

Waste and Recycling Committee

Date: 11 October 2023
Subject: Sustainable Consumption and Production Update
Report of: Sarah Mellor, Head of Sustainable Consumption and Production, GMCA Environment Team.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of the report is to update Members on the progress of a number of key projects within the Greater Manchester Sustainable Consumption and Production Action (SCP) Plan.

Recommendations:

Members of the Committee are requested to:

1. Note the progress of the key areas of activities currently being undertaken.

Contact Officers

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Equalities Impact, Carbon and Sustainability Assessment:

Results of the [Sustainability Decision Support Tool](#) to be included here:

Impacts Questionnaire			
Impact Indicator	Result	Justification/Mitigation	
Equality and Inclusion	G	The Plan looks to raise awareness through community engagement and involvement	
Health			
Resilience and Adaptation			
Housing			
Economy	G	Moving to a circular economy can have a positive social, economic and environmental effect on the conurbation By creating a circular economy it should identify gaps and skills and stimulate economic growth in those areas Innovation is key to developing solutions and end markets for difficult materials Inward investment could potentially through innovation	
Mobility and Connectivity			
Carbon, Nature and Environment	G	The SCP Plan looks to reduce carbon emission through its 4 key priority areas	
Consumption and Production	G	The SCP Plan focuses on key priority areas, as set out in the report, to reduce the level of waste produced A number of projects are currently in place to look at minimising construction waste Managing waste sustainability as possible is a key priority within the plan Moving to a circular economy is a priority with the SCP Plan PlasticFreeGM continues to be a priority within the SCP work programme	
Contribution to achieving the GM Carbon Neutral 2038 target		The SCP Plan and work programme are a critical element to the delivery on GM achieving Carbon Neutral by 2038. As SCP covers a wide range of areas, ensuring that the work programme is sufficiently resourced would improve the contribution to delivery of the overall plan.	
Further Assessment(s):	N/A		
			
Positive impacts overall, whether long or short term.	Mix of positive and negative impacts. Trade-offs to consider.	Mostly negative, with at least one positive aspect. Trade-offs to consider.	Negative impacts overall.

Risk Management

All risks regarding the delivery of the 5YEP and SCP theme are set out in the GM Environment Team's Risk Register. There is nothing identified within the SCP section of the register which is currently identified as 'red' status.

Legal Considerations

There are no legal implications of the recommendations set out within the report.

Financial Consequences – Revenue

The SCP Work Plan sets out expenditure that is within the budget forecasts (2023/24) for certain areas of work. Actions for future years may require additional funds. If so, these would be subject to a separate detailed business case being approved.

Financial Consequences – Capital

There are no capital consequences within the report. Actions for future years may require additional funds. If so, these would be subject to a separate detailed business case being approved.

Number of attachments to the report: 2

- SCP Appendix 1A SUP Communications Toolkit
- SCP Appendix 2A SUP Work Programme

Background Papers

[The Greater Manchester 5 Year Environment Plan](#)

[SCP Plan](#)

Tracking/ Process

Does this report relate to a major strategic decision, as set out in the GMCA Constitution?

No

Exemption from call in

Are there any aspects in this report which means it should be considered to be exempt from call in by the relevant Scrutiny Committee on the grounds of urgency? N/A

GM Transport Committee

N/A

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

N/A

1. Introduction

The SCP Theme of the GM 5 Year Environment Plan focuses on valuing resources and reducing waste. It also supports our carbon neutral ambitions by identifying actions which will reduce our Scope 3 emissions. The SCP plan covers 4 key priority areas:

- Moving to a Circular Economy;
- Managing Waste Sustainably;
- Reducing Food Waste; and
- Moving to Sustainable Lifestyles.

The report below sets out some key activities that are contributing to the delivery of the SCP Plan.

2. Key Activities

2.1 Moving to a Circular Economy

1. Scope 3 Emissions, Spend and Investment Analysis and Toolkit

To fully understand the Combined Authority's carbon footprint, a piece of work has been commissioned to profile scope 3 emissions based on the Greenhouse Gas Protocol. Upon completion of the analysis, a further detailed profiling will be undertaken of the Authority's spend and investments, over the last four years, to enable each directorate to understand where carbon savings can be made. From this analysis, a toolkit and action plan will be developed. The project commenced on 18th September and, data permitting, is scheduled to be completed by the end of December.

Additionally, building on the success of the internal e-module on Climate Change awareness a further sustainability e-module will be developed. Once produced, the e-module will also be available to Districts.

2. Single Use Plastic Pact

The Greater Manchester Plastic Pact was one of the first and boldest Pacts to commit to reducing single-use plastics from the public estate by the end of 2024. The Pact was signed in 2019 by members of the Greater Manchester family including our 10 Local Authorities, Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service

and the NHS Foundation Trust. Whilst the COVID-19 pandemic caused significant changes in operations and increased the use of some single-use plastic items, we have still made a great deal of progress towards being single-use plastic free.

- Plastic Pact signed and commitments included in Local Authority Climate Action Plans;
- [PlasticFreeGM campaign](#) launched asking individuals and businesses to commit to reducing single-use plastics at home and work;
- [Water fountain pilot](#) introduced in Bury and Tameside to increase access to free water;
- [Greater Manchester Green Carrier Bag](#) launched reducing the number of plastic bags sold in Greater Manchester;
- Iconic Paper [Bee Straw](#) launched to help reduce single-use plastic waste in the Greater Manchester region;
- [Grab Your Cup](#) campaign launched helping to save 1.2 million disposable cups from going to waste by encouraging people to switch to reusable cups;
- Research commissioned to tackle reducing problematic single-use plastics through procurement, focused on catering consumables and disposables;
- Recommendations published to reduce single-use plastics on the public estate (catering) including items to be avoided, reduced, substituted, or replaced for more sustainable alternatives (including reusables);
- Social value framework reviewed and adopted by GMCA which promotes environmental sustainability;
- Greater Manchester single-use working group established to drive forward initiatives to reduce single-use plastics;
- [GMCA commits to becoming a Refill Destination](#), supporting the expansion of the number of Refill points across the city-region and reducing the over-consumption of single-use plastic items; and
- Communication Toolkit and new factsheets developed and circulated to Districts to raise awareness amongst the wider community of the new [single-use plastic ban](#) which will come into force in October 2023. (See Appendix A1).

Moving forward the Single-use Plastic Working Group (established in December 2022) will continue to deliver a programme of actions to the end of 2024 (See Appendix A2). Key priorities to the end of 2023 include:

- **Expansion of Refill across Greater Manchester** - A programme of communications (2023-2024) will be developed in partnership with City to Sea to encourage organisations to sign up as a Refill station/install a water fountain and increase awareness within the wider community;
- **Raising awareness of the Pact amongst staff** - A programme of internal communications is in development to raise awareness of our commitments within the Pact including the action's employees at home and at work. Several new pages have already been created on the GMGreenCity website for signposting to;
 - [Reduce your plastic waste - GM Green City](#)
 - [Reducing single-use plastic at work | GMGreenCity](#)
 - [Single use plastic ban - the law is changing | GMGreenCity](#)
 - [The Greater Manchester Plastic Pact | GMGreenCity](#)
- **Inclusion of single-use plastic reduction in sustainability e-module** - As referenced at 2.1a. Scope 3 Emissions, Spend and Investment Analysis and Toolkit; and
- **Continue to explore initiatives to reduce single-use plastics** – This will include initiatives to reduce plastic packaging, potential refill return cup scheme pilot and eco-refill shops in schools.

2.2 Managing Waste Sustainably: Interim Waste Strategy

In light of the lack of clarity regarding England's Waste Strategy, at the last Strategic Officer's Group meeting, it was agreed to set up a sub-group to discuss the potential of producing an Interim Waste Strategy. The meeting took place on 22nd September and a verbal update will be provided at the meeting.

2.3 Reducing Food Waste: Behaviour Insights

A piece of work has been commissioned on consumer sustainability which will provide valuable insights into the importance of global environmental issues, attitudes to food waste, plastic waste and packaging and general challenges residents are currently facing in being sustainable both inside and outside the home. The survey will be undertaken in November, with findings due to be available by late December/early January.

2.4 Moving to Sustainable Lifestyles

1. Behaviour Insights

Phase 1 of the behaviour insights work commissioned with TfGM has been completed which provides baseline data on general attitudes to climate change, environmental insights, and levels of understanding of key sustainable terms such as carbon neutral/net zero/circular economy. The survey provides insights into environmental actions that have been taken, along with the motivation of taking those actions. The findings from this work are currently going through final quality assurance and a report and presentation will form part of the next Committee meeting.

2. Green Summit

The Green Summit was held on Monday 2 October at the Lowry and showcased all themes within the 5-year Environment Plan. A full update of the event will be provided at the meeting.

3. Recommendation

The Committee is requested to note the progress of the key areas of activities currently being undertaken.