



## **Greater Manchester Green City Region Partnership**

Date: 27 January 2022

Subject: CHALLENGE GROUP CHAIRS UPDATES

Report of: Challenge Group Chairs

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### **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 Group activity
- Note that the updated governance structure and operation of the Challenge Groups is in the process of being implemented after receiving agreement from the Partnership.

### **CONTACT OFFICERS:**

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## **1.0 BACKGROUND**

Following discussions with the Partnership, changes have been implemented to the Challenge Groups to place a greater focus on accelerated and scaled up delivery. For each group, the membership, priorities, work plan and task and finish group activity have been 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 DELIVERY CHALLENGE GROUP**

The Green Communications Delivery Challenge Group (previously the Communications and Behaviour Change Challenge Group) will hold its first meeting in January. It has been agreed that this group will now focus on delivery of communications and marketing; behaviour change will be led by the Sustainable Consumption and Production Challenge Group. Ahead of the first meeting, the Chair worked with the GMCA Comms team to refine the purpose and membership of the group. The first meeting will provide an overview of the Mission Based Approach and plans for the new Comms strategy.

## **3.0 LOW CARBON**

The Low Carbon Challenge Group has now met three times 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 – UoS
- Domestic retrofit – Turner Townsend

The presentations focused on progress to date and key challenges/barriers to accelerated delivery.

To address the challenges raised at the previous meeting the following presentations were given:

- Green Finance presented an introduction to the work they are doing with GMCA and a variety of finance solutions including green mortgages, green rental agreements, local climate bonds and property linked finance.
- Bruntwood presented an introduction to the commercial building retrofit task and finish group that they are setting up and invited members of the challenge group to join the introductory meeting.

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**

The Natural Capital Group has moved to a new meeting structure:

- 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.

In January, the first meeting of the Exec group was held. Agenda items included:

- Business Plan updates
- Task and Finish presentations
- Integrated Water Management Plan
- Invasive Non-Native Species
- Facilitating greater access to ELMS – EPIC Test and Trial
- Cheshire LNP priorities and collaborative working
- Communications

## **5.0 SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION**

At the last meeting of the Sustainable Consumption and Production Challenge Group, members ran through several polls to identify the priority areas for work. The results identified the following areas:

- Sustainable Procurement
- Resource Mapping
- Pilots to increase capture of materials and waste reduction
- Behavior Change (Sustainable Lifestyles) including campaigns and behavior insights
- Food procurement/ social value
- Reduce waste through food distribution

The Chair/Vice Chair and GMCA officers have met to discuss how to take this forward and have identified existing work that ties into the priorities and the gaps that need to be discussed at the next meeting.

## **6.0 5YEP IMPLEMENTATION FORUM**

As part of the restructure of the challenge group, the 5YEP Forum extended the invite to stakeholders who are interested in an overview of all of the activity for the Green City Region. Under the new structure the Forum is taking 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.

At the last meeting of the Forum there were presentations on

- Next 5 Year Environment Plan and Green Summit listening events
- Your Home Better
- Fossil fuel sponsorship

## **7.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

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