PRESENT:

Cllr Alex Ganotis  
GMCA Portfolio Lead for Green City Region (Chair)

Councillor Rashid 
Vice Chair

Councillor Eunice Smethurst 
Wigan MBC / TfGM

Robin Philips 
Siemens

Anne Selby 
Lancashire Wildlife Trust

Lee Rawlinson 
Environment Agency

Paul Bircham 
Electricity North West

Roger Milburn 
ARUP

Hisham Elkadi 
University of Salford

Patrick Allcorn 
BEIS

Louise Blythe 
BBC

Also In Attendance

Phil Korbel  
Carbon Literacy Project

Mark Easdale 
Environment Agency

Amer Gaffar 
MMU

Jon Crompton 
GSK

Alison Mursell 
GSK

Mark Atherton 
GMCA

Tina Gandhi 
GMCA

Mark Turner 
GMCA

Kerry Bond 
GMCA

Helen Smith 
TfGM

LCH/17/41 INTRODUCTION AND APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Travis (Deputy Chair), Councillor Cheryl Brock (Oldham Council and GMWDA representative), Carolyn Wilkins (Oldham Council), Simon Nokes (GMCA); Steve Johnson (Energy Group) and Robin Lawler (Northwards Housing).

LCH/17/42 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 JULY 2017 AND ACTIONS ARISING

The minutes of the previous meeting of the LCHB, held on 7 July 2017 were considered, Members were requested to note the following:

LCH17/18 – Andy Burnham has accepted an invitation to the January Low Carbon Hub Board.
LCH17/21 – the Clean Switch campaign will go live in October. It was requested that Members’ organisations get involved with the promotion. Early results (from staff switching) from 17 switches through our pre-launch page has revealed an average saving of £283/year and a total saving of £4,820.
LCH17/25 – GMSF is constantly being updated. The second phase which aims to fulfil the Mayors manifesto will be launched in June 2018.
LCH17/31 – A Health and Social Care representative to join the Board has been identified, and will be invited to the next meeting. It was agreed to defer the renaming of the Low Carbon Hub Board.
LCH17/34 – the Local Energy Advice Programme have trained Local Authority front line staff, referrals are already being made to the service.

Resolved/-

That the Minutes of the LCHB held on 7 April 2017 be approved as a correct record, with the addition of Cllr Eunice Smethurst as in attendance.

PERFORMANCE REPORT (Quarter 2 (Q2))

Consideration was given to a report that provided a progress update on the LCH Work Programme for the second quarter of 2017/18.

It was reported that, in general, progress was good. However, at the end of Q2, it was clear that there were a number of actions which had identified insufficient resources. Progress had been made on environment skills although capacity to support public and commercial retrofit and to move low carbon energy projects forward, remained low. Consideration was being given to how this might be rectified. It was noted that of the total 92 actions, two were completed, 59 were progressing and on track, 19 were progressing but behind timescale (or resource issue identified) and three were not progressing. The remaining nine actions were either to be confirmed or no progress had been reported.

Members were advised of a recent offer of capacity support to North West LEPs from BEIS, which could be used to fund staffing for a North West Energy Hub to assist with development and prioritisation of energy projects over the sub regions. The Chair of the GM LEP Board was supportive and had contacted NW West LEP Chairs exploring views on how to progress. A workshop will take place in November to formalise details for the establishment of the Hub, to have staff in place by March 2018. GMCA were also considering an ELENA bid to support capacity. BEIS had also offered GMCA £40k to support energy strategy development and link this to the GMS.
Resolved/-

1. The Board noted the updates from across the Low Carbon Hub’s accountable bodies, attached at Annex 1 of the report and agreed to receive a further update at the next meeting of this Board.

2. The Board endorsed and agreed the next steps.

LCH/17/45 GREEN SUMMIT PROPOSALS

A report was presented that updated the Board on emerging proposals for the GM Mayoral Green Summit, which is currently scheduled for 14th March 2018. As this date coincides with MIPIM, a decision is to be made as to whether the Green Summit should be rescheduled.

Discussion took place as to whether there is available resource to hold fringe events or an exhibition to fit around the summit.

Resolved/-

1. The Board noted the contents of the report.

2. The Board agreed the proposals for the GM Mayoral Green Summit as set out in the report.

3. The Board agreed to receive emerging carbon pathway proposals at its next meeting on 19 January 2018.

4. The presentation received at the first meeting of the Steering Group be circulated to Board members.

5. That members receive regular updates prior to the January 2018 meeting of the LCHB.

6. Mark Atherton will liaise with the Environment Agency and the Steering Group to determine whether fringe events or an exhibition centre should be held to fit around the summit.

LCH/17/47 HYDROGEN FUEL CELL CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

The Director of Partnerships from the Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU), Faculty of Science and Engineering provided the Board with a presentation, updating members on the Manchester Fuel Cell Innovation Centre, proposed design, partnerships and projects and the Manchester Fuel Cell Innovation Network.

Resolved/-

That the presentation be the report and that any feedback to be sent to Amer Gaffar, MMU, via Mark Atherton.
LCH/17/48  NATURAL COURSE PROGRAMME - UPDATE

A report and presentation were received which provided an update on the progress of the first phase of Natural Course, a European Union (EU) LIFE integrated project, and the development of the second phase of project activities, addressing how the project supports the delivery of the GM Mayor’s ambition for a Green City Region. The Natural Course project began in October 2017 and will run over a ten year period in four phases. The first phase focuses on the River Irwell catchment in Greater Manchester and beyond and will conclude in early 2018. A comprehensive evidence base consisting of over eighty data sets has been collated to help build an understanding of water quality issues and opportunities within the catchment area, this will be complemented by an assessment of the ecosystem services of the river valleys.

The second phase will begin early 2018. Natural Course will be working with partners to develop a programme which will focus on these three areas:

- Taking forward the Natural Capital approach and assessment of ecosystem services to develop an investment strategy and portfolio of projects based on the rejuvenation of the river valleys of Greater Manchester.
- Extending the catchment ecology project with an increased focus on engaging members of the community.
- Expanding the urban diffuse pollution mapping across GM water bodies and developing potential projects which align with the future investment plans of the water company and integrate water quality and quantity objectives.

Resolved/-

1. That the report be noted.
2. The Board commended the progress to date and the current delivery priorities.
3. The Board endorsed the approach for the development of Phase Two of the project.

LCH/17/49  CLEAN AIR UPDATE

Members considered a report, which provided an update on the UK Plan for Tackling Roadside Nitrogen Dioxide concentrations and the implications for Greater Manchester. The draft plan was released by DEFRA on 5th May 2017. A response to the draft plan was submitted, by TfGM, on behalf of the GMCA and the final UK Plan was published on 26th July 2017.

A series of activities have been set to be delivered at a national level, placing responsibility on local authorities to make plans to achieve the required emission reductions at a local level, this will be led by TfGM. There are now two issues to be addressed at a GM level – the specific exceedances identified through the national modelling approach and the GM Air Quality Management Area.

GM wide feasibility work and subsequent interventions should be implemented to tackle the problem without impacting negatively on the surrounding areas and should include a package of measures to achieve compliance with DEFRA requirements, whilst bringing out
changes to reduce air pollution and its impacts on health. The GM Senior Leadership Steering Group is the main group overseeing the work, feeding into individual LA Steering Groups. Steering Groups in each district will continue to be the main point of communication, information provision and local decision making.

Even though GM will not implement charge based clean air zones, there is still a requirement to include the timescales of such interventions in the wider feasibility study, providing data to show what could be achieved if these zones were to be implemented.

Resolved/

1. That the report be noted.

2. That an update report be brought to the next Board meeting scheduled for January 2018.

LCH/17/50 LOW CARBON/ENVIRONMENT EDUCATION AND SKILLS

A report was presented that provided an update on issues pertaining to the delivery of low carbon/environment education and skills programmes in Greater Manchester, and next steps.

At a meeting held on 12th September, which included representatives from various organisations, it was agreed that greater awareness of environmental issues in schools, colleges and universities is needed. A presentation was delivered detailing work by the GM Skills Team and existing skills provision in Greater Manchester, and a report detailed proposals for a potential Green Skills Programme, showing how it could be delivered and gave examples of existing funding opportunities and programmes.

Resolved/-

1. That the report be noted.

2. The Board noted the intention of the GM Assistant Director Skills to build upon the opportunities across GM to promote green skills and explore specific interactions with the GM environment sector.

3. The Board noted the opportunity to develop a natural environment skills programme which would be presented to the GM Natural Capital Group.

4. That an update report be brought to the April 2018 LCHB meeting.

LCH/17/51 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF INHALERS

A report was considered, following recent discussions with Glaxo Smithcline Beecham (GSK) on the carbon impact of switching from traditional inhalers to dry powder inhalers at a relatively comparable cost. A case study focused on Greater Manchester’s carbon footprint and how this could be reduced was presented, produced by GSK (Annex 1),
The purpose of the report was partly to highlight the case study, but the Board also reflected upon how public policy and procurement could influence the speed of low carbon innovation more generally.

It was noted that officers were only aware of GSK as having such a comprehensive offering of dry powder inhalers in the market. The LCHB was keen to promote wider production and take up of low carbon technologies and would be pleased if other companies would get in touch if they thought they had a role to play in significantly reducing GM’s carbon footprint.

Resolved/-

1. That the report and case study be noted.
2. That the report be shared with Councillor Peter Smith, Lead Portfolio Holder for Health at a Greater Manchester level.
3. That low carbon officers liaise with health and social care representatives on this agenda.

LCH/17/52 WARM HOME FUND BID

The Principle Environmental Policy Officer presented a report for information, detailing an opportunity for the GMCA to apply for Cadent (formerly National Grid) Warm Home Funds to install central heating in urban ‘off gas’ Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) areas (25% worse IMD areas) where households were prioritised because of particular health concerns, with the aim of improving health outcomes.

It was reported that the GMCA had applied for these funds, on behalf of districts, to assist fuel poor residents across GM authorities. If successful, the proposal would complement the previously agreed GM Local Energy Advice Programme (LEAP) and would be delivered through the existing, Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) procured, GM Green Deal (GD) and Energy Company Obligation (ECO) Framework.

Resolved/-

The Board noted that GMCA had applied for a Cadent Warm Homes Fund in the sum of c. £4m.

LCH/17/53 GREATER MANCHESTER STRATEGY (GMS) REFRESH

The Board received a report that was considered by the GMCA at their meeting held on 28 July 2017, which provided the refreshed GMS for approval and set out the next steps to develop a public-facing version of the GMS and its implementation plan.

It was highlighted that pages 24-37 were of particular interest to the Board.

Resolved/-

That the report be noted.
LCH/17/54  FUTURE MEETING DATES

It was noted that the next meeting would take place on Friday 19 January 2018 from 10.00 am to 12 noon, Boardroom, GMCA, Churchgate House, Manchester.