



Greater Manchester Green City Region Partnership

Date: 14 October 2022

Subject: PERFORMANCE UPDATE – Q2 (Jul- Sep 2022)

Report of: Mark Atherton, Director Environment, GMCA

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

The report provides the usual update on progress of the Green City Region Partnership for the second 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:

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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 are a number of key successes to be highlighted, set out below:

1.1 Energy

- DEEP Phase 3 (Heat and Energy Network Opportunity Areas) - Stockport and Trafford Heat Network feasibility studies underway and pending outcomes
- Go Neutral Smart Energy – SCC solar farm further competition published to the framework. No bids received. SMBD solar PV further competition published to the framework, four bids received. SCC published further competition for ERDF solar car ports. Deadline 7th Oct. Consultancy commission underway - SCC car ports further competition docs have been released to framework; Rochdale have put forward 8 land, 29 buildings, 9 car parks for assessment; Stockport have put forward 20 buildings and are currently confirming land and building assets to be included.
- Smart Energy - Workshop held with Districts to explore barriers and solutions to deploying solar PV on schools. Initial discussions held and legal opinion sought on options for other organisations to access suppliers on the Go Neutral framework.
- Energy Innovation Agency (EIA) – Recruitment of Business Development role taking place. The EIA Board have been provided with an options analysis paper, that links into the bids they developing as part of a wider proposal with Innovate GM for Innovate UK funding. This includes participating in bids led by the University of Salford and Sustainable Ventures.
- Planning Permission has now been granted for the Trafford Green Hydrogen project. At up to 200MW it is the largest consented Green Hydrogen scheme in the UK.

1.2 Buildings

- Retrofit GM (Your Home Better) - Marketing increased with the use of Google Ad words and advertising across the Metrolink network. PV and Battery purchase schemes launched and supply chain in place to deliver. Initial Whole House Plans tested and modified to improve user experience.

- Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) - All PSDS 3a partners underway with procurement and delivery. Low Carbon Skills Fund (LCSF) bid confirmed as unsuccessful. Alternative arrangements made to fund priority feasibility studies using GMCA budget. Partners engaged on a PSDS 3b bid. Preparatory work complete.
- GMCA is currently managing the delivery of ~£19m (including £9m match) as part of the national Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund Wave 1. The current programme brings together 10 Registered Providers including Arms-Length management Organisations (ALMOs) to deliver the retrofit and low carbon measures to ~1286 social homes, by March 2023.
- Domestic retrofit programmes under Green Homes Grant (LAD) Phase 1b and 2 are being completed with a final install position of over 900 properties.
- Net zero new development - Scoping and implementing appropriate engagement, governance and decision-making models to advance the delivery of 30,000 truly affordable net zero homes (TANZ) commitment.

1.3 **Transport**

- The Bike Hire Scheme is now operating with 460+ bikes (previously 220) with a target of 1500 bikes by December 2022; the Cargo Bike pilot is continuing to be monitored and the findings on the first two years of the e-scooter share in Greater Manchester is due to be published on 11th October.
- The order for the first 50 Zero Emission Buses for Tranche 1 Wigan and Bolton has been placed, with the buses scheduled to arrive in advance of the start of Tranche 1 operation on 17 September 2023.
- The Case for a New Clean Air Plan has been submitted to Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. It sets out Greater Manchester will invest in electric buses across the network, review funding to support upgrade to cleaner vehicles targeting Category B vehicles of buses, coaches, taxi/PHV and HGV's (Note LGVs and minibuses are Category C vehicles), and work in partnership with stakeholders and with other transport bodies to deliver the best solutions
- In line with Air Quality Air Committee recommendations, Greater Manchester is continuing to progress the policy development for the new Greater Manchester Clean Air Plan in support of a non-charging, investment-led approach.
- Clean commercial vehicle fund – 23 HGV retrofits completed in completed in Qtr. 1 with another 22 new applications received, 15 which received funded.

- Clean bus fund Qtr. 2 – £2.1 million paid out for bus retrofit; 13 bus retrofits completed; 0 new bus retrofit awards made. £256,000 bus replacement fund paid out; 16 upgrades complete; 6 buses awarded funding and 2 new applications made.
- Detailed design for taxi EVI project nearing completion; majority of planning permission applications submitted; 8 additional connectors delivered (Be.EV)
- Proposals with couriers for sustainable last mile pilot projects in Regional Centre delayed due to vehicle availability and not feasible in Qtr. 3 due to increased pre-Christmas trading.

1.4 Sustainable Consumption and Production

- SCP Plan published. Challenge Group to meet in November to prioritise actions and set Task and Finish groups.
- One Bin to Rule them All stakeholder event held. Findings from the trial in Trafford show that 55% of items (by weight) in the 'One Bin' are not currently recycled in Greater Manchester.
- Online click and collect Renew eBay shop launched to allow residents to pay for items and collect from the Renew Hub at Trafford Park.
<https://www.ebay.co.uk/str/renewgreatermanchester>
- Climate Change e-learning module shared with Local Authorities, TfGM, NHS and University of Manchester. To-date 1914 GMCA/GMFRS employees have completed the training. A further 85 people have commenced the training, with 295 people still to begin.
- Online [low-cost recipe resource](#) created by Open Kitchen in partnership with Onward Homes to help tackle food waste and food and support communities living with food insecurity. To be included on GM Green City website.
- New [Green Economy marketplace](#) launched creating a directory of local installers, equipment suppliers and solution providers.

1.5 Natural Environment

- Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) - Regulations and guidance from government on implementation of LNRS are still to be published. In advance of

this, a series of one to ones have been held with Districts to learn lessons from the pilot and understand their priorities for a statutory LNRS.

- Media launch of Flashes of Wigan and Leigh National Nature Reserve planned for 3rd October 2022.
- Natural Course Phase 3 – Micro plastics study - Survey of Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) on main rivers of the Irwell catchment completed. Volunteer and drone surveys of inaccessible areas and ordinary watercourses to continue until mid-October.
- Water Company Investment Programme - United Utilities agreed programme of support for third party organisations through Green Recovery Challenge programme.
- Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Need and Supply Study has been completed by Greater Manchester Ecology Unit (GMEU) and a draft will be sent to GMCA. GMEU has received 350 suggested Local Authority supply sites and the shortlisting process has commenced.
- Natural Environment Investment Readiness Fund (NEIRF) round 2 has commenced including shortlisting of sites to develop off-site BNG investment.
- 70 applications received in the first round of Green Spaces Fund. These have been assessed and recommendations made for approval. Expected to be announced at the Green Summit.
- Green Social Prescribing – ‘Using nature to address health inequalities’ engagement event held on 29th September, and training events delivered by partners from July up to December 2022.

1.6 **Communications**

- The Greater Manchester Green Summit 2022 will take place on 17th October at The Lowry, Salford Quays including Youth event to be delivered in partnership with Manchester Metropolitan University. Attendance at the Summit is expected to be around 1300 delegates (at capacity). Communications and engagement plan in full delivery. Full agenda available at: [GM Green Summit 2022 - GM Green City](#)

2. KEY ANTICIPATED ACTION IN THE NEXT QUARTER

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

2.1 Energy

- DEEP Phase 3 - Review the outcome of the Stockport and Trafford feasibility studies alongside Rochdale and Oldham.
- Go Neutral - Plan scope of work and budget for second consultancy commission to build a second pipeline of opportunities for the framework.
- Smart Energy – Develop action plan to address key barriers to deploy solar PV on schools.
- Energy Innovation Agency (EIA) – Complete recruitment of the Business Development role and submit Innovate GM proposal.
- Finalise and submit funding application for Government’s Hydrogen Investment Package to enable progression of Green Hydrogen project at Trafford Park (12th October).

2.2 Buildings

- Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) – Continue with delivery of PSDS 3a and close out major changes. Submit PSDS 3b application and subject to outcome of grant offer, stand up PSDS 3b multiyear and put in place GMCA delivery team.
- Retrofit GM (Your Home, Better) – Increase delivery capacity to meet increase demand, undertake second tranche of marketing campaigns. Review conversion rates from initial engagement to final delivery.
- GM Housing providers will work together, via the GM Housing Providers Group, to co-ordinate a submission of ~£90m to Wave 2 of the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund, including the required match funding of ~£45m.
- Net zero new development - Inaugural meeting of the Greater Manchester TANZ Task Force in November 2022

2.3 Transport

- Continue rollout of bike hire scheme in Salford, Manchester and Trafford with a target of 1500 bikes by end of December 2022; Cargo bikes project concludes on 31 December 2022 with bikes to be removed along with associated communications activity; investigating potential to co-locate e-scooters with Cycle Hire and Car Clubs in order to create informal Mobility Hubs.
- Continue to ensure that franchising and other governance/planning processes are established so that electric buses are running on routes containing most persistent exceedance points as identified in the Clean Air Plan to ensure compliance with a focus on the regional centre/city centre as the transport hub of the city-region.
- Subject to Government feedback, continuing to progress the policy development for the new Greater Manchester Clean Air Plan in support of a non-charging, investment-led approach.
- 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.
- Taxi EVI project: Finalise designs for construction; secure planning permissions where applicable; agree price/ programme for installation phase.
- Early Measures project: finalise designs for 2 replacement sites; complete Feasibility stage for 1 remaining new site. Complete remaining 3 eHubs sites. and progress charging point at Walkden Park and Ride.

2.4 Sustainable Consumption and Production

- SCP challenge group to set work programme for delivery of priorities as set out in the approved SCP Plan.
- First meeting of the Textiles and Fashion Industry Challenge Working Group to be held on 18th October with the intention of identifying and delivering set action to drive circulatory of the sector in the region.
- Set meeting to agree key performance indicators for Local Authorities on single-use plastics for performance monitoring.
- First Eco Innovation workshops on Circular Economy principles for SMEs and ninth Journey to Net Zero programme to commence November 2022.

2.5 Natural Environment

- Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) – Subject to publishing of government regulations and guidance, gaps between prototype LNRS and statutory requirements will be appraised, and a project and resourcing plan developed for delivery of a statutory LNRS will commence.
- EPIC (ELM Partnership in the Irwell Catchment) partners to develop Land Management Plans for 6 focus areas.
- Natural Course Phase 3 – Continue micro plastic sampling and complete Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) surveys of the River Irwell catchment and produce final maps. Agree Community Forest Trust activity within Manchester Northern Quarter and urban diffuse pollution actions.
- Water Company Investment Programme – Complete initiation of Green Recovery Challenge projects by third party organisations. Submit portfolio of projects, to support delivery of Water Framework objectives, to Environment Agency for consideration. Approved projects to be delivered during the 2022-23 financial year.
- Award of round 1 Green Spaces fund projects to be made in October and announcement of Round 2 expected.
- Submit National Lottery Heritage Fund bid to support development of an offer to corporates through the Greater Manchester Environment Fund (GMEF).
- Complete combined risk mapping and critical drainage area work. Joint work programme for integrated water management agreed following roundtable.

2.6 **Communications**

- Green Summit 2022 delivered and post event communications to begin.
- Green Spaces Fund round 2 launched and development of round 1 case studies.

3. **IDENTIFIED RISKS AND EMERGING ISSUES**

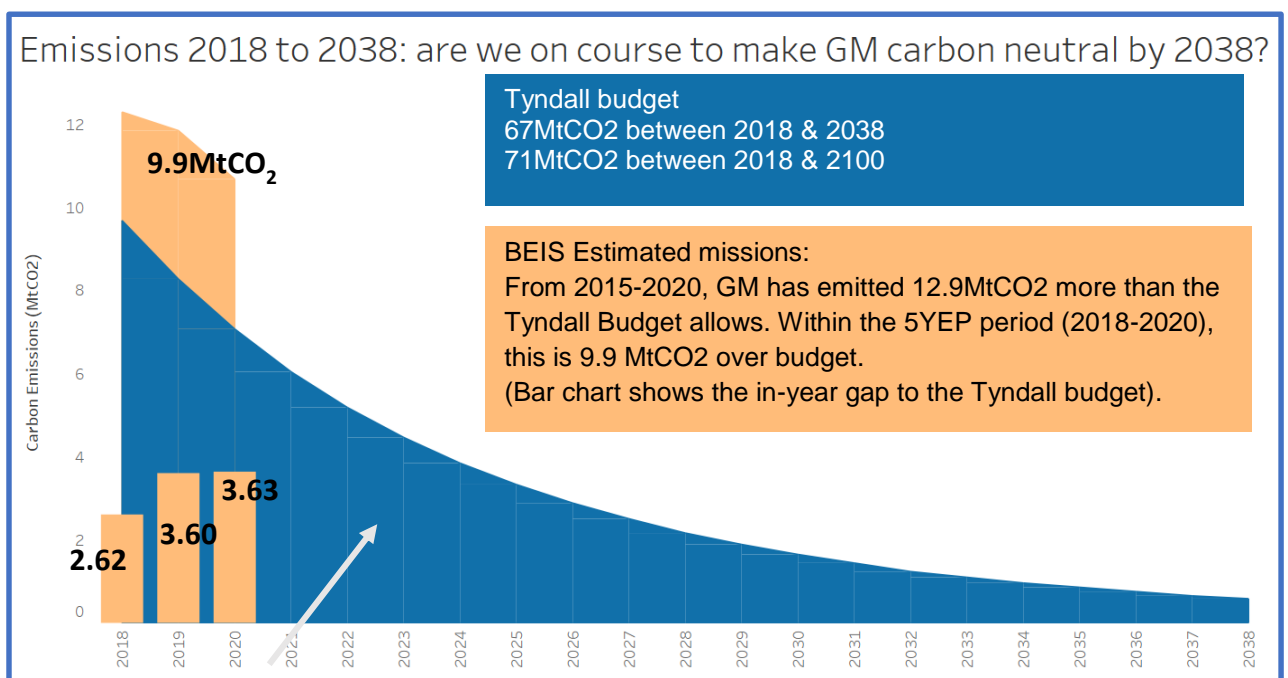
- 3.1 Officers and sub-groups have identified a number of risks to existing, and particularly future, programme delivery. Mitigation of these risks, as far as possible, will be managed by the responsible Accountable Body.

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.



With carbon budgets, it's not the specific date that counts, but rather the total amount of carbon emitted that matters – the “area under the curve”

- **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, Octopus Heat Pump offer 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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