



**Minutes of the GM 5 Year Environment Plan (5YEP) Partnership
on Friday 10 October 2025 at 10.00 am via Teams**

PRESENT:

Councillor Tom Ross (TR)	GMCA Green City Portfolio Lead (Chair)
Councillor Mike McCusker (MM)	Housing First, Planning and Infrastructure Commission Representative and Vice-Chair
Councillor Steve Adshead (SA)	Waste and Recycling Committee Representative
Jeremy Carter (JC)	University of Manchester
Steve Connor (SC)	Creative Concern (Chair Bee Net Zero Challenge Group)
Peter Emery (PE)	Strategic Infrastructure Board
Claire Igoe (CI)	NHS Greater Manchester
Andy Judd (AJ)	Environment Agency
Phil Korbel (PK)	Cooler Projects
Robin Logan (RL)	University of Manchester
Roger Milburn (RM)	Living Solutions
Carly McLachlan (CM)	Tyndall Centre for Climate Change (Chair 5YEP Forum)
Deborah Murray (DM)	Groundwork
Liz Price (LP)	Manchester Metropolitan University
Ben Scott (BS)/Mike Taylor (MT)	Electricity Northwest (ENWL)
Will Swan (WS)	University of Salford (Vice-Chair Low Carbon Challenge Group)

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Thomas Addison (TA)	Local Economic Strategy Principal (Low Carbon Economy), GMCA
Mark Atherton (MA)	Director of Environment, GMCA
Megan Black (MB)	Head of Logistics & Environment, TfGM

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Dan Dickinson (DD)	Programme & Policy Lead - Low Carbon, GMCA
Sam Evans (SE)	Head of Natural Environment, GMCA
John Gregory (JG)	Head of Service for Environmental Assets, Bolton Council
Dan Griffiths (DG)	Head of Low Carbon Policy, GMCA
James Harries (JH)	Head of Climate Change and Sustainability Service, Manchester City Council
Steven Hassall (SH)	Programme Manager, GMCA
Jenny Hollamby (JH)	Senior Governance and Scrutiny Officer, GMCA
Terri Lucas (TL)	Civic Engagement Manager, Manchester City Council
Sarah Mellor (SM)	Head of Sustainable Consumption and Production, GMCA
Paul Morgan (PM)	Head of Commercial Services (Waste), GMCA
Garry Parker (GP)	Assistant Director - Environment and Regulatory Services, Bolton Council
Steven Westcott (SW)	Environment Programme Manager, GMCA

5YEP/79/25	Introductions and Apologies Apologies for absence were received and noted from Louise Blythe, Chris Oglesby (Jessica Bowles), Ian Crewe (Mark Easdale), Sue Johnson and Councillor Alan Quinn.	Action Noted
5YEP/80/25	Chair's Announcements and Urgent Business a) That Peter Emery representative for the Strategic Infrastructure Board and Christos Tsaprounis Industry Representative for the Auto Trader be appointed to the GM 5YEP Partnership for the 2025/26 Municipal Year. Peter Emery was welcomed at the meeting.	JH

	b) The Chair's update on the School Eco Refill Shop initiative, hospitality business grants, and the funding awarded to Salford City Council and Manchester City Council by the National Lottery Heritage Fund to enhance access to nature and green spaces was noted.	Noted
5YEP/81/25	Declarations of Interest There were no declarations of interests received.	
5YEP/82/25	<p>To approve the Minutes dated 18.7.25</p> <p>The minutes of the last meeting were approved as an accurate record.</p> <p>The following matters arising were highlighted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 60/25a) In terms of wider stakeholders contributions to transport work, TfGM and GMCA had met to align transport actions with Bee Net Zero and the Communications Challenge Group. A transport and air quality deep dive was shared at the latest 5YEP Forum for feedback. An update to be provided to a future meeting. • 60/24c) That the Mayoral Development Corporations role and how they fitted into the governance structure be considered at the next meeting on 22.1.26. • 62/25a) That a presentation on community energy and community solar to be considered at the next meeting on 22.1.26. • 62/25b) That a community engagement event takes place led by the 5YEP Environment Forum. • 62/25c) The GM Green and Blue Spaces Action Network Update be deferred until the next meeting. • 62/25d) Integrated Water Management Plan (IWMP) Communications Strategy. • 62/25e) District Heat Maps and 62/25f) IWMP Awareness actions were complete. 	Approved MB MA MA MA/CM IR/MA Complete Complete

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 67/25a) In terms of using publicly funded buses to improve services, it was clarified that franchising enabled GMCA and TfGM to set bus routes and enhance connectivity across Greater Manchester. 	Complete
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 69/25a) That Grace Rider and MA connect to explore how the 5YEP metrics dashboard could be aligned to NHS sustainability reporting. 	MA/GR
5YEP/83/25	<p>Quarter 2 Progress Report Review – 5YEP Plan Report</p> <p>a) That the Partnership noted and commented upon the progress outlined in the report and latest position set out in the dashboards attached at:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Detailed Performance Report Against each 5YEP Objective/Action (Annex A) 2. The metrics dashboards are available online at: https://public.tableau.com/views/GMCA-5YEP-2025-30/5YEPContentsPage <p>b) The Partnership welcomed and endorsed the clearer report format and ability to challenge effectively.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Endorsed</p>
5YEP/83/25	<p>Challenge Group Updates</p> <p>a) The Partnership noted the progress in developing the Mission Based Approach and the associated Challenge Groups.</p> <p>b) Members considered issues raised by the Challenge Group Chairs or Vice-Chairs.</p> <p>c) SC announced he was stepping down as Chair of the Bee Net Zero Board after four years and that Laura Percy would take over the role. The Chair wished him all the best in his future endeavours.</p> <p>d) SC had recommended that GMCA secure representation on the national Net Zero Council.</p> <p>e) The Partnership to submit potential sites for BNG in GM.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>JH</p> <p>SC</p> <p>All</p>

	<p>f) AS reported that she had been interviewed by a CPRE researcher about governance for the natural environment and would share the findings, noting Greater Manchester received considerable praise.</p>	AS
5YEP/84/25	<p>Levelised Cost of Energy Research</p> <p>a) That the Partnership received and noted the report.</p> <p>b) In response to Members' comments, it was agreed that further information on planning considerations, cost of investment, grid connection process and related issues, private wire/direct wire and battery storage for renewable energy projects would be brought back to a future meeting.</p>	Noted DD/MA
5YEP/85/25	<p>GM 5YEP – Transport and Travel</p> <p>a) That the presentation be received and noted.</p> <p>b) Data from the 2024 Travel Diary Survey to be brought to a future meeting to provide further insight into car ownership and travel patterns.</p> <p>c) The TfGM Customer Team to review feedback regarding challenges by adding Metrolink to the 65+ bus pass.</p> <p>d) A programme update on achieving full accessibility (Step Free access) at railway stations by 2030 to be shared with the Partnership.</p> <p>e) That a Stakeholder Consultation Session on the GM Transport Strategy 2050 be undertaken before Christmas 2025.</p>	Noted MB/JH Ongoing MB Complete MB/JH
5YEP/86/25	<p>Green Infrastructure (GI) Research Update</p> <p>a) That the presentation be received and noted.</p> <p>b) Further demonstrations and examples of the Green Infrastructure Explorer tool to be arranged for the Partnership.</p> <p>c) Findings from the research and tool development to be shared with the Partnership.</p>	Noted JC JC

	<p>d) JC to arrange an offline discussion with DM to involve environment NGOs and the voluntary sector in shaping and testing the GI work.</p> <p>e) JC to follow up with CI to explore opportunities for NHS involvement.</p>	DM/JC JC/CI
	<p>f) The Partnership noted that climate change was a risk to GM's GI and could compromise the functions provided by GI under certain weather conditions.</p> <p>g) That the Partnership encouraged the consideration of responses to lessen climate change risk when designing new urban GI (e.g. planting strategies, irrigation opportunities etc), particularly in areas where 'need' for GI was greatest.</p> <p>h) The Partnership noted that the GM GI Explorer remained in development, and that the University of Manchester was aiming to engage with GM colleagues on this resource over the coming months</p> <p>i) The Partnership considered how the GM GI Explorer could support GI-related activity in GM</p>	Noted All Noted
5YEP/87/25	GMCA Hydrogen Strategy	
	<p>j) That the presentation be received and noted.</p> <p>k) That the Partnership contribute to the consultation.</p> <p>l) That an item focussing on green skills development and its connection to the 5YEP be presented at a future meeting considering investment and capacity needs.</p>	Noted All MA
5YEP/88/25	GM Interim Waste Plan	
	<p>a) A Member emphasised the need to effectively engage and involve the public in the implementation of the Interim Waste Plan.</p> <p>b) The Partnership endorsed the plan, which would proceed through the GMCA governance process, including scrutiny and consideration at the GMCA meeting scheduled for January 2026.</p>	Noted Endorsed

5YEP/89/25	<p>Retrofit Strategy Update</p> <p>The Retrofit Strategy was under review to reflect recent changes, the Integrated Settlement, and the forthcoming Warm Homes Plan. A refreshed draft would be prepared for approval in early 2026. Meanwhile, a Call for Evidence was open until 14.11.25 via</p> <p>https://www.gmconsult.org/environment-team-policy-and-strategy/2fdbb1cb/.</p>	All
5YEP/90/25	<p>Date and Time of Next Meeting</p> <p>Thursday 22 January 2026 at 10.00 am via Teams.</p>	All