

Item 2

DECISIONS OF A MEETING OF THE GM LOW CARBON HUB BOARD HELD ON FRIDAY 15 JULY 2016 AT MANCHESTER TOWN HALL

PRESENT:

Paul Dennett Councillor Cherryl Brock	GM Combined Authority (Chair) Oldham Council (GMWDA Rep)
Julian Packer Louise Blythe Richard Jenkins Patrick Allcorn Nigel Mellors Anne Selby Mark Atherton Tina Gandhi Gordon Whitaker Steve Johnson Robin Lawler Roger Milburn Susan Ford Matthew Roberts Steve Annette	GMCA BBC Academy Viridor (for Ian McAuley) DECC University of Salford Lancashire Wildlife Trust AGMA/GMCA GMCA Environment Team Environment Agency Energy Group Northwards Housing Arup AGMA/GMCA TfGM (for Helen Smith) GMIST

Also In Attendance

Phil Korbel Professor Will Swan	Carbon Literacy Project University of Salford
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LCH16/01 WELCOME

Mark Atherton introduced Paul Dennett, new GM portfolio Lead for Low Carbon.

The Chair extended a warm welcome to those present and thanked his predecessor, Councillor Sue Derbyshire for all her contributions to the low carbon initiatives being taken forward. He also thanked Councillor Elaine Sherrington and welcomed her successor Councillor Brock, newly elected member for GMWDA.

APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from Steve Rumbelow (GM Lead Chief Executive, Environment), Councillor Eunice Smethurst (TfGM), Ian McAuley

(Viridor), John Bland (GMWDA), Helen Smith (TfGM) and Alison Gordon (New Economy).

LCH16/02 MINUTES

The Minutes of the previous meeting of the Low Carbon Hub Board, held on 1 April 2016, were considered.

Resolved/-

To approve the Minutes of the Low Carbon Hub Board held on 1 April, 2016.

LCH16/03 LOW CARBON HUB - COMMUNICATIONS PAPER

The Board received a report from Mark Atherton which provided an update on progress on the GM Low Carbon Hub's (LCH) communication pathways; the integration of its work with an existing GM website 'On the Platform' and outlined proposals for 2016-2017.

Mark added that going forward, a key challenge would be to reach out and engage with approximately 2.7m GM residents. One of the aims would be to provide information, knowledge and incentives to enable GM organisations, residents and communities to act on climate change, and understand the issues and opportunities that affect them, in a format and using mainstream channels that are widely used by the target audience.

The Board noted that it was the intention increase use of social media platforms, such as twitter, providing information on projects as well as good news stories. Further work was required to establish better links with mainstream media outlets.

Key points, questions and comments raised during discussion included:

- It was important to utilise social media to engage with new and existing partner/agency and community networks.
- Councillor Brock reported that she was supporting a number of community based organisation deliver greening initiatives, and she felt that these groups would be receptive to information on low carbon initiatives that they could then use to share with and encourage participation from other residents/community champions.
- It was important to develop momentum and ensure the website information was current and up-to-date and that it articulated not just what residents can do immediately to save money as well as reduce carbon but also to communicate why it was important.
- It was felt that the funding allocation of 15k was not sufficient to achieve the level of ambition and therefore it was suggested that

existing local authority communication groups and staff ought to be utilised, perhaps linking with the communications expertise in partner organisations.

Resolved/-

1. To continue with website presence 'On the Platform' however, ensure that the GMLCH brand is more visible via a new URL, social media channels and ensure online searches are optimised.
2. To continue with the quarterly GM LCH news bulletin sent from the 'platform' website and to seek to increase recipient list via contacts from forums, exhibitions and conferences.
3. To update the GM LCH Board Members printed information sheet and to update circulation of the GM Environmental Annual Report
4. To continue to build on social media pathways with more effective use of existing accounts. (Including Twitter and LinkedIn pages).
5. To collate GM framework of press contacts, sustainability stakeholders and community / citizen groups for engagement activities that would include awareness raising and consultation of existing work streams and proposals.
6. To consider how we measure progress in increasing awareness amongst the public.

LCH16/04 HEALTH, WARM AND FUEL POVERTY

At its January meeting, the Board received a summary of the evidence for tackling fuel poverty in GM, and its implications for health and carbon reduction. A Health and Fuel Poverty Task and Finish Group was established to take this work forward.

Tina Gandhi introduced a report and provided an overview of the 2016/17 workplan that included an assessment of the challenges faced in delivering a GM offer and identified potential solutions.

Tina described the next steps that would need to be undertaken by the task and finish group including a scoping exercise of existing GM Fuel Poverty schemes and gaps, and in due course applying for Transformation funds to support delivery of a model in 2017/19.

Robin Lawler reported that significant progress had been made in engaging with a number of social landlords, including the signing of an MoU which contained a number of low carbon targets.

The Board felt it was vital to develop a model that enables all parties to work together, including social housing and health providers and that it was important to analyse and share data sets between partners/stakeholders and agencies.

Resolved/-

1. To note the report and agreed the proposed fuel poverty work plan to explore and potentially provide a uniform, consistent approach towards supporting fuel poor residents in GM.

LCH 16/05 RESOURCE GREATER MANCHESTER – MoU with WRAP

Mark Atherton introduced a report for John Bland which informed the Board of a new partnership arrangement between the Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority (GMWDA) and the Waste, Resources and Action Programme (WRAP).

It was explained that the MoU would deliver common objectives associated with the zero household waste agenda and test innovative approaches to improving collection of food waste, initially in flats and apartments.

Resolved/-

1. To agree that the Resource Greater Manchester Partnership Board become a Task Group/Sub-committee of the Low Carbon Hub Board and endorse the proposal that Ian McAulay, Chief Executive of Viridor, represents the LCH Board on the group.

LCH 16/06 PERFORMANCE UPDATE - Q1 (APRIL - JUNE)

Mark Atherton introduced a report on progress of the Low Carbon Hub in the last quarter, , the priorities for the forthcoming quarter, and identified risks and emerging issues.

Mark added that the report was presented in a new format to reflect the finalisation of the Climate Change Low Emissions Implementation Plan (2016-2020).

It was reported that all indicators were either green (progressing) or amber (progressing but with some delay or other issue) and only one item was rated Red (no progress). This was specifically on encouraging greater energy efficiency in commercial buildings. A Board member felt that it was important to have an input from a significant organisation from the commercial sector and suggested that they should be approached with a view to becoming a representative of this Board.

Overall, Board members were receptive to the format of the report and noted the successes and priorities, however they felt a key challenge going forward would be in terms of scaling up the ambition across GM.

Resolved/-

1. To note the updates from across the Low Carbon Hub's accountable bodies.
2. To bring a paper on the proposed GM Pioneer City to the next meeting of the Board.

LCH 16/07 PRESENTATION BY VIRIDOR

The Board received a presentation from Richard Jenkins, Viridor, on its low carbon waste management work.

Richard provided an overview on Viridor's low carbon strategy, described how it would be delivered, including details of its stewardship programmes, and its ambitions for creating a more resource efficient economy and vision going forward.

Resolved/-

1. To note the presentation from Viridor and welcome a further update at a future meeting.

LCH15/08 BREXIT – POTENTIAL IMPLICATIONS FOR GM LCH

The Board received a report from Mark Atherton that provided an overview of the potential implications of BREXIT for the UK's Energy and Environment policy. Mark added that although it is too soon to be clear, possible implications for the GM Low Carbon Hub's work programme have been identified where possible.

The Board noted that whilst the impact of Brexit on existing EU funding was unclear, for Transitional funding the current message seems to suggest 'business as usual'. Existing projects (contracted) should continue as normal as most would be completed within two years.

Nigel Mellors, University of Salford, reported that the impact of Brexit had already begun to be experienced. Some University funding bids having already been rejected or advice received to withdraw the bids. He added that certain other European universities had indicated they were less committed to investing in joint research projects with UK establishments.

Resolved/-

1. To note the potential implications of Brexit on the Low Carbon Hub's work as detailed in the report.

LCH16/09 ENERGY HOUSE – PRESENTATION

The Board received a presentation and overview on Energy House 2.0, from Professor Will Swan, University of Salford.

Professor Swan introduced the background to the establishment of Energy House, provided details of the government, voluntary sector and industry partners committed to the research programme, and outlined the key issues and the next steps. Energy House 2.0 built upon the existing Energy House project, a Victorian terrace house within an enclosed laboratory, and scaled up the idea to include three experimental chambers.

Mark Atherton added that it was important to support this research programme as there were very clear links between some of GMs existing carbon reduction programmes and emerging thoughts on a GM smart systems and heat demonstrator.

Resolved/-

1. That the presentation be noted and
2. Agreed that a paper be presented to the next meeting that detailed the vision for a smart systems and heat demonstrator which included reference to the Salford Energy house proposal.

LCH16/10 AIR QUALITY CONSULTATION

The Board received a verbal update from Matthew Roberts, TfGM, on the Air Quality Action Plan Consultation and the air quality issues that are faced across GM. Matthew reported that the strategy took account of other broader GM strategic priorities.

The Board noted that a progress report would be submitted the GMCA on 29th July, 2016 and that the Quality Action Plan would be published sometime during August or September.

Resolved/-

1. To note the update and agree to receive further updates at future meetings.

LCH16/11 COMMUNITY ENERGY

The Board received a report from Mark Atherton that provided an overview of the current work underway to stimulate community energy generation in GM and provided an update on progress with the DECC funded Community Energy project, as requested at the previous Low Carbon Hub Board meeting .

Resolved/-

1. To note the update and agree to receive further updates at future meetings.

LCH16/12 GREEN DEAL COMMUNITY PROGRAMME

The Board received a report from Mark Atherton that summarised and evaluated the completed GM Green Deal Communities project under the GM Green Deal and ECO Framework. The report also provided an update on the current position of the Framework.

Resolved/-

1. To note that GM's £6.1m Green Deal Communities Project, one of the largest in the country, had been completed on time, to budget and to agreed outputs.

LCH16/13 FUTURE MEETING DATES

The Board noted the future meeting dates :

- Friday 7 October 10 -12am - Scrutiny Room, Manchester Town Hall
- Friday 20 January 2017 - 10- 12 am – Scrutiny Room, Manchester Town Hall

LCH16/14 AOB

1. HECA (Home Economic Communities Act) -

Consultation to take place next year on future funding arrangements – Board members were encouraged to make representations in due course .