DECISIONS OF A MEETING OF THE GREATER MANCHESTER (GM) LOW CARBON HUB (LCH) BOARD HELD ON FRIDAY 20 JANUARY 2017
AT 10.00 AM MANCHESTER TOWN HALL

PRESENT:

City Mayor Paul Dennett  Greater Manchester Combined Authority Portfolio Lead for Low Carbon, Waste and Environment (Chair)

Steve Rumbelow  GMCA Lead Chief Executive Environment
Councillor Eunice Smethurst  Transport for Greater Manchester
Louise Blythe  British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC)
Patrick Allcom  BEIS
Steve Johnson  M&G Group
Robin Lawler  Northwards Housing
Roger Milburn  Arup
Robin Philips  Siemens
Anne Selby  Lancashire & Greater Manchester Wildlife Trust
Dave Marshall  Environment Agency
Prof Hisham Elkadi  University of Salford

Also In Attendance

Alison Gordon  New Economy Manchester
Mark Atherton  AGMA
Phil Korbal  Carbon Literacy Project
Julian Packer  GMCA
Todd Holden  Manchester Growth Company
Beth Perry  University of Sheffield
Allan Sparrow  GMIST

LCH17/01  INTRODUCTION AND APOLOGIES

The Chair opened the meeting and introductions took place around the table.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Lynn Travis (Tameside MBC), Councillor Cheryl Brock and John Bland (GMWDA), Councillor Aasim Rashid (Rochdale MBC), Matthew Ellis (Environment Agency), Peter Early (Electricity North West), Jim Lightfoot (Eon-UK), Paul Ringham (Viridor), Helen Smith (TfGM), Susan Ford and Jenny Hollamby (GMIST)

A. Gordon Whittaker

The Chair informed the Board of the untimely death of Gordon Whittaker from the Environment Agency. The Board agreed to posthumously record the Board’s sympathies to his family.
It was also noted that Dave Marshall would act as the Environment Agency’s representative until a permanent appointment was made by the Environmental Agency. The Chair welcomed Dave Marshall to the meeting.

B. Nigel Mellors (Professor Hisham Elkadi)

The Board was informed that Nigel Mellors had confirmed that he was no longer able to act as the University of Salford’s representative on the Board. Following this, the University had nominated Professor Hisham Elkadi in his place. The Board placed on record its thanks to Nigel Mellors and welcomed Professor Hisham Elkadi to the Board.

C. New Members of the Board

The Board welcomed Robin Philips (Siemens) to his first Board meeting. It was also reported that Peter Early (CEO Electricity Northwest) and Jim Lightfoot (Director EON) had both accepted invitations to join the Board. Both were unable to attend the meeting due to other commitments.

LCH17/02 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ANY CONTRACT OR MATTER TO BE DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING

There were no declarations of interest received at the meeting.

LCH17/03 MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

The Minutes of the previous meeting of the LCH Board, held on 7 October 2016, were considered.

The following matters arising were raised:

Performance Report (Minute LCH16/19 refers)

It was reported that no progress had been made on developing a low carbon building award. It was noted that GM’s £2k contribution to the Carbon Literacy Employers breakfast and awards event was still outstanding.

Proposal for GM to become a DEFRA Pioneer City Region (Minute LCH16/20 refers)

The Board was advised that the DEFRA Minister was proposing a visit to Manchester w/c 13 February 2017.

Smart Systems and Heat Programme (Minute LCH16/23 refers)

It was reported that a paper on the Smart Heat and Energy Systems was to be considered by the GMCA on 27 February 2017. The paper would ask the GMCA to confirm Bury as the chosen district for the Energypath modelling exercise although subsequent demonstrator activity could also be located in any of the districts.
Resolved/-

The Board approved the Minutes of the LCH Board, held on 7 October 2016, as a correct record.

LCH17/04 QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE UPDATE – QUARTER (Q) 3 (OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2016) AND ANNUAL REPORT

Consideration was given to the report on the draft GM Annual Environment Report (2016) and the updated LCH Board Bulletin for comment and approval. The report also provided the usual update on progress of the LCH in the last quarter.

The Board was informed that the LCH publishes an Annual Environmental Report each year in order to comply with international reporting requirements. This report also briefly summarised the achievements of the LCH within the calendar year; the highlights of 2016 were considered. Members were informed that should they have any comments to make regarding the 2016 report, that they get in contact with Mark Atherton. The Board was informed that good progress had been made overall.

Consideration was also given on the progress update on the delivery of the Climate Change and Low Emissions Implementation Plan (2016-20) for Quarter 3 (2016-17). The Board was asked to note that each of the annual actions were included, with progress against the action within the last quarter, which included an appropriate RAG rating. Those marked white either meant data had yet to be received or the particular area of work hadn’t started; those marked blue had been completed. The following comments were raised on the report:

- The Chair reported that he was pleased with the assessments reported and highlighted the importance of securing and developing the right skills to develop the green economy in GM. GM still had a lot of work to do but, through the Greater Manchester Strategy and local plans, this agenda could be pushed forward in order to create new employment opportunities in an innovative way, with less reliance on the National Grid.
- Roger Milburn highlighted the links the ‘Resilient Cities’ programme. He reported that Manchester had been chosen as one of the global 100 Resilient Cities and this meant funding had been made available from the Rockefeller Foundation to help develop a Resilient City Strategy for Manchester. The strategy would help Manchester become more resilient to the physical, social and economic challenges that were a growing part of the 21st Century. He felt that Cathy Oldham from the Resilient Cities team should be asked to present to a future LCH Board. The Chair agreed that the suggestion would help provide clarity on how GM could take resilience work forward.
- A comment was made that climate resilience was part of the LCH’s work programme, but it was felt that this area of work needed to be more prominent.
- A member also highlighted the need to ensure that district councils, when making vehicle or plant purchasing decisions, took account of the Low Emissions strategy. The Chair responded that though his authority had purchased electric vehicles he felt that more could and should be done. Authorities needed to continue to encourage the use of public transport, walking or cycling and more needed to be done to develop transport integration.
Resolved/-

1) That the LCH Annual Report and the LCH Board Bulletin tabled at the meeting be approved subject to comments received (to Mark Atherton) within seven days.

2) That the Board noted the updates from across the LCH’s accountable bodies, detailed in the appendix of the report.

3) That the Manchester Resilient Cities Team be asked to report to a future LCH on its work in order to provide some clarity to GM on how it should take resilience forward.

4) That an update be given to the next meeting on transport integration.

LCH17/05  MISTRA URBAN FUTURES COMMUNICATIONS PROPOSALS

Consideration was given to the report of Beth Perry, Academic Director, Mistra Urban Futures UK (MUF) that presented a proposal for MUF to fund a PhD student for three years, to work in partnership with the GM LCH, to better understand and act on improving, communications and engagement with civil society groups and citizens. It was explained that this would be aligned to the planned refresh of the GM Climate Change Strategy, which would begin in 2018.

It was reported that the PhD would be funded as part of an innovative scheme to explore new approaches to funding and supporting post-graduate research that could balance academic excellence with relevance and impact. It was noted that MUF’s overall aim was to explore how co-producing knowledge with different urban stakeholders could help realise more ‘just cities’, which were accessible, green and fair. The Board also received details of how the students would be chosen and where they would be placed.

The following comments were raised on the paper:

A comment was made that the proposal called for a balance to be found for these students between meeting the requirements of stakeholders and finding time to learn. A member asked Beth Perry how she saw the proposal working. Beth reported that the students were to be used to refine existing ideas and the 3 PhDs would be used in different ways once embedded into their placements.

A member asked if it would be beneficial to set up a reference group to provide guidance on work being undertaken and to monitor progress. It was reported that the students work would be co-supervised and include a professor from Sheffield University so these students would be able to gain their PhDs.

A director asked if regular milestone updates could be reported back to the Board rather than waiting till the programme had finished to find out what was and wasn’t currently working. Beth reported that this would be the case and she felt that by engaging with partners the students would get better informed knowledge. She added that the project hoped to hold annual events to report back on findings.
The Chair felt that there was also a broader governance issue to consider. He asked how agencies would engage with the public. Beth reported that 10 action research projects were being developed and citizen engagement had to be at the heart of these projects. The Chair stressed that engagement with the public would mean empowerment.

Louise Blythe informed the Board that carbon reduction in Media City was a potential area for this project. All broadcasters within Media City had made significant strides to ensure that their programme productions took account of carbon reduction.

The Chair concluded that MUF needed to think about community engagement a lot more. He looked forward to working with the MUF programme and was happy to set up a sub group to monitor progress. The Chair added that if any Board members wished to sit on the sub group they let him know.

Resolved/-

1) That the proposal by Mistra Urban Futures UK to fund a PhD student for three years, to work in partnership with the GM LCH, to better understand and act on improving, communications and engagement with civil society groups and GM citizens be approved.

2) That the Board agrees to support its further development through the Director of Environment and Chair of the LCH Board.

3) That a sub group be established to monitor progress with the MUF programme and that members notify the Chair if they wish to be part of the sub group.

LCH/17/06 REVISED NATURAL CAPITAL TERMS OF REFERENCE & UPDATE

A report of the Chair of the GM Natural Capital Group was submitted to the last Board meeting that provided an outlined of the scope of the Urban Pioneer. The report was agreed subject to further discussions on governance arrangements. It was noted that it had since been agreed that an Urban Pioneer Delivery Group would be convened as a sub-group of the GM Natural Capital Group. Consequently, the report before members set out the draft revised terms of reference for the GM Natural Capital Group for approval and provided updates on the progress which had been made including delivery of the GM Natural Capital Group Work Programme and Urban Pioneer. The Board was informed that the Constitution requires that members agree any changes to the Natural Capital Group’s Terms of Reference.

Robin Lawler added that his group would be happy to nominate a representative to attend the Urban Pioneer Delivery Group.

Anne Selby informed the Board that the Natural Capital Group’s annual conference would be held on 1 February 2017 at the Lowry Centre, Media City. High profile speakers at the event would include the Chair of the Environment Agency, amongst others.
Comments were also raised about the impact the environment had on health and the health benefits that would be created if environmental problems were addressed. A member added that he was interested in understanding how the group would calculate benefits to the NHS and how it intended to capture this value so the NHS could appreciate it. Anne Selby added that it was early days for this work, but links were being made with the health sector. The Board was informed that the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy were also trying to build similar links with health services. If BEIS evaluated these projects in a similar way to the Urban Pioneer Delivery Group, there would be compatible evaluations which could lead to a joined up approach.

Councillor Smethurst highlighted the fact that GM, through devolution agreements, had now embedded NHS services into the GMCA and as a result they had worked closely with the ten district councils and communities. She added that she would like to see the MUF PhD student undertake some of the communications work. GM had to educate its younger people to see the benefits of a healthy lifestyle and this would then be filtered up through families. This was something Public Health England were keen to develop at a community level.

The Chair referred to the fact that it was becoming a struggle to get investment into our green spaces with the current cuts in public funding. GM was facing financial pressures i.e. Salford had lost £3.5m in home bonus payments. Such actions only compromised what could be achieved with the green spaces across GM. He added that to the lay person the work of the LCH was complex and members needed to find ways to make it easier for people to engage with the agenda. Anne Selby added that DEFRA had indicated that Innovative Funding mechanisms from the Pioneer Project would be essential in order to engage and communicate with communities.

Resolved/-

1) That the Board noted the report.

2) That the terms of reference for the GM Natural Capital Group be approved.

LCH 17/07 GM STRATEGY - PRESENTATION

The Board received a presentation from the Alison Gordon that set out work underway to refresh the Greater Manchester Strategy (GMS). The Board was informed that a report on the GMS refresh consultation would be submitted to the next Board meeting. The presentation provided:

- The purpose for the refresh
- The approach being taken
- How the conversation on the refresh was conducted and activity undertaken

The Board was informed that the response via the online survey received a poor response from business and it was felt that business was more likely to respond when further more definite proposals were being put for consultation. The results of the survey were broken
down in the presentation and consideration was given to the next steps. The Board also received a copy of the draft framework for the refreshed GMS.

The following was raised on the presentation:

- Had the candidates standing for Mayor of GM been fully briefed on the refresh of the GMS? It was reported that they would be but not until the formal list of candidates had been confirmed. The deadline for this was 23 March 2017. The Board was informed that Andy Burnham, the Labour candidate, had asked for workshop to be held on climate change.

- A member asked why the consultation process on the refreshed GMS was being carried out at the same time as the GM Spatial Framework and had this been the reason why the GMS refresh consultation process received reduced interest. The Chair felt that this was a good point as consulting on two key documents at the same time was not helpful. Furthermore, they were being carried out at a time when districts needed to undertake Local Planning consultation. The Board was informed that the GMS was an open ended conversation and phase 2 of the consultation would give people more opportunity to shape the GMS.

- A member asked how the GMCA would benchmark the results of the consultation i.e. would the results be benchmarked against similar sub-regions across the UK. In response, it was reported that the details of the consultation responses would not be benchmarked. Benchmarking would become more relevant in phase 2 of the consultation process which would seek to penetrate deeper.

- The Chair indicated that he would speak to Leaders regarding concerns that two major pieces of public consultation and district council planning consultation were taking place at the same.

Resolved/-

That the presentation be noted and that Alison Gordon be thanked for her informative presentation.

LCH 17/08 ARUP/INFRASTRUCTURE - PRESENTATION

The Board received a presentation from Roger Milburn on ARUP’s involvement with the GM Infrastructure Advisory Group (GMIAG), its work on low carbon and the background to ARUP’s values and ownership. The Board received details of the membership of the GMIAG along with its overall aims and what had been delivered so far. The Board also received details of how ARUP, with its partners, had developed the GM Open Data Infrastructure Map and Growth Tool.

A Member highlighted the importance of developing GM’s core utilities and the need for support to achieve this from key stakeholders. The Board agreed that core utilities were fundamentally important to the future prosperity of GM.

Resolved/-

That Roger Milburn be thanked for his informative presentation.
LCH17/09  LOW CARBON BUSINESS SUPPORT - PRESENTATION

The Board received a report from Todd Holden which provided the Board with an update on the Business Growth Hub’s contribution to the GM’s transition to a low carbon economy. The Board was also provided with a presentation that set out the partners involved with the Growth Hub, the work of the Hub’s Green Team, its work in the low carbon sector, work on carbon reduction, the life-cycle of thinking and the strategic added value of this work to GM.

The Chair highlighted the importance to continue work to reduce the amount of food waste still going to landfill. He felt that GM needed a strategic approach to this issue. Comments were made that there were some schemes in GM which tried to make use of waste food thrown out by retail and restaurants, but clearly a lot more could be done. Some food waste was also being used as feed stocks for animals. It was felt that the purchasing decisions of major supermarkets needed to be addressed as well as the use of packaging.

Resolved/-

That Todd Holden be thanked for his report and presentation.

LCH17/10  GM ENERGY COMPANY

Item deferred to the next meeting.

LCH17/11  NATURAL COURSE WORK PROGRAMME

Taken as read, for information.

Resolved/-

That the Board noted the report and next steps.

LCH17/12  SMART SYSTEMS AND HEAT PROGRAMME UPDATE

Taken as read, for information.

Resolved/-

That the Board noted the report.

LCH17/13  ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Julian Packer, GM Low Carbon Investment Director
Julian Packer informed the Board that this was his last meeting as GM’s Low Carbon Investment Director at the GMCA’s Core Investment Team. He added that he had enjoyed his time in the role and wished the Board every success in the future.

The Chair on behalf of the Board thanked Julian for his hard work and commitment.

**LCH17/14 FUTURE MEETING DATES**

It was noted that the next meeting would take place on Friday 7 April 2017 from 10.00am to 12 noon, Scrutiny Room, Manchester Town Hall.