

Waste and Recycling Committee

Date: 17 January 2024

Subject: Sustainable Consumption and Production Update

Report of: Sarah Mellor, Head of Sustainable Consumption and Production

Purpose of Report

The purpose of the report is to update Committee Members on the progress of a number of key projects within the Greater Manchester Sustainable Consumption and Production Action (SCP) Plan and update the Committee on the development of the 5 year Environment Plan.

Recommendations:

The Committee is requested to:

- Note the progress of the key areas of activity 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 Appendices :

Appendix A – List of Foundational Economy Innovation Fund Projects

Appendix B – 5YEP 24-29 Progress of the Plan Presentation

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

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 is now being finalised for publication and 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 priority, Moving to a Circular Economy.

2. Key Activities

2.1 Moving to a Circular Economy

1 Scope 3 Emissions, Spend and Investment Analysis and Toolkit

Work has commenced to undertake a scope 3 emissions analysis which includes the emissions of the waste contract. All data has been submitted to the consultant for them to analyse and provide the initial findings in the New Year. Included in these findings will be an in-depth breakdown of emissions from spending and investment. Following on from those findings, an action plan and toolkit will be provided on how to reduce the Authority's emissions.

2 Single Use Plastic Pact

Actions continue to be delivered through the Single-use Plastic Working Group to the end of 2024 include:

- **Refill Greater Manchester** – As a Refill Destination, GMCA has access to the City to Sea public sector hub, which includes:
 - quarterly reporting and data insights to measure the growth of Refill and Reuse in Greater Manchester; and
 - marketing & communications support.

A communications plan is being developed to support the expansion of Refill across Greater Manchester, helping people find places to shop, eat and drink without the pointless plastic. Key objectives are:

1. Raise awareness and increase downloads and usage of the Refill app in Greater Manchester; and
2. Increase accessibility of refill-and-reuse options by growing the number of new refill stations in the city-region.

Communications will commence in January 2024 and continue to be delivered in the run up to World Refill Day on 16th June 2024. A new page has also been created on the GM Green City website for [Refill Greater Manchester](#). A further update will be given at the meeting.

- **School's Eco Refill Pilot** – Work is currently underway with Pupil's Profit to deliver an Eco Refill Pilot in Greater Manchester. The project aims to reduce single-use plastics by driving awareness and increasing refill and reuse in the community, whilst giving young people the skills and tools to play a part in tackling climate change. Funding has been allocated to several schools to support the running of a monthly eco-refill shop in each school.

Outline Programme:

- **Winter Term:** Enterprise Training completed, and Refill Products received. Launch when ready:
 - **Summer Term:** ECO Refill Shops trade once a month, or more frequently; and
 - **Autumn Term:** Teams hand on to new cohorts as needed in the new school year, and continue to trade once a month, or more frequently.
- **Single-use plastic e-learning module** – Building on the successful climate change employee e-learning module, two new modules will be launched in February 2024:
 1. Single-use plastics; and
 2. GMCA Sustainability Strategy.

3 The Foundational Economy Innovation Fund

Working with the Economy Team grants of up to £10,000 have been awarded to several organisations working in or with Greater Manchester's 'everyday economy' to trial new ideas that support local, sustainable, and circular supply chains. Projects include:

- **Green Street Pioneers:** Feasibility study for a reusable food and drink container scheme which includes perks for independent cafes and takeaways;
- **Veg Box People:** Platform development to optimise stock deliveries via shared transportation between small scale local food producers to retail and hospitality venues to reduce carbon emissions; and
- **Brighter Beginnings Day Nursery:** Developing affordable, eco-friendly play resources from recycled materials for early years settings.

A full list of projects is available at Appendix A. Delivery of the second phase of funding from February 2024 will see selected projects receive an additional £60,000 to progress their ideas further.

2.2 Managing Waste Sustainably: Interim Waste Strategy

Work is on-going to consider the further guidance provided by Defra on England's Waste Strategy and whether an interim strategy is required. A meeting with the Strategic Officers' Group was held on 19 December and an update will be provided at the meeting.

2.3 5 Year Environment Plan (5YEP)

With the current 5YEP concluding in 2024, work has commenced to start developing the new 5YEP. To develop the plan there are a number of work strands:

- Developing a carbon pathway;
- Survey to Districts on their plans for the next 5 years; and
- Initial framework and themes, with associated actions has been developed.

A presentation (Appendix B) regarding the progress of the plan will be presented at the meeting.

3. Recommendation

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