



Greater Manchester Green City Region Partnership

Date: 25th January 2024

Subject: CHALLENGE GROUP UPDATES

Report of: Challenge Group Chairs/Vice Chairs

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 Groups.

The accompanying presentation provides an updated overview of the Challenge Group priorities and how these are being delivered through Task and Finish Groups.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Partnership is asked to:

- Note the progress in developing the Mission Based Approach and the associated Challenge Groups.
- Consider any specific issues raised by the challenge group chairs or vice chairs.

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1.0 INTRODUCTIONS

The purpose of the Challenge Groups are 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.

All challenge groups have given their initial feedback on the development of the next 5 Year Environment Plan, including the existing vision and the draft LA actions. This feedback is now being collated and will be brought to the next round of challenge groups for further discussion.

2.0 GREEN COMMS DELIVERY CHALLENGE GROUP

Topics discussed

Since the last partnership meeting the challenge group has continued its work on two main work streams:

- 1) Audience mapping – a GM mapping document has been produced to understand the reach of the reach of the challenge group and the different communication and engagement activities with different audiences.
- 2) Campaign sharing and amplification – a document has been developed to track all partners campaigns.
- 3) Retrofit Comms – members of the challenge group have worked with the GMCA on the development of the comms plan for the Local Energy Advice Demonstrator.

Challenges/opportunities raised

- Sharing partner's upcoming campaigns, events and good news stories to amplify reach.

Future priorities/work/topics

- Supporting 5YEP communications
- Continuing to utilise each other's channels and networks to amplify communications.
- Set up a task and finish group to develop a 'positive news stories pack' of successful projects across GM.
- Early engagement in the development of the next Green Summit
- Opportunity to look at influencing behaviours e.g. communicating the top 10 actions people can take.

3.0 LOW CARBON

Topics discussed

The last meeting of the challenge group focused on the Carbon and Climate actions in the 5YEP.

A presentation was given to the challenge group on the progress against the current 5YEP and the journey to 2038 set out in the Local Area Energy Plans. The group then took part in a feedback session giving comments on the current 5YEP vision, the challenge statements for each chapter of the next 5YEP and the actions outside of Local Authority control to include in the next 5YEP.

Challenges/opportunities raised

- Several challenge group members suggested that the current chapter structure needed to be rethought. The chapter 'Our Leisure' was challenging to apply to low carbon without overlap with other chapters.

- Key feedback on the actions included: the need to support different types of residents with retrofit i.e. owner occupier vs rented sector, accelerate commercial retrofit and work with specific industrial sectors on decarbonisation.
- Salford University also raised their recent submission of a UKRI bid for integrated green skills development.

Future priorities/work/topics

Retrofit and decarbonisation of heat were identified as the key areas of challenge to explore at future meetings.

4.0 NATURAL CAPITAL GROUP

Topics discussed

The Natural Capital Executive Group's recent meeting included presentations on

- Local Nature Recovery Strategy and the link to the 5YEP.
- Peatland Recovery.
- Natural Environment Engagement.

As with the other challenge groups the NCG also fed back on the vision and actions in the 5YEP.

Challenges/opportunities raised

- The need to ensure the LNRS and 5YEP are linked up and that the role of each is clearly defined.
- To ensure that natural environment, nature recovery and resilience is highlighted alongside carbon reduction in the next 5YEP.
- To ensure that environmental equality runs throughout the actions in the 5YEP.
- To continue to engage the group on the Peatland recover work being led by Natural England.

- To note that a Climate Adaptation Plan is being developed that this group will contribute too.

Future priorities/work/topics

- Continued engagement on the 5YEP.
- A Climate Adaptation Plan is being developed that this group will contribute towards.

5.0 SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

Topics discussed

At the last meeting, the Challenge Group had updates on the following items:

- Behaviours Insights from Public First. The results were shared from the initial focus groups and the plan for the poll was presented.
- Single Use Plastics Task and Finish Group with the Local Authorities.
- GM Fashion and Textiles from MMU.
- The 5YEP and had a chance to feedback on the waste and resources section.

Challenges/opportunities raised

A discussion was held on the new subgroups that are being set up with an ask made to members to consider which task and finish group they would like to join. The membership for the following groups is currently being determined and meetings will be held ahead of the next Challenge Group meeting,

- Plastics
- Food waste
- Behaviour Change

Future priorities/work/topics

The next meeting will pick up the next steps for the sub groups and the 5YEP.

6.0 FIVE YEAR ENVIRONMENT PLAN FORUM

Topics discussed

The last meeting of the Forum focused on the 5YEP and covered the carbon and climate and biodiversity/green and blue spaces actions.

Challenges/opportunities raised

- The need for an element on overall education on climate change being incorporated into communications strategies and stories.
- The group expressed an interest in the future use of the lobbying work previously discussed at the Forum.

Future priorities/work/topics

- Continued engagement on the 5YEP focusing on the waste and resources, air quality and climate adaptation sections of the plan.
- To bring back the lobbying work and discuss next steps.
- Greenwash free city initiatives.