



## Greater Manchester Green City Region Partnership

Date: **26<sup>th</sup> January 2024**  
Subject: **Q3 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 third quarter of 2023/24 (Oct – Dec 2023) and key milestones for the fourth quarter (Jan – Mar 2024).

### **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

- The 5-Year Environment Plan target of increasing renewable energy generation by 45 MW before 2024 has been surpassed ahead of schedule. Energy generation will continue to grow as Rochdale's Chamber House Solar Farm is connected.
- DEEP Phase 3 (Heat and Energy Network Opportunity Areas) – AECOM seconded to support the Combined Authority and Districts to progress the five heat network projects through to procurement. All five remain on course with at least four featuring in the national HEAT Network Advanced Zoning Programme.
- Local Area Energy Plans (LAEPs) – KPMG appointed as finance advisors for the next stage, Outline Business Cases (OBC). Service agreement has been signed with UK Infrastructure Bank to support the first OBC focused on Heat Networks.
- Local Energy Advice Demonstrator (LEAD) – LEAD campaign approach developed with agency and social media toolkit launched.
- Go Neutral Smart Energy – Wave 2 consultancy support underway with site surveys and reports completed for Salford, Bury and Oldham. Scoping of procurement strategy and documents for Salford and Bury and second tranche of remaining pipeline development support for Stockport and Rochdale portfolios has commenced.
- Smart Energy – Powering Our Schools campaign and dedicated [webpage](#) with resources and calculator launched at the Green Summit in October 2023. Engagement and training process has commenced with schools and the tender exercise for roof survey work is now complete.
- Energy Innovation Agency (EIA) – Future Homes Project pipeline is progressing. End user pool has been developed with innovator meetings adjusted to include new end users with good interest. Successful engagement with Ministerial visit to promote the agency.

- Trafford Energy Park - Trafford Green Hydrogen selected as one of the 11 successful projects in Round One of the UK Government's Hydrogen Allocation Round (HAR1). This is a major milestone for the project.
- Bee Net Zero (BNZ) - 'Rooftop Revolution' business campaign is continuing (c.85k social media impressions to date) with the communications group expanded to include Local Authority representatives. Plans being developed for employee engagement campaign and launch of the 'Bee Net Zero Commitment' pledge. Commercial Occupier Retrofit Guide launched with CBRE UK to help Greater Manchester businesses in landlord-owned buildings reduce their carbon emissions.

## 1.2 Buildings

- Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) – SHDF Wave 1 lodgements completed for approximately 820 properties, grant payments to partners underway. SHDF Wave 2 – 200 installations and the majority of retrofit assessments are now complete, with design, co-ordination and tenant engagement milestones progressing. In total over [1,000 homes have received energy upgrades](#) across Greater Manchester with over 6,300 social homes receiving energy efficiency improvements.
- Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) – PSDS 1 supporting partners in measurement and verification data flows for Salix annual reporting and follow-on technical audit evidence. PSDS 3a single-year delivery programme is on track with majority of buildings due to practical completion by March 2024 (Trafford and Manchester due August 2024.) PSDS 3a multi-year programme in delivery with construction on site. PSDS 3b programme in delivery with partners moving from procurement and design stage into construction. (Manchester NHS Foundation Trust and Salford have dropped out of the programme.) PSDS 3c Greater Manchester Combined Authority led consortium grant application submitted 7th November 2023 circa £9.5M.
- Retrofit GM (Your Home Better) – Focus is on developing the fabric efficiency supply chain for Your Home Better which has led to a reduction in outstanding quotes and number of complaints. Actual deployment levels of retrofit measures have been low.
- ECO4 flex scheme (support for fuel poor/low-income households with home energy efficient upgrades) – Communications package provided to all 10 Districts

for implementation. [NHS referrals guide](#) launched including introduction videos for NHS and general resident audience. ECO4 now embedded within the LEAD project.

- Net zero new development – Continued development of net zero homes pipeline.
- Good Landlord Charter – Public consultation released (closing date 26th February 2024.) The criteria is designed to help deliver on the key characteristics of good renting and includes properties meeting EPC C as a minimum standard.

### 1.3 Transport

- Active Bee Network – A further 3km of 'Bee Active' Network was completed in quarter three bringing the total to 99.5km (as of 15<sup>th</sup> October 2023). Network mapping of Bee Network schemes outside of the Mayors Challenge Fund and Active Travel Fund programmes concluded.
- Bike Hire Scheme – The Cycle Hire Recovery Plan remains in place with 650 bikes available in December 2023.
- Salford e-scooter trial – There have been over 900,000 trips conducted by Lime e-scooters in Salford since start of the trial, estimated to have replaced around 230,000 car trips. The scheme is continuing to grow in terms of new users.
- Bus Franchising - Mobilisation of tranche 2 is on track for 24th March 2024 for large, small, and school franchises with lessons learnt from tranche 1 embedded into delivery plans. City Region Sustainable Transport Settlements (CRSTS) Zero Emission Buses – 13.1% of franchised buses in tranche 1 are now zero emission (50 out of a total of 391) – exceeding target of 10%.
- Streets for All - Streets for All design guide adopted by the Greater Manchester Combined Authority at the Bee Network Committee on 23rd November 2023.
- [Taxi EVI project](#) - 42 Taxi EV charging points have been delivered out of 60 in total.
- Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Delivery – Submission made to Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) funding in November 2023 to support Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure delivery.
- Freight Strategy – Freight strategy principals incorporated into Local Transport Plan (LTP) refresh.
- Clean Air Plan – Evidence prepared for the Government that the proposed Greater Manchester investment-led plan can achieve compliance in 2025 through targeting

investment in zero emission buses and taxis as well as local traffic management measures in the regional centre, faster than a benchmarked Clean Air Zone. To be considered by the Air Quality Administration Committee on 20<sup>th</sup> December 2023.

#### 1.4 Sustainable Consumption and Production

- Scope 3 emissions - Work is progressing on profiling the Combined Authority's carbon footprint scope 3 emissions which includes the emissions of the waste contract and an in-depth breakdown of emissions from spending and investment. All data has been submitted for analysis with initial findings due end of January 2024.
- Consumer behaviour insights – Results from the consumer study to gain insights into residents' attitudes to food waste, plastic waste and packaging and general sustainability challenges are currently being analysed. A second phase will commence in April 2024.
- School's Eco Refill Pilot – Pilot underway with ethical enterprise specialists Pupils Profit to launch eco refill shops within 10 Greater Manchester Schools. The pilot aims to reduce single-use plastics by driving awareness and increasing refill and reuse in the community.
- Refill (City to Sea) – A programme of communications will commence in January 2024 to promote Greater Manchester as a [Refill Destination](#).
- 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. Scenario modelling is currently taking place.
- [Foundational Economy Innovation Fund](#) – Through 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. Delivery of the second phase of funding from February 2024 will see selected projects receive an additional £60,000.
- Food waste prevention – A feasibility study is being commissioned to identify surplus food in Greater Manchester and opportunities available for redistribution.
- Recycle for Greater Manchester (R4GM) - [Let's Waste Less This Christmas](#) campaign delivered in December 2023 including advertising on Hits Radio, tram network and in local newspapers. New [Renew online shop](#) launched for cheaper electricals, white goods, bikes and toys.

## 1.5 Natural Environment

- Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) – High-level vision and aims broadly agreed and circulated to the steering group, officer groups and tested with other stakeholders. Deep dive workshops on opportunities, priorities and measures undertaken. Habitat and core maps due to be completed in January 2024 with research in progress with Wildlife Trusts to develop the best methodological approach to opportunity mapping. Wider engagement and communications progressing through initiatives including our [local nature champions](#), newsletters, [blogs](#), presentation to developers and planned workshops with farmers/landowners. State of nature research completed with headline infographics due to be published in February 2024.
- Natural Course Phase 3 – Final comments on study of micro plastic contamination of Greater Manchester rivers provided to consultants. Toolkit finalised to identify green infrastructure locations to improve contamination from road runoff. Community Forest Trust ground-truth findings complete including a short-list of locations in Greater Manchester. Co-design workshops held with Greater Manchester planners to scope resource to increase delivery of Water Framework Directive objectives across the Northwest River Basin District with programme of dissemination events planned for February 2024.
- Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) – National regulations published in November (mandatory date for BNG is not confirmed.) Preparation for off-site BNG on local authority land has continued. Walkden sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) neighbourhood progressing through detailed designs with funding secured from the Environment Agency and Green Spaces Fund to cover increased costs.
- Greater Manchester Environment Fund - Green Spaces [round four grants](#) made in December 2024 with £405,463 awarded to 18 community-led projects. A total of 86 different projects across the city-region have now received funding. Investing in Greater Manchester's Natural Environment event held on 30th November 2023.
- Growth Locations - Project to embed Local Nature Recovery Strategy and Natural Capital principles in Growth Location development and design (using Timperley Wedge as an example) ongoing with Greengage. Draft report out for review, with the project to conclude in February.

- Nature for Health – National Green Social Prescribing (GSP) evaluation report drafted. Interventions continue to grow across GM in absence of the national programme. Work completed in December 2024 with Defra on GSP successor programme with opportunity for Greater Manchester to submit a proposal for a years' worth of additional funding.

## 1.6 **Green Summit**

- [Green Summit 2023](#) – Post event communications complete including post-event round up and delegate survey. Planning underway for 2024 Green Summit.

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

- Work ongoing with ARUP on the emissions pathway. First drafts of the actions have been developed within GMCA and are now being shared for feedback with partners.
- District surveys have been submitted (all complete apart from 1 waste survey) and analysis underway.

## **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 – Revise programme to include financial models for each project.
- Local Area Energy Plans (LAEPs) – Department for Energy Security and Zero Net (DESNEZ) accelerator funding focus to be agreed and Memorandum of Understanding to be signed.
- Go Neutral – Commence procurement exercise for Salford and work towards internal capital approval for Bury by mid-March 2024. Complete remaining surveys and reports.

- Smart Energy – Complete roof surveys and confirm pipeline of schools. Scope collective purchase procurement exercise and procure professional services support.
- Energy Innovation Agency (EIA) – Focus on expanding and converting the new end user pool into commercial delivery.
- Trafford Energy Park - Commence work towards final investment decision for the scheme.
- Bee Net Zero (BNZ) – Finalise workplan for the next 12-18 months. Launch Bee Net Zero Commitment and employee engagement campaign before Purdah. Participate in Pro-Manchester’s Green Transformation Conference. Engagement with Electric Vehicle (EV) roundtable shortlist to map out future infrastructure plans.

## 2.2 Buildings

- Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) – Wave 1 project closure with final administrative tasks completed, all grant payments made to partners, lessons learned logged and reported. Wave 2 continued progress with all milestones, financial year spend target achieved, and installations to commence.
- Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) – PSDS 1 remobilise Carbon architecture for reporting and conclude financial and technical audits. Continue support of PSDS 3a single-year delivery, setup measurement and verification infrastructure and conclude technical audit. Multi-year to conclude delivery of Rochdale Town Hall and continue support for Oldham. Continue support of PSDS 3b delivery.
- Retrofit GM (Your Home Better) – Focus on building the pipeline of work through increased marketing and linkages with LEAD to increase the number of retrofit assessments provided and to complete a higher volume of works.
- ECO4 Flex scheme – NHS Project Manager to be in post to assist in working with GP surgeries to promote the scheme.
- Net zero new development - Continued development of net zero homes pipeline.

## 2.3 Transport

- Active Bee Network – Five additional schemes due to complete in the period 15/10/2023 to 15/1/2024, delivering an additional 10.3km of Bee Active Network.
- E-scooters – Trial period extended to May 2026 with announcement and guidance expected in January 2024. TfGM and Salford are keen to expand the operational zone, but this requires Department for Transport approval.
- Bus franchising – Progress procurement for the large and tranche 3 small franchises with award of contracts in March 2024. City Region Sustainable Transport Settlements (CRSTS) Zero Emission Buses - 50 Zero Emission Buses to be deployed at Oldham depot for the start of tranche 2 operations in March 2024. Stockport depot planning application due spring 2024. Delay from previous quarter due to ongoing land assembly and statutory undertaker equipment challenges within the site boundary.
- Bus Fare Evaluation - Summary report (wave 2) to be published online.
- Streets for All – Deliver learning workshops with TfGM, District officers and members. Work to develop supplementary technical guidance underway. Greater Manchester SuDS design guide due to be published Spring 2024.
- Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure (EVCI) – Continue roll out of Taxi EVI project and ongoing engagement with the Office for Zero Emission Vehicles (OZEV), with ambition to receive Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) capital funds in March 2024.

## 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. Commence phase 2 development of action plan and toolkit to support reduction of scope 3 emissions.
- Consumer behaviour insights – Complete analysis of phase 1 study and prepare for phase 2.
- School's Eco Refill Pilot – Continue to support the 10 pilot schools with the launch of their eco refill shops and completion of initial enterprise training. Press release and communications to be circulated to participating Districts.
- Refill (City to Sea) – Launch programme of communications to promote Greater Manchester as a Refill Destination including social media campaign and development of toolkit/guide to support businesses to sign up as a refill station.

- Foundational Economy Innovation Fund – Support marking of Foundational Economy Innovation Fund phase 2 applications.
- Food waste prevention – Complete feasibility study to identify surplus food in Greater Manchester and opportunities available for redistribution.
- Climate Change e-learning module – Launch new modules on single-use plastics and GMCA Sustainability Strategy including communications support.
- Textiles – Secure funding to commence material flow mapping in Greater Manchester.
- Recycle for Greater Manchester (R4GM) – Supporting Buy Nothing New campaign by Keep Britain Tidy in January 2024. External survey to be launched in February 2024 to find out how people buy and dispose of vapes to inform communications. Report to be launched (29<sup>th</sup> February 2024) on research with Keep Britain Tidy, Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority, CIWM, and Suez to inform communications on waste hierarchy and encourage waste prevention. Support for GM Repair week (18-24<sup>th</sup> March 2024) in partnership with Re-London.

## 2.5 **Natural Environment**

- Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) – Begin work on opportunity mapping for nature recovery. Publish State of Nature infographic report. Agree priorities and measures for the strategy and shortlist priority species. Continue communication and commence wider engagement with key target sectors. Commence drafting of the strategy ahead of consultation in the summer.
- Natural Course Phase 3 – Produce final reports on study of micro plastic contamination, River Tame invasive non-native species, and Community Forest Trust ground-truthing and disseminate findings. Deliver green infrastructure intervention in the Cheadle area of Greater Manchester to provide multiple benefits for water. Produce Water Framework Directive resource for planners and dissemination event to be held February 2024. Natural Course end-of-project event to be held on 28th February 2024 with production of Natural Course After LIFE and Layman's reports by 31st March 2024 for project close.
- Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) – Continue to progress towards Local Authority owned sites being ready for offsite BNG. Complete detailed design work and preparations for delivery of IGNITION legacy Walkden scheme.

- Green Spaces Fund - Evaluation report of the impact of funding to date to be presented to Greater Manchester Combined Authority in March 2024.
- Growth Locations - Report due on review of Timperley Wedge allocation. Disseminate findings and learning to other Growth Locations
- Nature for Health – Submit Green Social Prescribing (GSP) funding proposal to successor programme (outcomes by mid-March 2024). Continue to seek further funding opportunities and engagement with sector to embed GSP into nature recover plans. Look to incorporate GSP into next year’s Integrated Care Board strategy and operational plans.

## 2.6 Green Summit

- Confirm venue and date for Green Summit 2024. Begin initial communications planning including engagement with the Communications Challenge Group.

## 2.7 Greater Manchester 5 Year Environment Plan 2024 onwards

- Workshops to be held with the Challenge Groups to review the vision of the plan, draft actions, and gain feedback on the actions their organisations will commit to.
- Elected members survey to be completed following Green City Region Board meeting (February 2024).

# 3. IDENTIFIED RISKS AND EMERGING ISSUES

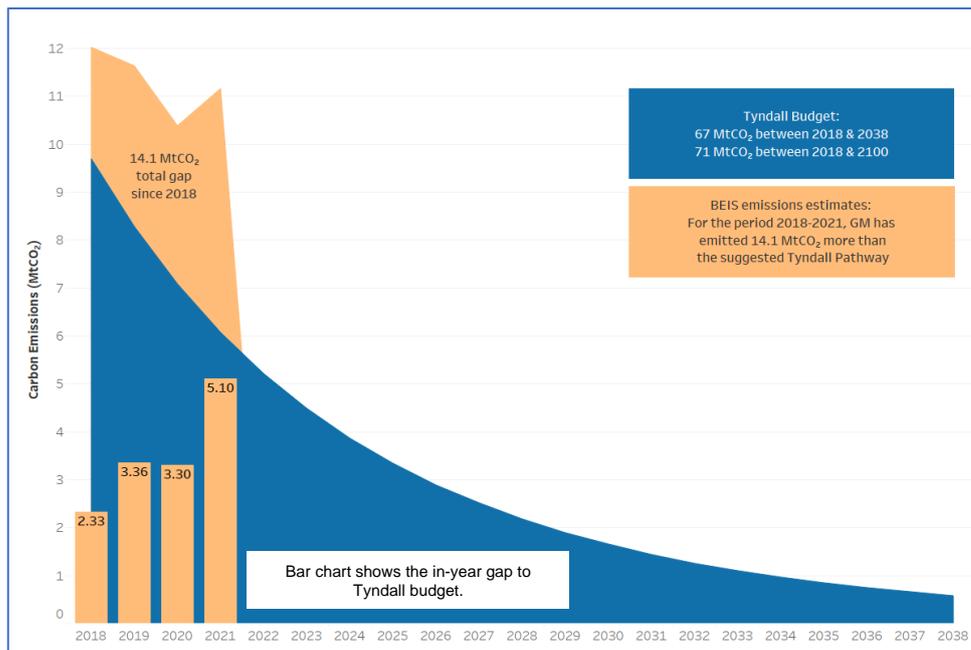
- 3.1 Officers and sub-groups have identified a number of risks to existing, and particularly future, programme delivery. Mitigation of these risks, as far as possible, will be managed by the responsible Accountable Body.

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)