



Greater Manchester Green City Region Partnership

Date: 23th January 2024

Subject: Q3 PROGRESS REPORT - 5 YEAR ENVIRONMENT PLAN (5YEP)

Report of: Mark Atherton, Director Environment, GMCA

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The report provides the usual update on progress of the Green City Region Partnership's delivery of the 5 Year Environment Plan for the third quarter of 2024/25 (Oct. – Dec 2024) and key milestones for the fourth quarter (Jan – Mar 2025).

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:

Contact Officer: Mark Atherton, GM Director of Environment
Mark.atherton@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk

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 October 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) – Bolton, Oldham, Stockport and Trafford schemes are ongoing with work on commercialisation and preparing for procurement. The decision on Green Heat Network Fund (GHNF) for Trafford and Stockport is expected imminently. DESNZ funded de-risking activity is underway on all four schemes. Rochdale work on Detail Project Design (DPD) is nearing completion and currently planning to submit a bid to the next round of GHNF. Bury continuing work on feasibility. MCC was successful with its Heat Networks Delivery Unit (HNDU) application for its Wythenshawe scheme. Work on the feasibility study is underway. HNDU application window closed before Salford, Tameside and Wigan applications submitted. Alternative options for funding currently under review. Discussions with United Utilities (UU) are ongoing regarding sewer waste heat offtake.
- Local Area Energy Plans (LAEPs) – Investment work continuing with KPMG; drafting Critical Success Factors (CSF) and developing criteria. Producing an interim report on commercial model appraisal. Oldham Green New Deal (OGND) delivery partnership Market Engagement event being planned. Currently drafting Procurement Strategy. Completion of Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure (EVCI) strategy. Review of Community Led Energy Partnership (CLEP) for Sholver and Westwood in progress. MCC has agreed Net Zero work programme with Wythenshawe JV Partner. TfGM has internally approved whole Work Package.
- Go Neutral Smart Energy – Study of 5MW solar site in Rochdale complete. It shows that the cost of generation is over £100/MWh; with market rates for export and typical rates for offtake being around £85/MWh the site not financially viable. We are considering next steps. This outcome we believe is typical for small solar

sites connected to grid in Greater Manchester. The Levelised Cost Of Energy (LCOE) study to look at grid connected wind and solar across GM on public and private land has started and location screening is completed. Work has started again assessing 9 GM waste sites for solar viability. These will be roof top and ground mount sites connected to buildings; prospects should be positive with two months to completion. An assessment of potential on buildings is delayed as we await work from ESC on a new building asset database tool.

- Smart Energy – Solar installer for Phase 1 of the Powering Our School (POS) programme work has been appointed and started completing surveys and producing quotes with competitive prices received. Interest in the proposition is increasing, and we are starting to design Phase 2 for this calendar year.
- Energy Innovation Agency (EIA) - Business Development Lead role now in place which should improve innovator and project pipeline.

1.2 Buildings

- Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) – All Registered Providers of social housing (RP) except three (Great Places, Your Housing Group, One Manchester) are on site. Three RPs are now completing properties and claiming grant funding. Two RPs have been delayed on retrofitting their tower blocks due to Building Safety Regulator delays and will need a six month extension to March 2026. GM Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP) undertaking a review of SHDF data for the purposes of transferable practice to Work Package 6a. Complete evaluation of Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) and its data ongoing. Working to appoint a Project Manager to the Domestic Retrofit team.
- Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) – PSDS 1 has agreed commercials with the consultant. Start date agreed with Salix and 1-2-1's have been completed with partners. Onboarding Plan B data process has also commenced with partners. January set as official Measurement and Verification (M&V) reporting start date. PSDS 3a Single Year is seeing ongoing delivery of delayed completion programme. All projects have reached Practical Completion (PC) bar 1 in delayed delivery. Completion evidence is being collated for projects achieving PC. Full programme completion is expected Feb '25. On-going M&V

- engagement with partners. PSDS 3a Multi Year has ongoing support of programme completion for of all projects due in March 2025. Circa £600k claim has been submitted to Salix for this period. PSDS 3b has seen the delivery of the delayed completion programme completed. Completion evidence has been prepared for all projects. On going M&V engagement with partners. Prioritisation criteria for public building decarbonisation pipeline in development.
- Retrofit GM (Your Home Better) – The procurement opportunity is now live on The Chest, with a closing date of 13th Jan for applications.
- ECO4 - NHS colleagues have received approval to recruit externally for the Project Manager (ECO4) post funded by GMCA which has now been advertised. Generally, the scheme is going very well with all three installers performing well. Salford Council is now engaging with the scheme better via its public health team.
- Good Landlord Charter – The Good Landlord Charter implementation unit was procured in October. The Dispute Service was selected as the provider of the Good Landlord Charter. Apprenticeship graduation event for Good Landlord Scheme trainees on 18th October. All trainees have progressed onto a level five diploma course having received either merits or distinctions in their apprenticeship. Procurement of tenancy relations pilot has closed for bids. Several bids have been received.

1.3 **Transport**

- Active Bee Network – As of October 2024, the Active Bee Network is 119km long with 2 schemes likely to deliver in December, with an additional 60km in development.
- Bike Hire Scheme – Bike Theft increased significantly September-October, as 200 additional bikes have been stolen over this period. This impacted availability in October-November 2024 significantly with bike availability set to be around 850-950 for December 2024. As a result, there have been suspensions of 16 stations due to end December 2024. Bike distribution across the network has remained “okay” and usage has not been impacted.
- City Region Sustainable Transport Settlements (CRSTS): Majority of 94 CRSTS funded Zero Emission Buses (ZEB) due to arrive by end of December 2024 and will immediately enter operations. A small number are delayed and due to arrive in January 2025.

- Zero Emission Buses Regional Area (ZEBRA): The delivery of 170 ZEBRA funded ZEBs has commenced and will continue until February/March 2025. These will enter service following electrification of Middleton, Hyde Road and Ashton depots between January-June 2025.
- Deliver the Clean Air Plan (CAP) – GM has submitted a revised GM CAP for consideration by the government, which is awaiting the Minister's decision.
- Public Transport and Active Travel Usage - During October-November 2024 Starling Bank bike hire trips were up 16% year on year. The scheme saw a slight decrease in usage during October and November 2024 compared to the previous month. Seasonal factors and the impact of low bike availability due to an increase in bike thefts in September and October were both contributory factors. Metrolink journeys are up 15% year on year. November 2024 saw the highest monthly patronage figure on the network in its history; with more than 4.2 million passenger journeys. The record-breaking number is 10% higher than November 2023 and 6% higher than November 2019 (2019 was the highest patronage year on the network). Bus journeys are 5% up year on year. October 2024 saw the highest monthly total for bus patronage since the introduction of the Bee Network. Patronage continued to grow during November 2024, bus passenger journeys were 1.3% above November 2023 and remained up 5% year on year. Bus revenue has outperformed the budget target in every month of the year so far, with year to date bus revenue 10% above forecast.
- Salford E-scooter Trial – Around 1.4m trips have now been completed on the Lime e-scooter scheme in Salford. October '24 was a record breaking month with 59,452 trips completed on the scheme; which is an average of 1,918 trips per day. 345,000 people have now used the Salford scheme.
- Bus Franchising - Final stages of Tranche 3 Mobilisation; integrating Metroline, Stagecoach, GNW & Diamond. Electrification of Hyde Road depot in readiness for Tranche 3 launch. Ashton is behind schedule due to asbestos being found on site. Significant number of the new fleet is being prepared & moved to GM.
- Electric vehicles, Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure (EVCI) Delivery and [Taxi EVI project](#) - Installation of Electric Vehicle taxi chargers is completed. As of

September 2024, there are 1,444 chargers (296 ultra, 286 rapids, 317 fast, 545 slow). This provides around 2,229 public connection points (against a baseline of 1,232 connectors in February 2023). Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) Programme is beginning its procurement phase. Local Authorities also bringing proposals forward for use of CRSTS funds. There are 13,715 Privately owned EV's at Q2 2024 (April-June), a 54% growth since Q2 2023. 1,430 - a Q2 increase in EV's since Q1 2024, a 12% Quarterly increase. In addition circa 9,000 leased vehicles, excluding those registered in SK3 (South-West Stockport).

1.4 Sustainable Consumption and Production

- Scope 3 Emissions - The review of GMCA's scope 3 emissions to reduce the environmental impact of procurement activities is complete with reports and action plans for procurement and investments finalised. Workshops have been held with the Senior Leadership Team, the 5-Year Environment Liaison Group, and Local Authorities to share information.
- Textile Waste Composition Pilot - Collected textiles are being assessed for quality and material composition. A final report is due, in January 2025, that will quantify potential fibre-to-fibre feedstocks for reprocessing options and understand commercial implications.
- School's Eco Refill Pilot – After a successful Year 1, additional funding was released in October 2024. Fifteen new schools will begin their shops in January 2025, supported by GMCA funding, a £5,000 donation from Suez, and separate funding from Salford City Council for two schools.
- Food Waste Prevention – Food Waste Prevention report on climate and food-related health impacts in Greater Manchester is now complete with recommendations and is currently being reviewed.
- Bee Net Zero (BNZ) – Held a workshop at the Green Summit with around 50 attendees on “How to decarbonise an industrial estate”, building on the BNZ Trafford Park and Stakehill Local Industrial Decarbonisation Plan (LIDP) projects.
- The BNZ Commitment was formally launched at the Green Summit which currently has around 50 sign-ups. We commissioned Impact Research Ltd to undertake preliminary research for an employee engagement campaign (this was also announced at the Green Summit). Work is ongoing with TfGM to develop materials and a campaign around active travel following presentation from TfGM to the BNZ board in October. Preliminary discussions with Electricity North West

(ENWL) on creating an energy flexibility campaign, based around ENWL's Constraint Management Zone (CMZ) offerings. Sponsored pro-Manchester's 'Property & Regeneration Lunch 2024', at which the MCCA and Bruntwood presented and discussed their report 'Accelerating Net Zero: Retrofit of Commercial Buildings in Greater Manchester'.

- Bee Net Zero (BNZ) – The latest meeting of the BNZ Trafford Park partnership was on 13th December, which has now contacted 70 companies on Trafford Park, and have started discussions with Trafford College on holding an event. BNZ has also been engaged with the following projects: Green Economy's Solar Installer Accelerator Project with Stockport College, carbon calculator tool, Sustainability Champions events, Green Hospitality Network events with Marketing Manchester, pro-manchester, and Open Kitchen, ENWL's Autumn Flexibility tender, and changes in business waste recycling regulations.
- Climate Change E-learning Module – New module on single-use plastics and reducing plastic waste to be launched in January 2025 across GMCA.
- Recycle for Greater Manchester (R4GM) – Festive campaign launched focused on shopping preloved items, recycling of plastic pots, tubs, trays, paper, and card. Repair Week 2025 launch event commenced. Registration is open for community groups and businesses to host events.
- Place-based Circular Society Innovations (CSI) Project: Development of five detailed case studies in Greater Manchester, Glasgow, Chicago, Utrecht, and Turku is underway. The first case study will focus on Renew Greater Manchester, showcasing its success in combining social, economic, and environmental sustainability.
- Circular Economy Business Platform: Platform development is continuing to include a bespoke login procedure.
- Consumer Behaviour Insights: The October 2024 survey, Wave 11, focused on sustainable food choices and travel has been received and is currently being reviewed.
- Small Grants for Schools: Applications for the Small Eco-Grants for Schools fund to support sustainability projects began in November 2024, offering grants of up to £2,000 to support school projects focused on the circular economy, sustainable food/food waste, and environmental education (sustainable lifestyles). 56 applications received.

1.5 Natural Environment

- Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) – The Draft GM Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) was endorsed to proceed to public consultation by the Natural Capital Group, Green City Region Partnership, Green City Region Board and the GMCA. The draft GM LNRS was published on Nov 15th and a public consultation commenced on GM consult, open until Jan 31st. The GMCA has been undertaking a programme of engagement events to promote the public consultation on the strategy to a wider range of different audiences, 6 drop-in sessions have been hosted across GM districts as well dedicated sector events, such as a community engagement event and business engagement event. Further drop in sessions both in person and online and further targeted sector events are planned for January 2025 to encourage greater awareness of the strategy. Over 7000 visits have been recorded to the GMCA webpage on the GM LNRS. Communications supported the delivery of Local Nature Recovery Strategy through support with consultation platform set up and launch, development and delivery of updated website structure and content, social media push, newsletters, partner comms support, and updates for networks e.g. comms challenge group.
- Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) – With the habitat banking verification and auditing service, final public outputs have been uploaded to GMCA website. Local authorities are to launch verification service (if choosing to opt in). Regarding the Responsible Body Service, Defra has confirmed GMCA Responsible Body Status in December 2024. The GMCA website has been updated and new email address set up to receive potential interest. A Local authority pipeline survey sent out regarding LAs bringing their own sites in December 2024, thus far 8/10 have responded. Continuing to progress towards Local Authority owned sites being ready for offsite BNG (see previous). Updated pipeline of sites provides more detail on which local authorities are bringing forward sites and when.
- Green Social Prescribing (GSP) - The GSP programme is progressing well with all partners now engaged in multiple iterations of their programmes. However, Rochdale delivery faces challenges due to a lack of referrals from the Pennine Care team. We are actively addressing this by exploring alternative referral

pathways, such as expanding into Community Mental Health Teams (CMHTs). Data collection is nearing completion, and initial outcome data is promising, although somewhat mixed. The Live Well fund has now been internally approved and is scheduled for release alongside GMCA Live Well match funding. We are putting in place management and data support structures to effectively track and understand the fund's impact.

- Integrated Water Management Plan - IWMP Project Lead recruited and started with GMCA on 16th December 2024. Cluster projects identified through the Living Integrated Opportunity Programme (LIOP) process paused pending Final Determination, by Ofwat, of United Utilities' (UU) draft Business Plan 2025-2030. UU's Advanced Water Industry National Environment Programme (WINEP) programme approved as part of the Final Determination. Water Systems Integrated Modelling framework (WSIMOD) workshop held with Imperial College and flood and investment funding workshop in central Manchester. Work started on the development of the Integrated Water Management Plan (IWMP) Annual Business Plan 2025-26.
- Greater Manchester Environment Fund (GMEF) - Impact report produced covering projects completed in Rounds 1 and 2 of the Fund. Projects for Round 5 are confirmed, taking total awarded projects beyond 100.

1.6 **Green Summit**

- The 7th annual Green Summit took place on 9th December 2024 at the Lowry Theatre in Salford Quays. The event saw over 1500 attendees, 70 exhibitor stands, 110 speakers, 18 speaker sessions, more than 200 school and college attendees.
- Communications and media interest included delegate comms and engagement, sponsor comms liaison, GM Green City updates and blogs, on the day media management, on the day filming, internal leadership video. Current media statistics indicate that there were 11,000 views on the Green City website, over 4,000 interactions on social media, and a social media reach of over 300,000.

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

- The Five Year Environment Plan 2025-2030 has been approved by the GMCA and was launched publicly at the Green Summit. Targets have been set to align with the plans aims and objectives and will be reviewed after 12 months.

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 – Conclusion of de-risking support. Decision on GHNF funding expected for Stockport and Trafford. Ongoing commercialisation and procurement activity for the four priority schemes. Rochdale is expected to submit in the next GHNF funding round. Bury to complete feasibility study and decision on next steps. Workshop with UU and other key stakeholders to conclude in principle agreement of the offtake HoTs, charging methodology and connection design principles.
- Local Area Energy Plans (LAEPs) – Milestones for Net Zero Accelerator (NZA) Programme in Q4 WP1; Regional: Provide an interim report on commercial model appraisal; Produce a strategic commercial delivery model options paper. WP2; District: Work with Arcadis to complete EVCI strategy; Review Community Led Energy Partnership (CLEP) for Sholver and Westwood. WP3; Neighbourhood: Work with WP1 to develop social housing pipeline, and non-domestic public sector buildings; Review heat zone opportunities across the city and undertake feasibility study for Heat Zone opportunity in Wythenshawe. WP4; Mobility: Complete work to identify and validate parameters (profiles/behaviour) for Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure (EVCI) tool; Develop operation plan with consultant for electric Demand Responsive Transport (DRT). WP5a; Generation & Energy Storage: Procure priority commissions; Produce interim findings on Levelised Cost of Energy (LCOE) study. WP5b; Heat Networks: Continue to support development of priority heat network projects; Develop and agree standard template Heads of Teams (HoTs) for wastewater offtake; Develop approach to role of Zoning

Coordinator. WP6a; Domestic Retrofit: Complete the evaluation of SHDF (Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund) and SHDF (Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund) data; Deliver LEAD (Local Energy Advice Demonstrator), and capture lessons learned. WP6b; Public Building Retrofit: Review and update existing pipelines; Procure feasibility support to help build the pipeline.

- Go Neutral – Continue LCOE study with key workshops and initial outputs on preferred regions and selected sites for detailed study. GM Waste asset surveys to be completed. Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) Consortium project (a new project to study potential for cross GM collaboration partnership in entering larger PPA arrangements) should be well progressed with expressions of interest and data gathered for all interested parties. The procurement to undertake portfolio modelling should be complete and work started. Energy storage study tendered and bids received. Community Energy study tender moderation complete and supplier awarded and started
- Smart Energy – All surveys for Phase 1 Powering Our Schools should be completed and initial contracts for build should be signed. Phase 2 plan should be complete and looking towards a launch date and building the pipeline. Strategy for a new offer or proposition and the public sector role in commercial business PV should be clear and initial procurements for services including surveys completed.
- Energy Innovation Agency (EIA) – Project on heating system additive rollout across 17,000 social homes in GM, client has access to 2 million homes across UK so strong future potential. Planning glazing upgrade to school in 2025 at £130k, and smart Heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) project underway at NHS site. Supporting GM football clubs on decarbonisation model. Likely to progress to lightweight solar PV install on MMU, in support of Panasonic RE100 project, by summer 2025 in region of £200k. Supporting GM universities with spin out support and campus decarbonisation. Innovate GM demonstrator project spend is behind schedule but the project is likely to be extended beyond March 2025, which should enable further spend.

2.2 Buildings

- Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) – Wave 2.1 projected to meet spend requirement by March 2025 at a grant intervention rate of 80% which would allow us to keep all grant. WH:SHF Wave 3 devolved guidance is being drafted by

the SHDF team. This will be shared with the RPs for feedback and finalised in January 2025.

- Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) – PSDS 1: M&V reporting to commence January-December, year 1. PSDS 3a SY: Support delayed completions, finalise completion evidence, commence M&V reporting year 1 of 3. PSDS 3a MY: On going support of programme completion for of all projects due March 2025. PSDS 3b: Commence M&V reporting year 1 of 3.
- Retrofit GM (Your Home Better) – Will appoint supplier and commence delivery, aiming for a launch of the new portal in April.
- ECO4 Flex scheme – Recruit NHS Project Manager (ECO4) dedicated to promoting the scheme via health teams and services. Continue delivery of the scheme. Work on redevelopment of our Retrofit Portal.
- Good Landlord Charter – Supplier for the tenancy relations pilot due to be selected. Independent Good Landlord Charter website expected to go live. Recruitment of full Implementation Unit expected to complete. Work with landlords on the approach to assessing member criteria to begin. Work with Environment team to agree an approach to including the Good Landlord Charter in the implementation of future retrofit funding as part of the integrated settlement
- Net Zero New Development - Continued development of pipeline for 10,000 TANZ homes.

2.3 Transport

- Active Bee Network – Current delivery dates indicate that 130km will be delivered by April 2025.
- Bus Franchising – Tranche 3 launch. Post Go Live Support. Management of late fleet deliveries (Volvo). Programme Handover and Close Out.
- City Region Sustainable Transport Settlements (CRSTS) - Full deployment of 94 CRSTS funded ZEBs. Analysis and engagement with operators to enable orders to be placed for next cohort of ZEBs at existing electrified depots.
- ZEBRA - deployment of 170 ZEBRA funded ZEBs, taking ZEB as a % of GM fleet to 24%.
- Electric vehicles, Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure (EVCI) Delivery and [Taxi EVI project](#) - Work with LA's to deliver Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) programme. Receive informal feedback from Office for Zero Emission Vehicles (OZEV) on LEVI procurement proposals. Continuing mobilisation.

2.4 Sustainable Consumption and Production

- Consumer Behaviour Insights – Disseminate findings of Wave 11 report.
- Textile Waste Composition Pilot – Final report to be disseminated to stakeholders in Greater Manchester and UK wide to help to prepare the market for textiles circularity.
- School's Eco Refill Pilot – Continue to monitor the number of containers refilled and behaviour change of the school community. Final evaluation of Wave 1 to be completed.
- Climate Change E-learning Module – Review of employee Climate Change e-module to be undertaken to reflect new 5-Year Environment Plan.
- Sustainable Lifestyles e-Module: Work to commence on an online platform for education and training on Sustainability and Carbon Awareness, accessible to the broader community.
- Bee Net Zero (BNZ) – Draft a new 2025 workplan for BNZ based on actions in Aim 8 of the 5YEP. Push forward campaigns in relation to: (i) employee engagement; (ii) active travel (TfGM to provide baseline data); (iii) energy flexibility. Continue to promote the BNZ Commitment (target 200 sign-ups by quarter-end). Create a Task & Finish group for decarbonising business parks and industrial estates.
- RDA to lead deep-dive at February board meeting on Centre of Expertise in Advanced Materials and Sustainability (CEAMS), and potential economic opportunities around circular economy. Rochdale Council to report back on Stakehill LIDP project by end of the quarter. BNZ Trafford Park to engage key stakeholders (e.g., DESNZ, ENWL, Cadent, Energy Systems Catapult).
- Community Hive Project – Continue to progress and establish links with Live Well agenda and identify suitable locations.
- Small Grants for Schools – Evaluation of applications to commence. Final sign off of projects to be awarded funding expected end of January 2025.
- Recycle for Greater Manchester (R4GM) – Repair Week 2025 to take place from 3rd-9th March 2025 to include promotion of local events via an online Repair Directory held on the R4GM website.
- Place-based CSI Project: Next steering group meeting to take place on 30th January 2025.

2.5 Natural Environment

- Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) – Completion of the programme of consultation engagement events 31st January. Completion of the public consultation on the GM LNRS also 31st January. Analysis of responses received to the public consultation. Communication of the results of the public consultation to the steering group and officer group and agreement of changes to the draft strategy. Preparation for publication and final adoption of the GM LNRS.
- Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) – Habitat banking verification and auditing service is to see Local Authorities launch verification service (if choosing to opt in). Detailed proposals for the Responsible Body Service together with options appraisal and costing to be developed January-February 2024 with a view to taking to the CA in March 2025. WSP to provide support as part of existing BNG commission. For Local Authorities bringing forward their own sites there are two remaining local authorities to submit pipeline returns. Present findings back to local authorities including GM Local Authority Nature Recovery Officers Group (LANROG), Planning Officers Group (POG), Directors of Place and Heads of Procurement. Continuing to progress towards Local Authority owned sites being ready for offsite BNG. Updated pipeline of sites provides more detail on which local authorities are bringing forward sites and when.
- Green Spaces Fund (GSF) - Planning for next phase of the Fund from 1st April 2025, including dates of future rounds, budget available and remit of GSF Advisors.
- Green Social Prescribing (GSP) - Completion of GSP funded programme. Exploration of additional ways to bring in funding for GSP. Work with evaluation team to finish report, push this out to commissioners across NHS GM to support further funding of programmes. Collaborate with partners across GM to align objectives related to nature improvement and access / health. Ensure we understand how Live Well funding has been used, push for further funding to go towards GSP delivery partners.
- Integrated Water Management Plan - Re-start recruitment process for Lead Analyst role. Agree draft Annual Business Plan 2025-26 at Trilateral Directors meeting on 22nd January 2025. Agree date for visit of DEFRA Policy Team to Stockport to discuss Integrated Water Management in GM. Ongoing development of partnership with Rebalance Earth and meeting with Nature North to understand

alignment with GM investment priorities. Launch of GM Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS) design guide 21st January 2025. Support launch of the Cunliffe Review of the water sector in central Manchester on 30th January 2025.

2.7 Greater Manchester 5 Year Environment Plan 2024 onwards

- An executive summary of the plan will be drafted and published.

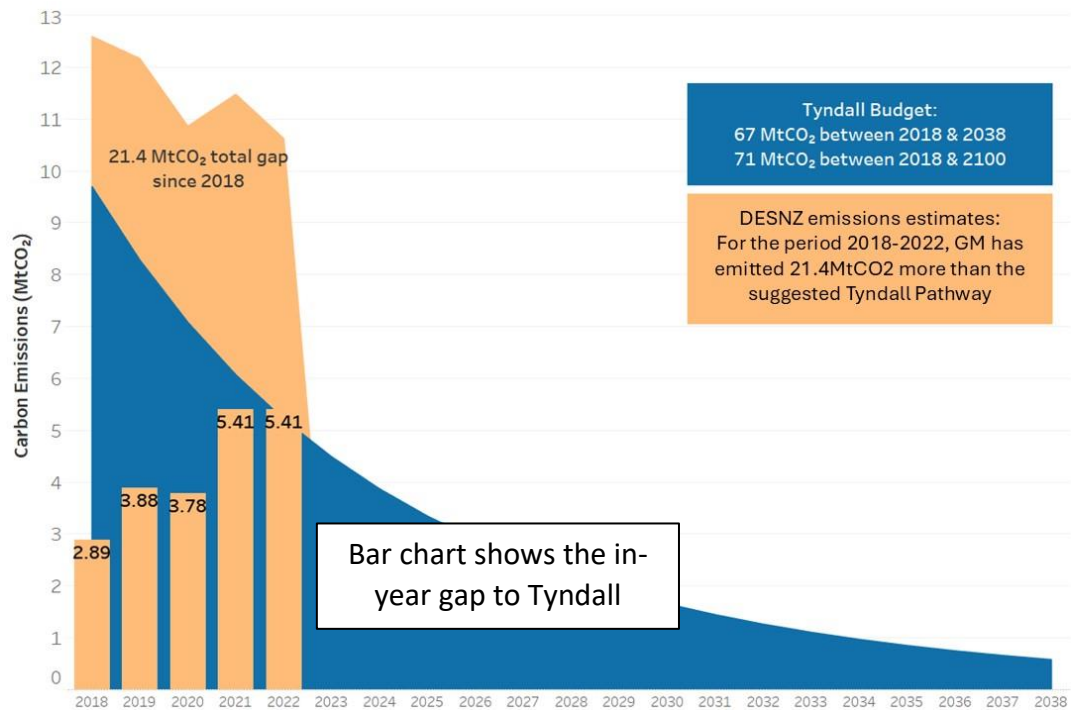
3. IDENTIFIED RISKS AND EMERGING ISSUES

- 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 (67MtCO₂). From 2018 to 2022 (the latest full year of data), GM’s emissions are 21.4MtCO₂ above the Tyndall budget, i.e. an additional 21.4 MtCO₂ savings need to be made on top of the Tyndall budget. This gap has been increasing year on year, with annual emissions data showing a rebound in emissions in 2021. In 2022, emissions have decreased again, dropping below the level reached in 2020, although they remain above the Tyndall pathway. 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 year.



- 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 have been updated up to December 2024.*