



## Greater Manchester Green City Region Partnership

Date: 16 July 2024

Subject: Q1 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 first quarter of 2024/25 (Apr – Jun 2024) and key milestones for the second quarter (Jul – Sep 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 \(gmtableau\)](#).  
*These dashboards will be updated during Summer 2024. The versions presented here show progress up to and including March 2024.*

### 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 up to and including March 2024. During the last quarter there are a number of key successes to be highlighted, set out below:

## 1.1 Energy

- DEEP Phase 3 (Heat and Energy Network Opportunity Areas) – Oldham progressing with commercialisation phase with consultant support now in place. Bolton progressing procurement (planned for Q3). Trafford work on Detailed Project Designs and Green Heat Network Fund (GHNF) round 8 application ongoing. Bury is out to tender for a consultant to undertake a feasibility study. Engagement with five other districts is ongoing to support pipeline development activity.
- Local Area Energy Plans (LAEPs) – Department for Energy Security and Zero Net (DESNEZ) Grant Funding Agreement in progress. Programme Manager appointed (subject to references) with a notional start date of 22<sup>nd</sup> July.
- Local Energy Advice Demonstrator (LEAD) – Communications on [‘Feel the Benefit’](#) campaign ongoing.
- Go Neutral Smart Energy – Closed Buro Happold main commission surveying sites with an additional nine waste sites being surveyed. In total, 90 sites have been surveyed with 10 sites proceeding to procurement. A review of the surveys has been completed with identified issues informing future work.
- Smart Energy – Work underway to design the Accelerator Work Programme for Go Neutral to overcome deployment barriers for generation and storage. Owner's engineer consultant, Barker Associates, appointed to support the procurement of a preferred supplier for schools. 30 schools recruited to the Powering Our Schools with solar roof surveys completed.
- Energy innovation Agency (EIA) - Successful engagement event held at Circle Square. Work is continuing well with less Combined Authority input needed.
- Trafford Energy Park – Formal issue of Agreements expected in Quarter 2 (post-election). Funding bid submitted for Kraft Heinz in Wigan and an extension to the

Trafford project under the second allocation round. The Highview energy storage plant on the Trafford Low Carbon Energy Park has secured funding.

- Bee Net Zero (BNZ) – Workshop held in April with Carbon Literacy Project, Green Economy. Ailuna, Greenr, Mobility Ways, MMU, Litmus Sustainability, and MOSI to discuss employee engagement campaign development. Materials finalised for the BNZ Commitment. Four decarbonisation events held between May and June with University of Bolton, Green Economy, Pro-Manchester, and NatWest. Green Economy research completed with 50 companies to understand their decarbonisation plans and associated barriers. 25 businesses engaged on '[Bee Net Zero Trafford Park](#)' initiative. Consideration now being sought for wider projects including heat networks, hydrogen, mass adoption of solar PV, and how to work with Business Improvement Districts.

## 1.2 Buildings

- Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) – SHDF Wave 2.1 project partners (nine) on site with installations.
- Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) – PSDS 1 'Plan B' Measurement and Verification (M&V) approach completed and engagement for commercial considerations in progress. Final programme outstanding due to appointment delays. Salix audit completed, all risks have been responded to and concluded. PSDS 3a Single Year - Delivery of delayed completion programme ongoing (expected completion November 2024). PSDS 3a and 3b - 23/24 final year payment received. PSDS 3c - Application received outside of 'first past the post' time frame and therefore unsuccessful.
- Retrofit GM (Your Home Better) – Work continuing without GMCA resources. A single customer journey offer is being developed to cover both grant funding and willing to pay markets.
- ECO4 - NHS Project Manager at final stage of pre-advertisement authorisation (internal-only advertisement in NHS).
- Bee Net Zero (BNZ) – 25 businesses engaged on '[Bee Net Zero Trafford Park](#)' initiative. Consideration now being sought for wider projects including heat networks, hydrogen, mass adoption of solar PV, and how to work with Business Improvement Districts. Workshop held in April with Carbon Literacy Project, Green Economy. Ailuna, Greenr, Mobility Ways, MMU, Litmus Sustainability, and MOSI to discuss employee engagement campaign development. Materials finalised for the BNZ Commitment. Four decarbonisation events held between May and June

with University of Bolton, Green Economy, Pro-Manchester, and NatWest. Green Economy research completed with 50 companies to understand their decarbonisation plans and associated barriers.

- Good Landlord Charter – Responses to Good Landlord Charter public consultation analysed. Meetings held with Local Authority and regulatory partners to inform charter design.

### 1.3 Transport

- Active Bee Network – Nine schemes completed in the period 15th January 2024 to 15th April 2024 delivering a total of 5.8km of Bee Active Network, taking the total completed to 115.5km.
- Bike Hire Scheme – Availability averaging 1200 bikes whilst negotiations are made with Operator for Post Recovery Operating model. Suspended stations being re-opened.
- Public Transport and Active Travel Usage - Metrolink patronage up 21% on last year (5% above pre-pandemic levels). Rail patronage is up 19% on an equivalent period last year (7% below pre-pandemic levels) with industrial action now in its third calendar year. Total bus patronage data shows passenger journeys were up 5% on last year. Since its launch there have been more than 35 million journeys on Bee Network services.
- Salford E-scooter Trial – Trial continuing in Salford with TfGM supporting to understand how this could form part of the Bee Network upon conclusion in May 2026 (pending legislation). Average trips per day in June was 1266 (as of 18<sup>th</sup> June) with additional vehicles deployed in Salford to meet demand and expand the scheme to Eccles and Patricroft.
- Bus Franchising - Tranche 3 mobilisation underway with all four operators (Metroline, Stagecoach, Go North West and Diamond) on track. School procurement delayed due to withdrawal of Yellow School Bus Fleet. Contract award pushed back to September 2024.
- Bus Fare Evaluation – [Bus fare offers evaluation report](#) published.
- Zero Emission Bus Regional Areas (ZEBRA) scheme and City Region Sustainable Transport Settlements (CRSTS) – 94 CRSTS funded Zero Emission Buses ordered for delivery by end of 2024. 170 ZEBRA funded Zero Emission Buses ordered by Stagecoach includes c.30 at risk of delay (mitigation plans underway).

ZEBRA 2 bid was unsuccessful. Secured funding (CRSTS and ZEBRA 1) remains at c.600 Zero Emission Buses.

- Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Delivery and [Taxi EVI project](#) – Approaching conclusion of Taxi and Early Measures Programme. There are now 2027 publicly available charging points in Greater Manchester and 10,988 privately owned Electric Vehicles (as at Quarter 4, October - December 2024), a 57% growth since the same quarter in 2022.

#### 1.4 Sustainable Consumption and Production

- Scope 3 Emissions - Work continues to progress on profiling the Combined Authority's scope 3 carbon emissions. Phase 1 report is currently being revised and phase 2 development of action plan and toolkit is continuing.
- Consumer Behaviour Insights – Wave 10 (April 2024) sustainability survey completed. Segmentation based on environmental attitudes and behaviours has been revised from four to seven segments.
- Textiles Feasibility Study – Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU) has secured funding to run a textiles waste composition analysis. Pilot will analyse quality of textile waste deposited in Household Waste Recycling Centre textile banks and kerbside household residual waste in Greater Manchester.
- School's Eco Refill Pilot – Pilot to reduce single-use plastics and increase refill and reuse in the community is progressing. 9 out of 10 schools have launched and are continuing to run their eco-refill shops. A replacement high school in Stockport will commence the pilot in September 2024. Third [blog](#) published on the GM Green City website. [Climate Relay](#) took place on 14<sup>th</sup> June with eight Greater Manchester Schools participating, including two Eco-Refill pilot schools - St Mary's, Sale and St Margaret Mary's, Manchester.
- Refill (City to Sea) – Communications to promote Greater Manchester as a [Refill Destination](#) are continuing with the number of Refill stations in our city region increasing by over 10% (as at March 2024). World Refill Day communications campaign delivered including mini toolkit, social media takeover and blog - [Refilling our way to a Greener Greater Manchester - GM Green City](#).
- Spend Analysis Public Estate – Follow-on analysis underway to review catering consumables and disposables purchased for use across the public sector estate (baseline from 2021).

- Food Waste Prevention – Food Waste report and infographic completed to identify policies and actions to reduce household food waste and redistribution of surplus food in Greater Manchester. The first meeting of the Food Security Action Network (FSAN) Sustainability Sub-Group took place in May 2024 with recommend actions to support the ‘Right to Grow’ initiative to allow access to public land for community growing projects.
- Climate Change E-learning Module – Draft module on single-use plastics and plastic waste complete.
- Recycle for Greater Manchester (R4GM) – Applications to the [Community Fund](#) closed on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024. Work underway with Manchester City Council on 'Give It Don't Bin It' student campaign. Content to be shared with other Local Authorities who have a transient student population.

## 1.5 Natural Environment

- Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) – Draft Opportunity Maps completed, and engagement commenced with Local Authorities and partners. Feedback received on the priorities and quantitative targets for LNRS and measures (practical actions) for the strategy drafted. Continued delivery of communications including social media content, [blogs](#) and newsletters.
- Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) – Supporting Greater Manchester Ecological Unit (GMEU) in the development of a third-party habitat bank regulation service including production of a habitat banking strategy, criteria, and template S106. A Responsible Body application is in progress to enable conservation covenants to be entered into with Local Authorities.
- Greater Manchester Environment Fund - Round 5 of the [Green Spaces Fund](#) opened for applications (deadline Friday 26th July 2024).
- Nature for Health – Application to Green Social Prescribing (GSP) extension was successful and Greater Manchester is now in receipt of £354,0000 to deliver the programme. Local delivery partners commissioned to lead the programme in Bury, Stockport, Salford, Oldham, Manchester, and Rochdale.

## 1.6 **Green Summit**

- Green Summit – Date agreed for the event on 9th December 2024 at The Lowry, Salford Quays. Communications to commence after 8th July (post general election). Planning in progress.

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

- Analysis of Local Authority and elected member surveys completed with outcomes informing the draft 5-Year Environment Plan actions. Engagement Plan developed to connect with Greater Manchester residents, businesses and key stakeholders on the proposed themes, priorities, and actions of the Plan. Focus Group planning in progress.

## **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 – Progress work on Bolton, Oldham, Stockport, Trafford, Rochdale and Bury schemes. Other Local Authorities to consider applying for GHNF funding. GMCA to support activity via DESNZ Accelerator.
- Local Area Energy Plans (LAEPs) – Onboard new programme Manager. Consider implications of any new policy announcements.
- Go Neutral – Assessment of land and building assets for generation potential, procurement of key commissions, and overhaul of Go Neutral pipeline.
- Smart Energy – Complete Powering Our Schools Phase 1 procurement appointment with new Owner's Engineer, Barker Associates.
- Energy Innovation Agency (EIA) – Continued focus on expanding and converting end user pool into commercial delivery.
- Trafford Energy Park – Sign Agreements for Trafford Hydrogen Project. Await outcome of funding applications.

- Bee Net Zero (BNZ) – Finalise Terms of Reference with board members and disseminate Green Economy’s research findings. Draft tender for external commissioning of employee engagement campaign. Launch BNZ commitment and roadshow with at least five Local Authorities (Trafford, Salford, Stockport, Wigan, and Rochdale). Hold event with Pro-Manchester and the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW) on the role of accountants in business decarbonisation.

## 2.2 Buildings

- Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) – Progress wave 2.1 with all Registered Providers of social housing (17) to be on site with installations.
- Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) – Resolution of PSDS 1 Measurement and Verification commercial discussions. Coordinate 'Plan B' approach with Partners and Salix to enable Measurement and Verification to commence. On going support of programme completion for PSDS 3a Single Year, PSDS 3a Multi Year and PSDS 3b.
- Retrofit GM (Your Home Better) – Mobilise new single retrofit portal offer and onboard suppliers via the retrofit framework.
- ECO4 Flex scheme – NHS Project Manager to be in post. Targeted engagement of schools to commence. All three installers to be on track to meet signed declaration targets.
- Good Landlord Charter – Report on the final Good Landlord Charter design scheduled for the Combined Authority on 12<sup>th</sup> July. Commence procurement of independent implementation unit. Trainees to complete Good Landlord Scheme Trainee Programme apprenticeships.
- Net Zero New Development - Continued development of net zero homes pipeline.

## 2.3 Transport

- Active Bee Network – Three additional schemes are forecast to complete in the period 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024 to 15<sup>th</sup> July 2024, delivering an additional 3.8km of Bee Active Network.
- Salford E-scooter Trial – Deploy additional vehicles in Salford and expand the scheme area to Eccles and Patricroft.



- Bus Franchising – Continue Tranche 3 mobilisation and electrification of five depots - Bolton (Phase 2), Middleton and Queens Road, and Ashton and Hyde Road. New vehicles to be delivered.
- City Region Sustainable Transport Settlements (CRSTS) Zero Emission Buses (ZEBs) – Develop Fleet and Depot Strategy including definition of 2030 requirement (i.e. assumed number of buses), assessment of suitability of existing depot estate, soft market engagement, development of formal market engagement plan and Outline Programme Case for electrification including high level financial assessment. Orders to be placed for further Zero Emission Buses to meet Clean Air Plan (CAP) compliance. Progress Central Park Strategic Outline Business Case to inform development (planning application currently deferred, expected completion December 2024).
- Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Delivery and [Taxi EVI project](#) – Continued mobilisation of Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI). Finalisation and evaluation of Early Measures and Taxi Programmes. Commence EV Taxi survey to understand awareness, barriers, and use of dedicated chargers. Continue EV work programme to increase charging options. Mobilisation of programme with Office for Zero Emissions Vehicles (OZEV) and Energy Saving Trust.

## 2.4 Sustainable Consumption and Production

- Scope 3 Emissions - Complete revised report and development of action plan and toolkit to support reduction of scope 3 emissions.
- Consumer Behaviour Insights – Analysis and dissemination of Wave 10 study (April 2024).
- Textiles Feasibility Study – Commence textiles waste composition analysis pilot with MMU.
- School's Eco Refill Pilot – Continue to support pilot schools with the running of their eco refill shops, data collection and communications. On board Stockport High School for September start.
- Refill (City to Sea) – Continue to roll-out programme of communications including case study development, Plastic Free July campaign and support for returnable cup scheme pilot at University of Manchester.
- Spend Analysis Public Estate – Complete follow-on analysis for catering consumables and disposables purchased for use across the public sector estate.

- Foundational Economy Innovation Fund – Announcement of successful phase 2 applications (post general election).
- Food Waste Prevention – Complete proposal on rationale for an update of the ESTA report commissioned by Greater Manchester LEP in 2014 on ‘Understanding and Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Food Consumption and Production’.
- Climate Change E-learning Module – Finalise and launch new module on single-use plastics and reducing plastic waste.
- Community Hive Project – Progress initiative to support residents across Greater Manchester to make more sustainable lifestyle choices including research and development of a dynamic purchasing service.
- Small Grants for Schools – Progress proposal to launch sustainability grants scheme for schools in Greater Manchester.
- Recycle for Greater Manchester (R4GM) – ‘Cotton on to Textile Recycling’ campaign to launch to educate residents on the correct disposal of damaged textiles.

## 2.5 **Natural Environment**

- Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) – Continue to progress draft of LNRS strategy, engagement, and communications including development of public consultation materials and approach for November activity.
- Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) – Launch GMEU habitat banking regulation service and submit Defra Responsible Body application. Continue to progress towards Local Authority owned sites being ready for offsite BNG. Oldham to procure their pilot habitat banking commission and share tender documents and learning with other Local Authorities.
- Green Spaces Fund - Continued support and delivery of projects.
- Nature for Health – Complete set up of Green Social Prescribing (GSP) extension programme ensuring all partners are in delivery. Align NHS Greater Manchester Live Well funding plans with GM Environment Fund (as both initiatives seek to achieve similar outcomes). Engage with NHS Greater Manchester system leaders and wider stakeholders to establish deeper connections and create opportunities to capitalise on the programme and longer-term impact.

## 2.6 Green Summit

- Progress event planning, launch sponsorship programme and communications for Green Summit 2024.

## 2.7 Greater Manchester 5 Year Environment Plan 2024 onwards

- Continued development of draft plan and actions. Commence focus group engagement with Greater Manchester residents and businesses.

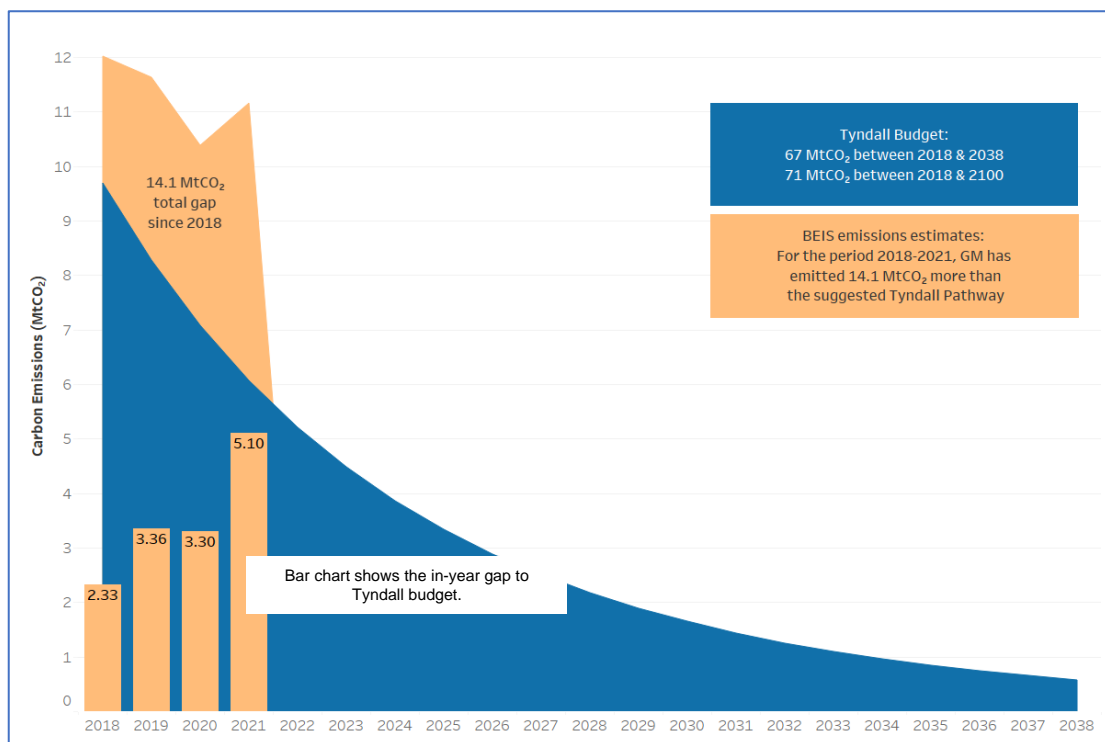
# 3. IDENTIFIED RISKS AND EMERGING ISSUES

- 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 2022/2203 show a slight decrease in the recycling rate for Greater Manchester to 50.4% from 51.1% in 2021/22, compared to 48.4% in 2020/21. The previous increase in recycling rates in 2021/22 was due 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%).

## **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) *These dashboards will be updated during Summer 2024. The versions presented here show progress up to and including March 2024.*