

LOW CARBON HUB BOARD

Date: 7th July 2017

Subject: NEW PORTFOLIO DESCRIPTION AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

Report of: Cllr Alex Ganotis, GM Green City Region Lead

PURPOSE OF REPORT

With the appointment of Andy Burnham as newly elected GM Mayor in May 2017, a suite of Portfolio changes have occurred. The GM Environment, Waste and Low Carbon Portfolio, delivered by the Low Carbon Hub Board, has been renamed “Green City Region”. The Portfolio lead has also changed from Salford City Mayor Paul Dennett to Cllr Alex Ganotis. The purpose of this paper is to advise the Board of the Portfolio change and agree revised Terms of Reference for the Low Carbon Hub Board.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Board is requested to:

- Note the new Green City Region Portfolio Description and Priorities for 2017/18 (Annex 01); and
- Agree the revised Terms of Reference for the Board (Annex02)

CONTACT OFFICER:

Email: mark.atherton@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk, GM Environment Team
 Tel: 07834 174132

TRACKING/PROCESS		
Does this report relate to a Key Decision, as set out in the GMCA Constitution or in the process agreed by the AGMA Executive Board		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 AGMA Scrutiny Pool on the grounds of urgency?		NA
AGMA Commission	TfGMC	Scrutiny Pool
07 July 2017	NA	NA

ANNEX 01

GM COMBINED AUTHORITY

PORTFOLIO: Green City Region (environment & green spaces, climate change, air quality and waste)

LEAD MEMBER: Cllr Alex Ganotis

LEAD CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Carolyn Wilkins

Policy scope & GMS theme:

The portfolio provides strategic leadership on the environment, green spaces, carbon reduction, air quality, waste policy and climate change adaptation agenda to support sustainable inclusive economic growth in Greater Manchester. The portfolio is focused on develop a positive approach across GM to this agenda, and contributing to improved quality of life for all our communities.

The portfolio is responsible for the development and delivery of the Climate Change Strategy (2012) and Climate Change and Low Emissions Implementation Plan (2016-2020). The current themes include:

- Energy efficient, low carbon **Buildings** (domestic and commercial)
- Smart and low carbon **Energy** generation and distribution
- **Natural Capital** (local nature partnership for critical green and blue infrastructure)
- Low emission/carbon **Transport**
- **Sustainable consumption and production** (waste and resource efficiency)

planning for the **climate change adaptation** measures needed for each. The portfolio also has two cross cutting themes, to support **low carbon skills** and **sector** development through all of our activities to deliver the GMS priority of **delivering a low carbon economy**.

The outcomes of this work extends beyond environment to supporting the alleviation of fuel poverty, improving health, reducing flood risk, creating green jobs and, ultimately, creating quality places where people want to live, work and play. This focus on sustainability in its broadest sense will form part of a GM wide engagement/dialogue leading up to the **delivery of the Mayor's Green City Summit** in early 2018. This process will help review and refine the scope and priorities for this portfolio.

Priorities for 2017/18 & rationale:

The Greater Manchester Climate Change and Low Emissions Implementation Plan (2016-2020) sets out our pathway for delivery of the GM Climate Change Strategy for the next 3 years. It includes actions to both address climate change (mitigation and adaptation), improve our Natural Capital (green infrastructure) and improve Greater Manchester's air quality; as such it aims to deliver both the GM Climate Change Strategy and Air Quality Action Plan. Our formal carbon reduction targets, based on our national and international commitments, are to achieve a 48% reduction by 2020 and 80%-90% reduction by 2050 (from 1990).

This year, we will **set out a specific target and low carbon pathway to 2050 for Greater Manchester**. This work will enable more specific targets to be set which could lead to formally devolved local carbon targets, based on best available evidence.

Achieving longer term emission reduction targets will be challenging for every modern city and will require a significant up-scaling and mainstreaming of our current demonstration activities. We will **launch a £21m ERDF call for energy innovation projects to deliver our Sustainable Urban Development Plan** and seek alternative funding streams and finance mechanisms to build capacity.

- 1) **Buildings** - Everyone should have access to decent, energy efficient homes, to reduce fuel poverty, improve health and life chances as well as reduce carbon emissions. This year we will **establish a domestic energy efficiency programme** to support fuel poor and **operate a clean energy switch campaign** for all residents. Business risks to volatile energy prices and extreme weather events can be reduced if the fabric of our public and commercial building stock is improved. We will provide planning guidance to **support the development of resilient and energy efficient new build** and increase our capacity to **accelerate the decarbonisation of GM's public buildings**.
- 2) **Energy** – The electrification of transport and heating could soon put unprecedented demand on our electricity infrastructure, particularly at peak times. To address this challenge and reduce carbon emissions, we need our city to be smarter, exploring how local energy generation, energy storage and demand side response can be utilised to deliver cheaper, cleaner energy. This year we will continue to monitor our **demand side response trial with air source heat pumps** and commence **design of a large scale smart systems and heat demonstrator**. The public sector has a significant role to play in stimulating a sustainable, local economy. Whilst we have significant demonstrators in place, including **inception of the civic quarter district heat network** and others, some Districts are accelerating delivery quicker than others, **further capacity is required to develop these from concept to investible propositions** e.g. through a future European Investment Bank proposal. We will also review options to deliver the benefits of a GM Energy Enterprise without incurring excessive cost or risk.
- 3) **Natural Capital** – Whilst an increase in urbanisation may be required to meet our growth aspirations, we need to ensure that our 'natural capital' i.e. the quality of the environment (and the ecosystem services it provides) is sufficient to support greater concentrations of people and business and enhance quality of life for residents. As Defra's Urban Pioneer City, we are developing new models to manage and improve our environment. We will **design and test innovative natural capital approaches to support sustainable economic growth** e.g. improved water management through the Natural Course project or supporting City of Trees 'City Park' initiative. This will include research into the impact of climate change on local biodiversity and flood risk.
- 4) **Transport** – Improving our air quality will require not just a shift toward increased public transport use, but also accelerated deployment of low emission vehicles. We will deliver a package of interventions to **promote sustainable low carbon travel choices** by expanding access to the Metrolink, with construction of the Trafford park line and the bus and cycle network through measures on Oxford Rd and through Chorlton and continue to **accelerate the uptake of zero carbon passenger and commercial vehicles** and to encourage more residents to take up active

travel journeys. TfGM will work with the Mayor's to evaluate GM's Air quality action plan and clean air zone feasibility study in light of upcoming changes to the national strategy.

- 5) Sustainable Consumption and Production – Cutting waste and using our resources efficiently supports a circular economy, reduces energy and disposal costs and business risk as well as reducing carbon emissions. This year, we will **continue to support culture change programmes**, such as Carbon Literacy and business support programmes, to encourage SMEs to become more resilient and resource efficient. We will also work with WRAP with Good Food Greater Manchester to investigate how food can be produced sustainably and food waste can be reduced.

Through all of these interventions, we will continue to grow the local supply chain through **integrated working with Business Growth Hubs' Sector Development Programme**, working with Local Authorities and other key stakeholders to maximise economic and environmental impact of the interventions have across the City region. We will also support the development of local low carbon skills where opportunities arise to build this into programmes and initiatives.

Linkages to other GMCA portfolio areas:

Health and Social Care - particularly population health (air quality/physical activity/food/warm homes)
Transport - air quality, green travel. Connectivity with 2040 Strategy
Skills – access to a carbon literate future workforce
Housing and Planning – Input to spatial planning for low carbon, adaptation & natural environment
Inclusive Growth – green economy, access to green-space, food and fuel poverty, flood risk reduction
Waste – sustainable consumption, resource efficiency, strategic view on future operating model

Governance:

The Greater Manchester Low Carbon Hub was formed by GMCA in 2012 to bring together expertise from the public, private, academic and voluntary sectors to act as Greater Manchester's Environmental Sustainability Commission. As such, the Hub Board reports directly to the GMCA Executive through a portfolio Leader (Cllr Alex Ganotis) and Lead Chief Executive (Carolyn Wilkins).

The Low Carbon Hub Board meets quarterly and is usually preceded by a separate Chair's briefing meeting. The Board has established a number of task groups (chaired by a Board member) on Natural Capital, Buildings, Energy, Resource Efficiency and Carbon Literacy to engage a wider audience, coordinate activities and listen to advice. Regular briefings are provided by the Lead CEX on the work programme to the Low Carbon Hub Board. To coordinate activity across the programme, the Lead Chief Executive chairs a Low Carbon Programme Group, comprised of the senior lead officers as below.

Lead senior officer & support staff:

- A) Mark Atherton - Carbon reduction/monitoring, energy generation and efficiency (inc fuel poverty) carbon literacy, climate adaptation, natural environment
- B) Helen Smith - transport and logistics, air quality, active travel.
- C) John Bland - waste, resource efficiency
- D) Todd Holden - low Carbon business support, sector development, resource efficiency
- E) Alison Gordon - European funding, business and link to skills

Annex 02

Low Carbon Hub Board: Terms of Reference – Update 7th July 2017

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Board is to provide strategic oversight of the development of Greater Manchester's approach to the environment and low carbon agenda, including actions to both address climate change (mitigation and adaptation), improve our Natural Capital (green infrastructure) and improve Greater Manchester's air quality. As such the Board aims to support the delivery of both the GM Climate Change Strategy and Air Quality Action Plan

The Board is responsible, on behalf of the GMCA, for overseeing the delivery arrangements to achieve the low carbon elements of the Greater Manchester Strategy, particularly the priority to 'seize the potential of a low carbon economy and increased resource efficiency'. The Board will oversee and guide the development of policy and strategy as well as delivery against this priority, as well as the five objectives set out in the GM Climate Change and Low Emissions Implementation Plan:

- Realising the economic opportunities associated with transition to a low carbon economy;
- Achieving Air Quality Thresholds;
- Supporting Greater Manchester's 48% carbon reduction target by 2020;
- Increasing awareness and understanding leading to behavioural change; and
- Rapidly adapting to the unavoidable effects of climate change.

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Low Carbon Hub Board will:

- Work with partners to ensure that Greater Manchester can achieve its Climate Change Strategy objectives and deliver a sustainable, resilient city region.
- On behalf of AGMA and GMCA, oversee the development and implementation of policies, strategies and delivery programmes which contribute to achievement of GM priorities articulated in the following documents:
 - Greater Manchester Strategy
 - GM Growth and Reform Plan
 - GM Climate Change Strategy
 - GM Air Quality Action Plan
 - GM Climate Change and Low Emissions Implementation Plan
- Ensure that activities being undertaken under the banner of the Low Carbon Hub are in line with local and national priorities.
- Ensure that there is a robust evidence base for decision-making.
- Regularly evaluate performance against GM priorities and support the identification of risks and opportunities.
- Ensure that the work and investments of the Low Carbon Hub is integrated with and contributes to broader GM priorities, communicating regularly with other GM commissions (eg. Planning and Housing Commission, Local Enterprise Partnership).
- Influence local, national and international policies, legislation and programmes in order to deliver a secure, green, clean and low carbon future for Greater Manchester.
- Broker agreement at strategic level to resolve apparent barriers to delivery of a low carbon economy.
- Identify potential resources and provide a strategic overview to ensure that all available resources are utilised to enable the city region to deliver its ambitious vision for a low carbon, growing economy.
- Actively engage with the ten districts and other Greater Manchester Authorities to act as a conduit for the sharing and adoption of good practices.

- Identify and undertake communication activities to engage with Greater Manchester stakeholders and communities on low carbon and environmental issues, acting within the scope of the AGMA/GMCA Communications Strategy.
- Make recommendations for decisions affecting the low carbon agenda to AGMA and GMCA.

3. MEMBERSHIP

The list below describes those roles relevant for membership of the Low Carbon Hub Board:

- GMCA Green City Region portfolio holder (Chair)
- Lead Chief Executive(s)
- Skills and Employment Partnership representative
- Representative of lead built environment organisation
- TfGMC elected member representative
- Representative of Local Nature Partnership
- Representative of lead organisation for business support (Business Growth Hub Board)
- LEP representative
- Communications lead
- Environment Agency representative
- GMWDA elected member representative as lead organisation for waste
- GM universities representative
- Private sector representative(s) with specialist knowledge of low carbon
- Central government representatives
- Lead Policy Organisation representatives
- Supported by Policy Manager and Democratic Support Officer from GMIST.

Elected members will be nominated to the Low Carbon Hub Board on an annual basis as part of the GMCA nominations process across the ten Greater Manchester local authorities.

Other members of the Board will serve for a fixed term of 3 years, appointed on a staggered basis during a 12 month period to ensure that not all memberships are reviewed at the same point.

4 OPERATING PRINCIPLES

4.1 Meetings

The Board will meet on a quarterly basis. Meeting dates will be set one year in advance, following the annual meeting.

The annual meeting of the Board will be held in July each year.

Papers will be issued five working days before meetings, and a meeting note will be issued within two weeks of the meeting date.

Meetings will be held in public and papers will be published on the GMCA website in advance.

The Board will be accountable to AGMA and GMCA. The Board will not make decisions, but will refer and make recommendations to AGMA and GMCA as appropriate.

The GMCA constitution describes the criteria which an item must meet in order for it to be considered in private. Reports which meet those confidentiality or exemption criteria will be

considered in a Part B section of the meeting which excludes the public, as permitted under Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

4.2 Support Arrangements

Democratic support will be provided by GMIST. Strategic support will be provided by the GMCA Environment and Low Carbon policy team.

5. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

5.1 Lead portfolio holder and Chair of the Board

As set out in the Greater Manchester Strategy, portfolio leads will own and lead the development of the GM response to those strategic priorities that fall within their remit.

The lead for low carbon will:

- Provide strategic direction for GM's low carbon approach.
- Maintain oversight of key programmes within the portfolio.
- Ensure alignment between low carbon programmes and broader GM priorities.
- With the Lead Chief Executive, agree the agenda and papers for each meeting.
- Provide strategic input and direction to GM and national leadership.
- Represent the Board in high profile discussions, events and activities at GM level and beyond.
- Represent the Board in engagement with GMCA and the LEP.

5.2 Board Members

- Regularly attend and contribute to meetings.
- Thoroughly review and inform the work of the Board.
- Actively identify and advise upon the adoption of good practices.
- Individually lead specific programmes which contribute to strategic objectives where appropriate.
- Act as a conduit to and represent the group, organisation and/or professional field they come from.
- Ensure that they maintain full accountability and transparency to the Board any activities carried out on behalf of the Low Carbon Hub.
- Ensure that any comment or activity undertaken in their capacity as a Board member is aligned with and endorsed by the Board.
- Support and enable communication with wider stakeholders about the work of the Low Carbon Hub, acting as advocates for the Hub's work.

5.3 Supporting officers

- Provide relevant and timely information and reports to enable the Board to make appropriate decisions.
- Provide updates to Board members as requested on relevant programmes of work.