DECISIONS OF A MEETING OF THE GREATER MANCHESTER (GM) LOW CARBON HUB LCH BOARD (LCHB) HELD ON FRIDAY 7 JULY 2017 AT 11:00 AM STOCKPORT TOWN HALL

PRESENT:

Cllr Alex Ganotis Greater Manchester Combined Authority Portfolio Lead for Low Carbon, Waste and Environment (Chair)

Councillor Cherryl Brock GM Waste Disposal Authority
Councillor Aasim Rashid Rochdale MBC
Councillor Lynn Travis Tameside MBC
Robin Lawler Northwards Housing
Robin Philips Siemens
Anne Selby Lancashire Wildlife Trust
Steve Johnson Energy Group
Lee Rawlinson Environment Agency
Jim Lightfoot E-On UK
Paul Bircham Electricity North West
Roger Milburn ARUP

Also In Attendance

Mark Atherton GMCA
Tina Gandhi GMCA
Phil Korbel Carbon Literacy Project
Helen Smith TfGM
Emma Stonier GMCA
Paul Hallam Zero Carbon Project
Tony Hothersall City of Trees
Rachael Lock Manchester Environment Education Network (MEEN)
Lydia Merrill Manchester Environment Education Network (MEEN)

LCH17/28 INTRODUCTION AND APOLOGIES

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed all to his first meeting as new Chair of the Low Carbon Hub Board. The Chair informed the Board that the Mayor’s manifesto had pledged support for a green city region, with commitment to a green summit to drive the agenda forward. The Chair expressed thanks to the Salford City Mayor Paul Dennett for his work Chairing the group over the past year. Introductions took place around the table and Lee Rawlinson and Jim Lightfoot were formally welcomed to their first meeting.

Apologies for absence were received from Simon Nokes (GMCA), Patrick Allcorn (BEIS) and Carolyn Wilkins (Lead GM Chief Executive).
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.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 7 APRIL 2017 AND ACTIONS ARISING

The Minutes of the previous meeting of the LCHB, held on 7 April 2017, were considered.

The following actions arising were raised:

- **LCH17/18**: Due to being in the GMCA set up phase, invoices for funding requests are still to be sent to those Members who have agreed to support the Hub’s communications work. Members were informed that this would happen within the next month and that if any Members still wanted to contribute, this offer remained open; and

- **LCH17/18**: The new Mayor, Andy Burnham, has not yet been invited to a future LCH Board meeting but will be invited to the next meeting;

- **LCH17/19**: The Low Carbon Skills report has been scheduled for the October Board meeting;

- **LCH17/20**: The Chairs of the Buildings and Energy Task Group spoke at the launch of the new Sustainable Urban Development Plan on 12th June to raise awareness of the £21m ERDF Local Carbon call for projects. This has gone live within the last few days and the total programme is worth £42m;

- **LCH17/21**: The Clean Switch campaign was approved by the GMCA in June and is due to go live latter this year. There is a substantive item on ECO Flexibility on the agenda for today.

- **LCH17/24**: An item on Air Quality and Transport CO₂ reductions is a substantive item on the agenda for today.

- **LCH17/125**: Members were informed that work relating to the GMSF was ongoing and that this will be brought to a future meeting.

Resolved/-

That the Minutes of the LCHB held on 7 April 2017 be approved as a correct record.

TERMS OF REFERENCE AND PORTFOLIO DESCRIPTION

The Board received a paper which outlined the new portfolio description and terms of reference. 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” and the Portfolio Lead has changed from Salford City Mayor Paul Dennett to Cllr Alex Ganotis. The Terms of Reference had been updated to reflect the Portfolio changes. Key priorities outlined were; the delivery of the Mayor’s Green City Summit; work to set a
new 2050 carbon pathway; encouraging suitable project bids for the £21m ERDF funding call for smart energy innovation; commencing the delivery of urban pioneer for natural capital improvement, domestic and commercial building energy efficiency, clean switch campaign and promoting sustainable low emission travel choices. Delivering the Mayor's Green Summit was discussed under Item 12: Communications Plan.

Members supported the portfolio change and the more overarching structure. Following discussion of the new Terms of Reference and Portfolio Description, Members requested the following amendments to be made:

- Inclusion of information regarding how the LCHB works with stakeholders;
- The linkages to Adult Education & Training Sub-Group to be made more explicit;
- A representative of the Greater Manchester Health and Social Care Partnership be invited to the LCHB to establish better links between the two agendas;
- Inclusion of proposed outcomes of programmes, alongside chosen inputs, to make targets more explicit; and
- The circulation of a note which outlined the new Portfolio leads and responsibilities of each.

The Chair requested that Members considered whether a change to the name of the LCHB, to see whether this still reflected the current agenda and portfolio priorities, was desirable and asked that feedback be provided at the next meeting of the Board.

Resolved/-

1. To note the new Green City Region Portfolio Description and Priorities for 2017/18 (Annex 01);

2. To agree the revised Terms of Reference for the Board (Annex02) subject to the proposed amends; and

3. To discuss at the next meeting the possibility of changing the name of the LCHB to reflect the wider portfolio/agenda.

LCH17/32 PERFORMANCE REPORT (Q1) APRIL - JUNE 2017

Consideration was given to a report presented by the GM Assistant Director Environment that provided the usual update on progress of the Low Carbon Hub for the first quarter of 2017/18. There were some spaces against actions which were awaiting feedback from partners and, by next quarter, progress should be able to be reported. Overall, progress was highlighted as good, but there were some areas where additional resources needed to be identified, which included the skills and commercial buildings (retrofit and adaptation) agendas. Actions identified as amber were moving forward but progress was behind schedule and it was noted that any actions not completed last year were carried forward into this year. The Mayor’s manifesto commitments were also included in this year’s plan.
It was reported that two Salford Carbon Literacy Consortium meetings had taken place, which involved 40 cross-sector organisations. The next meeting will take place in September and the invite would be circulated to Board Members.

The launch of the ERDF Sustainability Urban Development Fund was noted as being a catalyst for additional work and new projects; a workshop was taking place Monday 10th July which would look at how this was coordinated.

Members discussed the skills and education agenda; currently the Skills Sub-Group was not sitting and it was suggested that this could be reconvened. This would require a relevant person to lead and support the reconstitution of this and drive the work forward. Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU) was highlighted as being very engaged with this agenda and the possibility of MMU supporting this group was raised. The Further Education, Higher Education (FEHE) Coordinators Group and Unison were also highlighted as potential groups that would be interested in the green agenda. The Chair suggested that it would be useful to receive a paper at the next Board meeting which outlined proposals for progressing the skills agenda, including education, forward.

Resolved/-

1. To note the updates from across the Low Carbon Hub’s accountable bodies, attached at Annex 1 to this report; and

2. To agree the next steps; and

3. To receive a paper at the October Board meeting outlining proposals to drive the skills agenda forward.

LCH/17/33  URBAN PIONEER AND NATURAL CAPITAL UPDATE

The Board considered a report presented by Anne Selby, Chief Executive Lancashire Wildlife Trust, which provided an update on recent Natural Capital Group activities and on the progress of the Urban Pioneer Project. This included how they will support the delivery of the Mayor’s ambition for a Green City Region.

Greater Manchester was successful, in their bid to Defra, to be an Urban Pioneer in 2016. This forms part of the Government’s 25 Year Environment Plan, the launch of which had been delayed, but Greater Manchester has received assurances that the Pioneers would be going ahead. This presents an opportunity for Greater Manchester to showcase work and to influence government policy. The Environment Agency had dedicated staff resource for the project to assist with driving this work forward. A task group has been established and they have developed a proposed strategy and work programme for the next 3 years. It is hoped that the Urban Pioneer pilot will attract more funding into Greater Manchester. The Board were informed that this would be presented at the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) meeting at the end of July for final sign off.

Members noted the update and were supportive of the Natural Capital Work Programme and the Urban Pioneer Project Plan. Communication regarding the Urban Pioneer
programme was emphasised as being important to maximise the impact of the project. Consideration should also be given to the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (GMSF) and how this work could potentially be included in the revised framework.

Local Authorities were highlighted as being crucial to the success of this work; people notice the quality of their local environment. To ensure the success of the work it is important that there is buy in from each individual authority and it was requested that the report which went to the GMCA at the end of July highlighted this.

**Resolved/-**

1. To note the contents of the report;
2. To agree the 2017/18 Natural Capital Group Work Programme (Annex 1); and
3. To endorse the Urban Pioneer Project Plan for approval by GMCA (Annex 2).

**LCH 17/34 LOCAL ENERGY ADVICE PROGRAMME**

The Board considered the report of the GMCA Principle Environment Strategy Officer that outlined the opportunity to initiate a free GM-wide Local Energy Advice Programme (LEAP) for 12 months, which would be aimed at supporting the alleviation of fuel poverty in Greater Manchester. The report also provided a summary of ‘Flexible Eligibility’, the new element to Energy Company Obligation (ECO) funds, provided by utility companies to assist fuel poor residents.

The LEAP will provide a free energy advice service to a limited number of local residents who are in fuel poverty; this will include providing some basic energy efficiency measures and signposting eligible residents to Greater Manchester’s Green Deal Framework for more expensive measures. This has been funded by Ofgem and has been piloted in Tameside; initial feedback has been positive; since May the programme has received 115 referrals. Over the 12 month programme, a 1000 referral allocation has been assigned to GM and referrals will be around individual tenants. The Board were informed that, subject to their comments, this paper will go to the GMCA at the end of July.

It was brought to the Board’s attention that Electricity North West had run a programme aimed at fuel poverty, and a report into the outcomes and lessons learned had been published in May. The study had also looked into whether changes seen in the programme were sustained after its ending and had found that these were. The report will be shared with the group for information.

The ECO funds are provided by utility companies to assist fuel poor residents; the latest element to this is the ‘Flexible Eligibility Benefit’ through which local authorities can set an eligibility criteria to determine which fuel poor residents are eligible for ECO funds. The GMCA have developed a statement of intent at the request of BEIS; all ten GM Local Authorities have been consulted on the Statement of Intent and this will be placed on the GMCA website following final sign off at the end of July.
Resolved/

1. To consider and comment upon the proposed Local Energy Advice Programme (LEAP) across GM to assist fuel poor residents; and

2. To note the proposed GM Flexible Eligibility Statement of Intent (SOI), to be placed on the GMCA website, as required by Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS). This statement has been developed in consultation with all 10 local authorities. By GM having a published SOI, we will be able to further assist vulnerable residents through ECO funds where appropriate.

LCH 17/35  CITY OF TREES (PRESENTATION)

Tony Hothersall, Director City of Trees, gave a presentation to the Board which provided an overview of City of Trees. The presentation highlighted;

- The main ambitions of City of Trees are; to plant 3m trees across the city region over the next two decades, 1.5% of land deemed as ready for planting converted to woodland and 2000 hectares of currently unmanaged woodland, brought into productive, beneficial state;
- The Mayor’s manifesto commitment to support City of Trees to establish a City Forest Park and back the planting of 3m trees;
- The project was a partnership of public, private and third sector organisations across Greater Manchester, with 60 partners already on board;
- The benefits of trees to; the economy, air quality/pollution levels, water quality, noise pollution and reducing flood risk;
- Greening the City Centre project which is a planned ten year transformation, with more than 1000 locations already being mapped where trees could be planted;
- The ambition to raise £10m to plant trees over the next ten years;
- The City Forest Park, which is a project between The Forestry Commission, United Utilities, Local Authorities and landowners; this will be in a location near the University of Salford and has a dedicated project officer building partnerships and developing a masterplan;
- The aim to develop a GM Tree and Woodland Strategy to protect the natural capital of trees and to provide better management and understanding of the resource GM has;
- Plans between the Woodland Trust and Community Forests within the North of England to develop plans for a new Northern Forest stretching from Liverpool across to Hull; and
- The importance of the green environment and trees in particular for people, both to improve their workplaces, schools and homes and also to engage people to get involved with projects relating to the natural environment.

Resolved/-

1. To note the presentation.
Raichael Lock, MEEN Coordinator, gave a presentation to the Board which provided an overview of the Manchester Environment Education Network and their projects. The presentation highlighted:

- MEEN is a small NGO which works across Greater Manchester and provides shared learning on Education from Sustainability by; working with teachers, NGOs and young people;
- MEEN run the Sustainable Development Forum for external deliverers, host conferences, provide a newsletter and a website of resources;
- Some of the projects they have worked on included: Sustainable Schools; Schools Energy Efficiency Project and a film made by a Primary School Eco team for the Paris Climate Accord, they also carry out partnership projects for example GM Growing Schools and East Manchester Forest Gardens;
- The organisation uses peer learning and intergenerational learning, with children and young people teaching adults, on projects such as Carbon Classrooms, Climate Change Champions and Workshops for Wildlife;
- The organisation has the ambition to influence policy and delivery and would like to see England re-introduce Sustainability to the school curriculum;
- MEEN has delivered school leadership training, sessions for administrators, training for school governors, projects led by young people and teaching trainee teachers about climate change; and
- They aim to support young people to become change makers in their own communities and help them to have their voices heard.

A Member asked about the sustainability of the MEEN due to cuts to funding from Local Authorities to small NGOs. MEEN confirmed they were exploring innovative funding solutions and alternative funding streams.

Resolved/-

1. To note the presentation.

Helen Smith, Head of Logistics, Environment and Active Travel gave a presentation which gave an overview of work in Greater Manchester regarding Air Quality and CO₂ reductions in emissions. The presentation highlighted the following:

- An Air Quality Action Plan was being produced which highlighted specific areas of focus;
- The majority of emissions in Greater Manchester come from cars; with a high level of emissions coming from heavy duty vehicles;
- The work underway already to reduce emissions including expanding the Metrolink network to Trafford Park, utilising green energy, improving cycle routes across
Greater Manchester and creating 25 miles new/enhanced bus lanes including the Leigh Guided Bus Way;

- Investment in Active Travel, through Department of Transport (DFT), including creation of cycle hubs, the Oxford Road corridor improvements, making walking more accessible and projects to change behaviour;
- TfGM holds a GM Logistics Forum which is the main communication between the public and private sector, and encourages and advises companies on reducing emissions;
- Using data to gain real time information regarding air quality, congestion, better traffic management to enable people to have relevant information to inform travel choices and ease congestion; and
- The contract to manage the Greater Manchester Electric Vehicle (GMEV) network is out for tender and TfGM intends to expand this network and expand the shared mobility network, for example through the use of car sharing, ride sharing and bike sharing; and
- The Clear Air Zones Feasibility Study which had commenced in February 2016 and is expected to be completed in July 2017. This has looked at two geographical zones and included traffic and emissions modelling, economic analysis and a health impact assessment.

Members noted the presentation. A Member asked what impact the introduction of MoBike had had on TfGM’s plans. It was confirmed that this was initially six months trial. Following the outcomes of the trial, any discussions about how this linked into the wider programme would be taken then.

Members asked how TfGM was working with partners on the GMEV work. It was confirmed that they were working closely with universities, including looking at a piece of work related to Metrolink energy with the University of Sheffield. As part of the Active Travel programme, TfGM are engaging with Public Health England and the NHS, to ensure that health partners are brought into this work.

Electricity North West noted they were keen to work with TfGM regarding the rollout of electric vehicles and increasing amount of electricity available to Greater Manchester to support this.

The Chair highlighted the Mayoral commitment to air quality and clean air zones. It was suggested that a sub-group could be set up to deliver and coordinate the strategy for GM and ultimately feedback to the Mayor. A paper will be bought to the next meeting of the Low Carbon Hub Board regarding this work.

Resolved/-

1. To note the presentation; and

2. To receive a paper related to air quality and clean air zones at the next meeting of the Board.
LCH17/38 RESOURCE GM

The Board received a paper which provided an update on the work currently being undertaken on the ‘Resource Greater Manchester’ project through the jointly funded partnership between Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority (GMWDA) and the Waste and Resource Action Programme (WRAP), to contribute to the ‘zero waste’ agenda. The Chair noted that this was important to both the carbon and waste agendas.

Resolved/-

1. To endorse the Resource Greater Manchester’s Programme Plan; and

2. To request that a further update report along with the Action Plan be considered at a future Board meeting.

LCH17/39 COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

The Board considered a report of the GM Assistant Director Environment, which provided an update on progress of the GM Low Carbon Hub’s (LCH) communication pathways. The Chair informed the Board about the Mayor’s Green Summit; which was highlighted as being a Mayoral priority. It is expected that the summit will be held in March/April 2018 and that this will be the culmination of a series of events. It is intended to have a plan of action in place for the summit.

Work will take place with partners to define future policies, and task groups will be developed to support the summit, identifying opportunities with stakeholders, residents and businesses to engage and listen.

Members were supportive of the Green Summit and discussed the following: the importance of communications and ensuring that the summit received national interest with relevant organisations/bodies represented; bringing in the Arts and Culture sector to raise the profile; liaising with Cllr Richard Farnell regarding communications strategies for the summit and linking in with local MEPs to find out if there are opportunities for them to be involved in the summit.

The Chair asked whether any LCH organisations would be able and willing to sponsor the Green Summit; this would support communications from within the Low Carbon Hub and would include such activities as; support for events in the lead-up to the summit, inclusion on branded event material and any participating partners having their logos on all designed (and printed) publications.

It was agreed that the Chair and the GM Assistant Director of Environment will circulate further proposals to the Board for comment within the next few weeks. At the October Board meeting, further discussions will take place regarding summit planning.

Resolved/-
1. Work with national and local GM partners on a pathway of events culminating in a Green City Region Summit;

2. Continue to work with GMLCH website presence ‘On the Platform’ increasing brand visibility via social media channels and ensure online searches are optimised; and

3. Increase collaboration with regional academic institutes: supporting communications activity and raising awareness of related research work.

4. Report back the Board’s next meeting on progress with the Green Summit.

LCH17/40 FUTURE MEETING DATES

It was noted that the next meeting would take place on Tuesday 3 October 2017 from 10.00 am to 12 noon, Scrutiny Room, Manchester Town Hall.