



Urban Pioneer

Greater Manchester Scope

Protecting the environment is a job for all of us. The decisions we all make have an impact on our environment. We want to help everyone feel more connected to the environment and able to take better-informed decisions to protect and improve it. In doing so, everyone can understand the value that it brings.

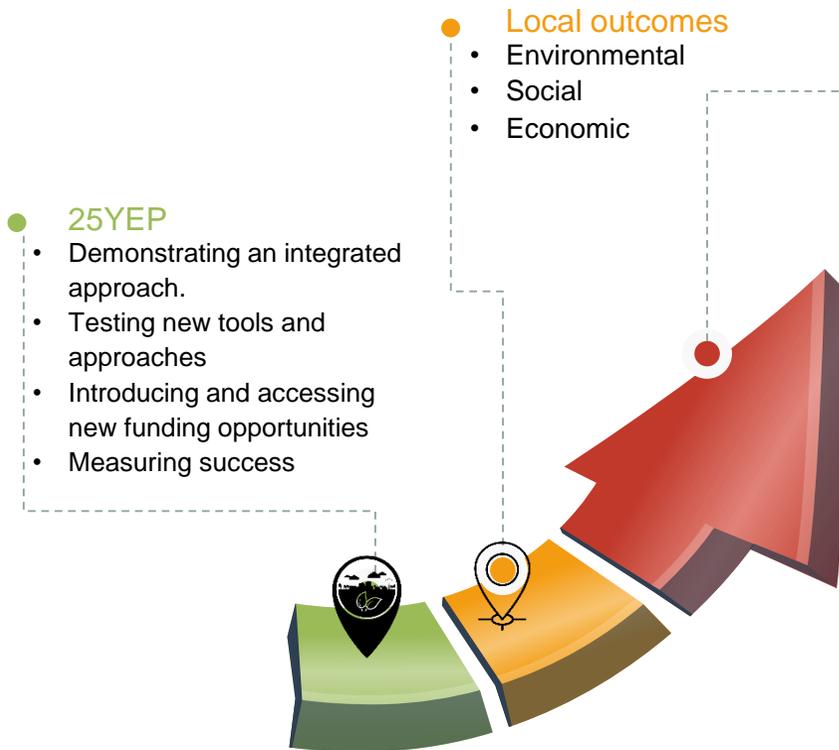
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Urban Pioneer

Our Vision

The Urban Pioneer will help to achieve the aims of the 25 Year Environment Plan (25YEP) through the application of natural capital¹. Natural capital information can be used at all levels of decision making, changing the way people think about the environment and recognising it as a whole, transcending government agency, department, organisations and political boundaries. Using a natural capital approach brings scientific evidence and decision makers together through an iterative process of co-development, creating the tools and evidence that decision makers at all levels require to make truly integrated joined up choices.

Natural capital identifies and places a value upon the assets within an ecosystem. These ecosystems provide services that underpin human life. However, these basic services are threatened by population growth and the increasing need for urban development.



VISION

To make a clear and evident contribution to Greater Manchester's natural environment, engaging and connecting people with nature in their city, maximising their health and economic benefits through investment in the environment, creating sustainable growth and a good quality of life.

¹Natural capital is the stock of "environmental assets"; the elements of the natural world such as land, forests, water, soil, air, minerals and oceans that provide benefits to people..

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Our Approach

The urban pioneer will test the approach detailed below, under which there is an example of what the urban pioneer could set as a goal for each. The approach is underpinned and supported by 7 design principles which will help deliver the urban pioneers goals.

ONE



Developing data & tools

Creation of a natural capital account baseline for Greater Manchester, detailing the assets, their quantity, condition and evaluating risk. Capturing and sharing the challenges and learnings in creating this baseline.

TWO



Connecting people to the environment

The urban pioneer will need to look at what opportunities exist now and in the future. Supporting communities and decision-makers across Greater Manchester as they work to boost the value of natural capital.

THREE



Delivering locally

Development of a shared natural capital plan for Greater Manchester which supports Greater Manchester's ambitions, challenges and requirements.

FOUR



Delivering globally

Identify best practice for environmental actions which improve the current state of water, land, air and resource.

FIVE



Incentivising and financing improvements

Explore and trial the use of innovative funding mechanisms and using existing funding in innovative ways to ensure we get the maximum environmental outcomes and improvements.

SIX



Designing effective regulation

Understand where existing regulation is unhelpful in achieving environmental outcomes and where a natural capital approach might not be possible in the existing regulatory framework.

Joined up environment | Outcome driven | Locally integrated | Using what works | Value for money | Fair and proportionate | Smart

Urban Pioneer

Our Environment

Land

Our land will be managed to improve our natural capital stock and boost biodiversity



Energy

We will have low carbon energy, highly efficient with smart networks and embedded generation at the building or community scale.



People

The health and wellbeing of Greater Manchester's citizens will be improved in addition to connecting people to the environment.



Place

We will support a sense of place and community through connecting people to their local environment.



Economy

Through positive interventions in Greater Manchester's natural capital we will support the local economy and sustainable growth.



Water

We will have a far healthier water environment, with reduced flood risks, and a system resilient to droughts and pollution. Supporting biodiversity, with water services driving growth and enjoyment.



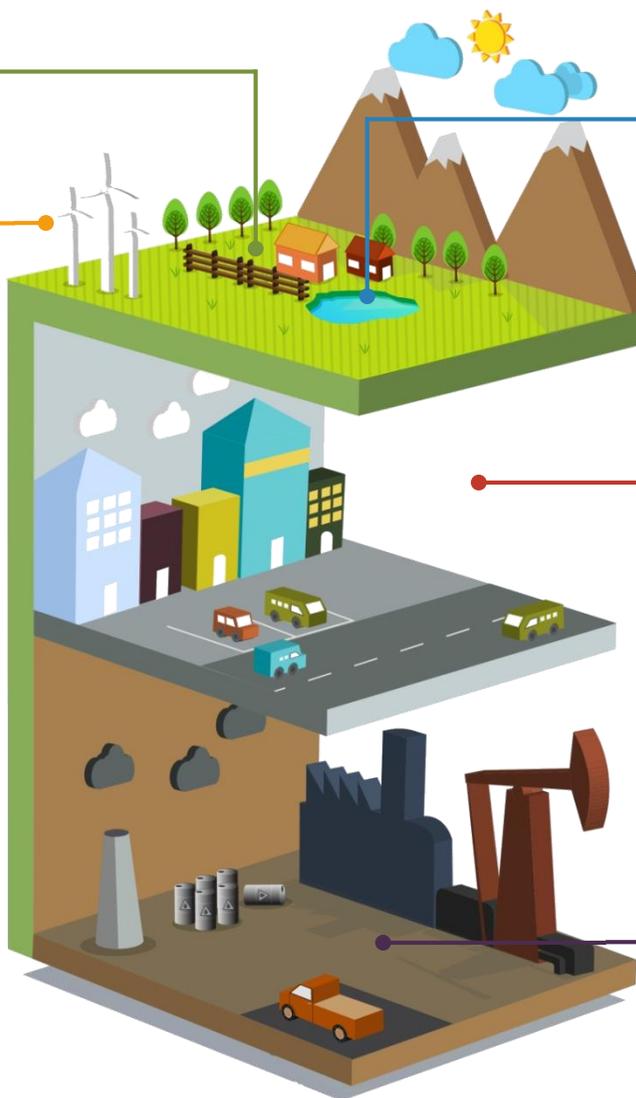
Air

GM will have some of the best air quality to fulfil our environmental commitments, benefit our health and make Greater Manchester a better place to live and work.



Resources

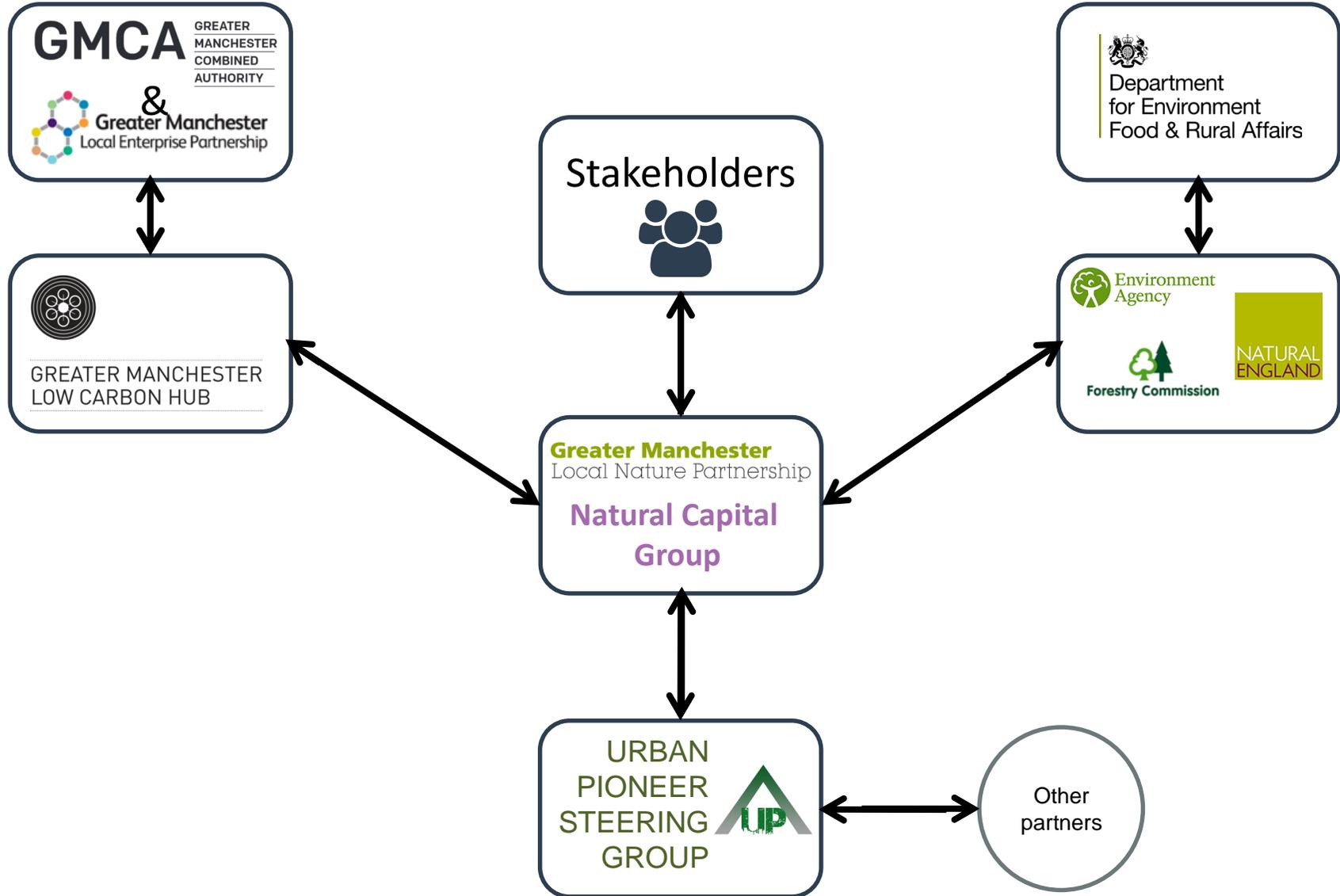
Resource and waste management will contribute to sustainable and resilient economic growth, increasing productivity.



This is a representative view of the possible environmental areas of focus the urban pioneer could seek to address.

Urban Pioneer

Our Governance



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Our Governance

We are currently in the process of defining the terms of reference for and the specific needs required to support the pioneer. Both in the short term to get the urban pioneer initiated and set the initial project criteria and longer term to develop and support the pioneer to 2020.

Primary functions

- Take responsibility for the feasibility and the achievement of outcomes of the Urban Pioneer.
- Monitor and review the Pioneer status
- Provide oversight of the pioneer deliverables.
- Provides direction in line with the vision and serves as an advisor and environmental decision maker.
- Ensures objectives are being adequately addressed and the pioneer remains under control.



In practice

These responsibilities are carried out by performing the following functions:

- Monitoring and review of the pioneer at regular meetings;
- Providing assistance to the pioneer when required;
- Controlling pioneer scope as emergent issues force changes to be considered, ensuring that the scope aligns with the agreed requirements of all partners;
- Resolving conflicts and disputes, reconciling differences of opinion and approach;
- Formal acceptance of pioneer deliverables.

Urban Pioneer

Our Team

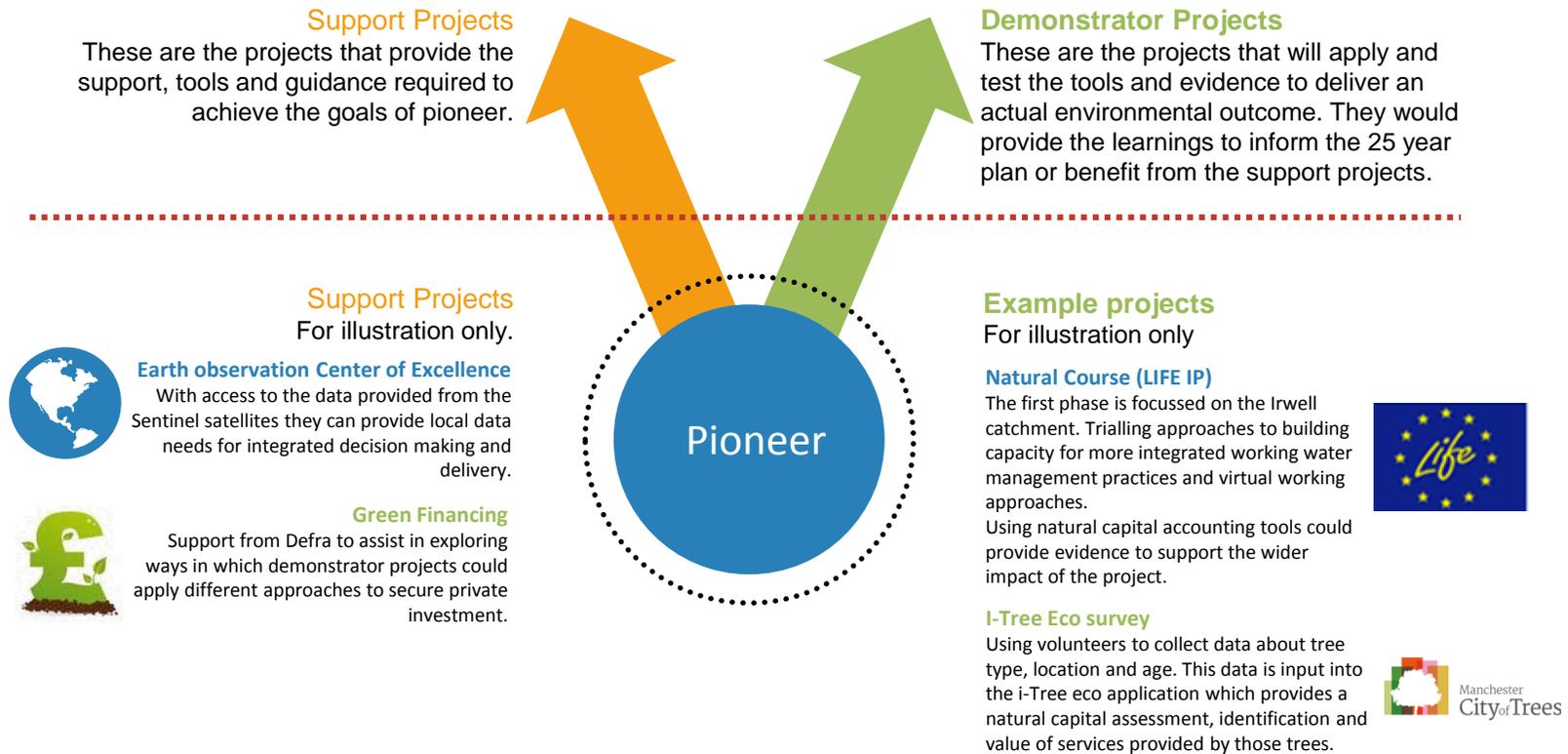
To deliver of the urban pioneer there would be the creation of a collaborative group. This would be a virtual group made up of officers and representatives from the below organisations. The role of Project manager is currently being developed and the hope is that this is will be a dedicated funded role to support the urban pioneer.



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Our Projects

The emerging picture is that within the urban pioneer there will be two project themes. Those that develop and provide the tools and data which in turn support the second, the demonstrator projects. Demonstrator projects are those that physically test the tools, use the data and help to discover the ways of working which are required to achieve the urban pioneers' goals.



Urban Pioneer

Our Timeline

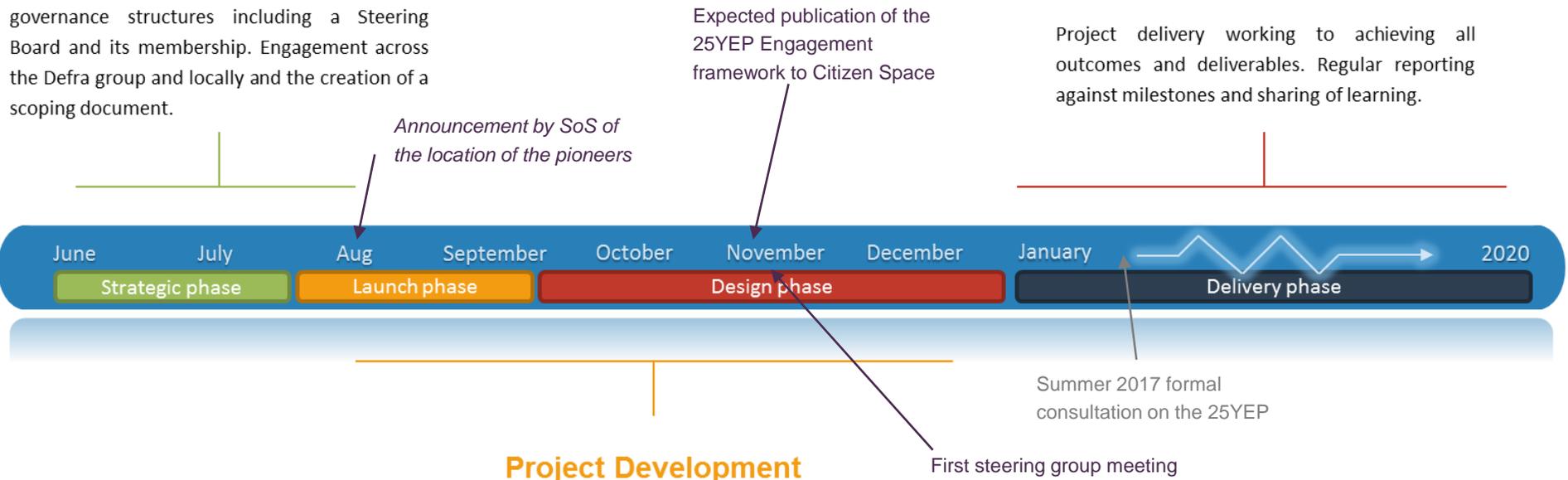
The timeline has changed due to the delay in the announcement of the pioneers and the 25 year Environment Plan framework.

Project Scoping

Discussions with Defra and key partners across Greater Manchester exploring what the urban pioneer could focus on. Identification of local governance structures including a Steering Board and its membership. Engagement across the Defra group and locally and the creation of a scoping document.

Project Live

Project delivery working to achieving all outcomes and deliverables. Regular reporting against milestones and sharing of learning.



Project Development

Identification of clear project deliverables and outcomes. Creation of the virtual delivery team and development of the project plan. Wider active engagement publically, across Defra and with partners.