



## Greater Manchester Green City Region Partnership

Date: 27 January 2023

Subject: PERFORMANCE UPDATE – Q3 (Oct- Dec 2022)

Report of: Mark Atherton, Director Environment, GMCA

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### PURPOSE OF REPORT:

The report provides the usual update on progress of the Green City Region Partnership for the third 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 new dashboard attached at:
  - a. Annex 01 (5 Year Environment Plan Performance Overview) and available online at: [Five Year Environment Plan \(2019-24\) Progress \(gmtableau\)](#).

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

## 1.1 Energy

- City Deep Decarb Programme (CDDP) Phase 3 (Heat and Energy Network Opportunity Areas) – Stockport Council are in the process of procuring a partner to complete detailed project design for delivering net zero heat through both sewer fed and geothermal.
- Go Neutral Smart Energy – Contracts awarded for Stockport Council for solar PV at Grand Central and SCC ERDF solar car ports and both projects now mobilising; shortlist of roof-mounted solar PV schemes prioritised for consideration of ERDF funding (circa £0.5m-1m project value) with expressions of interest completed for the Go Neutral framework. Consultancy commission ongoing with Rochdale and Salford councils. Three councils (Bury, Oldham and Salford) have shown interest in participating in a second tranche of consultancy support with shortlist of opportunities expected to be tendered early February.
- Smart Energy – Manchester, Tameside, Bury, Salford, Stockport and Oldham have confirmed interest in a school's solar PV programme. To engage schools further, Anthesis have been commissioned to produce a school's solar PV guide for issue in late January.
- Energy Innovation Agency (EIA) – Innovation Project Manager appointed and in post. Bid submitted to Innovate GM to develop an energy accelerator for non-domestic building energy efficiency. The EIA also partnered with the University of Salford and Sustainable Ventures in their submission to the IGM fund.

## 1.2 Buildings

- Retrofit GM (Your Home Better) – The second tranche of marketing will go live in January 2023 with an increase in delivery capacity. The current two-tier price structure will be revised following client feedback and the increased amount of lead generation being developed via a PV offer.

- ECO scheme - ECO4 Flexible Eligibility Approved Installer List applications are currently being evaluated with the aim of appointing 3 installers to support fuel poor/low-income households in home energy efficient upgrades.
- Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) - Majority of PSDS 3a single and multi-year partners underway. Working towards single year delivery deadline of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023. PSDS 3b application under technical review by Salix. One project has been confirmed as non-compliant. Decision on grant offer expected by end of Jan. Feasibility studies of 45 buildings and delivery model option assessment has been tendered and contract awarded. Work to commence late January 2023.
- Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund - Wave 1, first properties completed in late 2022. All works on ~1,000 social homes to be completed by the end of June 2023; Wave 2, an ambitious 18-partner, £97m bid has been submitted to BEIS, outcome expected in February/March.
- Green Homes Grant – Final Phase 1b and 2 position of 1,760 measures installed in 1,458 homes. Internal audit, payments, and final certification of grant are now complete.
- Net zero new development - Inaugural meeting of the Greater Manchester TANZ Task Force held in November 2022 and draft TANZ Implementation Plan developed.
- Good Landlord standard and enforcing Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards (MEES) - 10 new housing standards enforcement trainees have been recruited across Greater Manchester; a proposal seeking support to introduce new licensing has been circulated to councils for comments; and an additional £2.124 million funding has been secured from government to launch a local enforcement pathfinder.

### **1.3 Transport**

- The Bike Hire Scheme continues to increase the number of stands, stations, and bikes on the street with a full fleet (1500) expected early 2023. The trial period for the e-Cargo Bike pilot ended in December 2022 and bikes have now been removed from the network.
- E-Scooters trial – Research by University of Salford showed that 49% of respondents had used an e-scooter to replace a trip they would otherwise have

driven or used a taxi/ride-hailing for; record usage over the summer and into October, with over 40,000 trips a month; fleet cap has been increased to 500, the maximum allowed by the DfT is 550; continuing to engage with other trial areas and assess published research in preparation for the DfT legalising e-scooters.

- Active travel - Long running industrial action on rail affected travel in Qtr. 3. Data from TfGM's network of cycle count sensors show levels of cycling exceeded pre-pandemic levels, with cycling in autumn 2022 12% higher than in 2019.
- Zero emission buses - A further order for 50 zero emission buses has been placed along with a design commission to ensure depot design work is completed in a timely fashion. Area 1 Franchise contract awards were completed on time before Christmas.
- Clean Air Plan – Awaiting response on revised submission.
- Detailed design for taxi EVI project completed; 7 planning applications approved. JAQU agreed to proposals for remaining Early Measures charging points.
- EV chargers – Exceeded target of 200 publicly accessible EV chargers, current total at 287 for municipal year 22/23.
- Clean commercial vehicle fund – 19 HGV retrofits completed in Qtr. 3 with another 10 new applications received, 4 of which received funding. Figures are currently impacted by the Clean Air Plan pause with fewer applications than forecast received, and upgrades completed.
- Clean bus fund - Currently 87% of buses awarded retrofit funding have been upgraded. Overall, the GM based bus fleet will be circa 92% compliant once all planned retrofits and replacements have been completed in the next 6 months.
- Amazon commenced e-cargo bike operations in Regional Centre with discussions ongoing with other last mile operators for similar initiatives. TfGM are also involved in AirMour Drone project, in particular public/stakeholder acceptance to this specific mode of freight travel.

#### **1.4 Sustainable Consumption and Production**

- The Textiles and Fashion Industry Challenge Working Group are progressing key actions to enable them to exploit funding opportunities as they arise. Actions include mapping of textiles flows in GM, knowledge gaps (e.g. recycling options), and potential for pilot activity in the region.

- Desktop literature review undertaken to investigate available insights on consumer behaviour to reducing emissions by adopting low carbon solutions and the policy levers that could have real impact on creating behaviour change.
- First meeting of the Single-Use Plastic (SUP) Public Sector working group held to drive forward actions under the Public Sector Plastic Pact.
- Work has commenced to review feedback on the GM Climate Change e-learning course and amend as required.
- Planning in progress for next 5 Year Environment Plan including listening events in the run up to the 2023 Green Summit.
- Green Summit 2023 date set for Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October at The Lowry, Salford Quays.

## 1.5 **Natural Environment**

- Natural Course Phase 3 - Micro plastics study final baseline sample, [invasive non-native species of plant \(INNS\) surveys](#) in the River Irwell catchment, and [video](#) for the Green Summit all completed; supplier appointed to deliver first phase of the action around building stronger links between the urban planning sector and Water Framework Directive delivery; programme-level benefits realisation profiles completed across all Natural Course beneficiaries and vision for the Greater Manchester Integrated Water Management strategy developed.
- Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) - Workshop held to support Districts in how planning applications including BNG will be processed through the planning system. Workplan up to mandatory BNG introduction in November 2023 agreed between Environment and Place Directorates. Joint resources for Greater Manchester agreed including template policy wording, template planning conditions and template validation checklists.
- Natural Environment Investment Readiness Fund (NEIRF) - NEIRF 1 investment pitches and slide deck prepared; NEIRF II sites progressing through baseline ecology surveys and the development of Habitat Management and Maintenance plans.
- Continuing to assemble funding to deliver projects, particularly Green Recovery Funding from United Utilities. Walkden Neighbourhood SuDS Retrofit project has secured funding from Salford City Council, United Utilities and the Environment Agency and will begin delivery in 2023.

- Round 2 of the Greater Manchester Green Spaces Fund opened in November 2022 until 27th January 2023. Currently recruiting for a new grants manager. Business model and case development underway with the Greater Manchester Environment Fund focusing on BNG offer.
- Green Social Prescribing (GSP) – GSP integrated as a key approach to the parallel social prescribing programmes taking place with children and young people. Pilot is due to complete on 31st March 2023. Awaiting a decision from NHSE as to whether there will be an extension (and additional funding).

## 1.6 **Communications**

- Green Summit 2022 held on 17th October 2022 with 1000+ delegates in attendance, 1500+ online viewers, over 70 speakers across 16 sessions, 70+ exhibitors and 100+ school attendees. 808 individual mentions of #Greensummit2022 on twitter, 4527 interactions with content on the website and a social media reach of over 570K on the day, with over 300 individual accounts contributing to the conversation. Total social media reach of the campaign over 2m unique users across Twitter and LinkedIn. 530% increase in Green City website traffic over the 4-week event lead-up / post event period.

## 2. **KEY ANTICIPATED ACTION IN THE NEXT QUARTER**

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

### 2.1 **Energy**

- Go Neutral `Renewable Energy` Framework– Tendered a consultancy commission to build a second pipeline of opportunities for the framework. Ongoing review of pipeline and support to each of the partners with activity to develop opportunities and drive the use of the framework.
- Smart Energy – Publish school's solar PV engagement guide. Subject to interest and school/LA preferences, scope a programme of activity to develop and deliver schools solar PV.

- Energy Innovation Agency (EIA) – Develop new fee generation model based on learning to date. Work with University of Manchester on their Electrification Innovation Challenge Session.

## 2.2 Buildings

- Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) – Work with PSDS 3a partners to defray final grant and provide evidence for discharging conditions. Commission Measurement and Verification consultant. Commence work on consultancy commission for feasibility studies of 45 buildings and delivery model option assessment.
- Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund - All works on Wave 1 to be completed, resulting in 1,000+ social homes being retrofitted up to an EPC Band C as a minimum; subject to Wave 2 bid being successful, grant agreements will be signed with BEIS and the 18 Housing Providers in the consortium.
- Retrofit GM (Your Home, Better) – Introduce new price structure, undertake PV direct mail marketing campaign, and promote the wider Your Home Better offer to public sector. Explore the potential for the GMCA to use salary sacrifice to help staff with the upfront cost of retrofit.
- Launch the ECO4 Flexible Eligibility service.
- 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 - Agree Greater Manchester definition of net zero home and TANZ Implementation Plan approved by Task Force.
- Good Landlord standard and enforcing Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards (MEES) - Complete trainee recruitment and procurement of training provider; agree support for councils to introduce new licensing schemes and identify expressions of interest; launch local enforcement pathfinder project.

## 2.3 Transport

- Continue rollout of bike hire scheme targeting full fleet of bikes and stands early 2023; review lessons learnt and potential for how e-cargo bikes and e-scooters

can be integrated into the Bee network; investigate potential for trial of e-scooters as part of a mobility hub and placing parking bays on the carriageway.

- Subject to Government feedback, continue to progress the policy development for the new Greater Manchester Clean Air Plan.
- Continue to deliver funding to HGV applicants and administer the retrofit and replacement funds to bus operators and work with operators to understand their plans for non-compliant vehicles; progress work with Stagecoach to electrify Stockport depot.
- Taxi EVI project (dedicated rapid charging points) on site from January 23.
- Early Measures project: Etihad upgrade and feasibility studies for 3 Stockport sites to be completed. Anticipate Walkden and Parkway park and rides to be commissioned in Q4.
- Report to be drafted setting out recommendations of Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure study.

## **2.4 Sustainable Consumption and Production**

- Commission GMCA scope 3 emissions work (open to Districts and GM family) to review scope 3 public sector expenditure and identify and recommended key actions to support decarbonisation.
- Hold workshop to establish availability of current textile data and identify where further work is needed to enable mapping of material flows in Greater Manchester. Progress feasibility study for a national sorting and recycling infrastructure demonstration.
- GMCA and TfGM to commission consumer insights research to maximise policy levers and communication campaigns. This will look to reconfirm the Greater Manchester position (against the Northwest and national picture), identify drivers to change, and establish resident appetite for low carbon solutions.
- Hold next meeting of Single-Use Plastic working group to establish priorities and develop an action plan to 2024.



- Commence work on adapting the content of the GMCA employee Climate Change e-learning course for delivery to Greater Manchester communities via the GM Green City website.
- Support National Food Waste Action week scheduled for 6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

## 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.
- Review lessons learnt from ELMS Test and Trial Pilots including potential for landowner advice service.
- Natural Course Phase 3 – Carry out storm event samples for micro plastic project; complete Greater Manchester benefits profile for Natural Course; scope urban diffuse pollution action and agree changes to the programme for the Greater Manchester River Ecology Project.
- Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) - Distribute results of the Needs and Supply Assessment developed in partnership with NEIRF II project to help Districts understand how they can bring forward supply sites for offsite BNG; initiate work on Greater Manchester templates for BNG; completion of the initial development work (surveys and Habitat Management and Maintenance plans) for the NEIRF II sites.
- Commence work on Walkden Neighbourhood SuDS and conclude IGNITION post-project audit.
- Green Spaces Fund round 1 case studies developed and close of round 2.
- Development of agreed approach to BNG business model for the Greater Manchester Environment Fund to include a defined charging structure.
- Final Green Social Prescribing Programme event to be held on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2023.
- Funding identified and framework document to be finalised for delivering longer term Integrated Water Management Programme.

## 2.6 **Communications**

- Development of Greater Manchester listening events to gather insights for the next 5-Year Environment Plan.

- Refresh of Green City Communications Challenge Group and ongoing development of Greater Manchester Communications Strategy.
- Audit of Green City Region communications channels, identification of gaps and re-alignment with target audiences.
- Youth Combined Authority to identify priority work areas to support the 5-Year Environment Plan.

### 3. IDENTIFIED RISKS AND EMERGING ISSUES

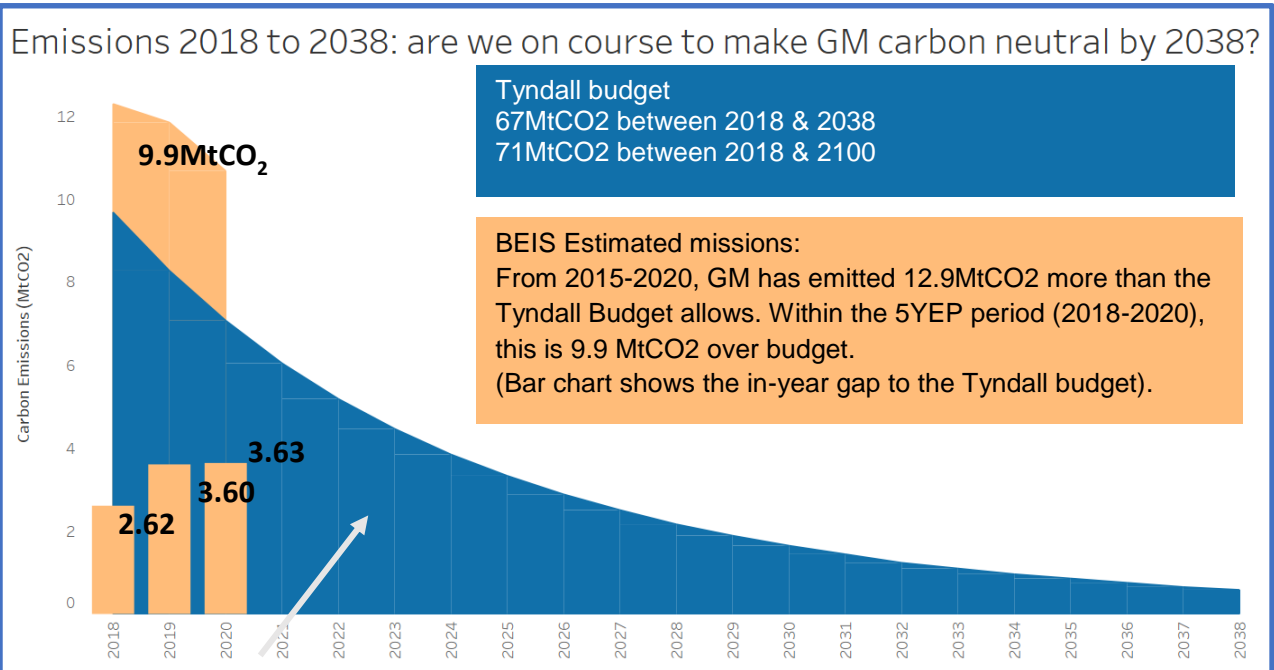
- 3.1 Officers and sub-groups have identified a number of risks to existing, and particularly future, programme delivery. Mitigation of these risks, as far as possible, will be managed by the responsible Accountable Body.

In terms of the priorities set out in the 5 Year Plan, the following areas remain flagged as “red”.

#### **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 (67MtCO<sub>2</sub>). From 2018 to 2020\*, GM’s emissions are 9.9MtCO<sub>2</sub> above the Tyndall budget, i.e. an additional 9.9MtCO<sub>2</sub> savings need to be made on top of the Tyndall budget. This gap has been increasing year on year. The 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 12.9MtCO<sub>2</sub>.



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 accelerating decarbonisation and increasing energy generation including the launch of Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund, Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme, Go Neutral project including schools solar PV 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 Greater Manchester 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. Progress is also being made with the launch of the 'Your Home Better service' and Octopus Heat Pump offer. Greater Manchester 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:

- 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)