



Greater Manchester Green City Region Partnership

Date: 14 October 2022

Subject: Challenge Group Updates

Report of: Challenge Group Chairs

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

The purpose of this report is to outline the progress made by the 5 Year Environment Plan (5YEP) Challenge Groups in developing their key priorities through Task and Finish Action groups.

The accompanying presentation provides an updated overview of the Challenge Group priorities and how these are being delivered through Task and Finish Groups.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Partnership is asked to:

- Note the progress in developing the Mission Based Approach and the associated Challenge Groups and Task and Finish Groups activity.
- Note that the updated governance structure and operation of the Challenge Groups presented at the last meeting is in the process of being implemented after receiving agreement from the Partnership.

CONTACT OFFICERS:

Mark.atherton@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk

Robyn.smith@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk

1.0 BACKGROUND

Following discussions with the Partnership, Challenge Group Chairs/ Vice Chairs and Challenge Group member changes are being implemented to greater focus the Challenge Groups on accelerated and scaled up delivery. For each group, the membership, priorities, work plan and task and finish group activity are being reviewed.

The purpose of the Challenges Groups going forward is to:

- Deliver the 5YEP work programme.
- Report back on progress and key challenges/barriers to the Green City Region Partnership.
- Utilise lobbying/influencing function when appropriate to drive agenda.
- Work in collaboration with other challenge groups to identify cross cutting issues.

2.0 COMMUNICATIONS AND BEHAVIOUR CHANGE

The current focus for the Communications and Behaviour Change Challenge Group has been to support the Green Summit. A task and finish group has been meeting bi-weekly in the run up to the summit to offer an external view and support on the comms around the summit.

Other areas of focus for the Challenge Group, post Green Summit, will deliver the comms messaging of the other challenge groups and on supporting the SCP Challenge Group in delivering a sustainable lifestyles campaign.

3.0 LOW CARBON

The Low Carbon Challenge Group has now met twice since the Energy Innovation and Low Carbon Buildings Challenge Groups were merged. At the last meeting, Challenge Group Members heard updates on the following priority areas,

- Generation, storage and flexibility – ENW
- Public estate – GMCA
- Innovation – Energy Innovation Agency
- Decarbonisation of heat – AECOM
- Domestic retrofit – Turner Townsend

The presentations focused on progress to date and key challenges/barriers to accelerated delivery. From this, three key areas were identified as possible future task and finish groups to build on existing work in this area:

- Availability of finance and alternative funding models
- Commercial retrofit
- Energy generation for businesses

Members who are not already engaged in a project/task and finish group will be asked to volunteer for these areas to maintain their membership in the Challenge group.

4.0 NATURAL CAPITAL

Since the last meeting of the Natural Capital Group, work has been undertaken with the Chair and Vice Chair to review the work plan and membership. The proposed changes will be presented to the NCG on the 7th October to get feedback and agreement from the members.

The proposed changes include:

- The current partnership will continue to meet twice a year to review progress and disseminate information.
- A smaller Exec Group focused on delivery and shaping the strategic approach for GMCA's natural environment agenda will meet quarterly. The members of this group will be drawn largely from those organisations committing significant resources (financial, people) to driving this agenda forward.

- Task and finish groups addressing key areas of work will meet at least once a quarter ahead of the NCG and report back on progress and key challenge/barriers. Where partners have appropriate skills for a specific task and finish group input is encouraged.

In addition, there will be updates on the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, the Green Spaces Fund, Green Recovery Challenge Fund and a discussion item on Environmental Land Management Scheme.

5.0 SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

At the last meeting of the Sustainable Consumption and Production Challenge Group, the final version of the SCP Plan was presented to outline the priorities of the group and give members a framework to understand where partner organisations can support delivery.

The priorities include:

- Circular Economy
- Waste
- Food
- Sustainable Lifestyles

Since this meeting, a new Chair and Vice-chair have been appointed and a review of the membership in line with the groups key priorities has taken place. At the next meeting, members will be invited to present on their work including the challenges and barriers they face to delivery. From this discussion areas for collaboration will be identified and task and finish groups will be set up.

6.0 5YEP IMPLEMENTATION FORUM

As part of the restructure of the challenge group, the 5YEP Forum will be opening up to a wider membership for stakeholders who are interested in an overview of all of the activity for the Green City Region. Under the new structure the Forum will take on the following roles:

- Identify cross cutting issues across all of the challenge groups e.g. skills and finance
- Offer support and challenge to the other groups.
- Provides progress updates and spotlight certain themes to partners.

The next meeting of the Forum will be the first under the new structure and members will be given an update on progress against the 5YEP, a deep dive into the Natural Capital Group work programme and a presentation on the Local Area Energy Plans.