

Appendix 1 – Recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Task and Finish Report

Recommendation One – Increase awareness

- Use the roundtable discussions with the GM Mayor and other key partners to highlight the scale of the problem ahead publicising the projected scale of increased rainfall on Greater Manchester and the impact it will have on residents and communities if no action is taken.
- Share this report with Local Scrutiny Committees to ensure they are aware of its findings and can make recommendations to their Local Authority as appropriate.
- Agree how GMCA Overview & Scrutiny will monitor the implementation of the recommendations of this review in future.

Recommendation Two – A clear co-owned plan

- Co-create a GM Integrated Water Management Plan with all responsible partner agencies, establishing a set of shared objectives, agreed outcomes against metrics, with clear lines of responsibility and accountability.

Recommendation Three – Strong governance framework

- Ensure that there are clear lines of accountability at GM level through an improved governance framework that actively engages with the relevant GMCA Portfolio Leads and ultimately reports to the GMCA.
- Create a specific thematic board to oversee integrated water management, recognising its significance, building on from round table discussions and creating a mechanism to ensure that the objectives of the Integrated Water Management Plan are delivered.

Recommendation Four – Effective use of knowledge, skills and resources

- Continue to lobby for adequate additional national resources to support Local Authorities to manage and mitigate the issues arising as a result of a poor legacy of integrated water management and to develop and strengthen the resources available at GM level to offer Local Authorities support, additional specialised advice and guidance and provide capacity for better collaboration to enable the effective delivery of projects.

Recommendation Five – Ensuring social justice is at the heart of action

- Ensure that the co-owned strategy provides clear guidance to all partner organisations that all GM schemes must be viewed through the lens of social justice.

Recommendation Six – Influencing planning laws and guidance

- Request that DLUHC seeks guidance from GM Local Authorities as to how best to review current planning policy to ensure that integrated water management is a predominant consideration for all new planning developments.
- Request that DLUHC implement Schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 in line with the outcome of the consultation to ensure effective delivery with an appropriate level of central government resource devolved.

Recommendation Seven– Improving advice and information

- Provide briefings, supported by a portal of information for all GM councillors, MPs, Council Leaders, portfolio holders, and planning committees.
- Raise citizen awareness of the situation, and the role that everyone can play to manage water, by launching a calendar of campaign messages as part of the Integrated Water Management Plan.

Recommendation Eight – Effective measures

- Introduce more effective ways of measuring the impact of improved integrated water management with a focus on wider benefits such as carbon sequestration or improved biodiversity over the number of homes at risk of flooding.
- Develop mechanisms by which these and others can be used as a more appropriate metric to measure progress towards the successful delivery of the Greater Manchester Strategy.

Recommendation Nine – Learn from others

- Seeking the experience of other areas of the UK will expand the awareness of good practice and collaboration in Greater Manchester. Developing relationships with Greater London Authority (and other highlighted examples) in order to share best practice, innovation and common messaging is recommended.

Recommendation Ten – Further areas for scrutiny review

- Consider how the issue of water quality objectives from the North West River Basin Management Plan are integrated into future work plans for the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee.