



## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GREEN CITY REGION PARTNERSHIP

HELD VIRTUALLY ON FRIDAY 14 OCTOBER 2022 AT 10.00 AM

### PRESENT:

Councillor Martyn Cox	GMCA Environment Portfolio & Chair (Bolton Council) (Chair)
Councillor Alan Quinn	Waste & Recycling Committee (Bury Council) (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Mike McCluster	Planning & Housing Commission (Salford City Council)
Patrick Allcorn	Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS)
Steve Cox	Electricity North West (ENWL)
Hisham Elkadi	University of Salford
Steph Everett	Homes England
Richard Halsey	Energy Systems Catapult (Chair Low Carbon Challenge Group)
Paul Hooper	Manchester Metropolitan University (Chair Sustainable Consumption and Production)
Mark Hughes	The Growth Company (Observer)
Claire Igoe	Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust
Phil Korbel	Cooler Projects (Vice-Chair Communications & Engagement)
Carly McLachlan	University of Manchester (Chair 5 Year Environment Plan (5YEP) Implementation Forum)
Roger Milburn	Chair Strategic Infrastructure Board
Liz Price	(For Andy Gibson) Manchester Metropolitan University
Ian Rutherford	Greater Manchester Faith Communities
Anne Selby	Independent Member (Chair Natural Capital)
Lesley Worswick	Environment Agency

### OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mark Atherton	Director of Environment, GMCA
Charlie Baker	Your Home Better
Megan Black	Head of Logistics & Environment, TfGM
Oliver Fenton	Business Support Officer, Governance & Scrutiny, GMCA

BOLTON  
BURY

MANCHESTER  
OLDHAM

ROCHDALE  
SALFORD

STOCKPORT  
TAMESIDE

TRAFFORD  
WIGAN

## **OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Paul Harris	Senior Governance & Scrutiny Officer, GMCA
Sarah Mellor	Head of Sustainable Consumption & Production, GMCA
Megan Roberts,	Organisational Business Support, Greater Manchester Environment Team
Debbie Rowlinson	Greater Manchester Environment Fund

## **GMGCRP/37/22 INTRODUCTION AND APOLOGIES**

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed all those present.

Apologies for absence were received from Andy Gibson (University of Manchester), Harry Catherall (Oldham Council), Simon Nokes (GMCA) and Simon Warburton (TfGM).

The Chair introduced the following new Members of the Partnership:

- Richard Halsey (Energy Systems Catapult – Chair the Low Carbon Challenge Group)
- Paul Hooper (Manchester Metropolitan University – Chair of the Sustainable Consumption and Production Challenge Group)
- Ian Rutherford (Greater Manchester Faith Communities representative)
- Leigh Broadhurst (Suez – Vice-Chair of the Sustainable Consumption and Production Challenge Group)

## **GMGCRP/38/22 CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS**

The Chair reported that since the last meeting:

- Government introduced the energy price guarantee, which reduced the unit cost of electricity and gas so a typical household in Great Britain paid, on average, around £2.5k a year on their energy bill, for the next two years, from 1 October 2022. The consumer saving was based on usage, but on average usage, a household would save £1k a year.

- The Secretary of State commissioned an independent review of the Government's approach to delivering its net zero target, to ensure net zero was being delivered in a way that was pro-business and pro-growth. The review considered how the Government's approach to net zero would deliver maximum economic growth and investment, support UK energy security and affordability for consumers and businesses and minimise costs borne by businesses and consumers, particularly in the short-term. The review included a call for evidence that was open until the end of October 2022.

#### **GMGCRP/39/22      DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

##### **RESOLVED/-**

There were no declarations of interest received at the meeting.

#### **GMGCRP/40/22      TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING DATED 15 JULY 2022**

The minutes of the last meeting were submitted for consideration.

##### **RESOLVED/-**

The minutes of the last meeting, held on 15 July 2022, were approved as a correct record.

#### **Matters Arising**

- Arising from minute number GCRP/31/22 - It was reported the initiation of a Transport Challenge Group had been considered. It had been agreed that the existing Bee Network Partnership Board (was the Mayor's Transport Board), Chaired by the Transport Commissioner, would consider carbon on a quarterly basis. The Chair of the 5 Year Environment Forum (5YEP) would be invited to meetings.

- Arising from minute number GCRP/35/22 – Green Summit. The Summit would be considered as part of today's agenda (see minute GMGCRP/45/22 Green Summit Planning).

## **RESOLVED/-**

That the Chair of the 5YEP Environment Forum be invited to the Bee Network Partnership Board on a quarterly basis to consider carbon abatement activities.

## **GMGCRP/41/22      PROGRESS REPORT – 5-YEAR ENVIRONMENT PLAN (5YEP)**

Members considered a report provided by Mark Atherton, GMCA's Director of Environment, which gave an update on the progress of the Green City Region Partnership for the second quarter of 2022/23 and the key milestones for the next quarter.

Member's attention was drawn to:

**Energy:** 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. Next quarter, we will seek to enhance our smart energy offer by developing an action plan to address key barriers to deploy solar PV on schools.

**Buildings:** The Mayor has established a new Task Force (Truly Affordable Net Zero Homes) to advance the delivery of 30,000 new build homes. The Taskforce will meet for the first time in November.

**Transport:** The order for the first 50 Zero Emission Buses for 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. Next quarter, TfGM are investigating the potential to co-locate e-scooters with Cycle Hire and Car Clubs in order to create informal Mobility Hubs.

**SCP:** A new Green Economy marketplace has been launched creating a directory of local installers, equipment suppliers and solution providers. This month will see the first

meeting of the Textiles and Fashion Industry Challenge Working Group with the intention of identifying and delivering set action to drive circulatory of the sector in the region

**Natural Environment:** A new National Nature Reserve was designated on 3<sup>rd</sup> October at Wigan and Leigh Flashes. In the next quarter, subject to publishing of government regulations and guidance, a project and resourcing plan will be developed for delivery of a statutory LNRS.

## **RESOLVED/-**

That the Partnership noted the progress outlined in the report and the latest position set out in the dashboard, Annex 01 (5YEP Overview) of the report.

## **GMGCRP/42/22      WORK PROGRAMME 2022/23 & CHALLENGE GROUP UPDATES**

Members considered a report provided by the Challenge Group Chairs, which 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 updated overview of the Challenge Group priorities and how they were being delivered through task and finish groups.

Members discussed electric buses and franchising, the approach towards transport and the 5YEP Environment Forum, a potential car parking levy proposal, the National Infrastructure Commission and biodiversity, the launch of the Ventura project around water management and how digital could help, how actions and asks raised at the meeting were recorded and addressed, carbon budgets, priorities, targets and challenges, public sector decarbonisation schemes and accessibility, and flexibility around funding, blended funding, and the need for new radical ways of working to accelerate progress and scale.

Members heard that a number of the Challenge Groups had been restructured to focus delivery, scale up the work taking place, overcome barriers and drive the work of the task and finish groups. This item on the agenda would provide the Challenge Group Chairs with the opportunity to discuss with the Partnership the barriers faced and how, with joint working, they would be addressed. The 5YEP Environment Forum had a wider remit, which was about engaging with the wider audience to support and challenge performance and increase awareness of the Partnership's work. The new governance structure would allow a flow of information between groups; the Partnership would then provide a strategic overview.

## **RESOLVED/-**

1. That the Partnership noted progress in developing the mission based approach and the associated Challenge Group and task and finish group activity.
2. That the Partnership approved the updated governance structure and the operation of the Challenge Groups presented at the last meeting, which was being implemented.
3. That an item on the Non Native Invasive Plant study be considered at the next meeting on 27 January 2023.
4. That the Chair of the Natural Capital Group should consider the National Infrastructure Commission report as part of their work and the Natural capital Group should consider prioritizing lobbying Government on biodiversity issues.
5. That the Good Food GM project delivery plan be considered at a future meeting as part of the Consumption and Production Challenge Group update.
6. That the Chair of the 5YEP Environment Forum and TfGM's Head of Logistics and Environment discuss the Transport Challenge Group's approach and way forward outside of the meeting and that further thought be given to the car parking levy and how Members of the 5YEP Environment Forum could feed into that work.
7. That the Chair of the Low Carbon Challenge Group report back to the Partnership at a future meeting around supply chain challenges.

8. That all Member's specific asks and requests at the meeting be recorded individually in the minutes of the meeting and escalated where appropriate e.g. where a barrier to progress was identified.

#### **GMGCRP/43/22     GREEN SPACES FUND**

A presentation on the Green Spaces Fund was provided by the Greater Manchester Environment Fund. The Green Spaces Fund was a commitment in the last Mayoral Manifesto. It aimed to improve existing and create new green spaces in Greater Manchester, particularly for its poorest residents.

Discussions surrounded successful projects, match funding, project sustainability and maintenance over several years, the link and connections with green social prescribing and the integrated care system. It was agreed that the funding winners would be announced at the Green Summit on 17 October 2022. Officers were thanked for their help in assessing and scoring the applications.

#### **RESOLVED/-**

1. That the presentation be received and noted and that the funding winners from Round 1 be announced at the Green Summit on 17 October 2022.
2. That the closing date for round two of the fund be noted as 27 January 2022, the funding available was £2.2m over two years.
3. That the Partnership support the launch of the second-round of the fund and give further thought to how it could support the outcomes from round one.
4. That the Green Spaces Fund Officer work on match funding and sustainability with Districts and share project data with the Greater Manchester Faith Communities representative.

#### **GMGCRP/44/22     YOUR HOME BETTER**

A presentation on the 'Your Home Better' programme was provided by the Co-ordinator of Your Home Better.

The GMCA commissioned Your Home Better earlier this year; it was launched in the last quarter. Your Home Better was an independent service delivered by Greater Manchester retrofit experts, providing advice, planning and support. It initially focussed on the 31% of Greater Manchester homeowners who had expressed a desire to pay for some form of retrofit in the next five years, with the right assurances and support.

Discussions covered finance and supply chain issues, the amount of funding required and where it would come from, possible solutions, capital funding, a pilot scheme with match funding, the workforce and manual trades, opportunities and targets, the Greater Manchester Shared Prosperity Fund, the offer of joint working around their workforce and skills development agenda, the Greater Manchester Pension Fund as an investor, investments and return, accredited training and the need for a qualified workforce, and battery technology.

#### **RESOLVED/-**

1. That the presentation be received and noted.
2. That a discussion around funding take place as soon as possible; £150m was required by year six. It was suggested that the Greater Manchester Pension Fund be approached for funding.
3. That the key challenges of time restrictions, the grid and demand reduction, loan finance, supply chain and workforce issues be noted and that the Partnership consider how it could help this work through planning regulations.
4. That an item at a future meeting be considered around the funding discussions and work with Green Finance Institute, Pure Leapfrog, Districts, Your Home Better and the Public Works Loan Board (PWLb).



5. That officers should explore closer joint working between Your Home Better and the Greater Manchester Shared Prosperity Fund on the workforce and skills development agenda.

#### **GMGCRP/45/22     GREEN SUMMIT PLANNING**

A report and presentation were provided by the GMCA's Head of Sustainable Consumption and Production, which outlined the schedule for this year's Green Summit. It was highlighted that the Summit was a sell-out and 1.2k were attendees expected.

The Partnership acknowledged the hard work of the Team.

#### **RESOLVED/-**

That the information be received and noted.

#### **GMGCRP/46/22     SOCIAL HOUSING DECARBONISATION FUND**

This item presented a report, Greater Manchester Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (Wave 2), which was approved by the GMCA in September 2022, for Members information.

It was highlighted that:

- GMCA was managing the delivery of a £19m programme (including £9m match funding) as part of the national Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (Wave 1).
- The programme brought together ten registered providers including arms-length management organisations (ALMOs) to deliver the retrofit and low carbon measures to ~1286 social homes, by March 2023.
- A bid was being considered for Wave 2 of the funding scheme. The closing date was 17 November 2022.

- At the time the report was written, work would take place with 17 housing providers to bid for approximately £60m (including the match funding required). The latest estimate was that the bid would include 19 housing providers at a worth of £90m (including match funding).

**RESOLVED/-**

That the report be noted.

**GMGCRP/47/22      DATES AND TIMES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

All meetings will be held virtually at 10.00 am on:

- Friday 27 January 2023
- Friday 17 March 2023