



Greater Manchester All Party Parliamentary Group

Chair Lucy Powell MP
Vice Chairs Lord Goddard of Stockport, Ivan Lewis MP, Baroness Morris of Bolton, Chris Green MP, Jim McMahon MP
Secretary Jonathan Reynolds MP
Treasurer Yasmin Qureshi MP

Making Greater Manchester Carbon Neutral

What does the Mayor's Green Summit mean for Greater Manchester?

14:00-15:00, Tuesday 13th March 2018, Committee Room 6, House of Commons,

Minutes

Lucy Powell MP, *Chair of the Greater Manchester APPG*, welcomed all attendees to the meeting and explained that this meeting of the APPG will focus on the upcoming Greater Manchester Green Summit and how this links to other priorities such as the Local Industrial Strategy and the importance of collaboration between local and national government.

Cllr Alex Ganotis, *Leader of Stockport Council and Greater Manchester Combined Authority Lead for Environment, Green Spaces and Air Quality*, began his remarks by reminding attendees that in his election manifesto, Greater Manchester Mayor, Andy Burnham pledged to hold a landmark Green Summit within 12 months of his election and to set out his ambition for Greater Manchester to become a world-leading carbon neutral, green and clean city region. In doing so, Andy wants to position the city region as a global leader for smart energy innovation and improve the health and quality of life for millions of people while protecting the environment for future generations.

Recent research suggests that, to accelerate Greater Manchester's progress towards carbon neutrality in line with the Paris Agreement, will require Greater Manchester to make substantial cuts to existing carbon emissions over the next 6 years. Any delay to this timescale will just increase the level of emissions cuts required in future years.

The Green Summit, planned for 21st March, has generated significant interest. There were over 1000 applications to attend the Summit for a venue size of 550. An online survey has now attracted over 2100 responses. In the lead up to the Summit, approximately 50 'Listening Events' have been held, with a spread across all GM Districts and have engaged with approximately 850 people directly.

Work undertaken by Tyndall Centre for Climate Research on carbon target setting has now been concluded. Based on their analysis, for Greater Manchester to make its 'fair' contribution towards the 2°C commitment enshrined in the Paris Agreement, Greater Manchester would need to initiate an immediate programme of mitigation. Tyndall's recommended pathway is far more stringent than the pathway set out by the UK Committee on Climate Change (CCC), largely because the Tyndall work excludes an allowance for 'speculative' negative emissions technologies such as Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS).

This work provides a 'bottom up' approach of what feasible carbon pathways for Greater Manchester may look like. The greatest carbon reduction opportunities under GM influence are:

- **Increase solar PV installation** - such that 11% of GM energy demand is met with solar PV by 2050.
- **Increased bioenergy use** - such that 17% of GM energy demand is met with bioenergy by 2050.

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- **Shift transport to zero emissions** – such that 100% of buses are zero emissions by 2035 and 66% of cars are zero emission by 2030 (100% by 2050).
- **Domestic transport behaviour** – a 25% reduction in passenger distance travelled (km) by 2035.
- **Reduce heat demand for domestic properties** - Approximately 60% of all GM households (688,530) subject to enhanced insulation measures by 2050, reducing the average thermal leakiness by 75%.
- **Increase low carbon heat sources (electrification / heat networks)** - 80%-100% of households and commercial buildings are electrically heated by 2050.
- **Reduce heat demand for public & commercial buildings** - By 2050, space heating demand has dropped by 40%, hot water demand by 30% and cooling demand by 60%.

It is clear that UK and international ambitions on climate change cannot be realised by local government acting alone; it will require concerted effort from national government, business and communities working together. However, there are a number of roles that GMCA and local authorities can play to deliver a new environmental vision for GM. These include: leadership & delivery, coordination, engagement, policy, planning and finance.

Some of these roles are already being undertaken, but require acceleration and upscaling. Others require detailed due diligence before they can be formally considered. These should not be seen as a burden on local authorities as many could, in time, result in cost savings or income generation through, for example, more energy efficient buildings or surplus energy generation from the public estate/assets to help manage peak demand.

Outside of the Public Estate, there are opportunities to explore how businesses and communities can be 'nudged' towards a low carbon transition through incentives, Mayoral 'calls to action' and campaigns and through greater transparency of data (eg building energy performance data). There is also a strong role for GMCA/LAs to lobby Government to deliver the commitments made in National Grid's 'Two Degrees Future' report and to attract greater national finance to GM, potentially through agreeing local carbon budgets or further devolution deals.

In recognition of this, the Summit on the 21st March will be aimed at facilitating wider discussion and collaboration between all parties. As Greater Manchester has been announced as the UK's Urban Pioneer in Government's recently launched 25 Year Environment Plan, GM will also play a role in disseminating its findings to other UK cities.

We need to stop thinking of climate change as a peripheral environmental issue and bring it into main stream thinking. It is as much about our future economic wellbeing, sector development, smart jobs, secure energy provision and people's health, as it is about avoiding the damage caused by flooding and extreme weather events. For example reducing air pollution and the associated health and economic costs of it, is just one of the benefits of moving to cleaner, greener more efficient transport system. Increasing the number of well insulated properties will give GM residents more disposable income, raise families out of fuel poverty and improve health and wellbeing outcomes for some of our most vulnerable citizens.

Increasing energy and material efficiency improves productivity and profitability and reduces a company's exposure to future price volatility and availability. This makes companies more profitable

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and resilient. An average GM SME can reduce its energy usage by 18%-23% through changes that will payback in less than 3 years.

To conclude, the Green Summit in Greater Manchester is an opportunity to set a new environmental vision and aspiration for our City Region. We need national Government to work in partnership to deliver this vision by ensuring that national and local policies are aligned, that Government is delivering its contribution by decarbonising the energy grid and transport infrastructure and continuing to incentivise the generation of local electricity and heat. It is not all about climate change. We also need to improve the quality of our air, land and water to create a city region where people want to live, work and enjoy.

It is clear that, GM being a leading city region in the drive for carbon neutrality whatever the final date fixed, is a huge opportunity for GM businesses to be at forefront of innovation/new technologies in this space. It is an opportunity for GM businesses to innovate and increase sustainable productivity. Greater Manchester has the scale, innovation potential and academic expertise to rise to this challenge. It could lead to a major boost in opportunities for jobs and training in an emerging market, particularly for our young people.

Simon Nokes, *Executive Director for Policy and Strategy, GMCA*, began his remarks by saying that Greater Manchester is one of only three areas trailblazing a local industrial strategy (IS) - the others are Oxford-Cambridge and the West Midlands. One of the four IS pillars is clean growth and this is an area where Greater Manchester will seek to capitalise on its assets. It already has 2,500 companies in this sector – 13% of the GM economy.

All parts of Greater Manchester will need to come together to deliver the pathway to carbon neutrality – including business as this represents an opportunity for this sector. In transport, we will need to see the move to zero emission vehicles – this will also help meet challenges regards air quality and congestion. The transport and environmental agenda are wholly interlinked. The Mayor can also provide leadership on energy use especially in buildings. We need to make changes to efficiency including how to encourage domestic and industrial owners to make changes.

The economic and environmental agendas are interlinked. The clean growth agenda will see new technologies and new ways of working – and the Mayor wants to see GM companies at the forefront of this agenda. In fact this is a call to arms to the whole of GM including apprenticeships. The GM Spatial Framework which is currently being revised will also reflect carbon neutral pathways.

Q&A and discussion with MPs and stakeholders

Lucy Powell MP thanked Cllr Alex Ganotis and Simon Nokes and remarked that she had not realised how at the forefront of this agenda Greater Manchester is.

Lord Stunell asked about housing and how the challenge of joining this up to the carbon neutral agenda can be met.

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Simon Nokes said that there is new build of both social housing and owner occupation and the spatial framework will need to look at the requirements that need to be placed on new stock. This will feed into GMSF. Regards existing stock, social housing is not too bad but owner occupation, especially the private rented sector, was challenging and we will need to find ways to encourage them to improve.

Cllr Alex Ganotis added that there will be a need to create commercial incentives. One particular developer is a long term investor who wants to make sure his buildings are the most energy efficient via capital investment. Rents higher but there are no utility bills etc. In this case it is the green agenda itself that is the motivation but that such changes are actually commercially viable.

Jim McMahon MP, assumed the chair, and commented that what is needed is new 'levers' for example if housing benefit were devolved pressure could be put on poor landlords. Currently in Oldham a house can be bought for £30 to £40k and rented for £500 a month as subsidised by housing benefit and no incentive on landlord to improve insulation. On another matter, he pointed out that planting trees can be very beneficial not just to the environment but to quality of a place. In one instance 300 trees planted in an area added £10k to the price of houses in the adjoining streets.

Cllr Alex Ganotis said we are lobbying government for more powers and more money. At early stages but we work with Trees for Manchester and on the Northern Forest initiative. GMCA has a tree and woodland strategy.

Liz McInnes MP said that she remembers the consultation on a congestion charge in Manchester. But that had been putting the cart before the horse i.e. improvements needed before incentive to leave car at home. Currently Manchester Evening News is reporting bus services are being cut – not sure this is going in the right direction.

Cllr Ganotis agreed and said you have to encourage people out of cars not 'clobber' them. It is about making sure there are integrated solutions – for example electric cars are no good if still run on electricity generated by fossil fuels - and coherent, consistent policy. However, instability at national level, regards for example on feed-in tariffs for renewable energy, has impacted on users and producers.

Simon Nokes added that GM cannot do it alone - needs to be a joint endeavour between private sector and individuals as well as national government. However small nudges can make massive difference as we saw with the 5p levy introduced for plastic bags. In the end it is about creating noise for our ambition: if GM seen as serious, as they are, that will lead to change and to investment.

Jim McMahon MP concluded the meeting by thanking all participants especially the speakers and remarking that it is essential that Parliamentarians know how they can help further the GM agenda.

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Attendee List | Greater Manchester APPG

Lucy Powell	Chair of the GM APPG and MP for Manchester Central
Chris Green	MP for Bolton West
Kate Green	MP for Stretford
Jeff Smith	MP for Manchester Withington
Liz McInnes	MP for Heywood and Middleton
Jim McMahon	MP for Oldham West and Royton
Andrew Stunell	Peer
Cllr Alex Ganotis	Stockport Council
Simon Nokes	GMCA
Samantha Atherton	MAG
Justin Davey	Amey
Carl Ennis	Siemens
Professor Elkadi	Salford University
Joanne Holden	Peel Holdings
Chris Matthews	United Utilities
James Stevens	HBF
Paul Timmins	Amey
Alistair Willis	Abellio
Gill Morris	DevoConnect
Steve Barwick	DevoConnect

Apologies:

- *Chris Green MP, Debbie Abrahams MP, Sir David Crausby MP, Yvonne Fovargue MP, Mike Kane MP, Angela Rayner MP, Jonathan Reynolds MP, William Wragg MP, Graham Brady MP, James Frith MP, Andrew Gwynne MP,*
- *Lord Jim O'Neill*
- *Mayor Andy Burnham,*
- *Cllr Sean Anstee, Cllr Sir Richard Leese,*
- *Eamonn Boylan, Mark Atherton, Theresa Grant, Ciara Collins, George Robinson, Luke Murphy, Michael Henson, Andrea Lee*

NEXT MEETING: 11th May | Northern Powerhouse Rail and interconnectivity with HS2 with Mayor Andy Burnham | Manchester Airport, from 1pm

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