



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

HELD VIRTUALLY ON FRIDAY 27 JANUARY 2023 AT 2.00PM

PRESENT:

Councillor Martyn Cox	GMCA Environment Portfolio Lead & Chair (Bolton Council) (Chair)
Councillor Alan Quinn	Waste & Recycling Committee (Bury Council) (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Mike McCluster	Planning & Housing Commission (Salford City Council)
Harry Catherall	GMCA Environment Portfolio Lead Chief Executive (Oldham Council)
Louise Blythe	BBC (Chair Communication & Engagement Challenge Group)
Leigh Broadhurst	Suez
Steve Connor	Creative Concern (LEP Representative)
Richard Halsey	Energy Systems Catapult (Chair Low Carbon Challenge Group)
Paul Hooper	Manchester Metropolitan University (Chair Sustainable Consumption and Production Challenge Group)
Claire Igoe	Greater Manchester NHS Integrated Care
Stuart Mounsey	(For Mark Easedale) Environment Agency
Liz Price	(For Andy Gibson) Manchester Metropolitan University
Ian Rutherford	Greater Manchester Faith Communities
Anne Selby	Independent Member (Chair Natural Capital Challenge Group)
Bev Taylor	(For Chris Oglesby and Jessica Parker-Bowles) Bruntwood

Presenters

Matthew Turner	AECOM
Alex Trebowicz	Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS)
Emma Harvey-Smith	Green Finance Institute
Amer Gaffer	Manchester Metropolitan University

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mark Atherton	Director of Environment, GMCA
Mike Beard	Natural Course Project Officer, GMCA
Megan Black	Head of Logistics & Environment, TfGM
Sam Evans	Head of Natural Environment, GMCA
Oliver Fenton	Business Support Officer, Governance & Scrutiny, GMCA
Duncan Hatfield	Lead Analyst (Environment), GMCA
David Hodcroft	Infrastructure Lead, GMCA
Jenny Hollamby	Senior Governance & Scrutiny Officer, GMCA
Rory Matthews	Senior Policy and Partnerships Officer, GMCA
Garry Parker	Assistant Director, Environment and Regulatory Services, Bolton Council
Megan Roberts,	Organisational Business Support, Environment Team, GMCA
Mark Turner	Natural Course Team Leader, GMCA

GMGCRP/48/23 INTRODUCTION AND APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Eamonn Boylan (GMCA), Mark Easedale (Environment Agency), Andy Gibson (Manchester Metropolitan University), Carly McLachlan (UoM), Simon Nokes (GMCA), Chris Oglesby and Jessica Parker-Bowles (Bruntwood), Robyn Smith (GMCA), Will Swan (University of Salford), Helen Simpson (Greater Manchester NHS Integrated Care) and Simon Warburton (TfGM).

GMGCRP/49/23 CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS

The Chair reported that since the last meeting:

- The GMCA and West Midlands Combined Authority have continued to develop devolution trailblazers with Government. Officers were looking to finalise the deal text this month with a possible signing in February 2023. Officers had engaged with Districts, The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) and

others on the governance process for deal signing and implementation, which was likely to include a public consultation.

- The Chair attended the launch of the Greater Manchester Green Skills Academy in Trafford Park, which was led by the Growth Company. The first of its kind in the North, this specialist centre for emerging technologies would provide people and businesses with the skills to install and maintain green technologies.
- The official launch of Energy House 2.0 at Salford University took place in January 2023. Energy House 2.0 is a unique laboratory, comprising of two large environmental chambers each able to accommodate two detached houses and able to recreate a wide range of climatic conditions, from -20°C to +40°C, snow, rain, wind, and solar radiation. The new £16m research facility would be at the forefront in the development of the next generation of net zero homes.

GMGCRP/50/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

RESOLVED/-

Councillor Alan Quinn declared a personal interest in Item 5 – Quarter 3 Progress Report, by virtue of him being an Interim Board Member of the City of Trees.

GMGCRP/51/23 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING DATED 14 OCTOBER 2022

RESOLVED/-

The minutes of the last meeting, held on 14 October 2022, were approved as a correct record.

Matters Arising

- Arising from minute number GCRP/38/22, Members heard that there was a report on the agenda today, which summarised the outcomes of the national net zero review as it pertained to Local Authorities in general and Greater Manchester in particular.
- Arising from minute number GCRP/40/22, it was reported that it had been agreed that the Transport Commissioner would attend a 5 Year Environment Plan (5YEP) Forum meeting on 7 March 2023 to discuss transport decarbonisation. The Chair of the Forum would then attend the Bee Network Partnership Board Meeting on 13 March 2023 which, would focus on decarbonisation.
- Arising from minute number GCRP/42/22, it was noted that an item on non-native invasive plant species would be considered today as part of the agenda for discussion.
- Arising from minute number GCRP/44/22, it was explained there was an item on finance and funding on today's agenda, specifically looking at progress with the partnership between GMCA and Green Finance Institute.

GMGCRP/52/23 QUARTER 3 PROGRESS REPORT – 5 YEAR ENVIRONMENT PLAN (5YEP) AND NEW DASHBOARD PRESENTATION

Members considered a report provided the GMCA's Director of Environment and a presentation was provided the Lead Analyst (Environment), GMCA, which gave an update on the progress of the Green City Region Partnership work programme for the third quarter of 2022/23 and the key milestones for the next quarter.

Member's attention was drawn to:

Energy

- It was reported that contracts had been awarded for Stockport Council for solar photovoltaics (PV) at Grand Central and Salford City Council European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) solar car ports, both projects were mobilising. The

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 commissioning was ongoing with Rochdale Council and Salford City Council.

- Manchester, Tameside, Bury, Salford, Stockport and Oldham had confirmed interest in a school's solar PV programme. To engage schools further, Anthesis had been commissioned to produce a school's solar PV guide for issue in late January 2023.

Buildings

- With regards to the landlord standard and enforcing Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards (MEES), ten new Housing Standards Enforcement Trainees had been recruited across Greater Manchester. A proposal seeking support to introduce new licensing had been circulated to Districts for comments, and an additional £2.124m funding had been secured from Government to launch a local enforcement pathfinder.

Transport

- It was reported that the bike hire scheme continued to increase the number of stands, stations, and bikes on the street with a full fleet of 1.5k expected early 2023.
- Members heard that the detailed design for the taxi electric vehicle initiative (EVI) project was complete and seven planning applications had been approved. The Joint Air Quality Unit (JAQU) had agreed to proposals for remaining early measures charging points. Electric vehicle (EV) chargers had exceeded the target of 200 publicly accessible EV chargers. The current total was 287 for the 2022/23 Municipal Year.

Sustainable Consumption and Production

- It was reported that a desktop literature review had been undertaken to investigate available insights on consumer behaviour to reduce emissions by adopting low carbon solutions and the policy levers that would have real impact on creating behaviour change.

Natural Environment

- It was advised that Round 2 of the Greater Manchester Green Spaces Fund opened in November 2022 until 27 January 2023. Work was underway to recruit a new Grants Manager. The business model and case development were proceeding with the Greater Manchester Environment Fund focusing on the biodiversity net gain (BNG) offer.

The Partnership discussed ash die back and potential market solutions, the investigatory and lobbying work being undertaken by the City of Trees, messages for the Tree Council and the Northwest Forestry Advisory Group, Defra, and lobbying action.

RESOLVED/-

1. 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.
2. That the Vice-Chair raise the issue of ash die back at the Tree Council meeting on 28 February 2023 in Leeds.
3. That the Chair of the Natural Capital Challenge Group raise ash die back at the Northwest Forestry Advisory Group.
4. That the Director of Environment write to Defra regarding ash die back and possible markets/solutions for ash die back trees.

**GMGCRP/53/23 WORK PROGRAMME 2022/23 & CHALLENGE GROUP
UPDATES REPORT AND PRESENTATION BY CHALLENGE
GROUP CHAIRS**

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 the 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 action groups.

It was reported that at a recent meeting of the 5YEP Forum, members requested that consideration be given to a policy banning the advertising and branding of carbon extracting organisations across Greater Manchester. Members heard that a small group was asked to consider this further, and a proposal would be considered at a future meeting.

The main points referred:

- In terms of the low carbon update, Members discussed the economic context, supply chain capacity, start/stop programmes, finance options to deliver, the new Commercial Building Retrofit task and finish action group.
- Following the natural environment update, the Partnership discussed the message from the Office for Environmental Protection, which said the UK was failing to protect its natural environment, blockages from Government, sites for tree planning needed by the end of March 2023, the BNG workshops taking place in Districts, and the importance of the BNG funding worth £5m per year.
- As part of the sustainable consumption and production update, discussions surrounded textile workshops and mapping of material flows, enhanced sorting, public separation of textiles, and the proposals for a feasibility study.
- The communications update advised that the behaviour change topic had moved to sustainable consumption and production to allow a focus on communications and marketing.

- Members heard that the 5YEP Forum's focus was on developing the next 5YEP and a proposal would be considered at a future meeting.
- Members were requested to promote the Active Travel campaign as part of the transport update.

RESOLVED/-

1. That Members noted the progress in developing the Mission Based Approach and the associated Challenge Group activity.
2. That the Partnership noted that the updated governance structure and operation of the Challenge Groups was in the progress of being implemented after receiving agreement from the Partnership.
3. That Members of the Partnership consider attending the BNG workshops taking place across Districts.
4. That the Partnership help identify sites for tree planting by the end of March 2023 and that a report on tree planting be considered by the Greater Manchester Green City Region Board on 10 February 2023.
5. That the 5YEP Forum proposal about the next 5YEP be considered at a future meeting.
6. That Members promote the Active Travel campaign.

GMGCRP/54/23 CITY DEEP CARBONISATION PHASE 4

A presentation was provided by the Regional Director, AECOM and BEIS's Heat Network Efficiency Scheme Lead that introduced the work being undertaken in Greater Manchester to establish potential heat zones (to dovetail with emerging national policy) and heat networks across Greater Manchester. A more detailed presentation would be provided to District Members at the next Green City Region Board meeting on 10 February 2023.

Members discussed response times for Districts and planning ahead, consideration of the public communications challenge, that consideration be given to the potential for

mineral extraction at the same time as extracting heat from mines, the scale of investment needed and commercial customers.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the presentation be received and noted.
2. That the Communications Challenge Group consider the public communications challenge.
3. That an update be provided at a future meeting.

GMGCRP/55/23 INVASIVE NON-NATIVE SPECIES SURVEY

A presentation was provided by the Natural Course Greater Manchester Team Leader, GMCA, in response to a request made at the last Partnership meeting. The presentation outlined the results of a riverine invasive plant species survey conducted in Greater Manchester catchments.

In terms of the next steps, the Partnership discussed how the removal of invasive non-native species could be enforced and how it was resource intensive.

RESOLVED/-

That the presentation be received and noted.

GMGCRP/56/23 URBAN TRANSITION MISSION

A presentation was provided by the Director of Environment, GMCA who explained that the GMCA had successfully applied to be part of the Global Covenant of Mayors Urban Transition Mission. The Mission winners were announced at COP27 and the GMCA would be working with 48 other global cities with high aspirations for decarbonisation.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the information be received and noted.
2. That an update be provided at a future meeting.

GMGCRP/57/23 INTEGRATED WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

A presentation was provided by the GMCA's Infrastructure Lead, which provided an update on the development of the Integrated Water Management Plan for Greater Manchester and the actions agreed upon at the Mayoral round table on flood resilience and integrated water management, held on 30 September 2022.

Members discussed the potential for a Schedule 3 Greater Manchester response, sustainable drainage and future flooding risks.

RESOLVED/-

That the report be noted.

GMGCRP/58/23 GREEN FINANCE INSTITUTE UPDATE

A presentation was provided by the Green Finance Institute, in response to a request made at the last Partnership meeting. The presentation outlined the work being undertaken jointly between the GMCA and the Green Finance Institute.

A question-and-answer session followed the presentation. Members discussed developing local climate bonds for issuance by a District or the Combined Authority, with interest rates lower than the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB), the campaign on green mortgages in Greater Manchester to support lenders to offer products with more favourable terms to finance home retrofit, green rental agreements to incentivise landlords to invest in energy efficiency measures, the Your Home Better scheme and collaboration with credit unions to help consumers to invest and institutional investment by considering how pension funds could invest in retrofit.

RESOLVED/-

That the report be noted.

GMGCRP/59/23 NATIONAL NET ZERO REVIEW – SYNOPSIS

A report was provided by the GMCA's Senior Policy and Partnerships Officer, which provided the Partnership with a synopsis of the National Net Zero Review, launched on 13 January. The synopsis focused on key findings as they pertained to Districts in general and Greater Manchester in particular.

The Partnership discussed its support to move to longer term policy making, that locally led approaches could be better tailored to deliver bigger outcomes, the reform of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) to allow local area energy targets and plans and how Government had advised that they would respond by March 2023.

RESOLVED/-

That the report be noted.

GMGCRP/60/23 DATES AND TIMES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The next meeting would be held virtually on Friday 17 March 2023 at 10.00am.