£1.67million). Decision expected August 2022.

1.3 **Transport**

- Bee network schemes completed or substantially completed this quarter are Heaton's Link Phase 1; Stockport crossings; Bramhall Park to A6; Hazel Grove Access Upgrades; Liverpool St Corridor; Swinton Greenway; Northern Quarter Area 1 and Manchester to Chorlton Area 2
- The Bike Hire Scheme is currently operating with 220 bikes across 41 stations and is awaiting approval on 6 final stations; the Cargo Bike pilot has 23 e-cargo bikes operational with 2 bikes undergoing repairs; and the e-scooters rental trial with Salford City Council is operational with 300 Gen 4 e-scooters and 63 active parking bays. 30 more have just received approval.
- Work is now underway with Stagecoach to electrify Stockport depot, leading to the construction of the first purpose built electric bus depot in the UK.
- Grant Thornton appointed to undertake study into how the public sector can best influence the rollout of Electric Vehicle Charging infrastructure (EVCI), looking at role of public sector, and potential of commercial opportunities.
- City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) - Allocation from CRSTS of £115m. £90m for Zero Emission Buses (ZEBS) and £25m for fixings and fittings in depots to charge them.
- Clean commercial vehicle fund - 32 HGV upgrades were completed in Qtr. 1 with another 29 new applications receiving funding. (This is currently impacted by the Clean Air Plan pause with fewer applications than forecast received/upgrades completed).
- Clean bus fund Qtr. 1 – £1.952 million paid out for bus retrofit; 33 bus retrofits completed; and 66 new bus retrofit awards made. £176,000 bus replacement fund paid out; 8 upgrades complete; and 6 new applications made.
- In municipal year 21/22 an additional 16 Be.EV connectors have been installed plus 2 connectors for eHUBS. This brings the cumulative total to 280.

1.4 Sustainable Consumption and Production

- SCP plan presented and approved for publication by the Greater Manchester Combined Authority on 24th June 2022.
- Procurement working group established with a view to standardising social value within GM including environmental criteria.
- Textiles Task and Finish group formed to develop a Plan with a set of actions for driving Circularity in the Greater Manchester and the Northwest Fashion and Textiles sector.
- 60 applications received for 2022/23 Recycle for Greater Manchester Community Fund.
- Briefing note on single-use plastics drafted for LAs and academia that sets out plastic pact commitments, research undertaken, overview and potential impact of recent consultations and looks to gather action undertaken to date and future implementation plans.
- E-learning training course on Climate Change launched in June 2022 for all GMCA staff. 487 staff members completed the training in the first week.
- Commenced Digital Reform and Environment Team collaboration on development of an online logistical tool for food re-distribution across Greater Manchester.
- The [Good Food Vision](#) which sets out a vision for a positive food future for Greater Manchester is now complete and available on the GM Green City Region website.

1.5 Natural Environment

- Peri Urban test and trial project completed, and report submitted to DEFRA.
- 6 pilot areas agreed for EPIC test and trials pilot land management plans (landowners/managers have signed Memorandum of Understanding). LandApp procured to support the land management plan development and delivered training session.
- Natural Course Phase 3 - Contractor appointed and work commenced on survey of Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) along Main Rivers in the Irwell catchment with two training sessions held to enable volunteers to gather similar information; responses submitted to Water Framework Directive River Basin Management Plan consultation and successful EU Mission held; and first samples collected for microplastics contamination project.

- Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Need and Supply Study progressing well. Assumptions being tested regarding habitat losses to understand potential offset requirements. Continuing engagement with Districts and partners to identify potential supply sites.
- IGNITION project formally concluded in April with a large-scale dissemination event held.
- Natural Environment Investment Readiness Fund (NEIRF) round 2 application successful.
- Preliminary commitments to funding phase 1 of Walkden SuDS neighbourhood have been made by two parties covering around 70% of the total capital cost. The Parks Foundation business case is still being considered internally by SCC.
- £2.6 million Green Spaces Fund launched to support community-led projects that increase the amount of accessible green space in the city region. Application deadline 22nd August 2022.
- Greater Manchester Green Social Prescribing Programme in full delivery mode with all sites up and running with numbers increasing month on month.
- National Flood Risk Management Programme (2021-2027) - 61 projects underway in Greater Manchester with an anticipated spend of £142million. Outcome of 10,000 existing homes better protected from future flood risk.
- JBA commissioned to develop a map of critical drainage areas (surface water risk) and heat maps to show spatial areas which are impacted by more than one source of flood risk.

1.6 **Communications**

- Green Summit 2022 - Event planning progressing well and being shared with Local Authorities and Challenge Groups. Sponsorship package circulated. Deadline for responses 30th June. Communications and engagement plan in development.
- Youth Combined Authority (YCA) - Green Summit listening event planned for 14th September. YCA to host with Mayor and Manchester Metropolitan University Student Union. 100 Key Stage 3 students to be invited from across Greater Manchester.
- Successful Decarbonisation summit held with soft launch of [‘Your Home, Better’](#) service providing advice to residents on home energy efficiency.

2. KEY ANTICIPATED ACTION IN THE NEXT QUARTER

As a priority, the following activities will be delivered in the next Quarter:

2.1 Energy

- Disseminate and publish Local Area Energy Planning (LAEPs).
- DEEP Phase 3 - Review Phase 2 business cases in light of increasing energy costs; support Districts with Heat Networks Delivery Unit (HNDU) funding applications; and inform national heat zoning policy.
- Go Neutral - Ongoing review of pipeline and support to each of the partners with activity to develop opportunities and drive use of the framework; consultancy commission to be formally underway, prioritising SCC solar car port opportunities; and review of barriers to pipeline development and draft actions to resolve.
- Energy Innovation Agency (EIA) – Progress pipeline of development ideas and continue delivery against Year 1 Business Plan; draft investment options paper on how the current underspend from partner contributions could be spent; and recruit an additional Business Development role.

2.2 Buildings

- Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) – Formally close out PSDS 1; undertake change control process for PSDS 3 replacement schemes and support partners to move forward with procurement activity; and complete procurement exercise for the PSDS 3 Programme Management and Technical Assurance roles.
- Retrofit GM (Your Home, Better) – Launch paid google advertising (ad words) to drive traffic to the site. Online assessment tool to be finalised and launched.

2.3 Transport

- Continue rollout of bike hire scheme in Salford, Manchester and Trafford; and monitoring and improvements for e-scooter trial in Salford and e-cargo bikes in Chorlton, Whalley Range and Ancoats.
- Submit revised Greater Manchester Clean Air Plan to the Secretary of State of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, by 1st July 2022.
- City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) - Continue to ensure that franchising and other governance and planning processes are established so that electric buses are running on routes containing most persistent exceedance points as identified in the Clean Air Plan with a focus on the regional centre/city centre as the transport hub of the city-region.
- Complete Electric Vehicle Charging infrastructure (EVCI) study and report to GMCA.
- Progress detailed designs on taxi Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (EVI) project for 60 charging points across Greater Manchester and commence procurement for installation; obtain feedback from JAQU on proposal for remaining Early Measures charging points and progress with the preferred option; and continue to install eHUBS charging points.
- Continue to deliver funding to HGV applicants and administer the retrofit and replacement funds to bus operators; and progress work with Stagecoach to electrify Stockport depot.
- Subject to commercial terms being agreed, undertaking a pilot of sustainable last mile activities in the regional centre.

2.4 Sustainable Consumption and Production

- Publish and continue delivery of SCP Plan actions through Challenge and Task and Finish Groups.
- Textile Recycling Association (TRA) to prioritise feasible actions for the region to focus on which will contribute to the delivery of recommendations set out in SCP Plan and support the recommendations of WRAP and the Textiles 2030 agenda.
- Good Food GM Board to develop and agree a roadmap of actions and toolkit to support the GM Good Food Vision.

- Continue to support Circular Economy Research projects with the University of Manchester and Manchester Metropolitan University.
- Upon budget being assigned commence feasibility study into an online logistical tool for food re-distribution in Greater Manchester.
- Progress Local Levers proposal with a view to developing a business case for decarbonisation through procurement.
- Successful Recycle for Greater Manchester Community Fund applications to be announced.

2.5 **Natural Environment**

- Continue Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) preparation in advance of publication of regulations and guidance by Defra (now delayed until Autumn) which will set out requirements for statutory LNRS and determine the final scope/programme of work for roll-out in Greater Manchester.
- Disseminate Peri Urban Test and Trail project findings; formal launch of National Nature Reserve at Wigan Flashes; and Natural Capital Group Task and Finish Group to be established to understand how peatland restoration is being reported.
- Natural Course Phase 3 - Commence second baseline sample of Greater Manchester rivers and first storm event sample; complete professional survey of Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) and volunteers to start work on survey of Ordinary Watercourses; and circulate Request for Quotation for Phase 4 Action focused on working planning and development sector.
- Shortlist supply sites for Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Need and Supply Study.
- Continue IGNITION post-project dissemination of resources and lessons learned.
- Award Green Spaces fund to successful applicants (late September 2022); and submit application to National Lottery Heritage Fund to support development of an offer to corporates through the Greater Manchester Environment Fund (GMEF).
- Progress engagement on Manchester Environment Mapping Online (MEMO) tool to map green and blue infrastructure projects across Greater Manchester.
- GMCA, United Utilities and EA Trilateral Partnership to develop a Place Based Planning Pilot focussing on the Upper Mersey to consider the strategic management of water from both a quantity and quality perspective.
- Meet with DEFRA flood policy team to share local learning on flood risk management strategy and investment.

2.6 Communications

- Launch delegate registration for Greater Manchester Green Summit 2022; finalise agenda; and speakers to be invited and confirmed.
- Finalise plans for YCA Green Summit listening event.
- Wider environment portfolio communications strategy development led by central GMCA communications team.

3. IDENTIFIED RISKS AND EMERGING ISSUES

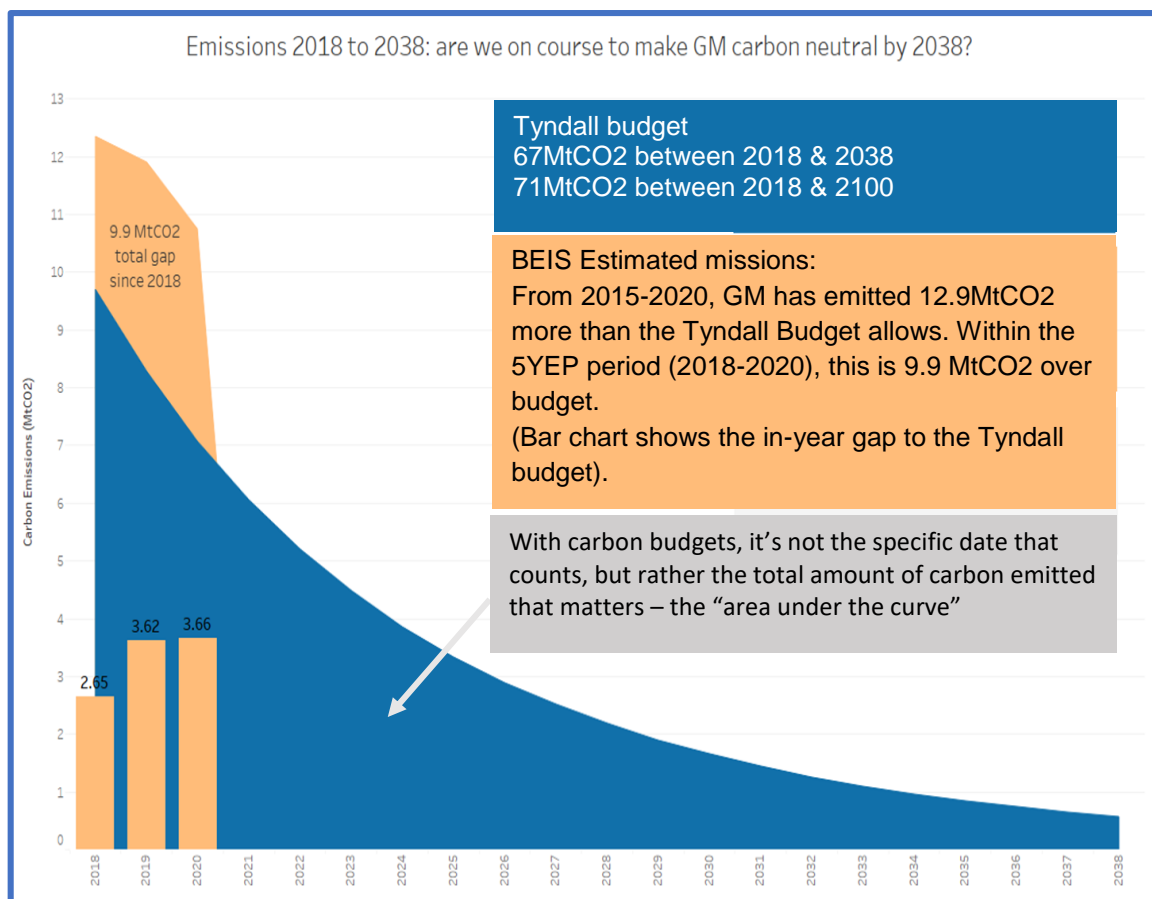
- 3.1 Officers and sub-groups have identified several risks to existing, and particularly future, programme delivery. Mitigation of these risks, as far as possible, will be managed by the responsible Accountable Body.

In terms of the priorities set out in the 5 Year Plan, the following areas remain flagged as “red”, see Annex 01 (5 Year Environment Plan Performance Overview).

Key risks:

- **Failure of the 5 Year Environment Plan to achieve a step change in reducing carbon emissions.** To achieve the 2038 mission, the GM 5-Year Environment Plan outlines our ‘fair’ carbon budget contribution of 67 mega tonnes for 20 years (2018-2038). The critical focus is not exceeding our total budget (67MtCO₂). Across 2018-2020*, GM’s emissions are 9.9MtCO₂ above the Tyndall budget, i.e. an additional 9.9MtCO₂ savings need to be made on top of the Tyndall budget. This gap has been increasing year on year. Key point is that significant cuts must happen now. At our current (2020) rate of emissions, we will have exhausted our carbon budget within the next 4 years (2024).

*across 2015-2020 as previously reported, this is 12.9MtCO₂.



- **Failure to meet ambitious recycling and waste diversion targets.** Current household waste recycling rate is 48%. Verified figures for 2020/21 show no increase in recycling rate, remaining at around 48%. With diversion from landfill increasing to over 98%. Measures continue to be implemented to increase recycling rates at HWRCs and household kerbside recycling to deliver against 2025 target.
- **Failure to accelerate decarbonisation of buildings to meet low carbon heating targets.** Measures continue to be implemented with a focus on acceleration of Retrofit including the launch of the 'Your Home, Better' service and DEEP project delivery to identify Heat and Energy Network Opportunity Areas across Greater Manchester.
- **Level and depth of retrofit required to meet our overall ambitions is highly challenging.** The decarbonisation of GM homes through deeper whole house retrofit is being mitigated by the publication of a Retrofit Report that sets the priorities and framework for action and, as part of that the Retrofit Challenge Group along with the Retrofit Taskforce is focused on delivering home and building retrofit at scale. GM has also joined a consortium, led by the UK Green Buildings Council including West Yorkshire, London and the West Midlands and

funded by Climate-KIC to develop proposals for city-led retrofit. Additionally, the GM Skills team have produced a Skills Action Plan which with the newly actioned Low Carbon Finance Challenge Group complements the exist building and energy Challenge Groups which manage the actions arising from the Greater Manchester Retrofit Task Force, Chaired by the Mayor.

4.0 RECOMMENDATION

The Partnership is recommended to:

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