



Greater Manchester Green City Region Partnership

Date: 3rd April 2025

Subject: Q4 PROGRESS REPORT - 5 YEAR ENVIRONMENT PLAN (5YEP)

Report of: Mark Atherton, Director Environment, GMCA

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The report provides the final quarterly update on progress of the Green City Region Partnership's delivery of the 2019-2024 5 Year Environment Plan. The progress covers the fourth quarter of 2024/25 (Jan – Mar 2025) and key milestones for the first quarter of 2025/25 (Apr – Jun 2025).

Future Quarterly Progress reports to the Partnership will report against progress of the new 5 Year Environment plan 2025-30.

CONTACT OFFICERS:

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

1. OVERVIEW OF PROGRESS

During the last quarter there are a number of key successes to be highlighted, set out below:

1.1 Energy

- Heat and Energy Network Opportunity Areas – We continue to support the development of priority heat network projects. The development of an approach to role of Zoning Coordinator now has a draft vision and strategy complete. The Bolton, Oldham, Stockport and Trafford schemes are ongoing with work on commercialisation and preparing for procurement in late Spring/early Summer 2025. DESNZ funded de-risking activity nearing completion on all four schemes. Confirmation awaited on future Advanced Zoning Programme (AZP) support. Rochdale work on Detail Project Design (DPD) nearing completion and application being developed for current round of GHNF. Bury work on feasibility nearing completion. MCC feasibility study for the Wythenshawe scheme ongoing. GMCA commission on connection charge financial de-risking mobilised. Work underway with United Utilities (UU) to finalise Heads of Terms (HoT) and obtain internal approvals.
- Local Area Energy Plans (LAEPs) & Net Zero Accelerator (NZA) – The interim report on commercial model appraisal and strategic commercial delivery model options paper is complete. The Electricity Vehicle Charging Infrastructure (EVCI) strategy is also complete and the Community Led Energy Partnership (CLEP) review for Sholver and Westwood is progressing. The work to develop a social housing pipeline, and non-domestic public sector buildings is progressing, and we are reviewing heat zone opportunities across the city and undertaking a feasibility study for Heat Zone opportunity in Wythenshawe. The parameters for Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure (EVCI) tool have been identified and validated; We have developed an operation plan with a consultant for electric Demand Responsive Transport (DRT). The procurement priority commissions are now complete for energy generation & storage. We have produced interim findings on Levelised Cost of Energy (LCOE) study, with the initial screen of LCOE study now complete.

- Go Neutral Smart Energy – The GM Waste site survey reports initial reports are complete; with feasibility being good and progressing to next steps around how to deliver. Regarding the LCOE study, the initial screening exercise is complete, with sample sites selected for detailed feasibility. There is discussion on variation to increase the scope of direct wire study to look at more sites. The community energy study was appointed to a Regen/CarbonCOop consortium, with the project due to report in May. The commercial building solar barriers and incentives study scope of works are complete and ready for Request for Quotes (RFQ). The energy storage study tender has been delayed but due to be issued in coming weeks. The Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) work is ongoing, with its scope reduced to focus on a smaller core pathfinder consortium working with TFGM, and with the scope and framework being developed to add more partners later.
- Smart Energy – Under Powering Our Schools (POS) Phase 1, 75% of the 34 school portfolio has been surveyed, with several quotes received at a good price. We have been drafting the first Joint Contracts Tribunal (JCT) contracts, and the initial governors meetings are being held for approval. Regarding Phase 2, we are exploring new procurement mechanism options, we have developed a new customer journey with lessons learned, and are propositioning for new customer management, marketing, & engagement approaches. We have produced a comms update piece, including current progress and a call for more expressions of interest.
- Bee Net Zero (BNZ) – Draft materials were pulled together for two campaigns: first was around energy flexibility (working closely with Electricity North West), and the second was around a tenant decarbonisation & energy efficiency guide. Proposals to set up separate Task & Finish (T&F) groups in relation to business & industrial park decarbonisation; and green skills. Research with Impact will inform eventual employee engagement as the campaign continues; with an expected completion date in April. A draft report was received from Enfuse Group; following a commission by the Civic Universities Board green skills working group, auditing and mapping the green skills offerings from GM's universities. A workshop was organised by Growth Company with DBT, Composites UK and others at the Royce Institute on 13th February around developing a composites recycling cluster in

GM. We held the latest meeting of the BNZ Trafford Park strategic partnership on 24th February. 73 businesses have been engaged to date, with 17 having taken up support from Green Economy. We held the first meeting on 10th March of the Net Zero North West energy efficiency working group.

- Burn Better GM -- TfGM led winter fuel burning campaign being supported via the GM Green City website.

1.2 **Buildings**

- Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) – All partners have commenced on site, and approximately 33% are due to complete before financial year end. All others bar 2 (see following) are on track for September 25 full completion. The Building Safety Regulator delays are ongoing, and as of the 6th March are yet to be resolved. Consent has been received from DESNZ to extend the programme for these two partners until March 26, with legal paperwork awaited. The devolved social housing fund initial bid document has been released with end of March deadline for response. No decisions are to be made until devolution is finalised.
- Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) – PSDS 1 has seen Measurement and Verification (M&V) reporting to commence January to December, year 1. PSDS 3a Single Year is supporting delayed completions, finalising completion evidence, commencing M&V reporting year 1 of 3. PSDS 3a Multiple Year has on going support of programme completion for of all projects due March 2025. PSDS 3b is preparing for the start of M&V reporting year 1 of 3.
- ECO4 - The NHS post will commence in their role in mid March. There is ongoing work to establish a Data Sharing Agreement with the NHS to allow collaborative working to target patients for the programme. We are supporting both the NHS officer in their day to day role and NHS colleagues in their data analysis work. Discussions have been held with OfGEM about changes to the delivery model in the final year of delivery, and the anticipated look of the next wave of funding from 26th April. Discussions were held with National Energy Action (NEA) about funded and non funded support they can offer as a wraparound service for poor health and disabled residents. A new portal developer has been appointed.

- The evaluation of the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) and Energy Company Obligation (ECO) data are complete. The delivery of the Local Energy Advice Demonstrator (LEAD), and the capture of the lessons learned from it, are ongoing. The review and update of existing public building retrofit pipelines are ongoing. The scoping to procure feasibility support in order to help build said pipeline is underway.
- Good Landlord Charter – The Good Landlord Charter website was soft-launched. The charter governing board convened and met for the first time. A supplier for a cross-boundary tenancy relations pilot across Bolton, Manchester and Rochdale was procured in order to prevent and increase enforcement against unlawful eviction. The final GM reporting and interviews for the Private Rented Sector Pathfinder project to drive up the use of civil penalties as an enforcement tool by local authorities.
- Feel the Benefit – The housing retrofit campaign continues, with new animations and social media activity.

1.3 **Transport**

- Active Bee Network – As of March 2025, the Active Beet Network stands at 120km long but another 8km is substantially complete, waiting for a period of warmer temperatures to apply final measures. We anticipate that it will be at or very near to 130km by 31st March.
- Bike Hire Scheme – Available Bikes sit at around 1000 with a peak of 1095. There is a good distribution of bikes. Usage is rising in line with seasonal trends.
- City Region Sustainable Transport Settlements (CRSTS): The successful deployment of the majority of the most recent order of 94 CRSTS funded Zero Emission Buses (ZEBs), with final c.15 now due for delivery in March/April 2025.
- Zero Emission Buses Regional Area (ZEBRA): Delivery of 170 ZEBRA funded ZEBs is ongoing, with final c.70 due for delivery in March/April 2025. These will enter service following electrification of Middleton, Hyde Road and Ashton depots in the first half of 2025.

- Public Transport and Active Travel Usage - 2024 saw record passenger numbers on the Metrolink network in a calendar year. The record-breaking number of 45.6 million passenger journeys beat the previous record set in 2019. Strong patronage has continued into 2025. Rolling annual patronage (February 2024 to January 2025) is at its highest ever recorded, 0.6% higher than the previous best recorded between March 2019 and February 2020 and 13% higher than the same period a year ago. Growing patronage continues to test capacity with very busy trams at peak times a common theme in customer feedback (around 30% of negative Metrolink comments are on this theme). Just weeks after the third and final stage of bus franchising was delivered, the Bee Network passed the milestone of 100 million bus journeys since services were taken back under local control. This number was reached ahead of forecast. Boardings recorded on tranche 1 general services have grown significantly from late 2023/early 2024 to late 2024/early 2025. The rate of growth is yet to drop below 10% in a single calendar month. Analysis suggests this is due to a combination of factors: including the impact of franchising, the introduction of new and enhanced routes, and late Covid recovery. Across Metrolink and Bus, the Bee Network is now carrying more than 4.5 million passenger journeys during a typical week. GM is also making more use of the Bee Network's active travel options. Starling Bank bike hire trips are up 16% year on year (2024 v 2023).
- Salford E-scooter Trial – Over 1.5million trips have now taken place on Lime's e-scooter scheme in Salford. Further expansions are planned into Swinton however this is subject to Department for Transport approval. We await further correspondence from the Department on proposals to explore further trial areas across GM.
- Bus Franchising - Tranche 3 launched successfully (Large, Small & School Franchises). Post-"Go Live" support took place across January. There are a small number of remaining activities within the programme, centred on T3 electrification & EV bus deployment. Programme Close-Out is in progress with Lessons Learned sessions having been completed in February. Programme formally will close end-March.

- Electric vehicles, Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure (EVCI) Delivery and [Taxi EVI project](#) - As of January 2025, 1,488 chargers have been built (of which 331 are ultra fast, 265 are rapids, 347 are fast, and 545 are slow). This provides around 2,327 public connection points, up from 2,229 last quarter. Installation of Electric Vehicle taxi chargers is completed and Early Measures programme close to completion has been started. Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) Programme's tender documents have been approved by The Government, and Manchester City Council have drawn down funds for EV programme. beginning its procurement phase. Local Authorities also bringing proposals forward for use of CRSTS funds.

1.4 Sustainable Consumption and Production

- School's Eco Refill Pilot – School Eco Refill Scheme is continuing to progress well. All 15 schools have completed their training and launched their Eco Refill Shops. The final report for Year 1 has now been received with the majority of schools continuing to open their shops. There is a new blog available on GM Green City website: "School Eco Refill Pilot - The Results" (<https://gmgreencity.com/school-eco-refill-pilot-the-results/>)
- Research and Insight Project – The Research and Insight Project was commissioned with City to Sea to understand public attitudes, barriers, and motivators for refill and reuse habits across Greater Manchester. It will identify key businesses and communities for the campaign and explore messaging options through co-creation with local groups and networks.
- The Borro Returnable Cup Scheme – The scheme is continuing to expand across Ancoats and the Northern Quarter with 18 local businesses currently taking part
- Climate Change E-learning Module – The Request for Quotation was completed for the development of a Sustainable Lifestyles/Climate Awareness e-module with gamification.
- Recycle for Greater Manchester (R4GM) – Repair Week 2025 took place from 3rd-9th March 2025, including promotion of local events via an online Repair Directory held on the R4GM website. A new campaign launched to encourage

uptake of home composting during National Home Compost Week (10th-17th March 2025). Promotion of Food Waste Action Week took place (17th-23rd March) in collaboration with food banks across the city-region.

- Place-based Circular Society Innovations (CSI) Project: The steering group meeting took place on 30th January 2025 to share insights on circular projects and organisations that promote inclusivity and well-being.
- Circular Economy Business Platform: The Phase 1 launch has been delayed due to ongoing platform development and the identification of the 'soft launch' group. The branding 'Doing Things Differently for the Environment' and the BeetNetZero logo are being added to the platform.
- Consumer Behaviour Insights: The Wave 12 survey of consumer behaviour insights study to commence in April 2025.
- Small Grants for Schools: 29 projects out of 56 applications were awarded grant funding across 8 Local Authorities covering circular economy/waste prevention (7), sustainable food/reducing food waste (15), and environmental education (7).

1.5 **Natural Environment**

- Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) – The public consultation on the GM draft LNRS finished on 31st January with 427 responses and over 10,000 visits to the LNRS webpages. Analysis of responses has progressed through February to inform the preparation of the final LNRS by Summer 2025. 3 workshops have been held with the Steering Group and Officer Group to communicate the key themes emerging from the consultation response and discuss changes to the strategy. Delivery planning has also commenced as well as research into the monitoring approaches for headline targets. There is ongoing promotion of the consultation, including full analysis of content performance.
- Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) – Regarding the habitat banking verification and auditing service, local authorities are to consider launching verification service (if choosing to opt in); which is no change from the previous quarter. As for the Responsible Body Service. detailed proposals are being developed together with options appraisal and costings January-April 2024. We will take this to CA for a

decision April/May 2025. WSP, MCC Shared Legal Service and GMCA Finance team are providing support. On the topic of Local authorities bringing forward their own sites, follow up discussions have taken place with local authorities on their pipeline returns. Findings were presented to local authorities including GM Local Authority Nature Recovery Officers Group (LANROG), Directors of Place and Heads of Procurement. An updated pipeline of sites provides more detail on which local authorities are bringing forward sites and when. All local Authorities are at different stages although likely to start seeing some sites coming forward Spring/Summer.

- Green Social Prescribing (GSP) – The funded programme is nearing completion. By all measures the programme has been a success, we are seeing very positive changes in the outcome measures of participants. We will be sending final data to our evaluation team at the end of March for analysis and review. As it stands, we do not have further funding post-March and as such the programme will formally close. We will be maintaining the Nature for Health steering group, and will continue to pursue opportunities for funding and to grow the use of nature-based interventions in the health system.
- Live Well – Live Well is progressing at speed, with the initial grant funding now with localities and with funding applications put forward from green providers.
- Integrated Water Management Plan (IWMP) - The Lead Analyst position was filled through a 2-year secondment from TfGM. The draft Annual Business Plan 2025-26 was agreed at the Trilateral meeting in January 2025. The final draft is to be discussed and agreed at the Trilateral meeting on 24th March. The Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) Policy Team meet with GM IWMP partners in central Manchester on 18th March. Rebalance Earth has produced a more detailed work programme, to be discussed on 25th March. The GM Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS) design guide was launched. The Cunliffe Review of the water sector launched in central Manchester, 30th January. IWMP Directors met with Sir Jon to discuss integrated water management in GM. Trilateral partners started work on the "sprint" response to New Year's Day floods in the Platt Bridge and Hindley areas of Wigan.

- Greater Manchester Environment Fund (GMEF) - An evaluation report being developed and Round 6 will open in May with a date to be decided closer to the time. Corporate opportunities are being explored including through Menu for Change and Hatch funding. Round 4 is being built onto the portal at present and is due to open in April.
- Biodiversity Action Plan -- Initial internal comms about the plan have launched, along with support for a Festival of Learning session.

1.6 **Green Summit**

- Planning for the next Green Summit has commenced and is likely to be held in March 2026. A suitable venue, and date are currently being sought.

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

- An executive summary has been drafted and the 5YEP Forum has provided feedback to it.
- Work is ongoing to develop documents aimed at specific audiences to communicate the actions relevant to them in the plan. The GMCA is reviewing the plan to prioritise the 5YEP actions for year 1.
- The Local Authority 5YEP survey content is being reworked to maximise usefulness for districts.
- We have refreshed our webpages to reflect the 5YEP launch, including general refinements to user journey and our content structure.

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 – We will launch Invitation to Tender (ITT) for four AZP schemes. We are awaiting a decision on GHNF funding applications. We will complete feasibility work for Bury. We will complete financial de-risking activity and confirm

the next steps for priority schemes. We will hold a market engagement event (subject to approval from the Wider Leadership Team). We are awaiting outcomes of Zoning Coordinator consultation.

- Local Area Energy Plans (LAEPs) – Market engagement insights are to be fed into work programme. Engagement with local authorities on delivery models are to be undertaken. We will produce the 1st iteration of the prospectus and develop prioritised bundling options. We will launch the Oldham Green New Deal Procurement. We will develop Wythenshawe Blueprint (phase 1) and a LAEP Action Plan. We will issue energy demand planning and EVCI engagements through a Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS). We will integrate LCOE findings to support pipeline and Work Package 1 and continue to build the pipeline in general. We will finalise the draft GMCA vision and roles, support Trafford heat network procurement readiness, and develop a de-risking strategy. We will ensure single settlement readiness and invite applications for Warm Homes Phase 1. We will finalise single settlement readiness for non-domestic retrofit.
- Go Neutral – Tender and appointment of research commission activity including commercial buildings barriers (P-012) and energy storage (P-010) will take place. GM Waste reports to be delivered and next steps discussed. PPA Pathfinder work commissions with external advisor to be conducted. Continued management of community energy commission (P-009) and LCOE (P-006) approaching delivery of final reports
- Smart Energy – POS Phase 1 will see initial JCT contracts signed and installs started, and all surveys will be complete. POS Phase 2 will have a procurement approach defined.
- Bee Net Zero (BNZ) – Completion of Impact's employee engagement research will take place in April 2025; with a campaign to be devised and launched in May/June 2025. The energy flexibility campaign is to be formally launched in April 2025. The second round of promotion of the BNZ Commitment is to take place in April 2025, focusing on GM's largest emitters. A tenant decarbonisation and energy efficiency guide will be published in April 2025. Finalisation and kick-off meetings of T&F groups relating to business & industrial park decarbonisation, and green skills will take place. A deep-dive at April's BNZ board meeting on BNZ's overarching comms strategy will occur. Future confirmed board meeting discussion topics include Carbon Literacy and the 5YEP delivery plan.

- North West Net Zero Hub: We are working to shape and support the comms plan for this project.

2.2 **Buildings**

- Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) – More partners will complete their delivery programmes for Wave 2.1. Assessment and awarding of the first wave of devolved SHF Wave 3 funding, subject to the Integrated Settlement being agreed in Q4 of 2024/2025. Note work is unlikely to start until Q2 2025/2026. Anticipated appointment of additional staffing resource to manage delivery of SHF Wave 3, though may not be in post before the end of the quarter.
- Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) – PSDS 1 will see continued M&V reporting January-December of Year 1. PSDS 3a Single Year will see support for delayed completions, finalised completion evidence, commencement of M&V reporting for year 1 of 3. The anticipated financial audit is to be confirmed with Salix. PSDS 3a Multi Year will prepare to commence M&V reporting year 1 of 3. PSDS 3b will prepare to commence M&V reporting year 1 of 3.
- Retrofit GM (Your Home Better) – Our new aim for the portal launch is 1st July, following the project's mobilisation and procurement process. The development of the portal will take place largely in April, with testing and refinement throughout the quarter.
- ECO4 Flex scheme – We will work with the NHS to develop the offer with them and aim to start implementing proposals. We will work with new portal developer to have it created and ready for launch by the start of Q2 of 2025/2026. We will utilise the new Senior Contract Manager role within the team to develop and implement a checking regime with installs, as well as looking at installer processes. We will work with the NEA on their offer of providing a wraparound service for health applicants.
- Good Landlord Charter – Launch of the Good Landlord Charter, and open for new supporters on 23rd May. Cross-boundary tenancy relations pilot due to start. Further funding to support local authority enforcement due to be finalised (subject to retained business rates process).

- Net Zero New Development - We will publish guidance for the design and delivery of TANZ homes. Continued development of pipeline for 10,000 TANZ homes will also take place.
- Public Building Retrofit Fund -- We have started creating branded material. Work will begin on audience mapping, wider messaging and presentations.
- Feel the Benefit campaign -- Animations are still rolling out, we are chasing for future case studies, and supporting the next mailout where possible.
- Warm Homes funding -- We will begin to capture case studies.

2.3 Transport

- Bike Hire Scheme – Product upgrades have now been given the go ahead. eBikes are due 5th May (the delay is due shipping). We will monitor availability and distribution of bikes. Our target is 1200 for May 2025.
- Zero Emission Bus Fleet -- There will be stakeholder engagement on ZEB commercial and financial models. Fleet & Depot Strategy is undergoing development. Approvals are to be sought for next phase of ZEB investment in line with infrastructure works. Completion of electrification works at Bolton, Ashton and Hyde Road are expected. Electrification works at Middleton will begin. Development of proposals for next phase of electrification works at Hyde Road and Oldham.
- Salford E-scooter Trial – Milestones set by Salford City Council play a role in our Right Mix targets by encouraging the use of sustainable transport modes. TfGM will continue to monitor the scheme to understand how e-scooters can play a role in the GM transport offer once legislation exists to explore these options.
- Electric vehicles, Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure (EVCI) Delivery and [Taxi EVI project](#) - EVCI activity will continue using a number of funding sources. We are working with Local Authorities to roll out LEVI programme further; procurement will be underway. Measures to increase utilisation of taxi programme

2.4 Sustainable Consumption and Production

- Consumer Behaviour Insights – Results of Consumer Sustainability Study Wave 12 is expected in June 2025.
- School's Eco Refill Pilot – We will continue to support schools and monitor the number of containers refilled and behaviour change of the school community. We will progress research and insight project including desk-based research, online surveys and focus groups.
- Climate Change E-learning Module – There will be a re-launch of mandatory Climate Awareness e-module and launch of new Single-Use Plastic e-module to all staff (subject to Senior Leadership Team (SLT) approval). We will commission Sustainable Lifestyles/Climate Awareness e-module.
- 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.
- Community Hive Project – Research is to continue to identify the best way forward, adopting a grassroots approach. Links are currently being made with community groups and organisations to understand the scope of delivery.
- Reduce Food Waste -- An action plan based on recommendations from the Food Waste Prevention report on climate and food-related health impacts in Greater Manchester is to be completed by July 2025.
- Small Grants for Schools – The progress of funded projects will be monitored. Support and resources will be provided to ensure successful implementation.
- Recycle for Greater Manchester (R4GM) – There will be a trial of Team Repair activity kit that introduces young people to electronics repair to commence with Stockport Primary School. (<https://www.team.repair/>) Renew Community Fund (previously Recycle for Greater Manchester Community Fund) is to open to applicants in April 2025 focused on repair and reuse.
- Place-based CSI Project: The next Advisory Board meeting (with a Steering Committee update) will take place on Wednesday 14th May 2025.
- Waste and Resources Strategy -- The new Waste and Resources Strategy is scheduled to be completed October/November 2025. A draft will be presented in July, followed by a consultation period., before final review and approval by the Combined Authority.

- Research -- The next Advisory Board meeting (with a Steering Committee update) will take place on Wednesday 14th May 2025.

2.5 **Natural Environment**

- Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) – Our upcoming activities are; completing the final LNRS, completing the public consultation reports, reviewing the final LNRS by the steering group and officer group, getting district sign off for publication, and redeveloping the mapping portal. We plan to capture local nature champions and prepare a strategy refresh following the consultation results.
- Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) – Habitat banking verification and auditing service: Local authorities to consider launching verification service (if choosing to opt in). The Responsible Body Service will see detailed proposals developed together with options appraisal and costings January-April 2024. Take to CA for a decision April/May 2025. Commission further offsite BNG support for districts on off-site BNG options appraisal and market analysis. Local authorities bringing forward their own sites: All local authorities to continue to review and send through their pipeline submissions.
- Green Spaces Fund (GSF) - The evaluation will report published and Round 6 will be opened in May. Corporate opportunities will be identified and secured through Menu for Change and Hatch funding.
- Green Social Prescribing (GSP) - To be scoped out once the programme has finished. We will continue the Nature for Health steering group.
- Integrated Water Management Plan (IWMP) - The Final Annual Business Plan 2025-26 is to be presented to the Green City Region Partnership on 3rd April. Future policy requests to follow-up visit on 18th March are to be submitted to DEFRA. We will finalise 2025-26 work programme with Rebalance Earth. Imperial College London is to complete Water Systems Integrated Modelling (WSIMOD) modelling of GM catchments and the University of Manchester will be contracted to deliver the next phase of integrated water management modelling. University of Salford students are to evaluate the IWMP cluster approach and produce case studies. Responses to the Cunliffe Review call for evidence submitted by the GM

Trilateral and GMCA & GM districts. Production of Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) Investment Mapping report and initial surface water pipeline projects will be agreed. Production of an integrated water management plan for Platt Bridge & Hindley catchment will be produced for the 28th April following the aforementioned sprint project. IWMP Lead Analyst will start work on the project with GMCA. We are waiting for sign off for the site content update. We will meet with comms support from partner organisations to plan future communications.

2.6 Green Summit

- Research into possible date and venue for the Green Summit 2026 is to continue.

2.7 Greater Manchester 5 Year Environment Plan 2024 onwards

- Work programmes is to be developed and the executive summary to be published
- Finalise local authority survey content and share it with districts to form best practice sharing groups.
- We continue to feed in support for comms planning as well as shape the executive summary.
- We will refresh to reflect 5YEP launch and implement general refinements to the user journey and content structure. Also looking at relevant social media channels.

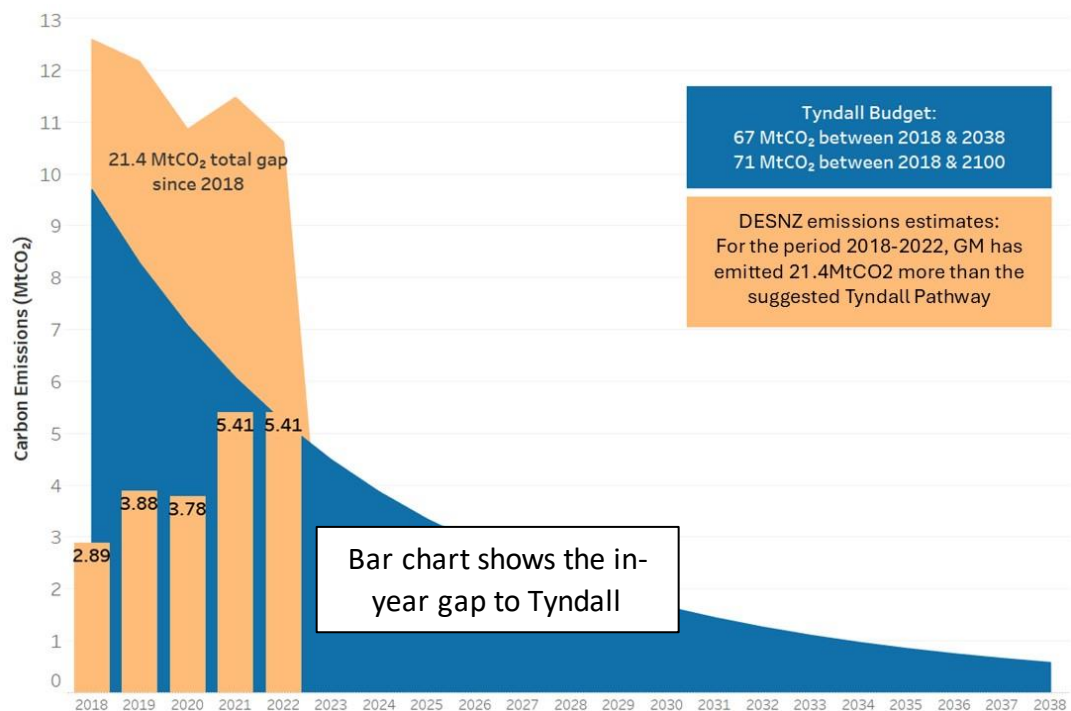
3. IDENTIFIED RISKS AND EMERGING ISSUES

- 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%).