



Greater Manchester Green City Region Partnership

Date: **17th March 2023**

Subject: **PERFORMANCE UPDATE – Q4 (Jan - Mar 2023)**

Report of: **Mark Atherton, Director Environment, GMCA**

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

The report provides the usual update on progress of the Green City Region Partnership for the fourth quarter of 2022/23 and key milestones for the first quarter of 2023/24.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Partnership is recommended to:

1. 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) 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 are a number of key successes to be highlighted, set out below:

1.1 Energy

- Local Area Energy Plans (LAEPs) – Awarded £70k from Innovate UK’s Net Zero Living programme to help accelerate the delivery of the city-region’s Local Area Energy Plans (LAEPs). Project partners include Bruntwood, Regen, Electricity North West, Carbon Co-op, Green Longbow and Graham Oakes, with advisors Daikin, EY, Green Finance Institute, SSE Energy and Local Energy North West Hub.
- DEEP Phase 3 (Heat and Energy Network Opportunity Areas) – Pending decisions from Department for Energy on Stockport Centre project design for delivering net zero heat through sewer fed and geothermal. Oldham commenced minewater led Detailed Project Design.
- Go Neutral Smart Energy – Rochdale and Stockport Councils shortlisted 4 schools for roof-mounted solar PV utilising unallocated ERDF grant, estimated circa 700kW installed capacity and £800k project value. Further competition documents issued to the Go Neutral framework (Lot 1) with a deadline of 11th April 2023. Request For Quotation (RFQ) for consultancy to build a second pipeline of opportunities issued. Deadline 17th March 2023. 4 Districts confirmed interest in participating. A total of 64 sites have been shortlisted for consideration, comprising a mix of buildings, land and car park assets.
- Smart Energy – Solar PV engagement guide for schools has been prepared and circulated for final comment. Engaging with Districts to confirm how this will be shared with schools and next steps.
- Energy Innovation Agency (EIA) – Work continues to support innovators, with client agreements being signed to generate private fees. A dedicated subgroup of the Board has been set up to develop and implement a new finance model.

1.2 Buildings

- Retrofit GM (Your Home Better) – New pricing structure developed to reflect the cost of delivery of a dedicated solar survey offer and a comprehensive whole house retrofit plan. Your Home Better offer promoted to GMCA staff via the staff newsletter with encouraging results. Initial engagement meetings undertaken on a 'payroll loan' (not salary sacrifice) to help staff with upfront costs of retrofit. Metrolink advertising planned for end March 2023.
- ECO4 flex scheme (support for fuel poor/low-income households with home energy efficient upgrades) – Due to appoint 3 approved ECO4 installers and hold kick-off meetings with Districts.
- Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) – SSE has been appointed to provide Measurement and Verification support to the PSDS 3a programme with first deliverables expected before end March 2023. £1.78m grant secured for the PSDS 3b programme (circa £5.5m total project value). Consultancy commission of 45 building decarbonisation feasibility studies is underway. First tranche of building surveys has been completed and reports are being prepared. Tranches 2 and 3 are expected to be completed over the coming months. Commission aiming to complete in Jul 2023.
- Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund – All 10 registered providers to have commenced on-site installations, with most of the 900+ retrofits to be completed by end of March 2023. Department of Energy have provided a 3-month project extension to end of June 2023.
- Net zero new development - 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) – Local enforcement pathfinder project launched. Trainee recruitment and procurement of training provider nearing completion. Expressions of interest in support for Districts to introduce new licensing schemes due to close.

1.3 Transport

- Audit work to inform network review is 80% complete. Current figures indicate that the Mayor's Cycling and Walking Challenge Fund projects (with final funding approval up to January 2023) will deliver approximately 55km of new Bee Network routes, of which 33km was complete as of January 2023.
- The Bike Hire Scheme continues to increase the number of stands, stations, and bikes on the street with a full fleet (1500) expected by May 2023.
- E-Scooters trial is continuing with a much higher usage this winter. December 2022 had 25,834 trips compared to 12,126 in December 2021.
- Clean commercial vehicle fund – 15 HGV retrofits completed in completed in Qtr. 4 with another 13 new applications received, 6 of which received funded. Figures remain impacted by the Clean Air Plan pause with fewer applications than forecast received, and upgrades completed.
- Clean bus fund - Currently 92% of buses awarded retrofit funding have been upgraded. Overall, the Greater Manchester based bus fleet will be circa 92% compliant once all planned retrofits and replacements have completed in the next 6 months.
- Clean Air Plan – Government has requested further evidence which requires detailed modelling of Greater Manchester's Clean Air Plan (in terms of delivering compliance) against the 'benchmark' of a charging Clean Air Zone that addresses the exceedances identified in central Manchester and Salford.
- Taxi EVI project (dedicated rapid charging points) commenced on site in Jan 2023, due to complete July 2023 adding 120 connectors in total. Etihad and 3 Stockport sites commissioned for Early Measures. Parkway and Walkden Park and Ride to be commissioned by end March 2023.
- Freight Strategy stakeholder discussions undertaken with National Highways and Logistics UK.

1.4 Sustainable Consumption and Production

- Series of workshops help with the Textiles and Fashion working group to underpin a feasibility study for a national sorting and recycling infrastructure demonstration.
- Tender to be issued (by end of March 2023) to review scope 3 emissions through public sector expenditure and identify and recommended key actions to support decarbonisation.
- New fully funded Eco Innovation programme (Eco-FORCE) launched by Business Growth Hub to support Greater Manchester businesses to move to more circular practices, reduce waste and carbon emissions.
- One Bin to Rule Them All workshop to be held on 29th March 2023 to disseminate findings of the project aimed at improving plastics recycling practices across Greater Manchester and the UK.
- Reconmatic 4-year project commenced to increase sustainability in waste management across the built environment. UK partners include University of Salford and University of Manchester.
- Procurement to commence (by end of March 2023) on Greater Manchester consumer behaviour insights work to identify low carbon solutions and levers to drive change.
- Community Fridge pilot launched in Oldham by Greater Manchester Food Security Action Network, Hubbub and Coop, building on the successful pilots delivered through Manchester's In Our Nature campaign.
- Education pod for schools and community groups now open in the Renew Hub to raise awareness of circular economy principles including repair and reuse.

1.5 Natural Environment

- Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) - Resource and project management planning for the refresh of the LNRS has commenced with Natural England and Greater Manchester Ecology Unit. Regulations and Guidance have still not been published by Defra which could cause delays to commencement. Paper to approve GMCA's appointment as the Responsible Authority for the LNRS has been submitted for the March meeting of the Combined Authority.

- Natural Course Phase 3 – Greater Manchester planners survey completed to assess the barriers to delivering the objectives of the Water Framework Directive (WFD). EU Mission successfully held in January 2023, with a focus on projects delivered in Greater Manchester.
- Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) - Workshops held with Districts to disseminate the results of the BNG Needs and Supply assessment. Defra additional burdens funding announced for the Districts and GMCA.
- Natural Environment Investment Readiness Fund (NEIRF) - NEIRF II sites moving forward through baselining. GMEF offer promoted to Districts to increase number of sites being brought forward.
- 76 applications received to round 2 of the Greater Manchester Green Spaces Fund. New Grant Manager and Communications officer appointed to the GMEF.
- Training completed for the catchment partnership(s) on Natural Capital tools.
- Green Social Prescribing (GSP) – Decision to extend funding unsuccessful. Alternative options being assessed.

1.6 **Communications**

- Green Summit 2023 – Meetings held with 2022 sponsors with positive feedback.
- Environment Plan 2024 onwards - 'Listening Activities' currently being planned with communications approach drafted to include partner activity with University of Manchester, Youth Combined Authority and SSE.
- Communications Challenge Group re-launched with 2 task and finish groups focused on 1) Communications Strategy and Narrative; and 2) Green Channels.
- 60+ Greater Manchester Environment Fund mini case studies in development.
- Promotion of 'Win, Don't Bin' Food Waste Action Week from 6th March 2023 (aimed at reducing food waste) via social media channels, website, and internal staff communications. Social media toolkits shared with Districts.
- Launch of Greater Manchester repair week (20th to 26th March 2023) to encourage residents to consider repair and reuse before items are thrown away and replaced by new ones.

2. KEY ANTICIPATED ACTION IN THE NEXT QUARTER

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

2.1 Energy

- Deep Phase 3 – Stockport to commence Detailed Project Design. Further desk top heat zoning studies to be completed for Wythenshawe and Airport City Manchester.
- Local Area Energy Plans (LAEPs) - 12-week project to commence 1st April 2023 to explore the social (non-technical) barriers to net zero delivery.
- Go Neutral – Evaluate and award contract for Rochdale and Stockport ERDF schools Solar PV projects. Meet to discuss next steps on their remaining shortlisted sites. Complete procurement process for second tranche of consultancy support. Award contract and mobilise.
- Smart Energy – Support Districts to promote Solar PV to schools and establish interest. Subject to interest, scope a programme of delivery.
- Energy Innovation Agency (EIA) – Implement new finance model with suitable clients. Follow up with University of Manchester on their Electrification Innovation Challenge Session. (Planned session for 13th March postponed).

2.2 Buildings

- Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) – Close out grant funded element of PSDS 3a programme. Continue consultancy commission with a focus on completing the site surveys and reporting for tranche 1 and 2 buildings. Stand up PSDS 3b programme.
- Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund – Outstanding Wave 1 retrofits completed. Subject to Wave 2 funding, grant agreements signed with the Department for Energy and the 18 Housing Providers in the consortium. Project to commence April 2023.

- Retrofit GM (Your Home, Better) – Decision on additional £200k investment ask (2nd payment) for the Your Home Better consortia to accelerate the uptake of retrofit in the ‘able to pay’ market. Rollout marketing to public sector employees and trial co-branded direct mail programme with Districts.
- ECO4 Flex scheme - Commission web portal to enable eligible households (fuel poor/low-income households) to be referred for the scheme. Commence marketing activities after Purdah.
- Net zero new development - Develop Greater Manchester net zero homes pipeline.
- Good Landlord standard and enforcing Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards (MEES) – Launch trainee scheme and apprenticeships to start. Licensing support to councils to be determined. Local enforcement staffing recruitment to be completed.

2.3 Transport

- Complete audit work to inform Network Review (due to complete April 2023).
- Continue rollout of bike hire scheme targeting full fleet of 1500 bikes by May 2023 (Contract availability is 95% of 1500).
- Subject to approval from Salford City Council undertake trial of e-scooter on-carriageway parking bays. Continue to progress mobility hub concept at locations where scooters and cycle hire are next to each other.
- Additional evidence on detailed modelling of the Greater Manchester Clean Air Plan to be provided to the Government by end of June 2023.
- 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.
- Etihad and Stott Lane upgrades plus one site in Stockport to be installed to complete Early Measures project.
- Zero emission buses – Continue with depot power upgrades and charging infrastructure ready for the deployment of the first 50 electric buses onto the Bee Network (expected September 2023).

- Implement recommendations of Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure study (Report completed March 2023).
- Continue discussions with other key stakeholders regarding freight, including rail freight group. Further work with Amazon on e-cargo bike aspirations.

2.4 Sustainable Consumption and Production

- Award tender for public sector scope 3 emissions work.
- Explore options for task and finish group to look at new technological solutions to waste streams in Greater Manchester and set up new task and finish group to deliver actions on creating a sustainable food system in our city-region.
- Commence Greater Manchester consumer behaviour insights work to identify low carbon solutions and levers to drive change.
- Establish sharing platform for Single-Use Plastic working group and priority actions moving forward.
- Continue development of Community Climate Change e-learning course delivered via the Greater Manchester Green City website.
- Seek funding for feasibility study for a national sorting and recycling infrastructure demonstration on textile waste.

2.5 Natural Environment

- Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) – Greater Manchester Mayor to be appointed as the Responsible Authority for the LNRS. Refresh of the LNRS to commence.
- Natural Course Phase 3 – Natural Course dissemination event to be held in Manchester. Report on study of micro plastic contamination of Greater Manchester rivers drafted. Changes to be agreed to Phase 4 to include Catchment Ecology Project, natural capital engagement and urban forestry actions.
- Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) – Complete report on Needs and Supply assessment. Receipt of Additional Burdens funding from Defra. Publication of Greater Manchester Environment Fund (GMEF) advanced offer to help Districts bring forward their own sites for offsite BNG. Development of defined charging structure and financial model.
- Award Green Spaces Fund round 2 grants and open round 3.

2.6 Communications

- Sponsorship package to be drafted for Green Summit 2023 and early engagement with secondary schools to commence.
- Develop content and timeline for the Greater Manchester 'Listening Activities'.
- Launch of 2023 Recycle for Greater Manchester Community Fund (3rd April 2023) and Green Spaces Fund round 3.
- Greater Manchester Environment Fund 'Meet the Funder' event to be held at RHS Bridgewater on 25th March 2023.

3. IDENTIFIED RISKS AND EMERGING ISSUES

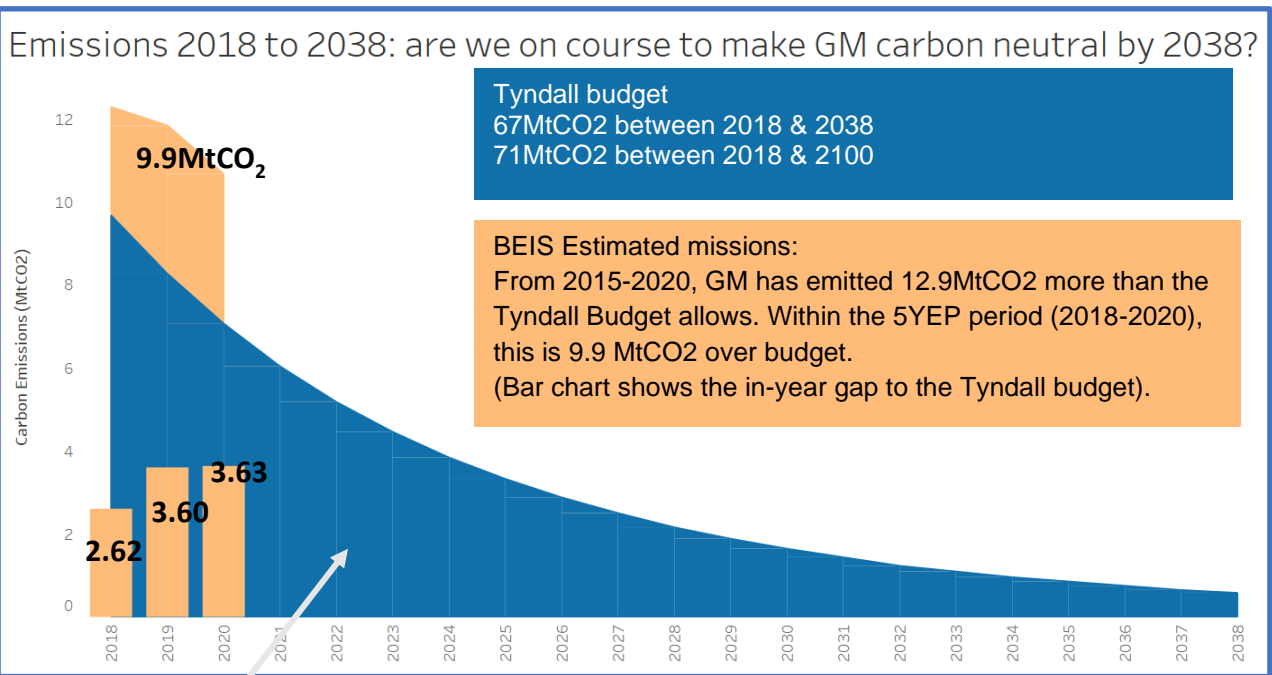
- 3.1 Officers and sub-groups have identified a number of risks to existing, and particularly future, programme delivery. Mitigation of these risks, as far as possible, will be managed by the responsible Accountable Body.

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 (67MtCO₂). From 2018 to 2020*, GM's emissions are 9.9MtCO₂ above the Tyndall budget, i.e. an additional 9.9MtCO₂ 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 12.9MtCO₂.



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)