



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

Date: **17<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

Subject: **Challenge Group Updates**

Report of: **Challenge Group Chairs/Vice 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.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

The Partnership is asked to:

- Note the progress in developing the Mission Based Approach and the associated Challenge Groups and Task and Finish Groups activity.

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

Following discussions with the Partnership, Challenge Group Chairs/ Vice Chairs and Challenge Group members changes have been implemented to greater focus the Challenge Groups 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 Green Communications Delivery Challenge Group**

The Green Communications Delivery Challenge Group (previously the Communications and Behaviour Change Challenge Group) held its first meeting in January. It has been agreed that this group will focus on delivery of communications and marketing and behaviour change will be led by the Sustainable Consumption and Production Challenge Group.

The first meeting covered:

- Overview of the Mission Based Approach and 5YEP
- GM Communications Strategy

Following on from this meeting of the group, three task and finish groups have been set up:

- Audit of Communications Channels
- Green Communications Narrative and Strategy
- 5YEP Listening Events

### **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**

As discussed at the previous partnership meeting, 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 March the NCG covered,

- Business Plan updates
- Task and Finish presentations
- Monitoring processes –
  - Local Nature Recovery Strategy and 5YEP targets
  - Current KPIs and monitoring processes
- Biodiversity Net Gain
- Green Social Prescribing
- LNP to support addition of LNRS into Local Plans
- Communications

## **5.0 SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION**

At the last meeting of the Sustainable Consumption and Production Challenge Group, members gave updates on the priority areas identified at the refresh meeting in November. These included:

- Sustainable Procurement
- Resource Mapping (Textiles)
- Research and Innovation - Pilots to increase capture of materials and waste reduction
- Single Use Plastics
- Behavior Insights
- Community Campaigns

Two new areas were identified as gaps, food systems and technological innovations to address waste streams. Options will be explored ahead of the next meeting to set up task and finish groups to address these areas.

## **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 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 the following topics were presented:

- Transport deep dive – regular updates will be brought back to this group on progress and with suggestions of how the members can support action.
- Fossil fuel sponsorship – a proposal was put forward to the group and discussions will be held with the chair and key members to bring back recommendations to the partnership.
- Mission Based Approach Progress Update and GMCA Environment Team Business Plan for 23/24

## **7.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Partnership is asked to:

- Note the progress in developing the Mission Based Approach and the associated Challenge Groups and Task and Finish Groups activity.