



Engaging Ethnic Minority Groups in Climate Action

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Merton Climate Action

By 2030

- a net-zero carbon Council (2% of the borough's carbon emissions):

e.g.
page 8

- Net zero carbon buildings, including schools
- Electrification of fleet

By 2050

- a net-zero carbon borough (98% of the borough's carbon emissions)

e.g.

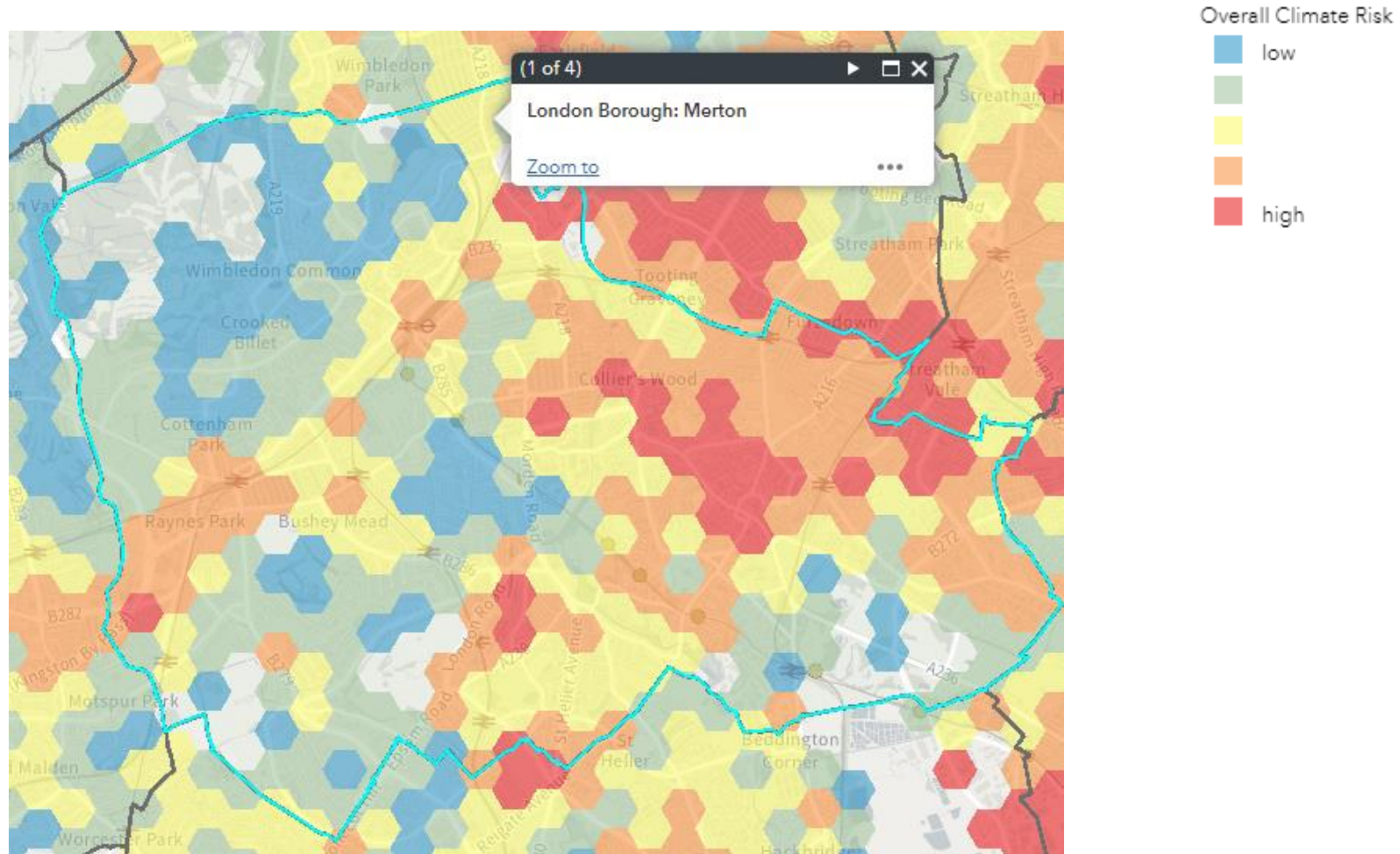
- Net zero homes and businesses
- Active and low emissions travel (walking, cycling, EVs)
- Changing consumer behaviour
- Improving biodiversity - Merton Garden Streets



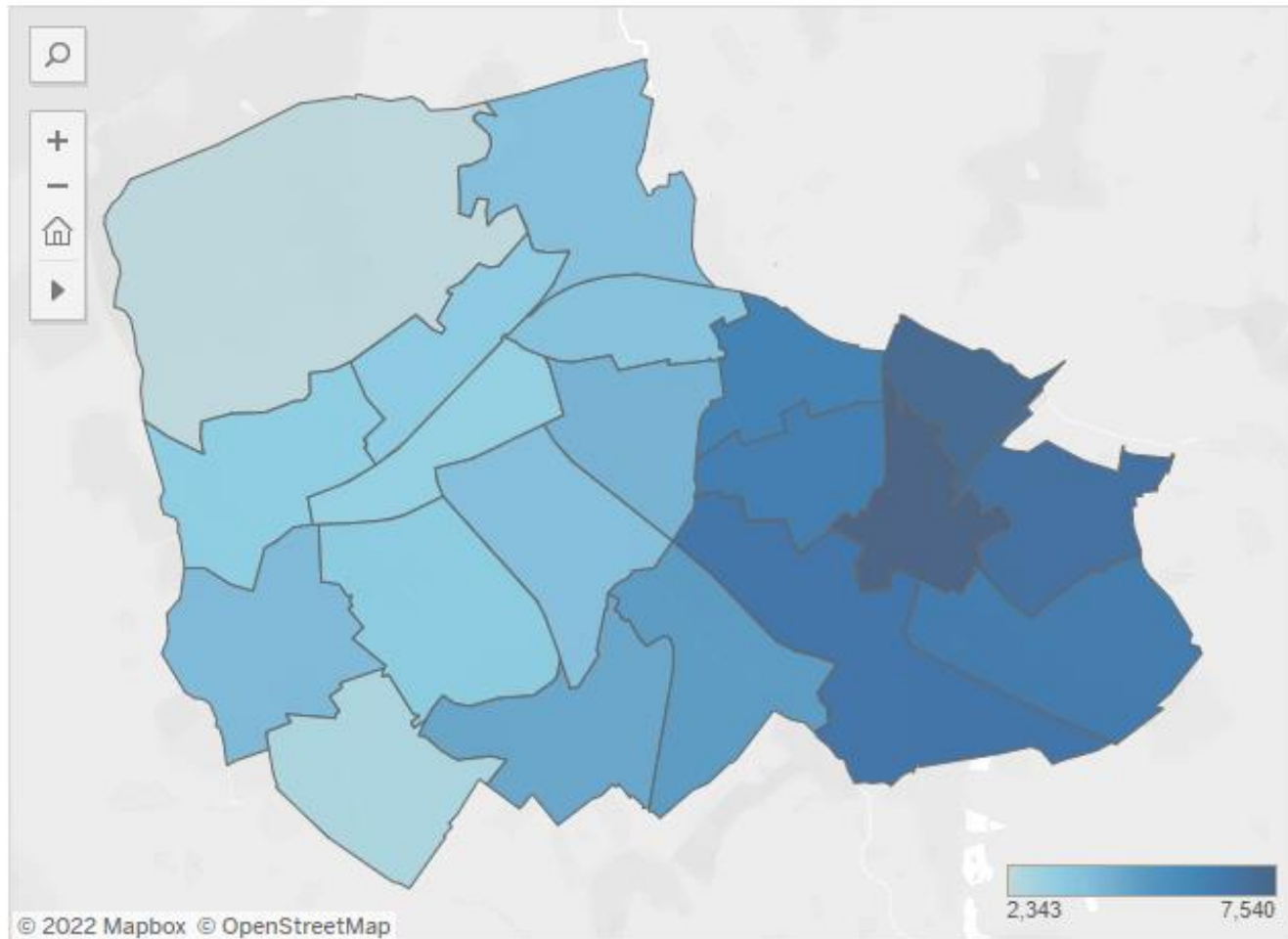
Context -Engagement on Climate Action so far...

1. 87% of respondents to our 2020 Climate Survey Consultation Report considered themselves to be White British, Irish, or Other, with 13% considering themselves to be of Black, Asian or of mixed origin.
 - However, 36.9% of Merton's population are from minority ethnic backgrounds.
 - Research conducted by IEMA, SOS-UK and the Equalities Trust found **only 3.1% of** environment professionals identify as ethnic minorities.
2. City Hall analysis highlights that 'Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Londoners are more likely to be affected by the impact of the climate crisis'
 - **Syed Ahmed, Chair of Community Energy for London said:** "BAME and poorer Londoners are more likely to live in areas which feel the full impact of climate change. This can be as a result of poorer housing, increased pollution or reduced access to green spaces.

Context - Climate Risk: Climate Exposure & Vulnerability



Detailed Ethnicity Ward Tool



Total:

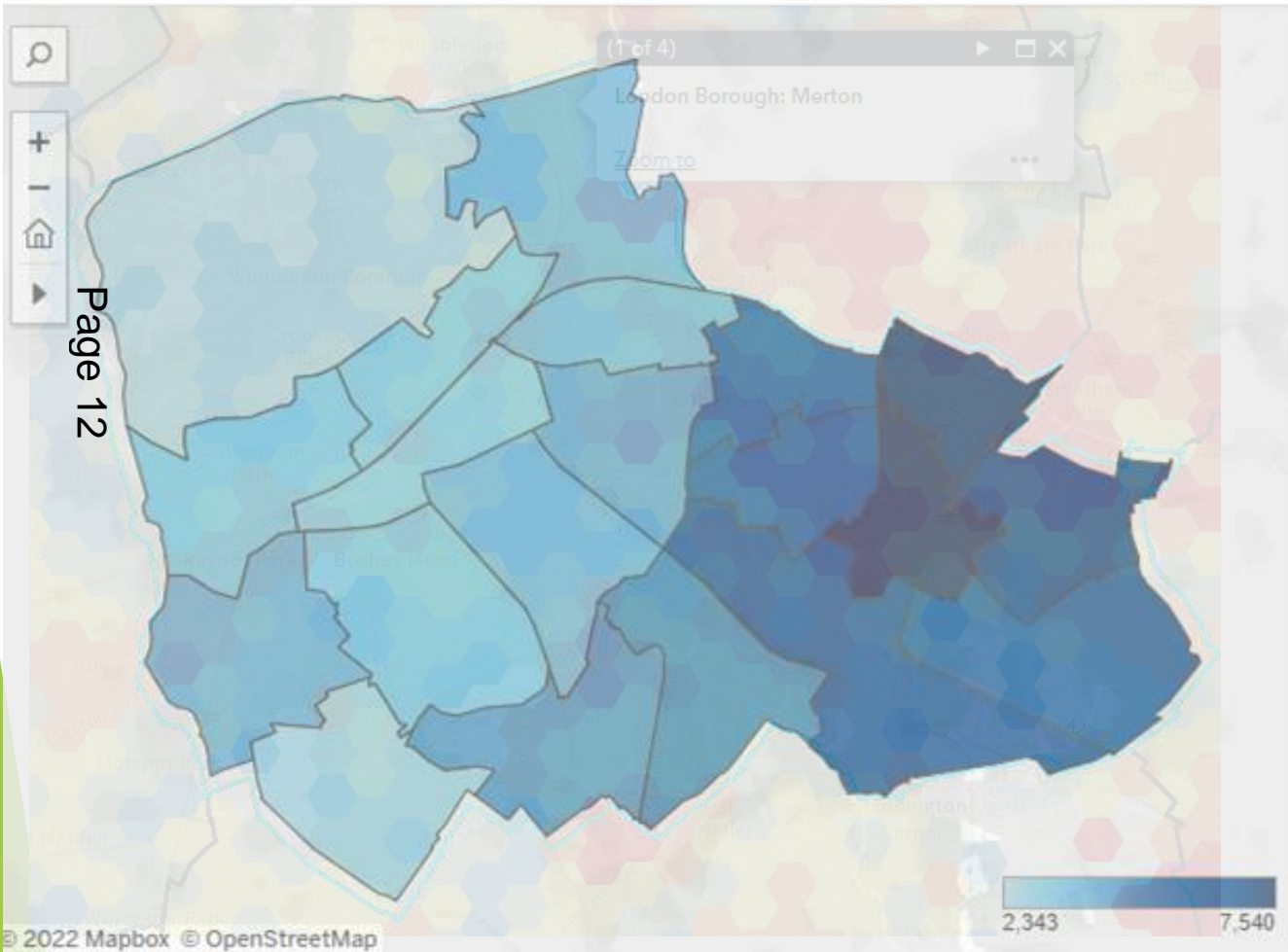
94,501

Average per ward:

4,725

- Excluding anyone with exclusively British, or Western European Ethnicity according to 2011 census data

Climate Risk and Ethnicity



- It is important to remember that there are multiple intersecting factors that make communities more vulnerable to climate change, including **wealth disparities, age, health, housing tenure, physical location, household composition and size among many others.**
- However, it is quite clear that wards in Merton with the highest levels of climate risk, also have the highest proportion of residents from minority ethnic backgrounds.

Total: 94,501

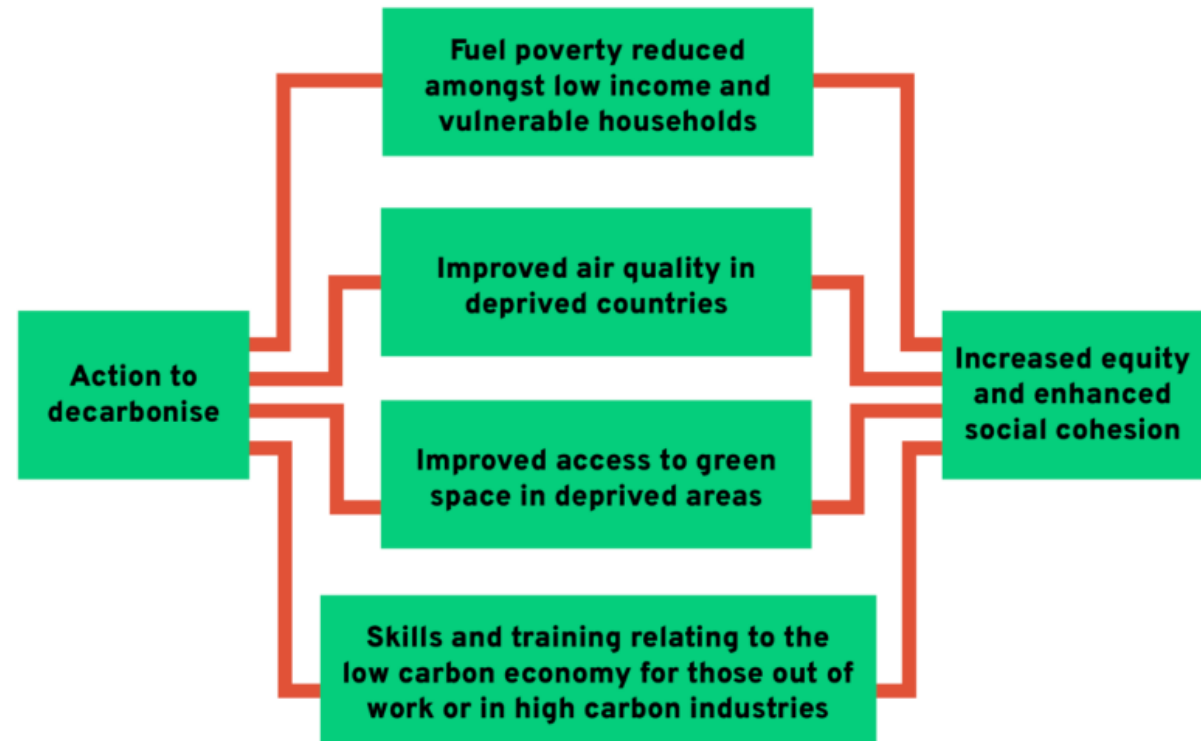
Average per ward: 4,725

Key Takeaways

- Climate injustice i.e. the unequal distribution of impacts from climate change is a huge challenge which must be addressed
- The Council wants to improve our engagement with ethnic minority groups on climate change, as well as other groups who have been underrepresented in climate conversations to date. It is the **ONLY** way to ensure a fair and socially just transition to net zero

Page 13

How decarbonisation can boost equity and social inclusion



Key Aims - Ongoing Dialogue and Future Collaboration

By 2022

- ▶ Work with organisations in the JCC to identify and promote any positive work that organisations are already taking with regard to carbon emissions reductions and climate adaptation
- ▶ Work with the JCC to identify ways of improving engagement on climate action with minority ethnic groups in the borough, as well as identifying barriers to action

By 2023...and Beyond

- ▶ Encourage partnerships with ethnic minority groups, the Council and Merton's Volunteer led Climate Action Group to support in developing community projects to reduce emissions and realise wider co-benefits e.g. improvements in health and well-being, fuel poverty reduction etc

Thank you

Merton's Climate Strategy and Action Plan
adopted in November 2020

Climate Delivery Plan – Year 1
adopted in January 2021

Climate Delivery Plan – Year 2
Adopted in February 2022



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