LOW CARBON HUB BOARD

Date: 03rd October 2017

Subject: GREEN SUMMIT PROPOSALS

Report of: Mark Atherton, Asst Director Environment

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update the Board on the emerging proposal for the Mayoral Green Summit to be held in March 2017.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Board is requested to:

- Note the contents of the paper
- Discuss and agree the proposals for the Mayoral Green Summit
- Agree to receive emerging carbon pathway proposals at its January meeting

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<td>Does this report relate to a Key Decision, as set out in the GMCA Constitution or in the process agreed by the AGMA Executive Board</td>
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<td>Are there any aspects in this report which means it should be considered to be exempt from call in by the AGMA Scrutiny Pool on the grounds of urgency?</td>
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1.0 BACKGROUND

1.1 A key pledge in the GM Mayor’s manifesto included a commitment to hold a Green Summit within the first year of him taking office “to declare a new, accelerated ambition for Greater Manchester on the green economy and carbon-neutrality” and “in the meantime, ask experts and city stakeholders to lead a public debate on what that new goal should be.”

1.2 The Mayor would also like Greater Manchester to set the lead in the country and Europe for clean air, access to quality green-space and an accelerated ambition for Greater Manchester to become ‘carbon neutral’ before 2050. These outputs directly relate to wider socio-economic outcomes for improved health, reduced fuel and food poverty, reduce flood and business risk and support sectoral growth.

1.3 To achieve this, the Mayor aims to bring together stakeholders, academics and environmentalists by hosting a Green Summit ‘listening’ event to scope out the way in which citizens can shape their future and demonstrate how we can work together on environmental issues that affect us all.

1.4 There is a wide body of research on the benefits of adopting a whole energy systems approach to carbon reduction across multiple sectors (transport, built environment and engineering) investigating energy use and potential new technologies that will reduce the reliance on using fossil fuels. GM has received funding from BEIS to develop a city region transition pathway to 2050 (SCATTER) and tools for other Core Cities to develop future energy scenarios which will help to inform what a future carbon neutral target date should be. The goal of this work is to rapidly evolve the knowledge base and assessment tools that are needed for a comprehensive understanding of the whole future energy system. This process will include a number of stakeholder engagement events which could culminate in the development of a draft GM Environment Charter/Commitment which may be agreed at a Mayoral Green Summit.

1.5 In addition, Greater Manchester has been selected by DEFRA to be its Urban Pioneer city to support and inform the Government’s 25 Year Environment Plan. As part of the proposed Project Plan for this aims to “create a natural livable city region” and to “Develop and test a communications and engagement model that brings together sectors, organisations and the public to deliver more for the environment.” This work could also support engagement activity leading up the Summit.

1.6 Greater Manchester is already home to the Jam and Justice research project https://www.gmcvo.org.uk/jam-and-justice, aimed at seizing the opportunity provided by devolution to look at more inclusive ways to govern in our city-region. Part of this project (through a funded PhD) will investigate how Greater Manchester can better engage with citizens on the environment/low carbon agenda.
1.7 The Green Summit could result in the production of a post 2020 “GM Environment Strategy”. It is therefore proposed that the Green Summit, to be held in March 2018, will be the culmination of an engagement exercise, not the beginning of the discussion.

2.0 OBJECTIVES

2.1 The objectives of the Green Summit are:

- Demonstrably "listen" and engage with citizens to shape GM’s future green/carbon ambition.
- Define a date for GM to be a carbon neutral city region before 2050.
- Test engagement and communications models to inform future GMCA consultations
- Raise the profile and awareness of GM’s existing environment work, policies and strategies
- Host a Mayoral Green Summit in 2018 to announce a new ambition for Greater Manchester
- Produce a post 2020 strategy to communicate the implementation of the ambition defined at the Summit

3.0 PROPOSED METHODOLOGY

- Establish a small panel of local and national experts to support delivery of the low carbon pathway analysis and a wider steering group to deliver the Green Summit proposal and engage publicly to discuss a new environmental ambition for Greater Manchester.

- Setting a pathway to carbon neutrality will involve making a series of choices – how can we generate more low carbon energy locally? Are we doing enough to insulate our homes and buildings? How can we reduce waste? How can we manage our green infrastructure better to limit the shocks of future climate change? What sort of city do we want to create for our children? And, importantly, how can we support our businesses to take advantage of the £trillion global market for environmental technologies; creating more wealth and employment in the city.

- Academics from the University of Manchester’s world renowned Tyndall Centre for Climate Change and Anthesis Group will work with experts from some of our largest companies (Siemens, ARUP, Electricity Northwest) and national experts from the Energy Systems Catapult to devise options for our carbon pathway.

- A wider local Steering Group will support this work and oversee the development of the Summit and ensure the widest possible engagement with Greater Manchester’s businesses, organisations, communities and environmental groups (See Annex 1).
• We want to listen to the views of our residents to understand their aspirations for the sort of city they want for themselves and their children to live, work and play. A natural, livable city. As well as expert workshops, we will run 'listening events' and use social media to stimulate a discussion and help create a new environmental vision for the city region, ensuring suitable areas of interest and 'communities' within GM are targeted, invited and engaged in the lead-up to the Green Summit.

• Set up channels for feedback correspondence and coordination – webpage, twitter, email. Set communication tone, branding and channel plan – use wording and phrases identified as having more meaning to residents. Eg. “If we clean up our air, enhance our green spaces and help people cycle or walk more frequently, we will become a healthier society. If we help communities to generate more of their own energy, we will become wealthier through reduced energy bills.”

• Deliver 'lead-up' events to test the low carbon pathway assumptions, providing the agenda for the Green Summit; ensuring a diverse range of feedback on the green agenda and time for debate. All views to be expressed in a free manner, all views to be considered and evaluated. Also use existing channels of communication – pre-determined environmental groups, conferences and events.

• In addition to attracting government funding from Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy to support the analytical work, we have secured commitments for sponsorship funding and/or resources from Electricity Northwest, Siemens, Salford University, United Utilities and the Environment Agency to support this engagement work.

• Develop Green Summit agenda to fit with expectations in March 2018. Venue to fit with budget and aspiration. The final product is to develop an Environment Charter/Commitments for a Green City Region of which our carbon-neutrality date will be a key part.

• Outcomes of the summit to include further work to develop the details of a post 2020 implementation plan.

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS:

4.1 The Board is requested to:
• Note the contents of the paper
• Discuss and agree the proposals for the Mayoral Green Summit
• Agree to receive emerging carbon pathway proposals at its January meeting
Annex 01

The steering group will comprise representatives from:

- Environment Agency
- Manchester Friends of the Earth
- Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce
- Groundwork
- Greater Manchester CVO
- Carbon Coop
- Carbon Literacy Greater Manchester
- Manchester Climate Change Agency
- Wildlife Trust for Manchester, Lancashire and Merseyside,
- City of Trees Manchester
- United Utilities
- SERA
- Creative Concern
- Manchester Solutions
- Sheffield Hallam University – Jam and Justice
- Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority
- Transport for Greater Manchester
- Greater Manchester Public Health