MINUTES OF THE GM LOW CARBON HUB BOARD HELD ON FRIDAY 18 JANUARY 2019 AT GMCA OFFICES, CHURCHGATE HOUSE, OXFORD STREET, MANCHESTER

PRESENT:

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

Patrick Allcorn  
BEIS

Louise Blythe  
BBC

Robin Lawler  
Northwards Housing

Chris Matthews  
United Utilities

James Thompson  
University of Manchester

Phil Korbel  
Cooler Projects

Peter Emery  
Electricity NW

Peter Jenkins  
Viridor

Jim Lightfoot  
Eon-UK

Roger Milburn  
Arup

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Simon Nokes  
GMCA

Mark Atherton  
GMCA

Jamie Fallon  
GMCA

Ninoshka Martins  
GMCA

Matt Ellis  
GMCA

Sean Owen  
GMCA

Darryl Quantz  
Public Health England (GM)

Simon Warburton  
TfGM

Mark Easdale  
TfGM

Hilary Wood  
City of Trees

LCH/19/01 INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES

The Chair opened the meeting and extended a warm welcome to all those in attendance.

Apologies were received from Professor Hisham Elkadi, Mark Pilling and Kristine Poole.

LCH/19/02 CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE FUTURE OF GREATER MANCHESTER

The Chair reported that an event, held on 7 January 2019, saw the launch of the ‘The Future of Greater Manchester’ report alongside a number of policy initiatives that have been
developed to provide a comprehensive, consistent and radical policy framework setting out a clear vision for the future.

The draft GM Spatial Framework is a key element of this policy platform and sends a powerful message to potential partners and investors in GM. It sets out a long term plan for sustainable development with a focus on brownfield sites for housing or business needs. The Chair further reported that the plans sets out proposals to reduce Greater Manchester’s carbon emissions from new buildings alongside a presumption against fracking.

This approach was linked to the Transport Delivery Plan and the wider 2040 vision to develop an integrated transport offer. This is allied to the Clean Air Plan which aims to reduce pollution and improve the health of the city region’s residents.

The complimentary Infrastructure Framework, to prioritise the work a new GM Strategy Infrastructure Board had also been launched.

He further alluded to the work being undertaken by Stockport Council on the establishment of a Mayoral Development Corporation (MDC) covering the Town Centre West area, which focuses on developing a stronger housing and employment offer.

(The following reports can be found on the link below)

- GMSF
- Infrastructure Framework
- Stockport MDC
- GM Housing Vision
- Transport Delivery Plan
- Clean Air Update

https://www.gmcameetings.co.uk/meetings/meeting/642/joint_gmcaagma_executive_board

TO NOTE:

a) That the update of the ‘Future of GM’ report be noted.

b) That the link to the video and ‘The Future of GM’ report be circulated to members.

LOW CARBON HUB MEMBERSHIP

TO NOTE:

a) That a nomination from the GM Waste Committee be submitted.

LCH/19/02 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest received.
Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 12 October 2018.

The following items were considered:

LCH/18/25 – It was reported to the Board that, following the Green Business Week workshop held by the Mayor, a GM Sustainable Business Partnership has been formed.

Chris Matthews commented that the Partnership has decided to take a collaborative approach to drive forward objectives. He further reported that a number of initiatives were brought to the table however, in the lead up to the Green Summit the Group had decided to prioritise the Great British Spring Clean and Big Switch initiatives. Members were advised that the Board would be kept abreast with future developments.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the minutes of the meeting held on 12 October 2018 be approved as a correct record
2. That the Board be kept well informed about the Partnership’s developments.

LCH/19/04 PERFORMANCE REPORT (QUARTER 3)

The Board considered a report that provided an update on the progress of the Board for the third quarter 2018/19. The update, at Annex 1 of the report, detailed areas of progress against the announcements from the 2018 Green Summit across the themes of the GM Climate Change Low Emission Implementation Plan over the last quarter (October to December 2018). The report also highlighted a number of key successes.

Members noted the importance of building on existing resources such Universities to support the delivery of GM’s objectives.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the contents of the report be noted
2. That the updates on the announcements from the 2018 Green Summit from across the Board’s accountable bodies, which were attached to Annex 1 of the report be noted.

LCH/19/05 5 YEAR ENVIRONMENT PLAN

The Board received a presentation regarding

Carbon Reduction Pathways and the draft 5 Year Environment Plan along with a summary of the discussion that had taken place at Leader’s Meeting.
The following comments were raised:

- Members noted the need to link the 5 Year Environment Plan with the Local Industrial Strategy to build GM’s case in terms of asks from Government. Further questions were raised around the time frame of the implementation period for each strategy. It was reported that GM aims to deliver its priorities in combination with other plans rather than in isolation.

- Engagement with residents to provide clarity on the working of cross cutting initiatives is key to the success of the plan.

- A member queried whether the role of nuclear power had been considered. It was commented that there were significant time-frame restraints and cost related concerns however, the Smart Energy Plan outlines other cost-effective alternatives.

- It was agreed that the identified gaps between GM’s target and what might be currently feasible may be filled by innovation however; and that policy could act as a driving factor that would assist GM to meet these challenges. The CA needed to set clear standards as to what will be acceptable or not for developers. Members noted the need to also develop incentives to lure further private sector investment.

- Members noted the need to begin working with resources that are already available locally to bring down carbon emissions as soon as possible and to push for more ambitious national policy.

- Further comments were raised on the importance of engagement with the local communities, business, stakeholders and particularly Private Sector Champions as it is pivotal to the future of GM. It was noted that the Green Summit could be used as a platform to deliver these messages.

The Chair thanked members for their input and assured them that their comments would be taken into consideration.

**RESOLVED/-**

That the presentation be noted.

**LCH/19/06  GM CLEAN AIR PLAN: UPDATE JANUARY 2019**

The Board received a report that was to be considered by the GMCA on 11 January 2019 providing an update on progress in the preparation of a GM feasibility study detailing the options available, subject to full funding by Government, to address nitrogen dioxide exceedances, and outlined a broad direction of travel in relation to the next steps and decision-making.
The plan also takes into account the wider socio-impacts in terms of air quality and the role Highways England could play in the development of this strategy. It was reported that road traffic was a significant contributor to NO2 emissions, however in order to address this issue the Mayor is minded to introduce a penalty regimes for non-compliant vehicles.

Members commented on the need to have a clear communication process to assist individuals to understand the health implications involved and how they can contribute. It was highlighted that ‘reward drives behavioural change’ therefore the plan needed to include incentives to buy-in support from the local communities.

It was reported that natural pollution barriers, such as trees, did fit into GM’s wider objectives however, the plan looks at improving air quality as soon as possible.

Members commented that GM could link with a number of initiatives taking place across cities in the UK and learn from best practice rather than work in isolation.

It was highlighted that a considerable number of old buses are diesel driven, thus contributing to NO2 emissions. However, the challenge faced by GM is that much public Transport is not under the control of the Mayor, therefore it was crucial to have national support from Government.

RESOLVED/-

That the report be noted.

LCH/19/07 GREEN SUMMIT 2019 UPDATE AND PROPOSAL

The Board considered a report that provided an update on the development of the 2019 Green Summit taking place on 25 March, and the work of the GM Green Summit Steering Group since the last Board meeting.

It was reported that the Green Summit Steering Group members had agreed to support the event and communications, allowing a collective message with consistent branding and widespread engagement.

The Chair thanked Louise Blythe (BBC) for hosting the event and members were reminded that if the wished to attend they should ensure to register for a ticket. Further details of the Summit would be shared following approval from the Mayor.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the report and the Board’s comments be noted
2. That thanks be recorded towards Louise Blythe from BBC for hosting the event
3. That a further update on the Green Summit Agenda be brought to the next Low Carbon Hub Board.

LCH/19/08 URBAN INNOVATIVE ACTION - IGNITION
A report was presented that outlined progress in securing £4m for the IGNITION Project from the EU Urban Innovative Action Fund. The IGNITION Project would address the need for GM to develop the governance structure, funding mechanisms and delivery processes required to significantly increase the identification, funding, delivery and management on an ongoing programme of green infrastructure projects at the scale needed to manage expected future climate hazards.

It was reported that the Project would assist in the delivery of the Natural Capital Investment Plan in areas of setting up governance and project delivery structures.

Members welcomed the report and thanked officers at the GMCA and Environment Agency for their work on this project. It was acknowledged that the Green Summit could be used as a platform to launch a formal visible start of this initiative.

In discussing the delivery work programme, it was reported that the project aims to deliver the mechanism and structures required to increase GM’s green infrastructure coverage. It was reported that a number of projects are in the pipeline to achieve this target.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the contents of the report be noted
2. The Board noted the scope, scale and fit of the project for GM and partners and how the proposed work programme would deliver against this.

LCH/19/09  SMART ENERGY PLAN

Consideration was given to a paper that presented a draft report at Annex 1, by Energy Systems Catapult (ESC), which formed one of the key outputs from the 2018 GM Green Summit. The report aimed to support GM’s achievement of the Green Summit aspiration for the City Region to be carbon neutral by 2038.

The report detailed what a Whole System Smart Energy Plan for GM might cover; it made recommendations for further consideration and suggested a potential delivery roadmap to 2023.

It was explained that further consideration of the recommendations of the report would be undertaken prior to deciding which elements could be progressed and incorporated into a GM 5 Year Plan, which would be agreed prior to the next Green Summit.

RESOLVED/-

That the contents of the report be noted.

LCH/19/10  LOCAL ENERGY MARKET
The Board considered a report that highlighted the recent successful £189k funding award to design a GM Local Energy Market, led by Electricity North West Ltd (ENWL) with GMCA support, as part of the Prospering from Energy Revolution (Industrial Strategy) funding call.

It was reported that the main objective of the project is to enable and increase the flexibility in the electricity distribution network to local energy assets and needs.

RESOLVED/-

That the report be noted.

LCH/19/11 ANY OTHER BUINNESS

GREEN SUMMIT

The Chair thanked individuals and organisations that had contributed to the Green Summit’s development that is scheduled to take place on 25 March 2019.

NATURAL CAPITAL GROUP

The Board was reminded that the Natural Capital Group Conference is being held on 30 January 2019. The event will see the launch of a consultancy report Natural Capital Investment Plan. It was requested that a report/presentation on the Natural Capital Investment be submitted to a future Low Carbon Hub Board meeting.

RESOLVED/-

That a report/presentation on the Natural Capital Investment Plan be submitted to a future Low Carbon Hub meeting.

LCH/19/12 FUTURE MEETING DATES

The next Low Carbon Hub meeting will be held on:

Friday 15 March 2019, 10.00 – 12.00 at Churchgate House, Oxford Road, Manchester, M1 6EU