



## Greater Manchester Green City Region Partnership

Date: 19 October 2023

Subject: Quarter 2 Progress Report – 5 Year Environment Plan (5YEP)

Report of: Mark Atherton, Director Environment, GMCA

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### PURPOSE OF REPORT:

The report provides the usual update on progress of the Green City Region Partnership for the second quarter of 2023/24 (Jul - Sep) and key milestones for the third quarter (Oct – Dec).

### 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 \(gmtableau\)](#).

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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) – Phase 2 bid submitted to Innovate UK which brings together the 3 successful phase 1 projects from GMCA, Oldham and Manchester.
- Local Energy Advice Demonstrator (LEAD) – Agency briefed for LEAD campaign with key messages and initial toolkit in development.
- DEEP Phase 3 (Heat and Energy Network Opportunity Areas) – Discussions have recommenced with UKIB regarding their involvement in funding and/or standardised commercial contracts.
- Go Neutral Smart Energy – ERDF grant funded solar PV programme completed. Wave 2 consultancy support underway. Salford portfolio reports being finalised and remaining site surveys underway.
- Smart Energy – Powering Our Schools campaign currently being developed with Districts. Financial model and assumptions agreed with finance leads. School solar calculator commissioned and nearing completion. Solar guide commissioned for NHS and leisure sectors. Collaboration opportunity with Department for Education (DfE) on hold as third-party funding route not currently a priority.
- Energy Innovation Agency (EIA) – Net zero event held, and 3 new staff members have been recruited.
- Trafford Energy Park - Investment partner secured via Schroders.

## 1.2 Buildings

- Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) – SHDF Wave 1 retrofit installations completed and lodgements well underway. SHDF Wave 2 - All 18 registered providers progressing with retrofit assessments and procurement.
- Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) – PSDS 3a single-year delivery programme is now on track with circa 50% buildings complete. PSDS 3a multi-year programme and PSDS 3b continue to be delivered. PSDS 3c pipeline

development work is now complete. GMCA led consortium application being prepared for funding call - opening date 10th October. [Public Sector Decarbonising Greater Manchester](#) video completed and showcased at the Green Summit.

- Retrofit GM (Your Home Better) – Salford research findings delayed due to recruitment difficulties (final report deadline is end September). Letter campaign paused due to low level of uptake from initial tranche.
- ECO4 flex scheme (support for fuel poor/low-income households with home energy efficient upgrades) – 82 properties have received full house installs with over £2 million worth of carbon saving measures installed. GMCA led training completed with Citizen Advice, National Energy Action and Bolton Hospital. Installer led activities completed in shopping areas and health clinics. Web portal is now live.
- Net zero new development – Detailed Greater Manchester net zero standard announced at Green Summit.
- Good Landlord Scheme trainee programme - All Districts have at least one apprentice on the Regulatory Compliance Officer Apprenticeship course provided by Babington. Memoranda of understanding circulated to three Districts who are to receive funding support for development of new discretionary licensing schemes. Three officers accepted on to diploma course to study at Middlesex University.

### 1.3 **Transport**

- Active Bee Network - GIS network mapping to facilitate planning of future schemes complete. This has confirmed that 53.6km of 'Bee Active' Network was completed as of 1st September 2023. Of these, 2.9km was completed in quarter 2.
- Bike Hire Scheme – Recovery Plan in place to manage antisocial behaviour and repairs to maintain an acceptable level of bike availability. Target - 740 available bikes in December 2023.
- E-hubs pilot and e-scooter trial – E-hubs project closed at end of September 2023 with learnings being used to shape future Travel Hubs programme. E-scooter usage in Salford continues to grow with no major incidents.
- Bus franchising – School service successfully launched 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023. Bee Network app and [website](#) launched. Tranche 1 (Go Northwest and Diamond

Buses) commenced 24<sup>th</sup> September 2023 in Bolton, Wigan, and parts of Salford, Bury and Manchester.

- [Taxi EVI project](#) - First 10 Taxi EV sites (2 charging points each) were commissioned in late August, with several more to follow throughout September 2023. Detailed design for final Early Measures site due to be complete in September, for installation by the end of the year.
- Streets for All - Further review and re-drafting undertaken of Streets for All design guide.

#### 1.4 Sustainable Consumption and Production

- Scope 3 emissions - Work has now been commissioned to profile the Combined Authority's carbon footprint scope 3 emissions based on the Greenhouse Gas Protocol.
- R4GM Community Fund - Welcome event held at the Re-use hub on 27th September.
- Consumer behaviour insights - Phase 1 completed which provides baseline data on general attitudes, actions and motivations to climate change and levels of understanding of key sustainable terms such as carbon neutral/net zero/circular economy. A further consumer study has been commissioned to gain insights into residents' attitudes to food waste, plastic waste and packaging and general sustainability challenges both inside and outside the home.
- Single-Use Plastics – A programme of internal communications is in development to raise awareness the Plastic Pact commitments including the action's employees can take at home and at work. Several new pages have already been created on the [GMGreenCity website](#) for signposting.
- Waste strategy – New sub-group of the Waste and Resources Strategic Officer's Group has been formed to look at the possibility of producing an Interim Waste Strategy.
- Bee Net Zero (BNZ) - 'Rooftop Revolution' business campaign launched to increase installation of rooftop solar PV. Project commenced with Trafford Council, Green Economy, Business Growth Hub, MIDAS, and Energy Innovation Agency to encourage the circa 1,200 companies in Trafford Park to decarbonise. Engagement with 8 out of 10 Districts on future Bee Net Zero collaboration and preliminary stakeholder mapping complete.

## 1.5 Natural Environment

- Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) – Greater Manchester State of Nature review completed. Vision and aims for the LNRS strategy have been drafted. Stakeholder engagement and communications plan agreed with specific plans being developed for high priority stakeholders e.g., farmers and land managers. Governance arrangements agreed (except for the Planning and Housing Commission).
- ELMS Test and Trial Pilots - Final project report submitted to Defra.
- Natural Course Phase 3 – Draft final report of study of micro plastic contamination of Greater Manchester rivers produced. Consultants commissioned to identify green infrastructure locations to improve contamination from road runoff; and to produce a resource for planners to deliver Water Framework Directive and River Basin Management Plan objectives. Surveys of invasive non-native species within the River Tame catchment and otter presence in tributaries of the River Mersey in South Manchester completed.
- Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) – Nationally, mandatory BNG has been delayed by the government until January 2024, with regulations and guidance to be published in November. Preparation for off-site BNG on local authority land has continued with several sites surveyed.
- Green Spaces Fund - [Round 3 grants](#) announced with over £400,000 awarded to 16 community-led projects. So far, over £1.5 million has been allocated to 68 community-led green projects. Round 4 applications closed in September 2023.
- Greengage commissioned to carry out review of Timperley Wedge allocation within Growth Location.
- Nature for Health – Terms of reference agreed, and communication plan and vision/key messages updated.

## 1.6 Communications

- [Green Summit 2023](#) – Event held on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023 with over 1000 delegates in attendance including circa 100 young people from schools and further education colleges and over 2,000 online viewers. There were 73 exhibitors and over 80 speakers across 21 sessions. Circa 1000 individual mentions of the

#GMGreenSummit hashtag on Twitter, circa 2500 interactions with content on the website and a social media reach of over 600,000 on the day, with over 200 individual accounts contributing to the conversation. Total social media reach of the campaign over 2 million unique users across Twitter and LinkedIn. 630% increase in Green City website traffic over the 8-week event lead-up / post event period.

### 1.7 **Greater Manchester 5 Year Environment Plan 2024 onwards**

- Initial engagement has begun with Challenge Groups. Arup have been appointed to complete the Emissions Pathway Analysis Tool. Work is ongoing to develop sector targets and metrics.

## 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 – Detailed project design to be in contract and progressing for 5 Heat Networks.
- Local Area Energy Plans (LAEPs) – Strategic Outline Business Case from GMCA phase 1 to be approved by Combined Authority.
- Go Neutral – Complete site surveys and reports for Wave 2 consultancy support. Commence procurement activity for Salford sites and commission remaining work for Stockport and Rochdale portfolios.
- Smart Energy – Launch Powering Greater Manchester (including solar schools) campaign. Develop and deliver communications plan. Scope and commission professional services to support campaign delivery.
- Energy Innovation Agency (EIA) – Develop end user pool and select projects through the Future Homes Project.
- Trafford Energy Park - Continue negotiations on Low Carbon Hydrogen with DESNZ.

## 2.2 Buildings

- Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) – Wave 1 lodgements to be completed, grant paid out to partners, press release issued, and lessons learnt captured and reported on. Wave 2 first installations and majority of retrofit assessments to be completed. Progress with design and tenant engagement milestones.
- Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) – Continue work on the match funded component of the PSDS 3a single year programme and the 3a multi-year programme. 3b PSDS programme to move into design/construction phase. Submit PSDS 3c application and commence scoping of the portfolio building energy decarbonisation plans.
- Retrofit GM (Your Home Better) – Revise approach to marketing and adjust service offer based on research findings from Salford.
- ECO4 Flex scheme – Communications toolkit to be provided to all 10 Districts. 150 properties to receive whole house measures. NHS Project Manager to be in post to assist in working with GP surgeries. Embed ECO4 within the LEAD project.
- Net zero new development - Continued development of net zero homes pipeline.
- Good Landlord Scheme – Establish peer support for the 3 selected local authorities to consider the case for new discretionary licensing scheme.

## 2.3 Transport

- Active Bee Network – Complete additional 7 schemes on site to deliver an additional 13.1km of Bee Active Network. Commence Bolton Town Centre phase 1 and Radcliffe Centre schemes.
- Bike Hire Scheme – Progress recovery plan to control antisocial behaviour to increase number of bikes and bring stands back live.
- E-scooters – Develop evidence base to inform locations of cycle hire and e-scooters in Salford. This evidence base will go on to inform future plans for cycle hire locations to be reviewed in Spring next year.
- Bus franchising – Bus Fare Evaluation Summary report (wave 2) to be published online in Quarter 3. Proposals to be developed for the deployment of the remaining City Region Sustainable Transport Settlements (CRSTS) Zero Emissions Buses funding for Tranche 3. Tranche 2 will see a further 50 buses deployed in March 2024.

- Streets for All - Finalise design guide and governance arrangements for approval by Bee Network Committee on 23<sup>rd</sup> November. Deliver learning workshops with district officers and members and publish guide.
- Clean Air Plan – Continue to prepare additional evidence as requested by Government including detailed modelling in support of Greater Manchester’s case for an investment-led, non-charging Clean Air Plan.
- Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure (EVCI) – Taxi EVI project and Early Measures projects due to be substantially complete. Districts to lead further installation of charging points using Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) and CRSTS funding pots.
- Freight Strategy – Incorporate freight strategy principals into Local Transport Plan (LTP) refresh.

## 2.4 Sustainable Consumption and Production

- Scope 3 emissions - Complete analysis and begin detailed profiling of the Authority’s spend and investments over the last four years.
- Reducing waste - Launch of R4GM textile campaign to reduce the amount of damaged clothing being disposed of in the general waste bin. Next phase of the R4GM In The Loop campaign to commence in national Recycle Week 16th to 22nd October. R4GM Household Waste Recycling Centre recycling campaign to commence aimed at better segregation, recycling, and reuse. Trial of renew pop-up shop at Cobden Street HWRC to reach more residents.
- Consumer behaviour insights - Complete consumer sustainability survey in November, with findings due to be available by early January.
- Single-Use Plastics – Launch staff communications to raise awareness of commitments under the Plastic Pact. Continue to explore potential refill/re-use pilots in Greater Manchester.
- Good Food Local – First working group meeting to be held on benchmarking local government action on food.
- Bee Net Zero (BNZ) - Launch EV campaign, hold landlord event with pro-Manchester, CBRE and Bruntwood. Progress Trafford Park project and build on improvements to the BNZ website.

## 2.5 **Natural Environment**

- Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) – Agree vision, aims, priorities and measures. Publish State of Nature and continue to develop habitat and core maps.
- ELMS Test and Trial Pilots – Share findings of pilot.
- Natural Course Phase 3 – Conclude study of microplastic contamination of Greater Manchester rivers and disseminate findings. Toolkit to identify green infrastructure locations to improve contamination from road runoff finalised. Resource for planners to deliver Water Framework Directive and River Basin Management Plan objectives produced. Final report on River Tame invasive non-native species and otter presence in South Manchester produced.
- Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) – Legal/contractual arrangements in Oldham to be agreed and rollout to other Districts to commence.
- Award Green Spaces Fund round 4 grants and continue to support delivery of projects.
- Report due on review of Timperley Wedge allocation. Disseminate findings and learning to other Growth Locations

## 2.6 **Communications**

- Northwest Net Zero Youth Conference to take place on Saturday 25th November 2023 at Salford University led by Youth Focus North West.
- Continue to support development and roll out of the LNRS including public consultation planning for Quarter 4.
- Continue LEAD campaign including agency procurement and interim toolkit rollout.
- SHDF wave 1 and Green Summit 2023 communications follow-up.
- Launch Powering Greater Manchester (including solar schools) campaign including publishing of Powering Our Schools solar PV webpages and calculator.

## 2.7 **Greater Manchester 5 Year Environment Plan 2024 onwards**

- Kick off meeting and Emissions Pathway Analysis Tool to commence. Engagement will continue with the Challenge Groups with first draft plan to be completed by November 2023.

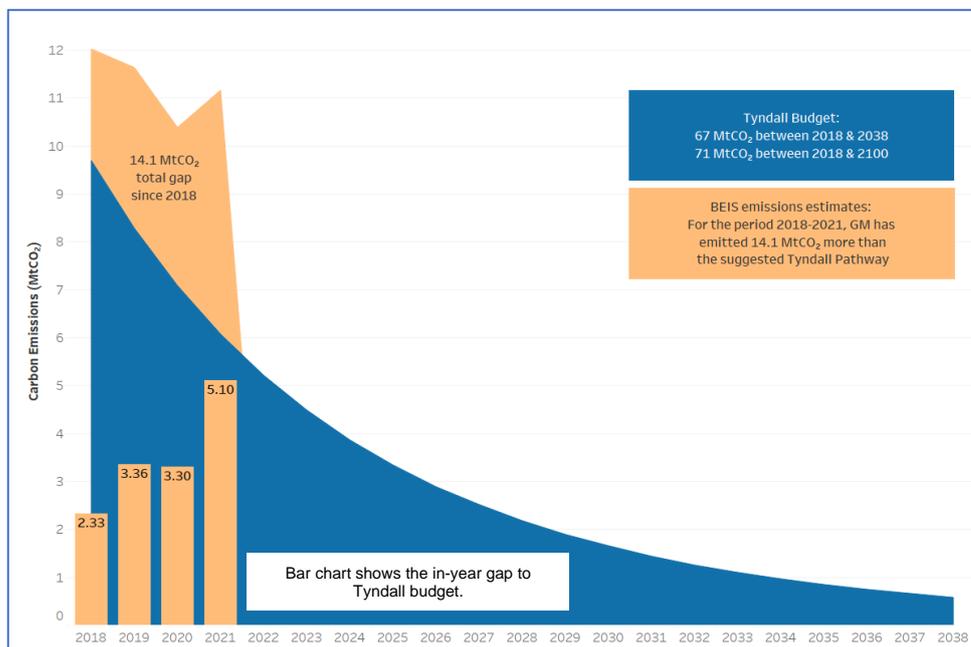
### 3. IDENTIFIED RISKS AND EMERGING ISSUES

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 (67MtCO<sub>2</sub>). From 2018 to 2021, GM’s emissions are 14.1MtCO<sub>2</sub> above the Tyndall budget, i.e. an additional 14.1MtCO<sub>2</sub> savings need to be made on top of the Tyndall budget. This gap has been increasing year on year, with new annual emissions data showing a rebound in emissions in 2021 as we emerged from the pandemic. The key point is that significant cuts must happen now. At our current rate of emissions, we will have exhausted our carbon budget within the next few years.



- **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.
- **Failure to enhance our water bodies against level of ambition.** The GMCA, Environment Agency and United Utilities (through their Tripartite Agreement) have published an Integrated Water Management Plan to draw together a collective vision, objectives, and actions, and identify accountability and resources for delivery. The plan will deliver progressive improvements in sustainable water management, enhancement of the natural environment, accelerate natural flood management interventions and reduce the operation of storm overflows.

**Previous areas flagged as “red”.**

- **Failure to meet ambitious recycling and waste diversion targets.** Verified figures for 2021/22 show an increase in the recycling rate from 48.4% in 2020/21

to 51.1% in 2021/22 for Greater Manchester. The increase is down to improved recycling facilities across the network of 20 household waste recycling centres operated by SUEZ recycling and recovery UK. This includes new containers for mattresses, carpets, and hard plastics as well as containers where household items can be donated for reuse. Diversion from landfill remains at over 98%. Measures continue to be implemented to increase recycling rates at HWRCs and household kerbside recycling to deliver against 2024 target (55%). This item is now flagged as “amber”.

## **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)