

Colleagues,

I am writing as Chair of Greater Manchester Local Enterprise Partnership (GM LEP) in response to the Ofgem call for evidence on the Electricity Distribution Business Plans for RIIO-2.

The transition to Net Zero is at the heart of our plans for the future with a target of carbon neutrality by 2038 and the ambition of making Greater Manchester the UK's Leading Green City Region so we are keen to add our voice to this call for evidence.

GM LEP sits at the heart of Greater Manchester's governance arrangements, ensuring that business leaders are empowered to work with GMCA to set the strategic course, agree local priorities and drive growth and job creation within the city region.

Our ambitions are set out in the [GM Economic Vision](#) - a bold vision led by business and the LEP, working with the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA), to set out the sort of Greater Manchester we want to help create.

It provides a blueprint for remodelling the city-region's economy including a range of long-term initiatives to help businesses innovate more effectively and become more productive, creating a greener and more resilient economy.

As part of this approach, we are developing specific actions to support all Greater Manchester businesses on their journey to Net Zero; to drive delivery of high-quality places with the right low carbon infrastructure; and to champion Low Carbon innovation across our towns and cities through Innovation Greater Manchester.

However, we know that we cannot achieve our Vision alone and will continue to work with partners in realising our shared ambitions. As we move into the next phase of delivery, it is therefore critical that ENWL continues to work with Greater Manchester and, as an Anchor institution, leads by example on the journey to Net Zero.

We recognise the commitment ENWL has made to customer and stakeholder engagement which includes GMCA as a key partner and note that this builds on an established approach in delivering a range of strategic initiatives over several years.

We are therefore happy to endorse the response to the call for evidence provide by GMCA colleagues which highlights a number of key points on ENWL's strategic and operational plans for 2023-28 as set out in the Business Plan.

The detailed response is attached in the Appendix but in summary, this includes:

- The Business Plan reflects the partnership between GMCA, TfGM and partners cross the city region in driving Greater Manchester's transition to Net Zero including the Mayor's Retrofit Task Force, the Strategic Infrastructure Board, the Energy Innovation



Challenge Group, Green City Region Partnership and most recently the Energy Innovation Agency.

- We welcome the additional measures ENWL intends to put in place to support those customers in vulnerable circumstances and fuel poverty along with the plans to share intelligence on priority service customers to make it easier for them to access support through the priority services register.
- We welcome the £12.49 reduction of the bill from a proposed increase of £2.03 in the draft Business Plan and note the use of Uncertainty Mechanisms to ensure bill payers do not pay for investment before it is needed, while at the same time ensuring that the network will be able to meet the evolving demands of our 2038 Net Zero ambition.
- We strongly support the inclusion of the CLASS and Smart Street Projects that will help minimize bills for customers, reduce carbon emissions and increase network capacity and commend these initiatives to Ofgem.
- We welcome the Greater Manchester Transition Pathway Report and would support a review in early 2023 to ensure it reflects the significant developments over the last 18 months and aligns with Greater Manchester's Local Area Energy Plans.
- We support the inclusion of science-based targets and scope 3 carbon emissions highlighted in the Environmental Action Plan and note the goal to maintain a leakage rate of less than 0.3% for our total bank of sulphur hexafluoride equipment. We strongly urge Ofgem to require all DNOs and the ENA to review and annually report on progress towards SF<sub>6</sub> free alternatives and to undertake any cost benefit analysis over the lifetime of the replaced asset.
- We welcome the proposed increase in biodiversity across the ENWL estate.

I hope you find this useful. Please feel free to contact me if you have any further questions.

Yours faithfully,

**Lou Cordwell**

Chair of GM Local Enterprise Partnership