

## CLIMATE DELIVERY PLAN – YEAR 3

### 1. INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Purpose

This Delivery Plan provides a review of progress during the second year of delivery (2022) of Merton’s Climate Strategy & Action Plan, and sets out how Merton Council will continue to work towards a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the effects of climate change in the third year of delivery (2023). This includes activities across the borough and within the Council’s own buildings and services.

#### 1.2 About this document

Merton’s Climate Strategy and Action Plan<sup>1</sup> adopted in November 2020, set a strategic approach and the long-term actions needed to meet the borough’s net-zero carbon targets<sup>2</sup> and adapt to the effects of climate change. It recognised the need for a delivery plan that was agile to changing circumstances within the Council, in national policy and funding opportunities, and wider innovation and market factors. It also recognised the need to monitor and report progress on a regular basis. The Climate Delivery Plan is intended to fulfil this role.

Merton’s Climate Delivery Plan - Year 1<sup>3</sup> (hereafter referred to as the ‘Year 1 Delivery Plan’) was adopted by Cabinet in January 2021 and set out the Council’s priority actions for the first year of delivery of Merton’s Climate Strategy & Action Plan (i.e. 2021). This included actions to reduce the 2% of emissions that the Council is directly responsible for, and enabling actions to support others to tackle climate change. Merton’s Climate Delivery Plan is updated on an annual basis.

“Green Economy”, “Buildings and Energy”, “Transport”, “Greening Merton” and the “Council 2030 target” are the five sections in the Climate Strategy and Action Plan in which long term actions have been set for residents, businesses, landlords, organisations and the Council. To support delivery and expand climate considerations to every part of the Council, 8 workstreams were established in the Council’s Delivery Plan. **Annex 1** sets out how these workstreams were formed and their governance structure. The Year 1 Delivery Plan set the baseline against which future years could be compared.

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<sup>1</sup> Merton’s Climate Strategy and Action Plan, LBM, November 2020; available at <https://www.merton.gov.uk/planning-and-buildings/sustainability-and-climate-change/climate-emergency>

<sup>2</sup> Borough target, net-zero by 2050. Council target, net-zero by 2030

<sup>3</sup> Merton’s Climate Delivery Plan – Year 2, LBM, February 2022; available at <https://democracy.merton.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?Id=1324>

There are two main components of the Delivery Plan:

The first (**section 2**) monitors the Council's progress in delivering its part of Merton's Climate Strategy & Action Plan, and sets out how the Council intends to progress action in the coming year (January to December 2023). It uses a set of indicators to track progress against the baseline, provides an overview of progress against the priorities identified in the previous delivery plan, and identifies priorities for the coming year; highlighting delivery risks. This section is updated on an annual basis.

The second (**section 3**) assesses wider factors which give an indication of the likelihood of meeting Merton's net-zero carbon targets. This section, and Merton's greenhouse gas inventory which informs this section, are updated every 2 years to allow sufficient time for local, regional and national projects and policies to have an effect.

**Annex 2** provides an explanation of the indicators and emissions referred to in sections 2 and 3. Key considerations that were made when forming delivery actions are provided in **Annex 3**. **Annex 4** provides a detailed review of progress against all actions identified in the Year 2 Delivery Plan and identifies all priority actions for Year 3. Delivery actions within each workstream have been identified in discussion with officers and benchmarked against the pace and scale of action required by the Council to effectively support delivery.

## 2 THE COUNCIL'S PERFORMANCE IN DELIVERING ITS PART OF MERTON'S CLIMATE STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN AND PRIORITIES FOR 2023

In Merton's Climate Strategy and Action Plan, "*A Strategy to Combat Climate Change*" sets out the Council's overall approach to delivering its role; summarised in the points below.

- Leading by example through delivery of the 2030 Council target, and considering climate impacts at an early stage in all that the Council does.
- Using our unique position as a Local Authority to empower and influence others to act.
- Focusing our limited resources in areas most likely to deliver a tangible reduction in emissions; maximising funding opportunities where possible.
- Supporting projects which have wider environmental and social outcomes as well as carbon reduction benefits; recognising the need to balance competing objectives.
- Continuing to measure and monitor borough and Council emissions, and the impact of individual actions where possible.

This section monitors the Council's performance in relation to the overall approach to tackling climate change set out above. **Section 2.1** monitors the Council's overall performance using key performance indicators relating to engagement with the public and Council staff, as well as Council spend on projects which deliver Climate Strategy objectives. **Section 2.2** monitors progress against key performance indicators relating to each of the Council's 8 workstreams. **Section 2.3** tracks progress against the Council's priority actions for Y2 (2022) and identifies priority actions for Y3 (2023)<sup>4</sup>.

The Annexes provide supplementary information regarding the workstreams (**Annex 1**), indicators (**Annex 2**) and actions (**Annex 3 and 4**) identified in this section.

### 2.1 Overall performance

Merton's Climate Strategy and Action Plan can only be successful if progress is transparent and publicly accountable, if climate considerations are fully embedded into all Council activities, and if there is a degree of public confidence, engagement and empowerment amongst Merton Citizens. This section sets out the key indicators intended to monitor these overarching success factors. Some indicators are still in development and others have been developed since the last iteration of the Climate Delivery Plan. Updated figures may not be available every year for all indicators.

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<sup>4</sup> This includes actions that the Council intends to take to reduce emissions from its own buildings and services, and enabling actions to support others to tackle the impacts of climate change.

Table 2-1 below sets out indicators used to monitor public and staff perception of climate change and Merton’s response to the Climate Emergency. These indicators will be monitored every 2-3 years to allow sufficient time for local, regional and national policies and projects to have an effect.

**Table 2-1 Overall performance with regard to Citizen and LBM staff engagement**

<b>Scoring the Delivery Plan’s overall performance with regard to Citizen and LBM staff engagement<sup>5</sup></b>	<b>2021</b>
Public perception that taking action to reduce the impacts of climate change is important	High
Public perception of Council leadership and commitment to the Climate Change agenda	Med
Public feeling on engagement and empowerment to act on climate change issues	TBC
LBM staff perception that taking action to reduce the impacts of climate change is important	High
LBM staff perception of being engaged, empowered and equipped to deliver Merton’s climate commitments	Low-Med

Public perception that taking action to reduce the impacts of climate change is important (High): The Council’s residents’ survey 2021<sup>6</sup> found that 89% of respondents agreed that acting to reduce the impacts of climate change is very/ fairly important.

Public perception of Council leadership and commitment to the Climate Change agenda (Med): The Council’s residents’ survey 2021 found that only 41% of respondents agreed that Merton Council is taking action to reduce the impacts of climate change. The high percentage of neutral and don’t know responses indicates a possible lack of awareness among residents on the action Merton is taking.

We note that the declaration of a climate emergency by the Council and Merton’s Climate Strategy and Action Plan received unanimous support by all political groups. Climate Change Officers have observed support from highly engaged groups and individuals through the development of the Climate Strategy and Action Plan, and the implementation of Merton’s Year 1 and Year 2 Delivery Plans. This includes engagement through Merton’s Climate Emergency Working Group<sup>7</sup> and Merton’s Climate Action Group<sup>8</sup>. These organisations and individuals are now looking for evidence that the Council will put in place strong action to combat climate change and have consistently high standards in all areas of the Council.

Public feeling on engagement and empowerment to act on climate change issues (TBC): This indicator will be monitored through the Council’s next residents’ survey. So far, it has not been possible to gauge the level of action that individuals, businesses and organisations that have not yet engaged with the Council are taking to tackle climate change. This applies to the majority of residents and almost all businesses.

<sup>5</sup> Scoring based on survey responses: Low = 0-20%, Low-Med = 20-40%, Med = 40-60%, Med-High = 60-80%, High = 80-100%.

<sup>6</sup> Merton’s Residents’ Survey 2021 (1,005 respondents). Results available at: <https://www.merton.gov.uk/system/files?file=202120residents20survey20report.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> Further information available at: <https://www.merton.gov.uk/planning-and-buildings/sustainability-and-climate-change/climate-emergency-working-group>

<sup>8</sup> Further information available at: <https://www.merton.gov.uk/planning-and-buildings/sustainability-and-climate-change/climate-action-group>

Those that have engaged with the Council through the Climate Change consultation survey in 2019/ 2020<sup>9</sup> (around 550 residents and 50 businesses and organisations), through Merton's Climate Emergency Working Group, and on individual matters generally convey a sense that many actions they would like to see happen are not possible without Council or wider Government support.

In January 2021, the Council launched Merton's Climate Action Group to foster community-led climate action and promote community engagement in Merton's Climate Strategy & Action Plan. Section 2.2 provides more information on levels of engagement through Merton's Climate Action Group in the context of measuring progress against workstream indicators. A few organisations and individuals are highly engaged and have already taken concerted action to combat climate change, but we consider that there is significant scope to increase the numbers of residents, organisations and businesses that can be positively engaged on the climate change agenda. Merton's draft Climate Engagement Strategy (due to be adopted in 2023) sets out how the Council aims to enable greater participation of and engagement with previously underrepresented groups.

LBM staff perception that taking action to address climate change is important (High): In November 2021, the Council ran a staff climate survey to better understand staff perceptions of climate change and the key barriers and opportunities for taking climate action. Of the 186 people who responded to the survey, 93% of respondents were concerned about climate change and 94% felt a responsibility to help tackle climate change. However, it is worth noting a potential bias in the response with staff who are more concerned about climate change being more likely to complete the climate change survey.

LBM staff perception of being engaged, empowered and equipped to help the Council deliver its part in Merton's Climate Strategy & Action Plan (Low-Med): Of the 186 people who responded to Merton's staff climate survey (2021), 68% were aware of Merton's Climate Emergency declaration and carbon reduction commitments, but only 37% felt engaged in Merton's climate commitments. 40% felt empowered to help drive carbon reduction in Merton through their work but only 25% felt equipped to do so. 33% felt empowered to help build climate resilience through their work but only 27% felt equipped to do so. The high proportion of don't know responses indicate that more internal engagement is needed.

The development of Merton's Climate Strategy and Action Plan, and Merton's annual Climate Delivery Plans, have involved a high level of engagement in all Departments. The climate change team observed that generally staff were enthusiastic about incorporating climate change into their agendas, but to date this engagement has been limited to a relatively small number of key officers.

Merton's staff climate survey identified lack of capacity, time, funding, awareness, training, expertise, senior buy-in and supporting infrastructure as some of the key barriers to staff delivering climate action in their work. There was a high level of interest in climate training for LBM staff, with training needs ranging from general climate awareness and carbon literacy, including steps staff can take to reduce their carbon footprint working from home, to

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<sup>9</sup> Merton Council Climate Survey Consultation Report (2020) Available here:  
<https://www.merton.gov.uk/assets/Documents/Climate%20survey%20consultation%20report.pdf>

understanding job-specific opportunities to tackle climate change. The survey highlighted the need for increased internal engagement with LBM staff across all departments and teams.

To address some of these barriers, in 2022,

- A first phase of carbon literacy training for council staff and councillors was commissioned, and is expected to commence in early 2023, to increase staff and councillor awareness of climate change and carbon reduction.
- Funding has been secured to recruit a new member of staff and to procure bespoke climate training, to support and empower contract managers and commissioners across the council in decarbonising the council's procured services.
- Funding has been secured to develop a tool to support staff in embedding climate considerations in all council decision-making.

A survey will be issued every 2-3 years (the next in 2023), to monitor staff perceptions and empowerment. This will enable the first round of carbon literacy training to take effect and build a cohort of staff climate champions.

**Table 2-2 Council spend on projects which deliver Climate Strategy objectives**

Sector	Green economy	Buildings and energy	Transport	Greening Merton	2030 target	Other/ cross cutting	Total
Spend in 2019/2020	£7,300	£4,500	£1,215,900	£47,700	£786,400	£54,100	<b>£2,115,900</b>
Spend in 2020/2021	£80,730	£179,653	£1,121,157	£102,201	£425,564	£67,869	<b>£1,977,174</b>
Spend in 2021/2022	£27,500	£30,930	£665,932	£885,272	663,518	57,710	<b>£2,330,862</b>

Spend on projects which deliver Climate Strategy objectives: Information on Council spend includes capital, revenue and externally-sourced funding. In 2021/22, around £2.3m was spent on projects with climate adaptation and mitigation benefits. This was an increase on spend in 2020/21 (£2 million) and the baseline spend in 2019/20 (£2.1 million).

Spend in 2022/23 is currently forecast at around £3.9 million. In 2021 and 2022, the Council allocated two additional pots of £2million in climate reserves to increase capacity and develop and deliver initiatives across the Council from April 2022 to April 2026 to support climate action across the wider borough, to help decarbonise the Council's own activities and to secure additional climate funding from national and regional schemes. This funding has been allocated to a range of projects highlighted in Section 2.3 and Annex 4 below. However, many public and private organisations are seeking the same services so increasing Council capacity will be subject to the availability of suitable candidates.

## 2.2 Progress against workstream performance indicators

The Climate Strategy and Action Plan identifies three major transformations that need to take place in order to achieve our net-zero carbon targets; in the economy, in buildings and energy, and in transport. In addition, it recognises the importance of greening Merton and progressing the decarbonisation of the Council's own buildings and services.

The "Measuring Success" section of the Climate Strategy and Action Plan sets out a series of metrics which indicate the speed at which transformation is expected. These have been mapped, along with other relevant indicators, onto the eight workstreams set up to deliver the Council's part of Merton's Climate Strategy and Action Plan<sup>10</sup>. Some indicators are still in development, but will be put in place as soon as appropriate information can be sourced.

The indicators are not a direct reflection of the Council's performance, because the emission reduction activity in most cases must be done by others. It does help us to understand where the Council should focus its efforts to support decarbonisation activity in future years.

**Table 2-3 Tracking progress against workstream indicators**

Workstream	Workstream Indicator	Unit <sup>11</sup>	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Source
WS1: Sustainable consumption and low carbon economy	Number of businesses involved in Merton's business network for climate action	Number	N/A	N/A	20	26	5	Data provided by Sustainable Merton.
	Local Authority Collected Waste	t/yr	67,987	66,005	70,124	N/A	N/A	South London Waste Partnership waste tonnage data provided to inform Merton's greenhouse gas inventory.
WS2: Retrofit of homes,	Homes with "good" insulation (EPC A-C)	Homes	N/A	N/A	18,879	N/A	N/A	Parity Projects CROHM database (Accessed May 2020 <a href="https://parityprojects.com/platform/">https://parityprojects.com/platform/</a> ).

<sup>10</sup> The indicator values, assumptions and data sources have been reviewed and updated since the Year 1 Delivery Plan to use more robust and accessible data sources; this has resulted in changes to some of the indicator values. Additional indicators have also been added to better track progress against the 8 workstreams.

<sup>11</sup> These are all cumulative/ total figures apart from where it is specified that the unit is per year.

Workstream	Workstream Indicator	Unit <sup>11</sup>	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Source
businesses and non-residential building stock								Merton does not currently have access to this portal but will update this indicator when we do.
	Number of Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) accredited installations <sup>12</sup>	Installations	11	14	18	29	43	UK Gov Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) Statistics available at: <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/renewable-heat-incentive-statistics">https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/renewable-heat-incentive-statistics</a> . Numbers of installations by November of the relevant year.
	Number of Non-Domestic RHI accredited installations <sup>13</sup>	Installations	N/A	N/A	N/A	6	7	As above.
WS3: Future new build and regeneration	Number of buildings which are capable of operating at net-zero carbon by 2050 without significant retrofit.							TBC
WS4: Transport infrastructure and modal shift	Car vehicle traffic in Merton	Million vehicle km	516	528	415	476	N/A	DfT Road Traffic Estimates – TRA8905a available at: <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/road-traffic-estimates-in-great-britain-2020">https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/road-traffic-estimates-in-great-britain-2020</a> . Figures for 2018-20 have been amended following a revision to the DfT data.
	Merton ownership of vehicles	Vehicles	76,159	73,974	74,238	73,385	N/A	DfT Licenced Vehicles - Numbers, Borough available at: <a href="https://data.london.gov.uk/dataset/licensed-vehicles-numbers-borough">https://data.london.gov.uk/dataset/licensed-vehicles-numbers-borough</a> .
	Merton ownership of Ultra Low Emission Vehicles <sup>14</sup>	Vehicles	1078	717	1133	1838	2798	DfT stats VEH0132 available at <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/all-vehicles-veh01#ultra-low-emissions-vehicles-ulevs">https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/all-vehicles-veh01#ultra-low-emissions-vehicles-ulevs</a> . All values are from Q2 of the relevant year as latest available for 2021.
	Merton ownership of Battery Electric Vehicles <sup>15</sup>	Vehicles	220	292	531	967	1625	DfT stats VEH0132 available at <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/all-vehicles-veh01#ultra-low-emissions-vehicles-">https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/all-vehicles-veh01#ultra-low-emissions-vehicles-</a>

<sup>12</sup> The Non-Domestic RHI scheme closed to new applications on 31 March 2021. A new indicator will need to be used in future years.

<sup>13</sup> The Domestic RHI scheme is scheduled to close to new applicants on 31 March 2022. A new indicator will need to be used in future years.

<sup>14</sup> This includes both private and company Battery EVs and plug-in hybrids. Source:

<sup>15</sup> This includes both private and company Battery EVs.



Workstream	Workstream Indicator	Unit <sup>11</sup>	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Source	
								ulevs. All values are from Q2 of the relevant year as latest available for 2021.	
	Proportion of active travel journeys	%	56 (2015/16-2017/18)	57 (2016/17-2018-19)	61 (2017/18-2019/20)	N/A	N/A	Observed data - source: London Travel Demand Survey 2012/13 – 2019/20 and LTS home based travel. <a href="https://tfl.gov.uk/corporate/about-tfl/how-we-work/planning-for-the-future/consultations-and-surveys/london-travel-demand-survey">https://tfl.gov.uk/corporate/about-tfl/how-we-work/planning-for-the-future/consultations-and-surveys/london-travel-demand-survey</a> . 0.. (Data is based on a three year rolling average and the target year represents final year of the period- e.g. 2020 is the period 2017/18-2019/20.) Update due in December 2022.	
	EV Charge points	Charge points	71	143	149	239	239	EV Charge Point data collected by Merton's Transport Team.	
	Electric or hydrogen bus routes	Routes	0	0	0	1	3	Routes 200, 413 and 264 are electric 2022. Source TFL	
	Participation in Sustrans' Big Pedal/ Big Walk and Wheel	Schools/yr	N/A	7	0	21	16	Big Pedal School sign-ups available at <a href="https://bigpedal.org.uk/schools?search_name=&amp;search_la=234&amp;sub=Find+Schools">https://bigpedal.org.uk/schools?search_name=&amp;search_la=234&amp;sub=Find+Schools</a>	
	Schools Streets	Streets	0	3	30	30	30	School streets available at <a href="https://www.merton.gov.uk/streets-parking-transport/school-safety-zones">https://www.merton.gov.uk/streets-parking-transport/school-safety-zones</a>	
	New Low Traffic Neighbourhoods <sup>16</sup>	Neighbourhoods	0	0	5	5	5	Data provided by Merton's Transport Team.	
	Cycle Hangars	Hangars	1	1	1	21	21	Merton's Sustainable Infrastructure Story Map available at <a href="https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/12050fded6c64aa7ad8317cf74526a9c">https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/12050fded6c64aa7ad8317cf74526a9c</a>	
WS5: Green infrastructure	Canopy cover	%	N/A	N/A	28	N/A	N/A	Merton Green & Blue Infrastructure, Biodiversity and Open Space Study 2020 available at <a href="https://www.merton.gov.uk/system/files?file=1.20giboss20summary20report.pdf">https://www.merton.gov.uk/system/files?file=1.20giboss20summary20report.pdf</a>	
	Tree numbers on private land	Trees/yr							TBC
	Tree numbers on public land	Trees	N/A	N/A	N/A	54,791	N/A	Highway Asset database = 20,750 street trees Parks, Schools, Cemeteries = 34,041 trees	

<sup>16</sup> This includes new Low Traffic Neighbourhoods introduced from 2018 onwards but does not include legacy LTNs introduced before 2018.

Workstream	Workstream Indicator	Unit <sup>11</sup>	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Source
	Number of SUDs Interventions	SUDs Features	6	7	8	11	11	Data provided by Merton's Flooding Team.
	Streets participating in Merton Garden Streets	Streets/yr	N/A	N/A	N/A	92	124	Registration link available at <a href="https://www.frontgardenfriendly.uk/Mertongardenstreets">https://www.frontgardenfriendly.uk/Mertongardenstreets</a> - <a href="https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1nWQDcj6p57Tt0L_yzLBoUfwSRwF1JSrvht9tRm9LVls/edit?usp=sharing">https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1nWQDcj6p57Tt0L_yzLBoUfwSRwF1JSrvht9tRm9LVls/edit?usp=sharing</a>
	High street and school parklets	Parklets	N/A	N/A	N/A	10	10	Merton's Sustainable Infrastructure Story Map available at <a href="https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/12050fded6c64aa7ad8317cf74526a9c">https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/12050fded6c64aa7ad8317cf74526a9c</a>
WS6: LBM Estate and fleet management	LBM Operational buildings electricity use	GWh/yr	5.2	5	3.1	4.4 <sup>17</sup>	N/A	Data provided by Merton's Facilities Management Team.
	Community Schools electricity use	GWh/yr	5.1	4.7	4.1	3.4 <sup>17</sup>	N/A	Data provided by Merton's Facilities Management Team.
	LBM Operational buildings gas use	GWh/yr	11.3	11.6	9.6	9.6 <sup>17</sup>	N/A	Data provided by Merton's Facilities Management Team.
	Community Schools gas use	GWh/yr	13.7	13.8	14.4	13 <sup>17</sup>	N/A	Data provided by Merton's Facilities Management Team.
	LBM Non-operational buildings electricity use	GWh/yr						TBC
	LBM Non-operation buildings gas use	GWh/yr						TBC
	Installed solar PV capacity across Council buildings and community schools	kWp	2067	1980	1980	1980	1980	Data provided by Merton's Facilities Management Team.
	Renewable electricity generated by solar PV across Council buildings and community schools	MWh/yr	1044	952	936	920 <sup>17</sup>	N/A	Data provided by Merton's Facilities Management Team.
	Council Fleet Petrol Vehicle Mileage <sup>18</sup>	km/yr	41,090	56,597	78,072	66,709	N/A	Data provided by Merton's Performance Officer.

<sup>17</sup> Some sites data for 2021 is incomplete and is subject to change.

<sup>18</sup> This includes cars and vans.

Workstream	Workstream Indicator	Unit <sup>11</sup>	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Source
	Council Fleet Diesel Vehicle Mileage <sup>19</sup>	km/yr	828,478	648,247	622,583	771,251	N/A	Data provided by Merton's Performance Officer.
	Council Fleet Petrol Hybrid Mileage	km/yr	8,896	13,369	6,960	11,051	N/A	Data provided by Merton's Performance Officer.
	Council Fleet EV Mileage	km/yr	5,427	2,277	6,375	5,195	N/A	Data provided by Merton's Performance Officer.
	LBM annual mileage claims for petrol and diesel grey fleet	Miles/yr	282,702	279,857	160,823	190,181	N/A	Data provided by Merton Human Resources.
	Fossil fuel vehicles in the Council fleet	Vehicles	94	94	94	93	N/A	Data provided by Merton's Performance Officer.
	Electric Vehicles in the Council Fleet	Vehicles	1	1	1	1	N/A	Data provided by Merton's Performance Officer.
	Council fleet emissions	ktCO <sub>2</sub> eq/yr	0.6	0.5	0.4	N/A	N/A	Merton's Greenhouse Gas Inventory Report 2021 available at: <a href="https://www.merton.gov.uk/planning-and-buildings/sustainability-and-climate-change/climate-emergency">https://www.merton.gov.uk/planning-and-buildings/sustainability-and-climate-change/climate-emergency</a> .
	Council operational buildings emissions	ktCO <sub>2</sub> eq/yr	3.7	3.5	2.6	2.8 <sup>17</sup>	N/A	Merton's Greenhouse Gas Inventory Report 2021 available at: <a href="https://www.merton.gov.uk/planning-and-buildings/sustainability-and-climate-change/climate-emergency">https://www.merton.gov.uk/planning-and-buildings/sustainability-and-climate-change/climate-emergency</a> . 2021 figure calculated by climate change team.
	Community schools emissions	ktCO <sub>2</sub> eq/yr	4.1	3.8	3.7	3.2 <sup>17</sup>	N/A	Merton's Greenhouse Gas Inventory Report 2021 available at: <a href="https://www.merton.gov.uk/planning-and-buildings/sustainability-and-climate-change/climate-emergency">https://www.merton.gov.uk/planning-and-buildings/sustainability-and-climate-change/climate-emergency</a> . 2021 figure calculated by climate change team.
Council non-operational buildings emissions	ktCO <sub>2</sub> eq/yr						TBC	
WS7: LBM Procurements and investments	Weighted Average Carbon Intensity of Merton's Pension Fund	tCO <sub>2</sub> /\$m sales	219	183	124	87	97	Data provided by Merton's Pension Fund Investment Consultant.
	Carbon footprint of Merton's procurements <sup>20</sup>	KtCO <sub>2</sub> eq/yr	1.8	1.7	1.8	N/A	N/A	Merton's Greenhouse Gas Inventory Report 2021 available at: <a href="https://www.merton.gov.uk/planning-and-buildings/sustainability-and-climate-change/climate-emergency">https://www.merton.gov.uk/planning-and-buildings/sustainability-and-climate-change/climate-emergency</a> .

<sup>19</sup> This includes cars, vans and HGVs.

<sup>20</sup> To date, the Council greenhouse gas inventory has only included emissions from Merton's three largest contracts (highways maintenance, green spaces maintenance and waste collection). This figure is expected to increase in future years when emissions data for other contracts becomes available and can be added to Merton's greenhouse gas inventory.

Workstream	Workstream Indicator	Unit <sup>11</sup>	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Source
								<a href="#">and-buildings/sustainability-and-climate-change/climate-emergency</a> . Merton’s greenhouse gas inventory will next be updated in 2023.
WS8: Communication, outreach and LBM corporate procedure <sup>21</sup>	Individuals signed up to Merton’s Climate Action Newsletter	Individuals	N/A	N/A	N/A	3,847	9,314	Data provided by Merton’s Climate Change Team. Number of subscribers as of 4 <sup>th</sup> December 2022.
	Merton Climate Action Group followers	Twitter Followers	N/A	N/A	N/A	381	434	<a href="https://twitter.com/ClimateMerton">https://twitter.com/ClimateMerton</a> . Number of Twitter followers as of 5 <sup>th</sup> December 2022.

### 2.3 Progress against workstreams and priority actions for 2023

This section provides an overview of the Council’s progress in delivering projects that tackle climate change in the second year of implementing Merton’s Climate Strategy and Action Plan (Y2, i.e. 2022), and summarises the main intended actions for the following year (Y3, i.e. 2023), for each workstream.

A detailed progress review of all Y2 priority actions, and a full list of priority actions for Y3, are set out in **Annex 4**. This includes a traffic light assessment of the likelihood of delivery for each action (at Y2 and Y3). **Annex 3** sets out key considerations that were made when identifying priority actions to benchmark actions against expected progress towards net-zero carbon.

The main focus of the actions prioritised for Y3 is to continue to develop firm foundations from which low carbon policies, projects and programmes can grow within the Council based on the Y2 actions, and to ensure that the Council is in a position to partner with, support or empower Merton citizens to reduce carbon emissions. This section also identifies where further actions may be necessary in future to fulfil the Council’s commitments under the Climate Strategy and Action Plan.

The assessment of actions and potential future gaps has resulted in a “RAG rating” for each workstream, showing the likelihood of successful delivery of actions to the scale required to fully support Merton’s Climate Strategy and Action Plan. The criteria that the risks were assessed against are set out in **Annex 2**.

<sup>21</sup> Also see indicators relating to the Council’s overall performance in section 2.1.

**Table 2-4 Workstream risk assessment**

No.	Workstream	RAG Rating at Y3
1	Sustainable consumption and low carbon economy	Red
2	Retrofit of the residential and non-residential building stock	Red
3	Future new build and regeneration	Amber
4	Transport infrastructure and modal shift	Amber
5	Green infrastructure	Amber
6	LBM Estate and fleet management	Red
7	LBM Procurements and investments	Amber
8	Communication, outreach and LBM corporate procedure	Amber

WS1: Sustainable consumption and low carbon economy (RAG rating Red): Successfully delivering this work stream will require significant behaviour changes from Merton’s residents, businesses and organisations, to drive sustainable consumption habits and enable a transition to a low carbon economy.

**Key areas of progress in 2022 (further details in Annex 4):**

- Recruiting a new Climate Engagement Officer to lead on climate engagement and promote sustainable behaviours in Merton (March 2022).
- Supporting Merton’s Climate Action Group<sup>22</sup> in developing community-led climate action projects which promote sustainable behaviours and a circular economy (e.g. The Wheel: Merton’s circular economy hub<sup>23</sup>).
- Securing funding through the Net Zero Innovation Programme to investigate how SMEs on our highstreets can aggregate and reduce waste and become more resource efficient<sup>24</sup>.
- Developing a number of green skills training opportunities and employment pathways through Merton’s Towards Employment programme.
- Launching Merton’s adult education programme for green skills.
- Working with the South London Partnership (SLP) to support the development of green jobs and skills through the Green Skills Academy, the South London Careers Hub, Phase 2 of the Green Jobs and Skills London Report, the South London Knowledge Exchange project, etc.
- Identifying opportunities to embed a green recovery from Covid-19 through the SLP and the London Councils programmes on climate change<sup>25</sup>.
- Launching the Merton Local App<sup>26</sup> which encourages residents and businesses to reduce their carbon footprint and shop local.

<sup>22</sup> <https://www.merton.gov.uk/planning-and-buildings/sustainability-and-climate-change/climate-action-group>

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.thewheelmerton.org/>

<sup>24</sup> <https://news.merton.gov.uk/2022/11/15/merton-success-in-net-zero-innovation-programme-bid/>

<sup>25</sup> <https://londoncouncils.gov.uk/our-key-themes/climate-change>

<sup>26</sup> <https://www.merton.gov.uk/business-and-consumers/local-app>

- Launching Merton’s ‘Business support for Cost of Living and Climate Action’ web page<sup>27</sup>.
- Continuing the roll-out of town centre dual stream bins to minimise waste and promote recycling.
- Securing funding for the delivery of relevant initiatives in 2023.

**Key challenges:**

- Insufficient capacity to engage with businesses on net zero carbon at the pace and scale needed.
- Reaching residents and businesses who aren’t already engaged in tackling climate change to influence behaviour change across the borough.

**Key priorities for 2023:**

- Continuing to develop or support activities progressed in 2022 where appropriate.
- Recruiting a new member of staff to lead on the development of a low carbon economy, by promoting low carbon business, helping maximise green skills and jobs opportunities, and promoting a circular economy.
- Developing a Climate Action Fund to support community-led climate action projects.
- Developing a business retrofit support scheme which will enable greater engagement with businesses.
- Exploring opportunities to establish a reuse shop.
- Finalising and adopting Merton’s Climate Engagement Strategy to maximise the impact of Merton’s climate engagement.

**Areas for future consideration:**

- Finding external partners and applying for funding external to the Council.
- Supporting the expansion of relevant education provision with clear pathways into green sectors on leaving education whilst also supporting workers to upskill and transition into green jobs from other sectors.

WS2: Retrofit of the residential and non-residential building stock (RAG rating: Red): Successfully delivering this work stream will require significant uptake of good quality domestic and non-domestic retrofit by homeowners, business owners, and private and social landlords in Merton. As well as reducing energy demand and carbon emissions, this will help tackle fuel poverty and build climate resilience in the borough.

**Key areas of progress in 2022 (further details in Annex 4):**

<sup>27</sup> <https://www.merton.gov.uk/business-and-consumers/business-support-and-advice/cost-living-climate-action>

- Recruiting two new Community Retrofit Officers to lead on the retrofit of residential and non-residential buildings in Merton (December 2022).
- Promoting Phase 5 of the Mayor’s Solar Together scheme<sup>28</sup>.
- Lobbying central Government for appropriate policies and funding schemes to support retrofit through the Net Zero Review consultation.
- Supporting fuel poor households in accessing funding to retrofit their homes through the Mayor’s Warmer Homes Scheme<sup>29</sup>.
- Using Merton’s Carbon Offset Fund to top-up national and regional funding streams for retrofit where appropriate.
- Supporting Housing Associations in bidding for national retrofit funding schemes (e.g. Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund).
- Working with the Buildings & Energy sub-group of Merton’s Climate Action Group to promote energy efficiency and retrofit by developing case studies and delivering the Energy Matters project in Merton schools.
- Securing funding for the delivery of relevant initiatives in 2023.

#### **Key challenges:**

- Homeowners/ business owners/ landlords’ lack of understanding of retrofit.
- Insufficient and overly complex national retrofit funding schemes.
- Supply chain and skills gaps for delivering retrofit given increased demand and wider macro-economic circumstances<sup>30</sup>.
- Conservation and heritage considerations in delivering ‘good’ retrofit.
- Limited capacity within the Council to lead on borough-wide retrofit to date but two new Community Retrofit Officers starting in early 2023.

#### **Key priorities for 2023:**

- Continuing to develop or support activities progressed in 2022 where appropriate.
- Developing a Retrofit Strategy for the borough.
- Developing an Energy Masterplan for the borough to consider energy infrastructure needs to support the transition to net-zero.
- Working with the South London Partnership to develop a retrofit roadmap to encourage residents to retrofit their homes.
- Developing a business retrofit support scheme.
- Developing a recycled loan fund for homeowners looking to retrofit their homes who aren’t eligible for national and regional retrofit funding.
- Investigating how the Council can support residents in accessing Energy Company Obligation (ECO) funding.
- Running a retrofit workshop with housing associations and green skills partners in February 2023 to discuss lessons learnt, challenges and opportunities in decarbonising Merton’s housing stock.

<sup>28</sup> <https://www.london.gov.uk/programmes-and-strategies/environment-and-climate-change/energy/solar-together-london>

<sup>29</sup> <https://www.london.gov.uk/programmes-strategies/housing-and-land/improving-quality/warmer-homes>

<sup>30</sup> Supply chain issues have been amplified over the last few years as a result of increased demand due to the availability of national funding, and reduced supply which has been affected by Covid and Brexit.

- Recruiting additional capacity to lead on the enforcement of Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards (MEES) in Merton’s Private Rental Sector.
- Considering what ‘good retrofit’ looks like in the context of conservation and heritage.
- Supporting the Mayor’s bid for Home Upgrade Grant 2 (HUG 2) funding for off-gas grid properties in London.
- Considering local green skills and jobs needs, as well as upskilling and employment opportunities, for borough-wide retrofit.

**Areas for future consideration:**

- The longevity of retrofit funding and how funding models need to evolve to achieve the pace and scale of change required.

WS 3: Future new build and regeneration (RAG rating: Amber): Successfully delivering this work stream will require that all new developments in Merton, and Merton’s energy infrastructure, are compatible with our climate commitments and adaptable to a changing climate.

**Key areas of progress in 2022 (further details in Annex 4):**

- Supporting the Examination in public of Merton’s draft Local Plan which has ambitious climate change policies.
- Lobbying for faster change to national and regional planning policy to ensure that all new development is compatible with our net zero commitments.
- Collaborating with a consortium of 19 London boroughs to develop the evidence base to support more ambitious local planning policies.
- Recruiting two Community Retrofit Officers who will lead on the development of an Energy Masterplan for Merton.

**Key challenges:**

- A complex and evolving national and regional policy landscape with changes to Part L of the Building Regulations and issues with the supporting software and methodologies.

**Key priorities for 2023:**

- Adopting Merton’s new Local Plan.
- Developing an Energy Masterplan for Merton to consider any energy infrastructure needs to support the transition to net zero (buildings and transport).
- Continuing to lobby for faster change in the built environment.

**Areas for future consideration:**

- Considering further improvements to Merton’s policies as industry knowledge evolves.



WS 4: Transport infrastructure and modal shift (RAG rating: Amber): Successfully delivering this work stream will require everyone who works, lives and studies in Merton to shift from fossil fuel based modes of transport towards more active and sustainable travel, and ensuring that the supporting infrastructure is in place to enable this modal shift.

**Key areas of progress in 2022 (further details in Annex 4):**

- Working with TfL and other transport providers to improve access to public transport in Merton.
- Delivering funded active travel infrastructure schemes.
- Identifying schemes for Merton’s Local Implementation Plan (LIP) bids for FY23/24 and FY 24/25.
- Undertaking preparatory work and engagement in relation to Merton’s EV, cycling and walking strategies.
- Establishing an EV task group via the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny and Overview Committee.
- Funding a number of multi-modal traffic monitors that will be used to inform the development of Merton’s cycling and walking strategies.
- Securing £750k of funding to provide up to 500 lamp column EV chargepoints.
- Continuing engagement with car clubs about a transition to electric – a significant proportion of the car club fleet in Merton is now electric.
- Continuing the implementation of Merton’s Air Quality Action Plan and active travel initiatives (e.g. air quality and traffic monitoring, air quality audits, anti-idling campaigns and signage, the Non-Road Mobile Machinery and Clean Air Village initiatives, and Air Quality comms and events).
- Continuing to deliver Merton’s active travel programmes (e.g. cycle training, schools STARS travel plans, free Dr Bike sessions, etc.)
- Securing a phase 1 GLA School Superzone grant for a Merton school to pilot mechanisms to reduce the number of students driven to school.

**Key challenges:**

- Reduced and delayed LIP funding has reduced the number of active travel infrastructure schemes being delivered.
- Insufficient capacity to progress EV, cycling and walking strategies to date.
- Pavement obstructions resulting from the current free-floating parking model for dockless electric bike hire schemes in Merton.
- Challenges in identifying viable lamp columns for the EV chargepoints.
- The high cost of rapid chargepoint infrastructure will likely require an operator funded model.

**Key priorities for 2023:**

- Continuing to develop or support activities progressed in 2022 where appropriate.
- Recruiting a new member of staff to lead on the development of Merton’s EV, cycling and walking strategies.
- Delivering active travel infrastructure improvements included in the FY23/24 LIP bid.

- Working with operators for dockless electric bike hire schemes to enter into formal agreements to provide designated parking areas and to expand the scheme to all parts of the borough.
- Progressing the delivery of more rapid charge points, likely through an operator funded model.

**Areas for future consideration:**

- Future funding implications for public transport services remain uncertain following Covid-19, including the delivery of major public transport infrastructure schemes which could impact the ability to achieve the long-term reduction in car use necessary to achieve net zero by 2050.

WS 5: Green infrastructure (RAG rating: Amber): Successfully delivering this work stream will require increased tree planting and green infrastructure projects by the Council and private landowners, and increased public participation in community planting.

**Key areas of progress in 2022 (further details in Annex 4):**

- Developing and consulting stakeholders on Phase 1 of Merton’s Tree Strategy for the management of council owned trees.
- Planting 299 standard trees and 1200 whips in parks across the borough under the Urban Tree Challenge Round 2.
- Planting 560 standard trees under Merton’s annual Street Tree Replacement Programme.
- Increasing the proactive inspection of Street and Park Trees on the Council’s current tree management software (Ezytreey) and actively logging any losses to ensure priority replacements within 1 year wherever possible.
- Designing a large green infrastructure Sustainable urban Drainage System (SuDS) solution for Raynes Park Town Centre on Pepys Road.
- Securing funding from Thames’ Water Surface Water Management Plan for additional SuDS features.
- Supporting the Examination in Public of Merton’s draft Local Plan which includes several Green and Blue Infrastructure policies.
- Proactively engaging with the Independent Merton Greenspace Forum and Merton’s existing Friends of Parks network to share knowledge and experience as well as encourage new groups to form.
- Successfully retaining all 6 Green Flag Award winning parks in Merton with positive feedback for Merton’s Friends of Park groups.
- Supporting and funding the second year of the Climate Action Group’s Merton Garden Streets initiative via Sustainable Merton<sup>31</sup>, with 124 streets signed-up in 2022.

**Key challenges:**

- Insufficient capacity to promote tree planting on private land to date – future efforts will be informed by Phase 2 of Merton’s Tree Strategy.

<sup>31</sup> <https://www.sustainablemerton.org/gardenstreets>

**Key priorities for 2023:**

- Continuing to develop or support activities progressed in 2022 where appropriate.
- Adopting Phase 1 of Merton's Tree Strategy.
- Developing Phase 2 of Merton's Tree Strategy for the management of trees on private land.
- Planting 283 standard trees across Merton parks under Round 3 of the Urban Tree Challenge.
- Planting a community woodland with Trees for Cities on Cranmer Green with 6000 whips and 12 standard trees.
- Developing a partnership with Trees for Streets and launching a Street Tree Sponsorship Scheme.
- Considering the feasibility and delivery of a larger Green Infrastructure Pocket Park with attenuation at Home Park Road and Kenilworth Green.
- Applying for 9 Green Flag Awards, including the 6 existing parks and 3 New Green Flag Award Management and Maintenance Plans.

**Areas for future consideration:**

- How to promote more tree planting and retention on private land.

WS 6: LBM Estate and fleet management (RAG rating: Red): Successfully delivering this work stream will require the decarbonisation of the Council's operational buildings and fleet, street lighting and community schools.

**Key areas of progress in 2022 (further details in Annex 4):**

- Installing 4 solar PV-connected battery systems and loft insulation on Council buildings through the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme.
- Progressing recruitment for a new Climate Emergency Building Surveyor to lead on the decarbonisation of the Council's operational and non-operational buildings, and community schools.
- Commissioning and progressing building surveys for community schools, and the Council's operational and non-operational buildings.
- Converting a further 170 lanterns to LEDs on our streetlighting assets.
- Bidding for funding for additional streetlighting upgrades.
- Starting to investigate several potential frameworks for sourcing a long-term delivery partner for the decarbonisation of Merton's estate.
- Securing funding for a number of relevant initiatives to be delivered in 2023 and beyond.

**Key challenges:**

- There has been reduced capacity within the energy team which has had to respond to utility pricing increases.
- Challenges in finding a suitably qualified candidate have delayed the recruitment of the Climate Emergency Building Surveyor role.

- Short timescales of current funding schemes; projects must be shovel-ready to meet bidding timescales.
- Merton's Fleet Management team were awaiting the outcome of the Cabinet decision regarding the Veolia waste collection contract before progressing work to decarbonise Merton's vehicle fleet (including refuse collection vehicles).
- Covid-19 and associated changes in staff travel behaviours have resulted in delays to the development of staff travel policies.

**Key priorities for 2023:**

- Recruiting Merton's new Climate Emergency Building Surveyor to lead on the decarbonisation of Merton's estate.
- Commissioning Energy Performance Certificates and reviewing the leases for the Council's non-operational rented properties to inform future decarbonisation plans and funding bids.
- Processing the results of Merton's building surveys carried out in 2022 to develop packages of work for future funding bids.
- Commissioning a review of the heating and catering equipment in Merton's community schools to inform future decarbonisation plans and funding bids.
- Seeking approval to procure a long-term delivery partner for the Council's estate decarbonisation works.
- Implementing a mechanism to ensure that all new Council buildings are net zero carbon by 2030 without requiring significant retrofit.
- Investigating Power Purchase Agreements for future inclusion in corporate utility contracts.
- Reviewing outcomes of Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme funded measures installed in 2022.
- Commissioning consultant support to investigate fleet decarbonisation options, and to form a strategy to decarbonise the Council's vehicle fleet and its supporting infrastructure.
- Continuing streetlight LED replacement through standard maintenance.
- Considering opportunities to improve Council-owned sites to encourage active and electrified travel by staff.
- Developing staff travel policies.

**Areas for future consideration:**

- Future funding requirements for the decarbonisation of Merton's fleet and estate.

WS 7: LBM Procurements and investments (RAG rating: Amber): Successfully delivering this work stream will require the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from Merton's procurements and pension investments, whilst balancing the need to reduce emissions with the potential additional costs of services.

**Key areas of progress in 2022 (further details in Annex 4):**

- Working with Merton’s school meals catering provider to reduce emissions from this contract by promoting meat-free meals, food gardens and waste reduction, and utilising local supply chains.
- Implementing Merton’s new Contract Standing Orders (CSO) which require Responsible Officers to give due consideration to the Climate Emergency.
- Incorporating climate considerations in the CSO training and Procurement Toolkit provided to officers.
- Strengthening Merton’s Social Value Charter to reflect Merton’s Climate Emergency declaration.
- Commissioning and delivering circular economy training for key commissioning leads.
- Securing funding to increase capacity across the council to embed carbon reduction in council contracts.
- Expanding the analysis of Merton’s pension investments to assess a larger proportion of total assets held by the Fund and continuing to decarbonise Merton’s investments.

**Key challenges:**

- Capacity to engage with service providers has been limited to date – this is being addressed by recruiting additional staff to lead on this area of work and delivering procurement-specific climate training for key commissioning leads.

**Key priorities for 2023:**

- Including baseline emissions from Merton’s school meals catering contract in Merton’s greenhouse gas inventory.
- Recruiting a new member of staff to lead on the decarbonisation of Merton’s procured services, and support contract managers and commissioners across the Council in engaging with suppliers to measure and reduce emissions from Merton’s new and existing contracts.
- Developing and delivering bespoke training to empower contract managers and commissioners to consider carbon at all stages of procurement, alongside wider carbon literacy training for all staff.
- Reviewing Merton’s procurement process and tender documents to further embed carbon reduction in our requirements for new contracts.
- Continuing to engage with suppliers to trial low carbon technologies in Merton’s contracts where appropriate.

**Areas for future consideration:**

- Incorporating as many contracts as possible into Merton’s greenhouse gas inventory to understand and monitor Merton’s scope 3 emissions.
- Engaging with all suppliers to quantify and reduce emissions from Merton’s procured services.

WS 8: Communication, outreach and LBM corporate procedure (RAG rating: Amber): Successfully delivering this work stream involves raising climate awareness in Merton and empowering residents, businesses, organisations, Council staff and councillors to act to reduce emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

**Key areas of progress in 2022 (further details in Annex 4):**

- Recruiting Merton’s new Climate Engagement Officer to lead on climate engagement in Merton (March 2022).
- Developing and delivering a range of climate communications via Merton’s social media channels and newsletters (further details provided in Annex 4).
- Organising and attending a range of climate engagement activities and events (including the Canons Summer Fair, World Car Free Day activities, Merton’s second Schools Climate Conference, and providing a climate presence at other events as set out in Annex 4).
- Supporting Merton’s Climate Action Group with the delivery of three NCIL funded projects (Merton Garden Streets 2022, Energy Matters and the Wheel) and the development of case studies to showcase retrofit and low carbon development.
- Re-establishing the Environment and Climate sub-group of Merton’s Sustainable Communities Transport Partnership to engage with partners on the four key themes of Merton’s Climate Strategy & Action Plan.
- Producing and circulating regular editions of Merton’s Climate Action Newsletter<sup>32</sup> to provide updates on climate action in Merton.
- Developing Merton’s draft Climate Engagement Strategy for consultation with Cabinet Members and local groups in early 2023.
- Securing funding to deliver sustained climate engagement and to support community-led climate action projects.
- Taking part in a consortium project to pilot a tool for embedding climate considerations in all major council decision making.
- Procuring a partner to develop and deliver the first phase of Merton’s carbon literacy training.

**Key challenges:**

- Challenges in recruiting new volunteers for Merton’s Climate Action Group to develop new community-led climate action projects.
- Challenges in engaging with underrepresented groups, or residents, businesses and others who aren’t already engaged in the climate agenda.

**Key priorities for 2023:**

- Continuing to develop or support activities progressed in 2022 where appropriate.
- Seeking feedback on, finalising and adopting Merton’s draft Climate Engagement Strategy.
- Developing and implementing a tool to embed climate considerations in all major council decision making.
- Delivering the first phase of Merton’s carbon literacy training, which will inform the second phase of training.
- Launching Merton’s new Schools Climate Network and Charter.

<sup>32</sup> <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKLBM/signup/19626>

- Continuing to support the development and delivery of community-led climate action projects, and seeking wider engagement.
- Setting up a Climate Action Fund to support the development and delivery of community-led climate action projects.
- Delivering climate engagement and communications activities in line with Merton's Climate Engagement Strategy.
- Increasing engagement with business stakeholders in Merton.

**Areas for future consideration:**

- Reviewing Merton's Climate Engagement Strategy in 2026.

### 3. PROGRESS TOWARDS MEETING THE NET-ZERO CARBON TARGETS

**Merton’s greenhouse gas inventory and this section of Merton’s Climate Delivery Plan are updated every 2 years to allow sufficient time for local, regional and national projects and policies to have an effect. This section was last updated in 2021 and will next be updated in 2023 when the greenhouse gas inventory is updated. The next iteration of this plan will consider changes in macro-economic circumstances such as the substantial increase in energy prices in 2022, and changes in local circumstances such as the expansion of the Ultra-Low Emissions Zone (ULEZ) further across London in 2023.**

“A Strategy to Combat Climate Change” recognises that Merton cannot achieve our climate ambition in isolation, and that we are dependent on many wider factors, such as a supportive national policy framework, additional funding, and behaviour changes of many individuals, business and organisations.

This section considers the likelihood that the net-zero carbon targets will be met. The main measure is through a biannual estimate of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, for which the table below represents the period 2017-2019 for the borough inventory and 2018-2020 for the Council inventory<sup>33</sup>. It is worth noting here that there is a lag between the Council’s actions and the GHG inventory due to availability of the emissions data, but the GHG emissions give an indication of the direction of travel. These figures are based on Merton’s Greenhouse Gas inventory update in autumn 2021; the inventory will next be updated in 2023.

There have been some changes in the emissions estimates for the baseline year compared to the Year 1 Delivery Plan following Merton’s GHG inventory update in 2021. In part this is due to changes in national activity data and emission factors used in national datasets for the baseline year. In addition, in some cases where emissions data was not previously available for inclusion in the baseline inventories, new data has now become available and been added to the inventories. This includes emissions from the processing of local authority collected waste which have been added to the borough inventory, and emissions resulting from machinery use associated with Merton’s green spaces maintenance contract which have been added to the Council inventory.

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<sup>33</sup> The baseline GHG inventory which informed Merton’s Climate Strategy & Action Plan in 2019/20 was based on 2017 data for the borough emissions (due to availability of national data sets) and 2018 data for the Council target (due to availability of Council activity data). Merton’s updated greenhouse gas inventory (Merton Greenhouse Gas Inventory Report 2021) provides the latest Council and borough greenhouse gas emissions figures based on two years of additional data.  
Baseline inventory: Aether (2020) London Borough of Merton Climate Action Support, available at: [https://www.merton.gov.uk/system/files?file=merton\\_support-climate-action\\_v3.1.pdf](https://www.merton.gov.uk/system/files?file=merton_support-climate-action_v3.1.pdf)  
Inventory Update: Aether (2022) London Borough of Merton Greenhouse Gas Inventory Report 2021, available at: <https://www.merton.gov.uk/planning-and-buildings/sustainability-and-climate-change/climate-emergency>.



Further details of how the emission estimates were formed and all changes since the baseline inventory are set out in Merton’s GHG Inventory Report 2021<sup>34</sup>.

Considering the pace and scale of action, both inside and outside of the borough, we also assess the likelihood that progress is sufficient to achieve our net-zero targets in Table 3-1 below. Further details of how the likelihood of meeting the net-zero targets was assessed are provided in **Annex 2**.

**Table 3-1 Assessment of emissions and likelihood of meeting net-zero targets**

<b>Borough Emissions</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>Likelihood of meeting 2050 target</b>
Total Borough Emissions	Kt CO2eq	767	701	663	Low
2050 Green Economy	Kt CO2eq	48*	37	26	Low
2050 Buildings and Energy	Kt CO2eq	566	514	491	Low
2050 Transport	Kt CO2eq	154	151	148	Medium
2050 Greening Merton	Kt CO2eq	-1.1	-1.1	-1.1	N/A
<b>Council Emissions</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>Likelihood of meeting 2030 target</b>
2030 Council Emissions	KtCO2eq	11	10	9	Low/Medium

\*This figure relates to the processing of Merton’s Local Authority collected waste at the Beddington ERF. Merton’s borough inventory does not include wider scope 3 consumption-based emissions due to the lack of robust data, but these are estimated to be over 1,000 ktCO2eq.

Total borough emissions:

Total borough emissions decreased throughout the time series, reducing by 13% between 2017 and 2019. In Merton’s GHG Inventory Report 2021, Aether found that the total borough emissions are not decreasing as quickly as originally modelled in their decarbonisation pathway which helped inform Merton’s Climate Strategy & Action Plan in 2020<sup>35</sup>, but they noted that the comparison should be seen as indicative only.

<sup>34</sup> Aether (2022) London Borough of Merton Greenhouse Gas Inventory Report 2021, available at: <https://www.merton.gov.uk/planning-and-buildings/sustainability-and-climate-change/climate-emergency>.

<sup>35</sup> Aether (2022) London Borough of Merton Greenhouse Gas Inventory Report 2021, available at: <https://www.merton.gov.uk/planning-and-buildings/sustainability-and-climate-change/climate-emergency>.

Sectors that have the greatest significance in terms of emissions (the green economy, buildings and energy) are also areas where delivery challenges are greatest, the Council has the least control and the resource gaps are widest. Within the current government policy and funding framework it is unlikely that the net-zero targets can be met.

#### Green Economy:

Merton's GHG inventory only includes emissions from the processing of local authority collected waste at the Beddington Energy Recovery Facility under the Green Economy theme (approx.. 26 KtCO<sub>2</sub>eq, 4% of the total borough emissions in 2019). In 2020, the South London Waste Partnership (SLWP) set up a carbon working group with the four SLWP boroughs (Croydon, Kingston, Merton and Sutton) and Viridor to agree an approach for baselining, monitoring and reducing emissions associated with the SLWP residual waste treatment contract. This includes emissions from the Beddington Energy Recovery Facility (ERF). Residual Waste treated during 2019-2020 has formed the baseline. A proportion of the carbon emissions from the baseline year have been attributed to Merton based on the amount of residual waste treated through the contract as a proportion of the total<sup>3637</sup>. This figure has been included in the borough GHG inventory. Emissions data for 2017-18 and 2018-19 have been estimated based on the waste tonnage figures for those years and the carbon intensity of treating waste at the Beddington ERF compared to sending waste to the Beddington Landfill Site<sup>38</sup>. The trend in waste processing emissions between 2017 and 2019 is only an approximation and does not reflect efforts to decarbonise the ERF operations, but this reveals the reduction in carbon emissions as Merton has transitioned away from landfill and towards ERF since 2017-18.

Wider scope 3 consumption-based emissions relating to the embedded emissions in the consumption of goods and services by residents within Merton have not been included in the borough inventory, due to the lack of robust data, but are presented in Merton's 2021 GHG inventory report to demonstrate the scale of a more complete scope 3 estimate. The total consumption-based emissions are estimated at 1,079 ktCO<sub>2</sub>eq. If these consumption-based

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<sup>36</sup> Beddington Energy Recovery Facility & Residual Waste Contract 2019-2043 Carbon Management Plan, Baseline Year: 2019-2020, available at: <https://moderngov.kingston.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=432&MIId=9275&Ver=4>.

<sup>37</sup> These figures are based on Merton residual waste tonnages provided by the South London Waste Partnership (SLWP). They differ slightly from the figures that appear in Viridor's Carbon Management Plan (published June 2021) as Viridor's figures include street sweepings (while the SLWP figures do not). The SLWP and Viridor are aware of this minor discrepancy and work will be carried out over the next 12 months to reconcile them. This may result in minor changes to both the Viridor Carbon Management Plan and the next iteration of Merton's greenhouse gas inventory.

<sup>38</sup> Aether (2022) London Borough of Merton Greenhouse Gas Inventory Report 2021, available at: <https://www.merton.gov.uk/planning-and-buildings/sustainability-and-climate-change/climate-emergency>.

emissions were included in Merton borough's GHG inventory for 2019, this would comprise 62% of Merton's GHG emissions. Further details can be found in Merton's 2021 GHG Inventory Report<sup>39</sup>.

The sustainability of products and services is complex with many impacts occurring outside the borough. Residents and businesses of Merton generally have low influence on the sale and purchase of low carbon products and services. A move to a green economy requires mass behaviour change in purchasing habits, and changes to national regulation and industry practice, for which the Council has a low level of influence. Major economic impacts from Covid could reduce demand of more expensive sustainable options. Promotion of cheaper options (up-cycling/ low meat diets) may have greater effect in the current economic climate.

LBM has a strong track record and forward plan on recycling and for local authority collected waste which makes up about half of all waste collected in the borough. Separated waste collection helps residents to recycle, but does little to prevent waste arising; which would have the greatest impact on emissions. The means of collection and treatment of commercial and industrial waste in Merton is divided amongst commercial contracts between businesses and waste disposal companies, over which the Council has no control.

Business engagement on the climate agenda appears relatively low at present, in part due to the focus on dealing with the ongoing impacts and potential aftermath of Covid. There is a significant skills gap in the low carbon economy; particularly in relation to low carbon building and retrofitting which provides a major opportunity to build local jobs within the green skills sector.

#### Buildings and energy:

The sources of emissions in Merton are dominated by the use of natural gas for heating, and electricity for heating and lighting homes, businesses, and other buildings such as hospitals and schools. The greatest reduction in borough emissions between 2017 and 2019 was from electricity use in residential and non-residential buildings which was driven by reductions in the carbon intensity of the UK electricity grid.

Residential gas use remains the largest source of emissions in the borough. 98% of homes in Merton use gas as their primary source of heating and there is currently insufficient evidence to demonstrate any credible options for wide-scale decarbonisation of the gas grid in the short term<sup>40</sup>. All buildings in Merton must therefore be gas free by 2050 in order to achieve our carbon reduction target.

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<sup>39</sup> Aether (2022) London Borough of Merton Greenhouse Gas Inventory Report 2021, available at: <https://www.merton.gov.uk/planning-and-buildings/sustainability-and-climate-change/climate-emergency>.

<sup>40</sup> Merton's Local Plan incorporating proposed modifications 2021, available at: <https://www.merton.gov.uk/planning-and-buildings/planning/local-plan/newlocalplan/local-plan-submission>.

Barriers to retrofitting the building stock within Merton with low carbon measures (mainly insulation and replacing boilers with low carbon heating) remain very high, mainly due to high up-front costs, inconvenience of installation, low understanding and priority amongst most homeowners and landlords. The exception is solar PV where suitably located efficient panels still offer a pay-back on investment, and the market has developed funding models which reduce up-front costs for consumers.

There is a major policy and funding gap for retrofit at a National level that is needed in order to grow a sustainable transition to low carbon energy in buildings and a move away from gas heating. This has only now started to be filled by short-term funding opportunities such as the Green Homes Grant, the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund, and the Sustainable Warmth Competition. However, a complex funding landscape and supply chain issues have delayed delivery of Green Home Grant funding across the South-East. The closure of the domestic and non-domestic Renewable Incentive (RHI) schemes may also impact on the uptake of low carbon heat solutions.

Ensuring that new build development is capable of operating with zero carbon emissions by 2050 without the need for expensive retrofit is a major opportunity to minimise Merton's retrofit burden. The recently reviewed Local Plan policies, if adopted, could make Merton the first Council in the UK to introduce policies which require new build development from 2025 to use energy systems and levels of energy efficiency which are compatible with achieving zero carbon emissions on site by 2050 without expensive retrofit. Higher local standards may have a short-term impact on development if other London boroughs do not quickly follow suit. Wider national planning reform threatens to remove the power of Local Authorities to enforce local targets for all development.

Merton is a constrained area in terms of electricity supply. Further work needs to be done to establish the necessary changes to support a transition in energy infrastructure towards electric heating and vehicles. This will be informed by Merton's Energy Masterplan.

#### Transport:

Emissions from transport did not change significantly across the time series, with a small 6 ktCO<sub>2</sub>eq total decrease between 2017 and 2019. This was mostly due to a 22% decrease in emissions from buses and rail, as the majority of rail emissions in Merton are from electric trains, which reflects the decarbonising of the UK electricity grid. If the trend of decarbonisation of the National Grid continues thereby decreasing emissions from electricity usage in buildings, the proportion of transport emissions to the total borough emissions may increase in future years.

Notwithstanding the limited change in emissions, car traffic in Merton increased between 2017 and 2019 and is expected to increase in the short term as a result of fewer people using public transport due to Covid-19<sup>41</sup>. Reducing carbon emissions from motor vehicles will require the implementation of a

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<sup>41</sup> Car traffic decreased in 2020 due to lockdowns but is expected to increase in the short term (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-59949097>).

comprehensive package of transport measures that support a shift to sustainable travel options alongside measures to better manage car use, including through a transition to low emissions vehicles for essential car journeys.

The Government's decarbonising transport strategy sets out an ambition for half of all journeys in towns and cities to be cycled or walked by 2030. Achieving this increase in active travel will require significant investment in improved walking and cycling infrastructure in the borough. Merton will produce cycling and walking strategies by 2023 which will set out more detailed proposals for cycle and pedestrian route development but this can be challenging due to physical constraints of Merton's public realm and inadequate levels of funding. Development of cycling and walking strategies that are robust and ambitious enough to achieve the decarbonisation of transport necessary to meet 2050 targets will require significant future political and financial commitment, and this remains uncertain.

There is also an opportunity to work with partners including TfL, Network Rail and Public Transport Operators to plan for a long-term transition of public transport infrastructure fit for 2050 low carbon transport. TfL's business plan<sup>42</sup> is consistent with decarbonising public transport in line with Merton's carbon targets. However, the continued uncertainty around the long term impacts of Covid on public transport in London mean there is a continued risk of both ongoing reductions to existing public transport services in the borough and on the delivery of proposed improvements including Cross Rail 2 and Sutton Tram Link. This is likely to impact on the delivery of a sustainable transport led recovery to Covid and the ability to achieve the long term reduction in car use necessary to reach Merton's 2050 target.

Reducing carbon emissions from transport will also require the implementation of policies and measures to reduce overall car use and to enable a shift to zero emissions vehicles for essential journeys. Parking policies are one of the most effective tools available to the Council to manage vehicle use and the Council has adopted parking policies and pricing structures that support sustainable transport objectives, including through the introduction of a £20 EV parking permit. However, achieving the required reduction in car use and emissions is also highly dependent on national and regional policies and initiatives, such as the government proposals to end the sale of petrol/ diesel cars by 2030 and the proposed London wide expansion of the ULEZ in 2023. Indeed, over the last year a greater than anticipated transition to ownership of lower emissions was observed, which alongside concerns over costs of living increases, meant that in 2021 Cabinet resolved not to proceed with the proposed introduction of new emission-based parking changes.

The delivery of EV charge points, whilst ahead of many London boroughs, falls below the number needed to meet anticipated future demand, and there are untapped opportunities to encourage businesses to add EV charging to replace standard private parking bays. The Council will develop an EV strategy that will set out how it will support the delivery of the charging infrastructure necessary to support the projected transition to electric vehicles. This will be balanced with concerns about the sustainability of battery technology and the "whole life" emissions associated with electric vehicles and will ensure that a shift from cars to walking, cycling and public transport remains the priority of Merton's transport policies.

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<sup>42</sup> Mayor of London, TfL Business Plan 2020/21 to 2024/25, available at: <https://content.tfl.gov.uk/tfl-business-plan-2019.pdf>.

### Greening Merton:

Merton already has a high % tree cover and strong commitments to ensure protection of parks and open spaces through the open space strategy, Local Plan and GLA policies. The Council's management of green spaces and streets is mainly focused on maintenance as opposed to an increase or enhancement of greenery in Merton. Tree planting is broadly consistent with the rate of planting needed to achieve a 10% increase in tree cover in line with the Mayor's target for London<sup>43</sup>; in part due to a long-standing partnership with the voluntary sector, particularly Merton's volunteer Tree Wardens, who increase tree planting and support aftercare. However, this target will need to be reviewed once Merton's Tree Strategy is drafted and the iTree survey complete. Merton's Tree Strategy will help develop a more strategic and integrated approach to tree planting in Merton.

Further opportunities for tree planting in the public realm tend to be small and fragmented, making it challenging and not very cost effective for the Council to improve and maintain in isolation. The removal of funding for previous initiatives such as "Dig Merton" have resulted in spaces that were previously regenerated by volunteers to be neglected, despite potential to significantly increase community planting<sup>44</sup>. Opportunities to increase tree planting on private land are likely to be higher than in the public realm, but are much harder to initiate except where tree protection orders apply and where changes in land use impact on planning decisions.

Opportunities to increase vegetation through "grey to green"<sup>45</sup>, are currently unknown, but in 2021, Merton's Climate Action Group secured some funding with Kingston University to map unutilised space in the borough to help better target it for planting. Community-led initiatives like Merton Garden Streets also have an important role to play in greening Merton.

The concept of natural capital brings together the potential benefits of using blue/green infrastructure<sup>46</sup> to reduce the impacts of hot weather and flooding through shade and sustainable drainage, improve resilience of biodiversity and capture carbon to offset emissions. All of these, to some extent, have been progressed, and further opportunities can be realised through the identification of suitable sites.

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<sup>43</sup> Mayor of London (2018) London Environment Strategy, available at: <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/london-environment-strategy>.

<sup>44</sup> 74% of respondents to the Climate Consultation survey 2019-20 indicated that they would be willing to plant a tree as part of a community planting effort.

<sup>45</sup> "Grey to green" means the replacement of areas of hard standing such as paving, with natural vegetation, including the removal of paving, natural sustainable drainage or flood management, the additional of green walls and roofs,

<sup>46</sup> Blue/Green Infrastructure: Comprises the network of parks, rivers, water covered spaces and green spaces, plus the elements of the built environment, such as street trees, green roofs, sustainable drainage systems, flood storage or water management corridors all of which provide a wide range of benefits and services.

### Council 2030 Target:

Reported emissions for Merton Council totalled 9 ktCO<sub>2</sub>e in 2020, representing a 12% reduction compared to 2019, and a 19% reduction compared to the 2018 baseline. Estimated emissions for Merton Council are decreasing slightly faster than the pathway trajectory outlined in Merton's Decarbonisation Pathways Modelling carried out in 2019/20<sup>47</sup>. This may in part be due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the long-term trends of which remain unclear.

Emissions from electricity usage in Council operational buildings decreased between 2018 and 2020. This is in part due to the continual decarbonisation of the National Grid<sup>48</sup>, but also due to reduced electricity consumption reflecting a shift towards working from home. As a consequence of the pandemic, the Council is likely to implement hybrid working (a mix of working in the office and working from home) for LBM staff, which may sustain lower levels of energy consumption in Council operational buildings. However, staff engagement and training should highlight steps that individuals can take to save energy whilst working from home in order to reduce any emissions "outsourced" to staff homes. Council efforts to convert streetlights in Merton has also directly resulted in reduced emissions between 2018 and 2020.

However, gas consumption in school buildings increased in 2020. Based on anecdotal evidence, this is likely in response to the requirement of schools to increase ventilation rates to reduce the spread of Covid resulting in increased heating over the winter period.

Prior to Merton's declaration of a Climate Emergency, through a 10 year "spend to save" investment programme, the Council had also already installed a number of energy saving measures and renewable technologies across its operational estate and community schools. This programme of measures helped reduce emissions from the Council and community schools but also makes the substantial shift to a net-zero carbon Council building stock harder to achieve because the most straight-forward and cost effective measures are already in place.

The availability of short-term grant funding has the potential to accelerate works, but the extremely challenging timescales mean that only low level works can be funded unless projects are "shovel ready" and can deliver within a ~6 month timeframe. This is particularly true for Community schools, which pose greater delivery challenges and for which the Council has less control. Supply chain issues resulting from Covid, Brexit and the increased availability of funding for retrofit projects, as well as the market volatility in energy costs resulting from the current energy crisis, are adding to the complexity of an already challenging funding landscape, and are expected to continue in the short term. Longer term impacts are currently unknown. The intense competition in the market for energy professionals may also affect the recruitment of qualified staff to progress the Council's estate decarbonisation plans.

Covid has also radically changed patterns of travel for most staff. There was a reduction in Council fleet vehicle miles and mileage claims in 2020, likely resulting from a shift to working from home and moving some services online. The greater degree of home working will reduce emissions from travel, but it

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<sup>47</sup> Aether (2022) London Borough of Merton Greenhouse Gas Inventory Report 2021, available at: <https://www.merton.gov.uk/planning-and-buildings/sustainability-and-climate-change/climate-emergency>.

<sup>48</sup> By sourcing 100% of its electricity supply through a green electricity tariff, the Council has contributed to the decarbonisation of the electricity grid.

is not known the extent to which increased fuel consumption from home-working will offset this impact. The Council will continue to encourage a greater degree of active and sustainable travel. Demand for staff cycle parking and travel infrastructure will be reassessed once future staff travel patterns are better understood.

In terms of decarbonising Merton's fleet, whilst the additional cost of electric vehicles may be compensated by the much lower fuel costs in cars and light goods vehicles, the business case to purchase heavy vehicles such as buses and refuse lorries is much more challenging both in terms of costs and an operational track record. A change will also require additional EV charging infrastructure at the Civic Centre, Garth Road and other sites, which will likely require energy infrastructure upgrades and additional funding. This will be informed by Merton's fleet decarbonisation strategy.

Reported emissions from Highway Works vehicles doubled in 2020 compared to 2019. This may have been due to the delivery of Merton's emergency transport response to COVID-19 to improve road safety, support social distancing and provide more space for walking and cycling. There were also likely more opportunities for increased roadworks with minimal disruption to the public, particularly during the initial lockdown period, when there were fewer vehicles on the road.

Emissions resulting from Merton's Pensions Fund are reducing. The Council will continue to move its pension's investments to low carbon investments, whilst balancing the Fund's requirements to ensure investments deliver the expected returns to meet members' benefits and to keep the employers' contribution stable. The Council's updated procurement procedures will help understand and reduce emissions from future procured goods and services. Emissions from the Council's existing procurements are largely unknown apart from the key services identified in Section 2, and there is substantial scope to work with existing providers to reduce emissions.



**ANNEX 1: CLIMATE CHANGE WORK PROGRAMME**

Workstreams

Eight workstreams cover all areas where carbon emission reductions are required, but are designed to fit in with existing departmental structures and processes to make monitoring and oversight more efficient. The figure to the right shows how the eight workstreams map onto the key areas of Merton’s Climate Strategy and Action Plan.

The aims of each of the workstreams are summarised in the table below. Aims that “encourage” action show where the Council does not have direct control on emissions, but is seeking to influence or support others to reduce carbon emissions.

	GREEN ECONOMY	BUILDINGS/ ENERGY	TRANSPORT	GREENING MERTON
2050 BOROUGH TARGET	WS8: LBM procedure, Communication and outreach			
	<p><b>WS1: Sustainable consumption and low carbon economy</b></p> <p>Public consumption of goods and services in Merton, supply chains and investments from businesses operating in Merton, commercial and industrial waste collection and processing, Local Authority waste processing.</p>	<p><b>WS2: Retrofit of the residential and non-residential building stock</b></p> <p>Owned, occupied and Private rented residential and non-residential Social / Council non-operational buildings/ Buildings of emergency services and public health</p>	<p><b>WS4: Transport infrastructure and modal shift</b></p> <p>Vehicles registered in Merton, Vehicles from outside the borough driving into Merton, Public transport, Transport infrastructure</p>	<p><b>WS5: Green Infrastructure</b></p> <p>Green spaces on private land, Green spaces managed by organisations other than the Council, Green spaces managed by the Council, Public realm (e.g. street trees, sustainable</p>
		<p><b>WS3: Future new build and regeneration</b></p> <p>Major regeneration, Energy infrastructure, New buildings</p>		
			<p><b>WS6: Academies and Faith Schools</b></p>	
2030 BOROUGH TARGET	<p><b>WS6: LBM Estate and fleet management</b></p> <p>Council owned Local Authority waste collection vehicles</p>			
	<p><b>WS 7: LBM Procurements and investments</b></p> <p>Services procured by LBM, Investments, Consumption in LBM</p>	<p><b>SW6: Street Lighting</b></p> <p>Community schools, Council owned operational buildings</p>	<p><b>SW4: Street Staff Travel</b></p> <p>Council owned vehicles</p>	

Summary of workstreams

Work stream	Key aims	Lead department
<p>Workstream 1:</p> <p>Sustainable consumption and low carbon economy</p>	<p>Encourage consumers to reduce their carbon footprint through the purchase of local and sustainable goods and services, preventing waste and reusing/ recycling where possible.</p> <p>Encourage businesses to provide local and sustainable products, minimise waste, reduce greenhouse gas emissions from supply chains and provide clear information to customers about sustainable products.</p> <p>Encourage businesses to foster low carbon practices from staff and corporate functions such as finances.</p> <p>Reduce emissions from the processing of Local Authority collected waste using the principles of a circular economy.</p>	<p>Environment and Regeneration</p>
<p>Workstream 2:</p> <p>Retrofit of homes, businesses and non-residential building stock</p>	<p>Encourage home owners and landlords to retrofit energy efficiency measures in existing homes and non-residential buildings across the borough.</p> <p>Encourage home owners and landlords to install locally produced renewable energy.</p> <p>Encourage residents and business to take up low carbon heating.</p>	<p>Environment and Regeneration</p> <p>Community and Housing</p>
<p>Workstream 3:</p> <p>Future new build and regeneration</p>	<p>Enable all new developments and LBM regenerated public spaces in Merton to be zero carbon capable without expensive retrofit by 2025.</p> <p>Ensure all new developments and LBM regenerated public spaces are designed to be adapted to the impacts of temperature change and support the major decarbonisation transitions in energy, transport and the economy.</p> <p>Ensure utility companies' energy infrastructure supports a transition to low carbon energy use in the borough.</p>	<p>Environment and Regeneration</p>
<p>Workstream 4:</p> <p>Transport infrastructure and modal shift</p>	<p>Encourage consumers to decrease the number of petrol and diesel vehicles.</p> <p>Encourage people living, working and studying in Merton to increase active and sustainable travel.</p> <p>Develop walking, cycling and electric vehicle infrastructure.</p> <p>Encourage government and TfL to accelerate the decarbonisation of public transport.</p> <p>Encourage sustainable and active travel amongst LBM staff.</p>	<p>Environment and Regeneration</p>

Workstream 5: Green infrastructure	Encourage additional planting on private land. Increase tree cover on appropriate public land (in keeping with the open space strategy). Deliver green infrastructure projects. Encourage increased public participation in community planting.	Environment and Regeneration
Workstream 6: LBM Estate and fleet management	Decarbonise LBM operational buildings by 2030. Decarbonise LBM Community schools by 2030. Decarbonise all council owned non-operational buildings by 2050. Encourage the decarbonisation of all Academies and Voluntary-aided schools by 2050. Ensure all Council-owned buildings are adapted to the impacts of temperature change and support the major decarbonisation transitions in energy, transport and the economy. Decarbonise LBM's owned fleet (including waste collection fleet) by 2030.	All Departments
Workstream 7: LBM Procurements and investments	Reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with goods and services procured by LBM on behalf of Merton residents. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with LBM investments such as pensions.	All Departments
Workstream 8: Communication, outreach and LBM corporate procedure	Ensure that LBM staff and Councillors understand how to consider climate change in their work areas and feel empowered to act. Ensure effective communication of climate messages reach all residents, businesses and organisations in Merton especially in the east of the borough. Ensure that residents, businesses and organisations feel empowered to act to reduce emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change.	All Departments

### **Governance**

The Delivery Plan will be regularly reviewed by Cabinet and the Overview and Scrutiny Commission, who have responsibility for overseeing the delivery of Merton's Climate Strategy and Action Plan. The Sustainable Communities and Transport Partnership will form the main external stakeholder engagement and will be invited to review the plan on a regular basis.

**ANNEX 2 – FORMING A BASELINE ASSESSMENT FOR MERTON’S CLIMATE STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN, AND DELIVERY PLAN**

Indicators for the overall delivery plan

There may not be a direct correlation between emission reductions and the success of the Delivery Plan, because the plan only covers actions undertaken by the Council; most of which are enabling and do not reduce emissions in themselves. The following indicators are being used/ developed to test progress against the wider aims set out in the Climate Strategy and Action Plan, considered on an annual basis.

- Public perception of the importance of taking action to tackle climate change, tested through the bi-annual survey.
- Public perception of Council leadership and commitment to the Climate Change agenda, tested through the bi-annual survey.
- Public feeling on engagement and empowerment to act on climate change issues; tested through the bi-annual survey (TBC).
- Staff perception of being engaged, empowered and equipped to help deliver the Council’s part in Merton’s Climate Strategy & Action Plan, tested through a staff climate survey.
- Spend on projects which deliver Merton’s Climate Strategy and Action Plan objectives (internal and external), gathered from finance leads on an annual basis.

Performance indicators for the workstreams

A set of indicators, set out in Merton’s Climate Strategy and Action Plan under “*Measuring Success*”, do not directly measure emissions but provide information about the rate of progress for important aspects of the plan. These provide more granular information relating to the speed at which change is taking place within Merton, compared to monitoring greenhouse gas emissions alone. It does not directly indicate the

Council’s performance, but may indicate where the Delivery Plan needs to be adapted to better support emissions reduction across the borough.

Indicators have been reviewed since the Year 1 Delivery Plan was published and updated to use more robust and accessible data sources. Additional indicators have also been added to better track progress against the 8 workstreams.

Progress against the workstreams

Individual actions within each workstream will be assigned a RAG rating based on the likelihood of achieving this action in the following year within the resources and timescales available to the Council. These are used to indicate where resource or other barriers may prevent action being completed on time.

RAG definitions for individual actions

Green	High likelihood that the action will be completed. The completion of the action will be to the depth and quality expected to fulfil its part in the workstream.
Amber	Likelihood that the action will not be completed to the depth and quality needed to fulfil its part in the workstream.
Red	High likelihood that the action will not be completed, or fall well short of the depth and quality needed to fulfil its part in the workstream.

Using the score of individual actions Climate Change officers have undertaken a risk assessment over all workstreams, identifying where the

sum of the likely activity will fulfil the obligations set out in the Climate Strategy and Action Plan.

The table below shows how the RAG ratings have been defined for the workstreams overall.

RAG definitions for the workstreams

Green	Most council actions within this workstream are likely be sufficiently funded and progress well. The total of the actions within this workstream is sufficient for the Council to effectively reduce its own emissions in line with the net-zero target and/or support others to reduce emissions, consistent with meeting the obligations set out in Merton’s Climate Strategy and Action Plan.
Amber	Some or all actions within the workstream may not be progressed to their full extent, due to resource, policy or other barriers. This may result in the Council not reducing its own emissions in line with the net-zero targets, or not supporting others to reduce emissions, consistent with meeting the obligations set out in Merton’s Climate Strategy and Action Plan.
Red	It is highly likely that some or all actions within the workstream will not be progressed, due to resource, policy or other barriers. This is likely to result in the Council not reducing its own emissions in line with the net-zero targets, or not supporting others to reduce emissions, consistent with meeting the obligations set out in Merton’s Climate Strategy and Action Plan.

Greenhouse gas emissions

The main measure of progress towards the net-zero carbon targets will be through an annual estimate of greenhouse gas emissions in relation to the 2050 and 2030 targets. Greenhouse gas estimates rely on national datasets which may be 1-2 years old, so cannot give a strong real-time indication of emission reductions or show the impacts of specific local actions.

For the 2050 target, the data is collected by fuel source and can therefore be used to individually track progress against energy use in buildings, transport and land use. The scope of the greenhouse gas inventories does not include emissions from consumption at present so cannot be used to track progress towards a green economy.

For the 2030 target, emissions data is collected from operational buildings, streetlighting, council-owned and operated vehicles, and emissions associated with contracted work in relation to waste collection, the maintenance of green spaces and highway maintenance. It cannot be used to track emissions from investments, other procurements and staff travel. The intention is to include all emissions where the data is available.

Progress against Net-zero targets

Climate Change officers will undertake an assessment of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats for the 5 areas set out in Merton’s Climate Strategy and Action Plan. This includes action taken by the Council but also wider factors. This will lead to a “high, medium or low” judgement about the likelihood that Merton is on track to deliver its greenhouse gas emission targets.

### ANNEX 3 – IDENTIFICATION OF DELIVERY ACTIONS

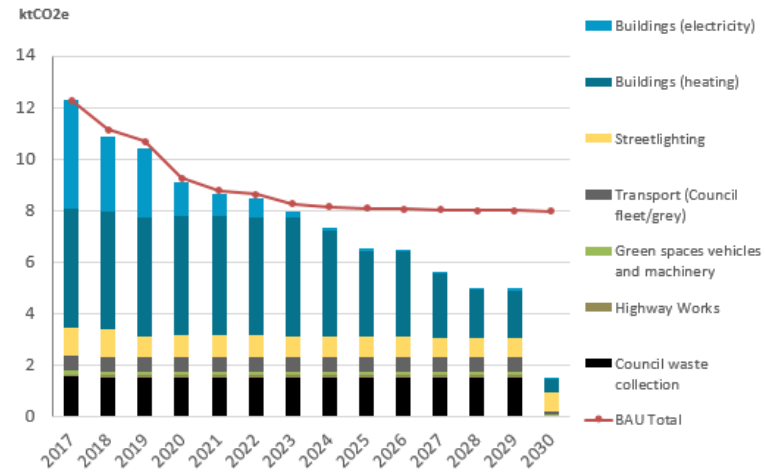
#### Use of evidence in identifying delivery actions

The London Borough of Merton Climate Action Support<sup>49</sup>, written by Aether, was commissioned to provide the main evidence and analysis that underpinned Merton’s Climate Strategy and Action Plan, and has been used to make informed judgements on how the Council might deliver its carbon reduction commitments. For emissions included in the Council’s greenhouse gas inventory, net-zero pathways inform the scale of emissions reduction needed, and the speed at which change is technically feasible.

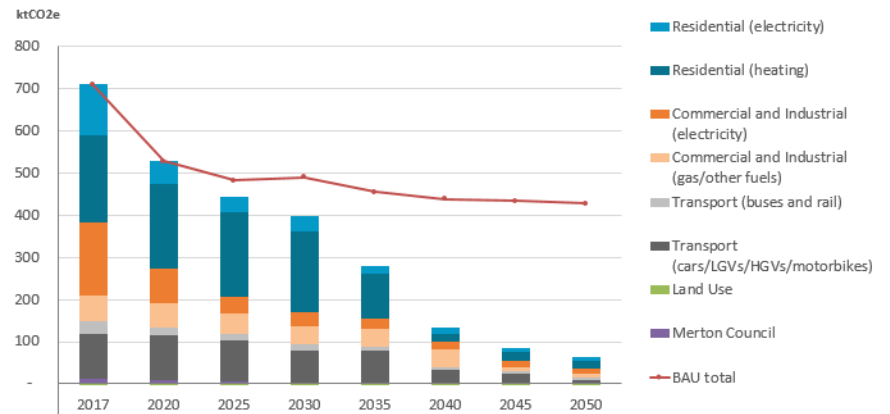
The Strategy includes areas that were not part of the net-zero pathway analysis for Merton, where impacts cannot be accurately estimated, but where a wider evidence base shows that it is important to address the impacts of climate change. For the 2050 targets, these include emissions that occur outside the borough, arising from economic activities such as the provision of goods and services within the borough (mainly in the “Green Economy” section). It also includes adapting to and preparing for the impacts of climate change, such as prolonged and more intense spells of hot weather or flooding (mainly in the “Greening Merton” and “Buildings and energy” sections). For the 2030 target, it relates to the carbon footprint of investments and some of the goods and services procured by the Council. In these cases, other evidence has been used to identify the necessary actions needed.

#### Net-Zero Carbon Pathway for the Council 2017-2030

<sup>49</sup> London Borough of Merton Climate Action Support, Aether, June 2020. Available at: [https://www.merton.gov.uk/system/files?file=merton\\_support-climate-action\\_v3.1.pdf](https://www.merton.gov.uk/system/files?file=merton_support-climate-action_v3.1.pdf)



#### Net-Zero Carbon Pathway for the Borough 2017-2050



Direct versus enabling actions

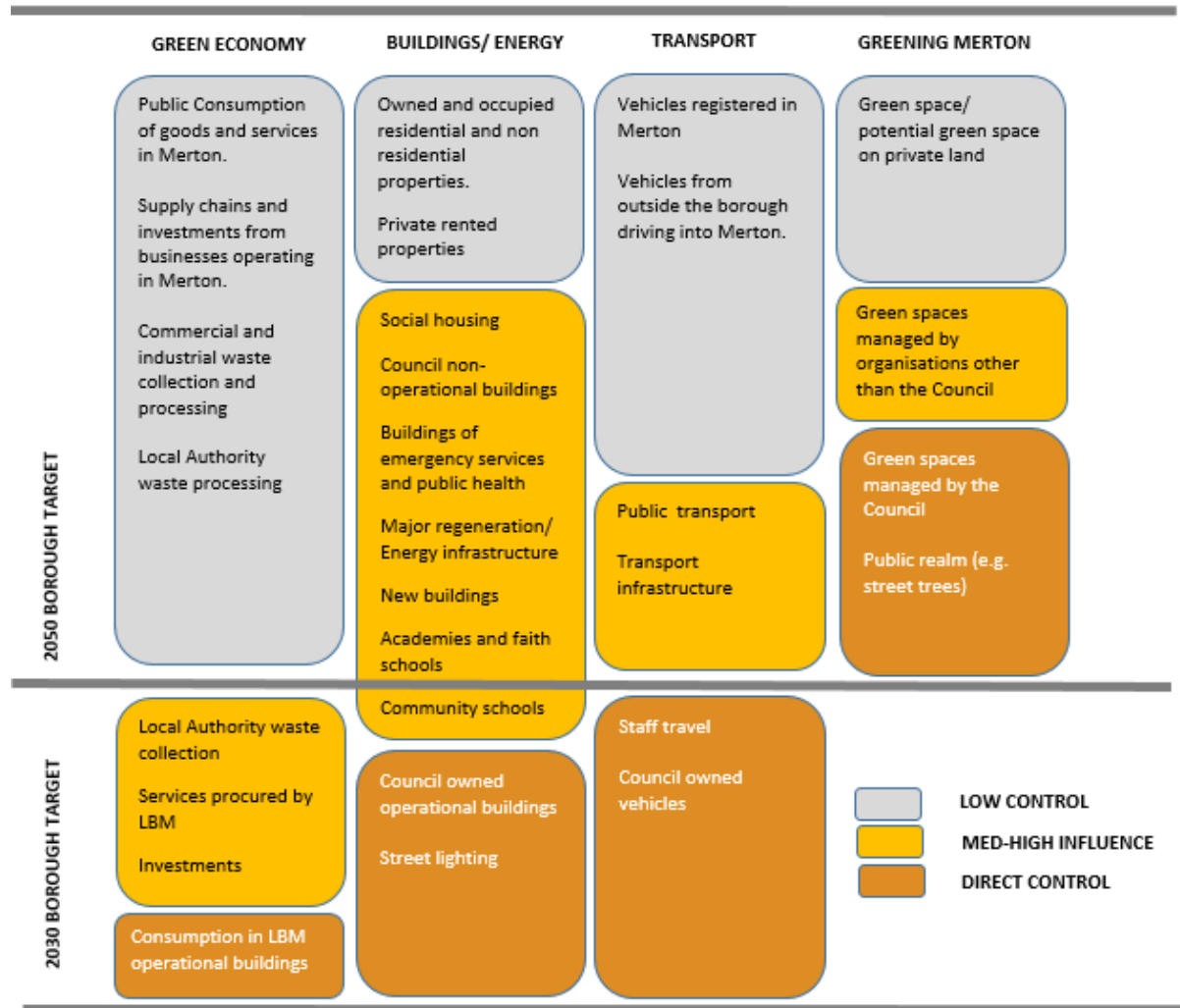
The figure on the right shows levels of Council control over areas of Merton’s Climate Strategy and Action Plan.

Where the Council has direct control over emission reduction, it is straightforward to identify actions in any given year through the modelling outputs. This only applies to a small proportion of the actions, mainly in the “Council 2030 target” section.

In some areas of the Strategy, action owners outside of the Council can be clearly identified (for example TfL, housing providers, etc.). In these cases, the Council is usually in a position to influence or to work collaboratively with stakeholders to reduce emissions.

Where emission reduction is in the hands of individuals, businesses or other organisations, Council control tends to be low. In these cases, enabling actions have been identified, but their impact is harder to measure.

This diagram gives an indication of where the Council has direct control, has medium to high influence, or has a low level of control.



### Other key considerations in determining annual priority actions

For some areas of the Council, greenhouse gas emissions reductions are a longstanding consideration and ongoing work is already consistent with reducing emissions. For others there are significant gaps in activity because the Council has not worked to reduce emissions in this area before, or not to the scale required to meet the obligations set out in Merton's Climate Strategy and Action Plan. For the latter, actions are likely to be in the form of options appraisals or project development in early years of delivery.

The national policy framework, resources and funding available will have a major impact on the Council's ability to undertake the actions needed, but are currently hard to predict. Where progress cannot be made due to resource constraints or other barriers, actions include lobbying central Government and seeking funding through external resources.

There are a number of Council activities with objectives that work hand-in-hand with climate change mitigation and adaptation. These include Merton – The Place, the Merton Community Plan 2020-26<sup>50</sup>, the Covid-19 Transport Strategy<sup>51</sup>, the Air Quality Action Plan and annual status reports<sup>52</sup>, the Local Plan<sup>53</sup> and the Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2019-

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<sup>50</sup> Merton Community Plan 2020-26, LBM; available at <https://www.mertonpartnership.org.uk/community-plan>

<sup>51</sup> Merton's Covid Transport Strategy available at <https://www.merton.gov.uk/streets-parking-transport/lip3>

<sup>52</sup> Merton's Air Quality Plans and reports available at <https://www.merton.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/pollution/air-quality-and-air-pollution/local-air-quality-management>

<sup>53</sup> Merton's Local Plan (2021) available at <https://www.merton.gov.uk/planning-and-buildings/planning/local-plan/newlocalplan/local-plan-submission>

2024<sup>54</sup>. The Climate Change work programme is not aiming to duplicate existing programmes, but to embed climate mitigation and adaptation within them.

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<sup>54</sup> Merton's Health & Wellbeing Strategy 2019-24 available at <https://www.merton.gov.uk/healthy-living/publichealth/strategies>



## ANNEX 4 – PROGRESS AGAINST Y2 PRIORITY ACTIONS AND IDENTIFICATION OF Y3 PRIORITY ACTIONS

### Workstream 1: Sustainable consumption and low carbon economy

Action No.	Priority Action in Y2	RAG	Team	Progress	Priority Action in Y3	RAG
1	Develop and deliver a climate engagement and communications strategy to promote sustainable consumption, waste reduction and low carbon behaviours	G	CS Comms E&R Future Merton	This is covered by action 1 in workstream 8; please see update below. This action will be deleted to avoid repetition.		
2	Lobby for faster change in promoting a low carbon economy	G	E&R Future Merton	<p>Throughout 2022 the Council engaged with a number of pan-London groups to lobby for faster change in promoting a low-carbon economy. This included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the London Environment Directors Network (LEDNet),</li> <li>the London Council Climate Programmes,</li> <li>the South London Partnership (SLP) Skills &amp; Employment Working Group, and</li> <li>the SLP Green New Deal Working Group.</li> </ul> <p>In 2022, the Council also fed back to national government regarding mechanisms to support the development of a low carbon economy through the Net Zero Review consultation<sup>55</sup>.</p> <p>In 2022, the Council also allocated funding to recruit a new member of staff from 2023 to support the development of a low carbon economy in Merton. This new role will enable greater engagement with businesses, Business Improvement Districts and partners to</p>	Lobby for faster change in promoting a low carbon economy	G

<sup>55</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/review-of-net-zero-call-for-evidence/net-zero-review-call-for-evidence>

Action No.	Priority Action in Y2	RAG	Team	Progress	Priority Action in Y3	RAG
				promote low carbon business in Merton, help develop local green skills and jobs, and support local circular economy initiatives.		
3	Identify opportunities to embed a green recovery in Merton's response to COVID-19	G	E&R Future Merton	<p>The Council continues to engage with London Councils' seven programmes on climate change<sup>56</sup> and the London Recovery Board's Green New Deal mission<sup>57</sup>.</p> <p>Through the South London Partnership Green New Deal working group, the Council is working to share best practice, and to identify and develop opportunities for collaboration towards a Green Recovery in South London. Collaborative projects in 2022 included several best practice sharing sessions, the development of the South London Zero Waste Map<sup>58</sup> and the development of a digital retrofit roadmap concept to encourage and support homeowners in South London to retrofit their properties.</p> <p>The Council continues to support Merton's Climate Action Group and other local partners in developing community-led climate action projects.</p> <p>In 2022, officers have also secured funding for a range of projects which will help embed a green recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the Cost of Living crisis, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a new member of staff to lead on developing a green economy in Merton;</li> <li>• a business retrofit support scheme to help businesses in Merton decarbonise and save on their energy bills;</li> </ul>	Identify opportunities to embed a green recovery in Merton's response to the Cost of Living Crisis	A

<sup>56</sup> <https://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/our-key-themes/environment/climate-change>

<sup>57</sup> <https://www.london.gov.uk/coronavirus/londons-recovery-coronavirus-crisis/recovery-context/green-new-deal>

<sup>58</sup> <https://southlondonpartnership.co.uk/place/slp-zero-waste-map/>

Action No.	Priority Action in Y2	RAG	Team	Progress	Priority Action in Y3	RAG
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>continued support for climate engagement across Merton;</li> <li>a Climate Action Fund to support local climate action projects;</li> <li>a community retrofit loan scheme for homeowners in Merton looking to retrofit their properties who are not eligible for national and regional funding; and</li> <li>a tool for embedding climate change and carbon reduction in all major Council decisions to ensure that decisions are in keeping with Merton's net zero commitments.</li> </ul>		
4	Identify low carbon skills gaps and opportunities for upskilling	G	E&R Future Merton	<p>The Council continues to work with the South London Partnership (SLP) to identify low carbon skills gaps and opportunities for upskilling in South London. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establishing a Green Skills Academy (launched in February 2022) to co-ordinate work between training providers and employers to maximise green skills and jobs in retrofit, green space and reduce-reuse-recycle;</li> <li>Launching Phase 2 of the Green Jobs and Skills London Report<sup>59</sup> (March 2022) which provides a solid foundation of research into the key green industries in the sub-region;</li> <li>Developing the South London Careers Hub<sup>60</sup>, a digital resource and website to identify the types of roles in the green economy and the skills needed to follow these paths connecting to local provision and job vacancies;</li> <li>Launching the South London Knowledge Exchange Project to help facilitate research and innovation with businesses and educational institutions, which will help develop green skills in South London. A number of programmes are coming out of this with a focus on</li> </ul>	Identify low carbon skills gaps and opportunities for upskilling	G

<sup>59</sup> <http://southlondonpartnership.co.uk/2022/03/01/report-identifies-rapid-growth-in-green-jobs-in-south-london/>

<sup>60</sup> <http://southlondonpartnership.co.uk/skills/south-london-careers-hub/>

Action No.	Priority Action in Y2	RAG	Team	Progress	Priority Action in Y3	RAG
				<p>social value and procurement, supply chains, and developing the local economy;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Launching the B.I.G. (Business, Innovation &amp; Growth) Programme with two main sites in Merton with the aim to have affordable workspaces in the borough for collaboration between entrepreneurs, businesses and nominated Universities across South London. Morden Crown Creative on London Road will be one site. The second site will be a Mitcham Cluster comprising of Canons House &amp; Grounds, Vestry Hall, Wimbledon Library and The Workary at Mitcham Library. These workspaces will provide a thriving environment for a plethora of activities including supporting the Green Economy on a local and sub-regional level.</li> </ul> <p>Through the SLP Skills and Employment Working Group, Merton supports a number of training and employment programmes which have a role to play in developing low carbon skills in Merton. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the 'Work &amp; Health' programme which focusses on retraining local residents with various health conditions and disabilities upskilled and into work;</li> <li>• the GLA's No Wrong Doors Project' which coordinates skills, careers and employment support as part of the London Recovery for every resident regardless of skill level/ability through the Integration Hub;</li> <li>• 'Restart' which aims to reskill people affected by Covid and require minimal employability support into jobs; and</li> <li>• the Mayor's Construction Academy Hub for South London which is looking to support an expansion of green construction jobs</li> </ul> <p>The Green Skills Academy Programme will also facilitate the upskilling of residents into the green sector through employer-led training and</p>		

Action No.	Priority Action in Y2	RAG	Team	Progress	Priority Action in Y3	RAG
				<p>apprenticeship pathways that lead to identified green jobs in the sector. All programmes will run throughout 2023.</p> <p>Merton's Towards Employment team<sup>61</sup> has been working with partners to develop a number of local training opportunities and employment pathways to help develop green skills locally. In 2022, projects included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providing a work experience opportunity for Merton's Care Experienced Young People to help build furniture from recycled wood for the Canons House pop up café, learning carpentry skills and contributing to the local circular economy<sup>62</sup>.</li> <li>• Delivering a digital marketing work experience opportunity for young residents, with a particular focus on communicating sustainability themes (May-June 2022). Through this experience young residents contributed digital content to promote the circular economy in advance of Merton's Canons Summer Fair in June 2022.</li> <li>• Developing a railway maintenance training programme, starting in 2023, which will support residents into employment in the railways industry.</li> <li>• Developing a moped delivery pathway. Young residents are recruited by the franchise Dominos to become a part time moped delivery driver. Towards Employment will pay for the young person's provisional licence and support them onto the Compulsory Basic Training (CBT) course.</li> </ul>		

<sup>61</sup> Merton's Towards Employment team develop and deliver projects that increase the economic wellbeing of young people. Engaging Merton's young people from marginalised, economically vulnerable cohorts in debate and activity that increases their awareness of green agenda.

<sup>62</sup> <https://www.merton.gov.uk/planning-and-buildings/sustainability-and-climate-change/case-studies>

Action No.	Priority Action in Y2	RAG	Team	Progress	Priority Action in Y3	RAG
				<p>The Council has also recently procured a provider to deliver Merton's green skills adult education programme. This involves embedding green skills elements into all of Merton's adult education curriculum provision and retraining tutors. A refreshed Adult Learning Strategy also emphasises the importance of this provision and the alignment to moving more residents into 'good' work. Initial course delivery has started with more provision to be mobilised from January 2023. The first course launched is an Introduction to Green Skills for residents, and any feedback will help shape more specified courses.</p> <p>Increasing climate communications has also helped to raise general climate awareness and highlight green skills opportunities in and around Merton. Examples include the Council's social media campaign to raise awareness of Green Careers Week (7<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> November), which yielded positive engagement, as well as regular promotions of The Wheel's repair cafes and workshops for residents to learn repair skills.</p> <p>Meanwhile, project development and engagement through Merton's Climate Action Group has resulted in two residents being employed to manage these local projects. The Council also supports other volunteer-led initiatives which help upskill local residents through the Neighbourhood Fund and Ward allocations (e.g. Sustainable Merton's Community Champions).</p> <p>In 2022, officers secured funding to recruit a new member of staff to lead on the development of a low carbon economy in Merton; part of this role will involve supporting the development of low carbon skills and jobs in Merton.</p>		
5	Support local projects which promote sustainable	G	E&R Future Merton	In 2022, the Council has supported a number of projects which promote sustainable consumption and a circular economy:	Support local projects which promote sustainable	G

Action No.	Priority Action in Y2	RAG	Team	Progress	Priority Action in Y3	RAG
	consumption and a circular economy		E&R Waste Team E&R Regulatory Services	<p>The Council continues to support Merton's Climate Action Group (MCAG) to help foster community-led climate action. This includes funding the development of The Wheel<sup>63</sup>, a circular economy hub for Merton, through the Neighbourhood CIL Fund.</p> <p>In 2022, Merton was one of 12 local authorities across the country to secure funding from the Net Zero Innovation Programme<sup>64</sup>. Working with University College London (UCL) and The Wheel, funding will be used to establish a pilot project investigating how small to medium sized enterprises (SMEs) on our highstreets can aggregate and reduce waste and become more resource efficient.</p> <p>In partnership with the SLP, Merton helped develop the South London Zero Waste Map<sup>65</sup> which sets out recycling and repair facilities, zero waste shops and community sharing services in South London, to reduce waste and promote a circular economy.</p> <p>The Council continues to support the Business, Innovation &amp; Growth (BIG) South London Knowledge Exchange programme. This has a focus on growing local business with sustainability and green initiatives as key objectives. The workspaces are scheduled to open in 2023 and will have a dedicated Cluster Manager to help meet the project integration and business engagement targets. It is hoped that the project will have a longstanding legacy post-programme and add value to the overall employability landscape in the borough.</p>	consumption and a circular economy	

<sup>63</sup> <https://www.thewheelmerton.org/>

<sup>64</sup> <https://news.merton.gov.uk/2022/11/15/merton-success-in-net-zero-innovation-programme-bid/>

<sup>65</sup> <https://southlondonpartnership.co.uk/place/slp-zero-waste-map/>

Action No.	Priority Action in Y2	RAG	Team	Progress	Priority Action in Y3	RAG
				<p>The Council also continues to support local projects like the Morden Library of Things, Merton's Community Fridge and Sustainable Merton's Community Champions through Merton's Neighbourhood Fund, which all help promote a circular economy and sustainable consumption.</p> <p>Merton's waste team:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• continue to deliver Merton's contamination and excess waste programme and Flats Improvement Programme;</li> <li>• are exploring the possible expansion of the range of materials that can be accepted for recycling at the kerbside;</li> <li>• are promoting a partnership with its textile and Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment collector;</li> <li>• are trialling food waste collections from flats above shops with the aim of introducing food waste collection pilots;</li> <li>• are championing food waste reduction initiatives and food waste incentivisation projects;</li> <li>• are expanding the range of materials that can be accepted for recycling at the Household Reuse and Recycling Centre; and</li> <li>• are exploring a Reuse shop.</li> </ul>		
6	Support mechanisms that promote low carbon practices in local businesses	A	E&R Future Merton	<p>Merton celebrated businesses through Merton's annual Best Business Awards, including Merton's Climate Action award to celebrate businesses who demonstrated mechanisms to reduce their carbon emissions.</p> <p>The Launch of the Merton Local App<sup>66</sup> encourages residents and businesses to reduce their carbon footprint and shop local. To date there have been over 3,900 resident downloads and 343 businesses</p>	Support mechanisms that promote low carbon practices in local businesses	A

<sup>66</sup> <https://www.merton.gov.uk/business-and-consumers/local-app>



Action No.	Priority Action in Y2	RAG	Team	Progress	Priority Action in Y3	RAG
				<p>registered since the launch of the App in the Summer. Click and Collect as well as special offers are available all via an app on your phone.</p> <p>The Council's procurement processes encourage local businesses to consider their environmental impact as part of the Council's tender processes.</p> <p>The Council also uses its weekly business bulletin as a platform to share messaging and opportunities to promote change towards low carbon models.</p> <p>In 2022, the Council launched its new Business Support for Cost of Living and Climate Action web page<sup>67</sup> to help businesses reduce their energy costs and carbon emissions. Starting in November 2022, there is at least one business feature in every Climate Action Newsletter (released monthly).</p> <p>As above, the Council has also allocated funding to recruit a new member of staff to lead on the development of a low carbon economy and a business retrofit support scheme, which will enable greater engagement with and support for local businesses.</p>		
7	Continue roll-out of town centre dual stream waste bins to promote recycling and minimise waste	G	E&R Waste	In 2021, in partnership with Evian (sponsors), Hubbub and Sustainable Merton, the Council piloted new on-street waste infrastructure in Wimbledon town centre during the Championships to encourage residents and visitors to recycle on the go. Funding allowed 50 of the existing dual bins to be replaced. Waste audits before and after implementation show a marked increase in capture of the two	Continue roll-out of town centre dual stream waste bins to promote recycling and minimise waste	R

<sup>67</sup> <https://www.merton.gov.uk/business-and-consumers/business-support-and-advice/cost-living-climate-action>

Action No.	Priority Action in Y2	RAG	Team	Progress	Priority Action in Y3	RAG
				<p>recyclable materials collected in the recycling side of the bins (plastic bottles and cans). An additional 35 bins were purchased and installed in spring 2022. This completes the upgrade of Wimbledon Town Centre dual bins.</p> <p>A full litter bin audit has been completed for Morden and Mitcham town centres with all litter bins assessed, and findings documented along with location grid reference. Roll-out will be subject to securing funding in 2023.</p>		
8	Continue to explore opportunities to promote low carbon behaviours, jobs and skills through the regeneration of Morden town centre	A	E&R Future Merton	<p>Large-scale regeneration projects are complex and can take time to deliver. Officers are researching delivery and funding options in the post-COVID19 environment. The regeneration of Morden town centre remains a great opportunity to embed low carbon behaviours, jobs and skills. The Council will continue to explore opportunities to promote low carbon behaviours, jobs and skills as part of the regeneration.</p> <p>Small projects, similar to the temporary parklet in Abbotsbury Road, will be delivered in various locations within this large town centre site.</p>	Continue to explore opportunities to promote low carbon behaviours, jobs and skills through the regeneration of Morden town centre.	A
9	Work with partners at the SLWP and Viridor to identify and deliver opportunities to reduce emissions from the processing of local authority collected waste in Merton.	A	E&R Future Merton E&R Waste	The Council continues to work with Viridor (the Beddington ERF operators) and the South London Waste Partnership (SLWP) to baseline, monitor and reduce the carbon impact of our waste treatment activities. In 2022, the SLWP and Viridor have been working to refine the baseline reporting for the Beddington ERF. Merton will continue to contribute to decarbonisation plans through the SLWP steering group and the Beddington ERF Carbon Management Plan <sup>68</sup> .	Work with partners at the SLWP and Viridor to identify and deliver opportunities to reduce emissions from the processing of local authority collected waste in Merton.	A

<sup>68</sup> Available here: <https://moderngov.kingston.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=432&MId=9275&Ver=4>

Action No.	Priority Action in Y2	RAG	Team	Progress	Priority Action in Y3	RAG
				<p>From January to March 2023, the SLWP will be running a plastics recycling campaign linking into the message of reducing plastic waste and carbon.</p> <p>The Council is also currently reviewing alternative disposal and processing options for wood delivered into the Household Reuse and Recycling Centre at Garth Rd.</p>		
10	Adoption of the draft South London Waste Plan as a Local Plan document by all four partner boroughs.	G	E&R Future Merton	<p>Merton and Sutton adopted the new South London Waste Plan in November 2022 and Croydon and Kingston are due to consider adoption in December 2023.</p> <p>Merton now has an up-to-date waste planning document which ensures that, along with its partner South London boroughs, it will have sufficient waste management capacity to enable the management of waste to be driven up the waste hierarchy and for the area to be net-self-sufficient with regards to waste management, for the next 15 years.</p>		
11	Consider financial and other mechanisms to incentivise low carbon performance in local businesses, and to support the development of the local green economy.	R		Officers have secured funding to recruit a new member of staff who will lead on this area of work from 2023. Funding has also been secured to establish a business retrofit support scheme.	Consider financial and other mechanisms to incentivise low carbon performance in local businesses, and to support the development of the local green economy.	R
12	New Y3 action ->		E&R Future Merton		Recruit a new member of staff to lead on the	A

Action No.	Priority Action in Y2	RAG	Team	Progress	Priority Action in Y3	RAG
					development of a Green Economy in Merton	

Workstream 2: Retrofit of the residential and non-residential building stock

Action No.	Priority Action in Y2	RAG	Team	Progress	Priority Action in Y3	RAG
1	Lobby central Government to address the gap in funding and skills	G	E&R Future Merton	<p>Merton Council continues to lobby national Government regarding retrofit through the Greater London Authority, London Councils, the London Environmental Directors Network (LEDNet), and the South London Partnership. In 2022, the Council also fed-back to national Government regarding current and planned retrofit funding schemes through the Net Zero Review consultation<sup>69</sup>.</p> <p>Via the South London Partnership, Merton helped inform the second phase of the Green Jobs and Skills in South London report<sup>70</sup> (February 2022) which highlights the green jobs and skills needs in South London for the transition to Net Zero.</p>	Lobby central Government to address the gap in funding and skills for retrofit	G
2	Develop and deliver a retrofit engagement plan to encourage home and business owners, landlords and tenants to retrofit their properties.	G	CS Comms E&R Future Merton	<p>Over the course of 2022, the council has promoted a range of events, resources, and funding schemes which support retrofit in Merton as set out in subsequent actions below.</p> <p>In December 2022, the council recruited two new Community Retrofit Officers to lead on borough wide retrofit, which will include developing a retrofit engagement strategy in 2023. low-cost insulation measures such as loft insulation and cavity wall insulation</p> <p>In addition, the Council is currently collaborating with the South London Partnership and other South London boroughs to develop a retrofit roadmap to encourage 'able-to-pay' residents to retrofit their homes.</p>	Develop and deliver a retrofit engagement plan to encourage home and business owners, landlords and tenants to retrofit their properties.	A

<sup>69</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/review-of-net-zero-call-for-evidence/net-zero-review-call-for-evidence>

<sup>70</sup> <http://southlondonpartnership.co.uk/economy/green-jobs-and-skills-report-phase-1-and-2/>

Action No.	Priority Action in Y2	RAG	Team	Progress	Priority Action in Y3	RAG
				In 2022, officers also secured funding to establish a business retrofit support scheme which will be developed in 2023. This will enable increased engagement with businesses on the topic of retrofit.		
3	Explore options to overcome high up-front costs of low carbon measures on homes	A	E&R Future Merton	<p>In 2022, the council has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Worked with the GLA and partners to promote phases 2 and 3 of the Mayor's Warmer Homes programme which provides retrofit funding for low income and low energy performance homes in London.</li> <li>Where appropriate, the council has used Merton's Carbon Offset Fund to top up existing national and regional funding streams through the Mayor's Warmer Homes scheme to maximise the impact of this retrofit programme.</li> <li>Encouraged and supported housing associations in bidding for Social Housing Decarbonisation Funding to retrofit their eligible homes in Merton;</li> <li>Promoted Phase 5 of the Mayor's Solar Together London programme, a group purchasing scheme for homeowners looking to install solar PV and battery storage.</li> </ul> <p>In 2022, officers also secured funding for a recycled loan fund for homeowners in Merton who do not meet the eligibility criteria for national retrofit funding schemes. This will be developed in 2023 when further information is available about the Government's new ECO+ scheme which is expected to extend support to a wider customer base who are currently not eligible for support under existing government-backed energy efficiency schemes. The ECO+ scheme is expected to focus on low-cost insulation measures such as</p>	Explore options to overcome high up-front costs of low carbon measures on homes	A

Action No.	Priority Action in Y2	RAG	Team	Progress	Priority Action in Y3	RAG
				loft insulation and cavity wall insulation, and is set to launch in April 2023 <sup>71</sup> .		
4	Support community action looking to drive retrofit	G	E&R Future Merton	<p>Throughout 2022, the Council has supported the Buildings &amp; Energy subgroup of Merton's Climate Action Group in engaging with residents to promote energy efficiency and retrofit. Projects include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Showcasing low carbon homes and retrofit in Merton by developing local case studies.</li> <li>• Working with the Centre for Sustainable Energy in delivering the Energy Matters project in Merton schools to empower the younger generation with the knowledge to drive behaviour change around energy use. This project was allocated NCIL funding in November 2021.</li> <li>• Collaborating with Emmanuel Church in Wimbledon to launch the Eco Church Project</li> <li>• Supported the development of the SLP Retrofit Roadmap project proposal through early-stage consultation.</li> </ul> <p>The Council has also supported and promoted other local partners looking to drive domestic retrofit such as Sustainable Merton.</p>	Support community action looking to drive retrofit.	G
5	Support fuel poor households in accessing national funding	R	C&H Public Health E&R Future Merton	<p>Throughout 2022 the Council has worked with the GLA, their delivery partners, and Merton's local energy advice partner (Thinking Works), to encourage eligible households in Merton to apply for various phases of the Mayor's Warmer Homes scheme.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 42 properties were retrofitted in Merton under the Mayor's Warmer Homes 2 scheme (closed in June 2022).</li> <li>• The Mayor's Warmer Homes 3 scheme is currently underway and is currently expected to close by the end of March 2023.</li> </ul>	Support fuel poor households in accessing national funding	A

<sup>71</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-joins-with-households-to-help-millions-reduce-their-energy-bills>

Action No.	Priority Action in Y2	RAG	Team	Progress	Priority Action in Y3	RAG
				<p>The Mayor's programme has been promoted through various channels including direct mailout, social media, My Merton, the council website<sup>72</sup> and newsletters, in-person events, Thinking Works and other fuel poverty partners.</p> <p>Where appropriate, the Council has also used Merton's Carbon Offset Fund to top-up existing funding streams through the Mayor's Warmer Homes scheme, where additional carbon savings could be achieved, in order to maximise the impact of this retrofit programme.</p> <p>In 2022, the GLA submitted an expression of interest for Phase 2 of the Homes Upgrade Grant (HUG2) for off-gas grid properties on behalf of London boroughs including Merton.</p> <p>In 2023, officers will investigate if and how the Council can support Merton residents in accessing ECO funding.</p>		
6	Engage with social housing providers to drive domestic retrofit	A	E&R Future Merton	<p>The Council engaged with social housing providers to promote and offer support in bidding for Wave 2.1 of the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) for their housing stock in Merton. At least two housing associations included Merton properties in their SHDF Wave 2.1 bids.</p> <p>Officers are also working with a housing provider, with a particular focus on heritage considerations within conservation areas, to inform their retrofit plans in Merton.</p>	Engage with social housing providers to drive domestic retrofit	A

<sup>72</sup> <https://www.merton.gov.uk/council-tax-benefits-and-housing/warm-green-homes>



Action No.	Priority Action in Y2	RAG	Team	Progress	Priority Action in Y3	RAG
				Officers are currently planning a retrofit workshop with housing associations and other relevant partners in February 2023 to review progress in decarbonising social housing in Merton. This will be an opportunity for housing associations to showcase progress to date, share lessons learned, highlight potential barriers to retrofit and solutions to these barriers, as well as opportunities for collaboration.		
7	Consider options to ensure that landlords meet energy efficiency requirements	A	C&H Housing Strategy E&R Future Merton	In 2022, the enforcement of Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards (MEES) was integrated into Merton's Housing Health and Safety Rating System (HHSRS). In 2023, the council is looking to recruit additional capacity within the Housing Enforcement team to lead on the enforcement of MEES in Merton.	Recruit additional capacity to lead on the enforcement of Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards in Merton's Private Rental Sector.	A
9 <sup>73</sup>	Engage with emergency services to encourage carbon reduction activities across their estate	R	E&R Future Merton	Due to other priorities for the emergency services this action has not yet been progressed. Roll on for 2023.	Engage with emergency services to encourage carbon reduction activities across their estate	R
10	New Y3 action ->		E&R Future Merton		Develop a strategy to retrofit housing and non-domestic buildings in Merton.	A
11	New Y3 action ->		E&R Future Merton		Develop an Energy Masterplan to consider energy infrastructure needs to support the decarbonisation of	A

<sup>73</sup> Workstream 2 Action 8 was completed in the Climate Delivery Play for Year 2.

Action No.	Priority Action in Y2	RAG	Team	Progress	Priority Action in Y3	RAG
					buildings and transport in Merton.	
12	New Y3 action ->		E&R Future Merton		Establish a business retrofit support scheme.	A

Workstream 3: Future new build and regeneration

Action No.	Priority Action in Y2	RAG	Team	Progress	Priority Action in Y3	RAG
1	Examination in Public and, if successful, adoption of Merton's new Local Plan.	A	E&R Future Merton	The Council has set ambitious Climate Change policies to ensure that from 2025 all new development is compatible with operating at net-zero carbon by 2050 without the need for expensive retrofit (i.e. does not burn fossil fuels, has ultra-high energy efficiency and is 100% powered by renewable energy). The new Merton Local Plan was submitted to the Secretary of State for an Examination in Public in 2021 and has been through two rounds of public hearings in 2022. Due to delays in the Examination process these policies are yet to be adopted.	Examination in Public and, if successful, adoption of Merton's new Local Plan.	A
3 <sup>74</sup>	Continue to seek to secure low carbon development through the regeneration of Morden town centre.	A	E&R Future Merton	The Council continues to seek to secure the delivery of low carbon development within Morden town centre. The draft Local Plan has progressed and the policy wording, which was submitted to the Secretary of State for an Examination in Public in 2021, identifies the Morden Regeneration Zone within Morden town centre, as a district heat network opportunity area. Developers will therefore be required to explore the technical and financial viability of a potential decentralised energy network as part of the regeneration proposals for the site.	Continue to seek to secure low carbon development through the regeneration of Morden town centre.	A
4	Lobby for faster change in the building and energy sector	G	E&R Future Merton	The Council continues to engage with a range of partners to lobby for faster change in the buildings and energy sector, including the <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greater London Authority,</li> <li>• London Environmental Directors Network (LEDNet),</li> <li>• London Councils' Low Carbon Development programme,</li> <li>• London Energy Transformation Initiative (LETI),</li> <li>• South London Partnership, and</li> </ul>	Lobby for faster change in the building and energy sector	G

<sup>74</sup> Workstream 3 Action 2 was deleted in the Climate Delivery Plan for Year 2.

Action No.	Priority Action in Y2	RAG	Team	Progress	Priority Action in Y3	RAG
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A consortium of 19 London boroughs working together to update local planning policy in light of changes to Part L of Building Regulations in 2022.</li> </ul> <p>This includes lobbying for faster change in national and regional planning policy, local planning policy and developing the green skills sector. The council also fed-back to national Government regarding planning policy through the Net Zero Review consultation<sup>75</sup>.</p> <p>Merton is also taking a proactive approach in lobbying for faster change by proposing ambitious Local Plan policies which go beyond national (Building Regulations) and regional (London Plan) standards.</p>		
5	Seek funding to develop an Energy Masterplan	A	E&R Future Merton	The Council has secured funding and recruited community retrofit officers to develop an Energy Masterplan; this will be progressed in 2023.	Develop an Energy Masterplan for the borough.	A

<sup>75</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/review-of-net-zero-call-for-evidence/net-zero-review-call-for-evidence>

Workstream 4: Transport infrastructure and modal shift

Action No.	Priority Action in Y2	RAG	Team	Progress	Priority Action in Y3	RAG
1	Lobby for and work with partners to seek improvements to public transport services and infrastructure, including the decarbonisation of public transport and the provision of step free access at stations.	A	E&R Transport	<p>Work has been continued by TfL on the introduction of electric buses onto some three routes in Merton. Step free access schemes at Tooting and Motspur Park Stations have been progressed to detailed design stage with construction planned for 2023 and completion due in 2024. The Council have been liaising with Govia Thameslink to progress step free access at Haydon's Road Station and a SCIL bid has been submitted to fund enabling works which are expected to be implemented in 2023.</p> <p>However, following Covid some public transport services have still not been fully reinstated, particularly South Western Railways. The future funding implications for public transport services remain uncertain, particularly in relation to the delivery of the major public transport infrastructure schemes, Sutton Tram Link and Cross Rail 2. This could impact on the ability to achieve the long-term reduction in car use necessary to achieve the 2050 target.</p>	Lobby for and work with partners to seek improvements to public transport services and infrastructure, including the decarbonisation of public transport and the provision of step free access at stations.	A
2	Implement schemes as set out in LIP delivery plan for 22/23	R	E&R Future Merton	<p>The allocation of funding to boroughs for LIP delivery continued to be impacted following the pandemic and was subject to ongoing negotiations between Government and TfL. As a result, the full allocation of LIP funding for FY22/23 was not provided until October 22 and was reduced compared to pre-covid LIP allocations.</p> <p>The reduced funding allocation and tight delivery timescales has had implications on the schemes that the borough will be able to deliver during FY22/23. A significant amount of the funding will be allocated</p>	Implement schemes as set out in LIP delivery plans for 22/23 and 23/24.	A

Action No.	Priority Action in Y2	RAG	Team	Progress	Priority Action in Y3	RAG
				<p>to the design and feasibility of major schemes proposed for delivery in FY23/24 and FY24/25.</p> <p>Schemes that are proposed for implementation in 22/23 include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A permanent segregated cycle scheme on Merton High Street</li> <li>• Continuation of improvements to the Wandle trail (Windsor Ave to Merantun Way section);</li> <li>• Pedestrian crossing and junction improvements at a number of locations; and</li> <li>• Cycle parking.</li> </ul>		
3	Develop medium term LIP transport delivery programme for the 2 year period 23/24-24/25 and explore potential alternative funding sources for delivery of transport schemes.	A	E&R Transport	<p>Following the announcement of a funding settlement between TfL and Government, boroughs were required to submit a delivery plan for FY23/24 and FY24/25, with only 1 month's notice. The core funding allocated to Merton in FY23/24 is £929k which is a reduction of approximately £500k compared to Merton's pre-covid allocation. TfL require schemes to align with and contribute towards their strategic priorities for safety, cycling, walking and buses. Schemes focus on delivery of the major schemes that the borough has already received design funding for in FY22/23.</p>	Develop a detailed LIP transport delivery plan for FY24/25 and explore potential alternative funding sources for the delivery of transport schemes.	A
4	Develop long-term strategies for walking, cycling and EV charging infrastructure.	G	E&R Transport	<p>Progress on the development of EV, cycling and walking strategies has been delayed primarily due to a lack of staff resources and the need to prioritise resources on the delivery of projects. The Council is finding it challenging to recruit suitable additional staff resources to deliver these strategies.</p> <p>However, preparatory work has continued, including continued engagement with TfL and London Councils on strategy and policy in relation to EVs, cycling and walking. Some initial engagement with</p>	Develop long-term strategies for walking, cycling and EV charging infrastructure.	A

Action No.	Priority Action in Y2	RAG	Team	Progress	Priority Action in Y3	RAG
				Councillors has also been conducted via the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny and Overview Committee, which has received a report on cycling strategy and infrastructure and set up an EV task group. The Council have funded a number of multi-modal traffic monitors that will be used to inform the development of the cycling and walking strategies.		
5	Deliver active travel supporting infrastructure measures, including cycle parking and electric cycle hire schemes.	A	E&R Transport	<p>Cycle Shelters were proved for 5 schools in Spring 2022. Additional delivery of school shelters and on-street cycle hangars is proposed for FY22/23 using TfL LIP funding and is expected to be installed by the end of March 23.</p> <p>Dockless electric bike hire schemes are not subject to any legal framework, and are therefore able to operate without agreement from the Council. The schemes have become increasingly widespread and popular in Merton over the last year and provides a sustainable travel option for some residents. However, the schemes are currently operating on a free-floating parking modal which has resulted in some issues with pavement parking creating obstructions for pedestrians. The Council is seeking to work with operators to enter into formal agreements to provide designated parking areas and expand the scheme to all parts of the borough. It is expected that agreements will be established by the end of 2022 or in early 2023.</p>	Deliver active travel supporting measures, including cycle parking and electric cycle hire schemes.	G
6	Deliver electric vehicle charging infrastructure, including lamp column chargers in residential areas and to enable car club schemes to transition to electric.	A	E&R Transport	The Council made a successful bid to the Office for Zero Emission Vehicles (OZEV) for £750k of funding under the On-street Residential Chargepoint Scheme (ORCS) to provide lamp column chargepoints. Through the procurement process the Council was able to more than double the amount of charge points proposed to be provided to over 500. This will enable the Council to meet Merton's projected	Deliver electric vehicle charging infrastructure, including lamp column chargers in residential areas and rapid charge points, and to enable	A

Action No.	Priority Action in Y2	RAG	Team	Progress	Priority Action in Y3	RAG
				<p>requirements for the amount of slow public chargepoints needed by 2025.</p> <p>Extensive survey work is being conducted and installation of the first chargepoints is due to start by the end of 2022. Full rollout of all chargepoints is expected to take until at least end of March 2023, due to the increased amount of chargepoints overall and some problems in identifying viable lamp columns during the survey process.</p> <p>Progress will need to be made in 2023 on delivering more rapid chargepoints to meet projected requirements for Merton. Due to the high costs of the infrastructure, this will likely to be delivered through an operator funded model which will involve a complex and lengthy procurement process.</p> <p>Engagement is continuing with car clubs about a transition to electric, although this presents some challenges within the operational model of car clubs. A significant proportion of the floating car club fleet in Merton are now electric vehicles.</p>	car club schemes to transition to electric.	
8 <sup>76</sup>	Implement Air Quality Action Plan and active travel initiatives	G	C&H Air Quality	<p>The Air Quality Action Plan brings together the policies and actions that the Council can take to tackle Air Pollution in the borough, the plan covers over 70 measures and these are reported annually as part of the Council's Annual Status Report on air quality. This is a legal requirement as part of the air quality management framework.</p> <p>AQ Monitoring – Active AQ monitoring network consisting of 2 automatic monitoring stations, 59 diffusion tubes and Merton</p>	Implement Air Quality Action Plan.	A

<sup>76</sup> Workstream 4 Action 7 was deleted in the Climate Delivery Plan for Year 2.



Action No.	Priority Action in Y2	RAG	Team	Progress	Priority Action in Y3	RAG
				<p>Innovate Programme (68 Breathe London Nodes). Data for 2021 reported in the borough's <a href="#">2022 Annual Status Report</a> (ASR). Merton Innovate Programme data to be reported in the forthcoming 2023 ASR.</p> <p>Citizen Science Projects – Citizen science projects supported and AQ officers provide training and resources including funding additional diffusion tubes and handheld monitors. During 2022 collaborative working continues between LBM and Sustainable Merton.</p> <p>InnOvaTe (Internet of Things) Project – Funding secured for Vivacity traffic monitoring to continue the Innovate work. Funding still being sought to retain around 20 of the 68 Breathe London air quality monitors. In October 2022, we received a Highways Award 2022 Finalist certificate for our work on the Innovate Programme. Entry based on all the work done on monitoring AQ and gaining traffic insights.</p> <p>Schools – Air quality is monitored at several schools that are near areas of poor air quality or main roads, these schools are also offered an AQ Audit. This audit includes all aspects of air quality and climate change, including travel, heating, green planting and anti-idling. Audit recommendations include emission and exposure reduction measures and mitigation where necessary. Breathe London &amp; Vivacity monitors have also been installed in Schools Streets within the borough to monitor travel and air quality.</p> <p>Planning &amp; SPD –The AQ Team submitted responses to the GLA's Air Quality Neutral (AQN) and Air Quality Positive (AQP) guidance</p>		

Action No.	Priority Action in Y2	RAG	Team	Progress	Priority Action in Y3	RAG
				<p>consultation in February 2022. AQN and AQP guidance support the London Plan to assess and mitigate air pollution from new development.</p> <p>Anti-idling – Anti-idling signage review completed, resulting in the installation of an additional 44 signs. Idling events are delivered by AQ Officers monthly at key locations such as level crossings where typically around 300 drivers are engaged over a 2-hour period. A total of 9 events were delivered in 2022.</p> <p>Behavioural Insights project – Funding awarded from the Local Government Association: Behavioural Insights programme with additional funding from LBM Public Health Team. LED sign installed at West Barnes Lane Level Crossing to encourage drivers to switch off their engines while waiting at the barrier. The intervention was assessed for efficacy before and after installation. The final report, case study and other documents will be found on: <a href="#">Behavioural insights projects funded by the LGA   Local Government Association</a></p> <p>Non-Road Mobile Machinery (Cleaner Construction for London) – The Pan London NRMM project 2019-22 completed in March but received a bridging fund to retain staff until the status of the MAQF was better known. A £510K award is now secured to continue to March 2025. A Defra bid was submitted in September 2022 for NRMM expansion outside London.</p> <p>The cleaner construction for London team received the <a href="#">Public Sector Organisational Changemaker of the Year 2022 award</a>. This pioneering work is shaping positive change in the construction industry,</p>		

Action No.	Priority Action in Y2	RAG	Team	Progress	Priority Action in Y3	RAG
				<p>delivering on-the-ground site compliance and significant measurable emissions savings in Nox, PM and CO2 across London.</p> <p>Clean Air Villages: A project spanning multiple London Boroughs with the aim to improve air quality in different London ‘villages’, where both air pollution and population density levels are high. Funding awarded by DEFRA and in-kind match funding by LBM.</p> <p>Clean Air Villages 4 (CAV4): Active dates May 2021 – June 2022. Building on the business engagement exercise in 2020/21 a cargo bike courier service was procured for delivery of a free 120-hour trial for businesses in Wimbledon. Details regarding outcomes are available at <a href="#">Wimbledon Cargo Bike Trial Case Study</a></p> <p>Public Health Messaging – A scoping report exploring AQ and PH messaging concluded in summer 2022. In September 2022, Merton submitted a Defra Bid to lead on behalf of 15 London boroughs to develop the Health/Air Quality project around working with health professionals and proactive treatment for vulnerable patients.</p> <p>Air Quality News newsletter – The AQ Team produce a quarterly newsletter on actions and campaigns across the three borough partners. The newsletter is shared internally and externally with interested parties such as the GLA.</p> <p>Campaign Days – Public facing events with AQ stall to provide information and freebies to residents for Clean Air Day 16<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> June 2022, Car Free Day 22<sup>nd</sup>/23<sup>rd</sup> September 2022, and Cost of Living event 26<sup>th</sup> November 2022.</p>		

Action No.	Priority Action in Y2	RAG	Team	Progress	Priority Action in Y3	RAG
				<p>Plans for 2023 – A new Air Quality Action Plan will be developed in 2023 to cover the period 2023-2028. This plan needs to link into the Climate, Health and Travel agenda. Engagement activities will commence in December 2022.</p> <p>Active travel initiatives covered under action 9 below.</p>		
9	Support active travel projects	A	E&R Transport C&H Air Quality	<p>The Council continues to deliver a programme of cycle training, STARS travel plans, engagement with schools on their schools streets, health walks, organising activities around World Car Free Day including free Dr Bike sessions for residents, and promoting Cycle Buddies and various school active travel events.</p> <p>The Council successfully secured a phase 1 GLA School Superzone grant of £30K, to fund a pilot to eliminate the 21.5% of students driven for the school run. This pilot is led through the placement of an Active Travel Coordinator located within the school to work directly with students and the curriculum to skill all students with the ability to cycle, walk or navigate public transport with confidence. This is being measured using pedometers for each student, and introducing the Public Health funded initiative of Beat the Street to motivate and incentivise a school community to take up active travel, and collectively change behaviour. Data has been collected on the method, distance and choice of route used by the students for their school run. This data is being used to develop optimum walking routes for those who drive or alternatives. Further data will be gathered on where there are issues preventing accessibility or permeability or threats to safety for pupils travelling to school, to prioritise solutions. This pilot will run until June 2023.</p>	Support active travel projects	G

Workstream 5: Green infrastructure

Action No.	Priority Action in Y2	RAG	Team	Progress	Priority Action in Y3	RAG
1	Undertake the second phase of the tree strategy (concentrating on private trees, planning and Merton's urban forest) and Merton's iTree survey	G	E&R Green Spaces	In 2022, the council developed and consulted stakeholders on Phase 1 of Merton's Tree Strategy for the Management of Council-owned Trees. Phase 1 of the Tree Strategy is currently expected to be adopted in Spring 2023.  Merton's Greenspaces team have commenced a scoping exercise for Phase 2 of the Tree Strategy for the management of trees on Private Land, which will require input from LBM Planning colleagues in 2023.	Adopt Phase 1 of Merton's Tree Strategy.	G
2	Deliver the Urban Tree Challenge Fund (Round 3) and the Annual tree planting programme to plant 260 trees on streets/ green spaces.	G	E&R Green Spaces	In Spring 2022, under the Urban Tree Challenge Round 2 the service planted 299 standard trees in multiple park locations with a focus towards the East of the borough, as well as 1200 whips (800 at Morden Park and 400 at Pollards Hill) planted with community groups and supported by Merton Tree Wardens. Under the annual Street Tree Replacement Programme we planted a further 400 standard trees. In Autumn 2022, we planted 160 standard trees in Highways as part of the annual Street Tree Replacement Programme.  In 2023, we will be planting 283 standard trees in Merton Parks under Round 3 Urban Tree Challenge. We will also be planting a community woodland with Trees for Cities on Cramner Green with 6000 whips and 12 standard trees. We are also establishing a partnership with Trees for Streets and developing a Street Tree Sponsorship Scheme which is expected to go live with in Spring 2023.	Deliver Merton's tree planting programmes for 2023.	G
3	Develop improved data capture and recording	A	E&R Future Merton	Due to the volumes of tree planting on council owned land the progress on private land has been limited.	Develop Phase 2 of Merton's Tree Strategy	A

Action No.	Priority Action in Y2	RAG	Team	Progress	Priority Action in Y3	RAG
	of 3 <sup>rd</sup> Party tree planting activities in Merton, and encourage greater participation in tree planting on private land.		E&R Green Spaces	The Council planted 6 standard trees with Merton Faith Groups on Church land as part of Interfaith Week to commemorate lives lost to Covid 19 in Merton.  In 2023, the Council will develop Phase 2 of Merton's Tree Strategy which will help identify the necessary strategic opportunities to plant more trees on private land.	for the management of trees on private land.	
4	Review and monitor tree removals, ensuring that annual tree planting programmes exceed number of trees lost in Council-owned areas.	G	E&R Green Spaces	2022 has seen a proactive replacement tree planting plan being implemented by the service with 560 trees planted under the Annual Street Tree Replacement Programme.  The Greenspaces Team have also increased its pro-active inspection of Street and Park Trees on its current Tree Management software Ezytreed and are actively logging any losses to ensure priority replacements within 1 year wherever possible.	Carry out replacement tree planting which will be informed by the proactive tree inspection regime currently being undertaken.	G
5	Take opportunities to introduce sustainable drainage systems and "grey to green" projects	G	E&R Future Merton	A large Green Infrastructure SuDS solution is being designed for Raynes Park Town centre on Pepys Rd to reduce flows going into the sewer system. In FY23/24 following successful funding from Thames Water's SWMP bid, Home Park Rd and Kenilworth Green is being looked at for feasibility and delivery of a large Green Infrastructure Pocket Park with attenuation.	Take opportunities to introduce sustainable drainage systems and "grey to green" projects	G
6	Examination in Public of Merton's new Local Plan and, if successful, adoption of Merton's new Green Infrastructure Policies.	A	E&R Future Merton	The new Merton Local Plan was submitted to the Secretary of State for an Examination in Public in 2021 and has been through two rounds of public hearings in 2022. Due to delays in the Examination process these policies are yet to be adopted.  The policies include the following within the Green and Blue Infrastructure chapter; O15.1 Open space, green infrastructure and	Examination in Public of Merton's new Local Plan and, if successful, adoption of Merton's new Green Infrastructure Policies.	A

Action No.	Priority Action in Y2	RAG	Team	Progress	Priority Action in Y3	RAG
				nature conservation, O15.2 Open space and green infrastructure, O15.3 Biodiversity and access to nature, O15.4 Protection of trees, O15.5 Urban Greening and O15.6 Wandle Valley Regional Park. These policies are supported by the Merton Green Infrastructure Study 2020 and include details on improving access to nature and open space, increasing urban greening and net biodiversity gain across the borough, through planning applications.		
7	Work with stakeholders and groups, locally, to improve engagement with Friend of Parks groups to raise awareness and to contribute to regional and national groups with a focus on funding and access.	A	E&R Future Merton E&R Green Spaces	<p>Merton's Greenspaces Team are proactively engaging with Independent Merton Greenspace Forum and our existing Friends of Parks network to share knowledge and experience as well as encourage new groups to form.</p> <p>The Greenspaces Team are now part of the Good Parks for London Guide and in 2022 moved from 25<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> place in the London standings.</p> <p>We successfully retained all 6 Green Flag Award winning parks in Merton 2022, with feedback from judges stating the Friends of Parks groups play an integral part in the way Merton parks are managed and maintained, and actively contribute towards the fundraising efforts.</p> <p>Successes in 2022 include delivery of a Neighbourhood CIL funded playground in the Friends of Colliers Wood Rec, and successful bid to the Grow Back Greener Fund by the new Friends of Mostyn Gardens.</p> <p>In 2023, the Greenspaces Team will be applying for 9 Green Flag Awards with 3 New Green Flag Award Management and Maintenance Plans for Cannizaro Park, Canons House and Grounds, and Haydons Road Rec.</p>	Work with stakeholders and groups, locally, to improve engagement with Friend of Parks groups to raise awareness and to contribute to regional and national groups with a focus on funding and access.	G

Workstream 6: LBM Estate and fleet management

Action No.	Priority Action in Y2	RAG	Team	Progress	Priority Action in Y3	RAG
1	Monitor and verify any PSDS installed decarbonisation works and identify lessons learnt from delivery.	R	CS Facilities CSF Commissioning	In 2022, 4 Solar PV connected battery systems and some loft insulation were installed on Council buildings. The effects of these works are still to be seen during future spring/summers. This programme changed from the original Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) plan due to installation costs for air source heat pumps (ASHP) increasing so significantly. A key lesson learned is that the ASHP design process for complicated sites needs more time than PSDS had allowed. This lesson will be picked up through the new Climate Emergency Building Surveyor post.	Monitor and verify any PSDS installed decarbonisation works and identify lessons learnt from delivery.	G
2	Recruit additional staff to enable development of projects and grant funding proposals for the estate decarbonisation.	R	CS Facilities CSF Commissioning	<p>Recruitment of the Climate Emergency Building Surveyor is underway. It is hoped that this post will be filled by March 2023.</p> <p>Building surveys of schools, operational and non-operational sites are now underway through the Energy Team's pre-procured energy broker, with an initial 20 sites to be surveyed by March 2023. The Climate Emergency Building Surveyor will process the results and turn the carbon saving measures identified in the surveys into packages of work to inform future bids for schemes such as PSDS.</p> <p>The council is also working well with Greenwich Leisure Limited (GLL), the operator for Merton's leisure centres, to identify and implement energy saving opportunities across Merton's leisure centres in response to the energy crisis.</p>	Recruit additional staff to enable development of projects and grant funding proposals for the estate decarbonisation.	A
3	Seek approval to procure a long-term delivery partner for	G	CS Facilities CSF Commissioning	This has been on hold for much of this year due to energy team time being taken up with utility pricing increases and associated works.	Seek approval to procure a long-term delivery partner for estate decarbonisation works.	A



Action No.	Priority Action in Y2	RAG	Team	Progress	Priority Action in Y3	RAG
	estate decarbonisation works.		E&E Estates	<p>Several potential frameworks have already been identified as potentially offering a route to sourcing a long-term partner and internal discussions to ensure good practice and value for money have started.</p> <p>This action will be continued into next year as it is still considered a worthwhile part of the decarbonisation process.</p>		
4	Implement a mechanism to ensure that new Council buildings are capable of operating at net zero carbon by 2030 without significant retrofit.	R	Merton's Property & Asset Management Board	This will be progressed in 2023, and will likely require a decision at a political level to ensure that the decision is robust and democratic.	Implement a mechanism to ensure that new Council buildings are capable of operating at net zero carbon by 2030 without significant retrofit.	A
5	Review the benefits of continuing to source 100% green electricity tariff and explore the possibility of implementing a Renewable Energy Power Purchase Agreement.	A	CS Facilities	100% green electricity has not been secured for 2022/23 due to cost increases associated with the rapid and significant rise in utility wholesale prices over 2021 and 2022. Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) are being investigated for future inclusion in corporate utility contracts.	Review the benefits of continuing to source a 100% green electricity tariff and explore the possibility of implementing a Renewable Energy Power Purchase Agreement.	A
6	Review outcomes from any battery storage installations under PSDS and review payback calculations in light of increasing cost of energy.	G	CS Facilities	Data for this will be available in spring/summer 2023 and investigations will be carried out accordingly.	Review outcomes from any battery storage installations under PSDS and review payback calculations in light of increasing cost of energy.	A

Action No.	Priority Action in Y2	RAG	Team	Progress	Priority Action in Y3	RAG
7	Form a strategy to decarbonise the Council's vehicle fleet	A	E&R Commissioning	<p>Merton's Fleet Management team were awaiting the outcome of the Cabinet decision regarding the Veolia contract on 10th October before progressing this area of work. Officers are now considering commissioning consultant support to investigate fleet decarbonisation options and to develop a fleet decarbonisation strategy. This analysis and strategy will also need to consider any infrastructure upgrades required to support the decarbonisation of the Council's fleet.</p> <p>This work will also be informed by the outcome of Cabinet discussions in February 2023 regarding the service requirements and delivery model for a new and improved waste collection and street cleansing contract.</p> <p>Actions 7, 8 and 9 have been amalgamated into one action for Year 3 to avoid repetition.</p>	Commission consultant support to investigate fleet decarbonisation options, and to form a strategy to decarbonise the Council's vehicle fleet and its supporting infrastructure.	A
8	Consider low carbon options for the next round of fleet replacement	G	E&R Commissioning	As above, actions 7, 8 and 9 are being amalgamated for Year 3 to avoid repetition.		
9	Undertake initial work to consider electric charge points for LBM vehicle fleet	G	E&R Commissioning CS Facilities	As above, actions 7, 8 and 9 are being amalgamated for Year 3 to avoid repetition.		
10	Carry out improvements to Council-owned sites to encourage active and electrified travel by staff.	A	E&R Transport CS Facilities E&R Commissioning	Due to ongoing effects of Covid on staff travel and insufficient capacity this is yet to be progressed. This will be progressed in 2023 and will require input across several departments.	Set up a working group to develop staff policies and to progress improvements to Council-owned sites to encourage active and electrified travel by staff.	A

Action No.	Priority Action in Y2	RAG	Team	Progress	Priority Action in Y3	RAG
			Human Resources			
11	Consider mechanisms to engage with various council teams and departments to identify opportunities for carbon reduction and specific training needs.	A	E&R Future Merton	In 2022, a supplier was appointed to deliver the first cohort of carbon literacy training from February 2023. This will begin to embed sustainability and an understanding of opportunities to reduce carbon emissions across council services.	Create a cohort of climate champions formed of staff who certify as carbon literate.	G
12	Continue streetlight LED replacement through standard maintenance.	G	E&R Highways	In 2022, the Council converted a further 170 lanterns to LEDs on our street lighting assets across the borough, resulting in 84% of our overall streetlights (10,849 streetlights) now being LEDs.  In addition, we are currently hoping to secure additional funding to undertake lantern conversions across the financial years FY2022/23 and FY2023/24 to convert a further 1,200 street lighting column lanterns to LEDs and further reduce Merton Council energy consumption.	Continue streetlight LED replacement through standard maintenance.	G
13	Develop staff travel policies	A	E&R Transport Human Resources	This action has been combined with action 10 above.		
14	New action ->		CS Facilities E&E Estates		Commission a legal review of the leases for the council's non-operational rented properties to inform decarbonisation plans.	A

Action No.	Priority Action in Y2	RAG	Team	Progress	Priority Action in Y3	RAG
15	New action ->		CS Facilities E&E Estates		Commission up-to-date Energy Performance Certificates for Merton's non-operational rented properties to inform decarbonisations plans.	A
16	New Y3 action ->		CS Facilities CSF Commissioning		Commission a review of the heating and catering equipment in Merton's community schools to inform decarbonisation plans.	A

Workstream 7: LBM Procurements and investments

Action No.	Priority Action in Y2	RAG	Team	Progress	Priority Action in Y3	RAG
1	Engage with service providers to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from existing contracts.	A	Commercial Services All Departments	<p>Work is ongoing with individual contract managers where appropriate and where capacity allows.</p> <p>For example, in 2022 the Council has been working with Merton's school meals catering provider to reduce emissions from this contract by promoting meat-free meals, food gardens in schools, waste reduction and local supply chains. Officers are also working with the catering provider to quantify the emissions associated with the schools' meals catering contract to incorporate in the next iteration of Merton's greenhouse gas inventory in 2023.</p> <p>Capacity to engage with service providers has been limited to date but, in 2022, the Council secured funding to recruit a new member of staff to lead on the decarbonisation of the council's supply chain emissions. This new role will work with contract leads and commissioners across the council to engage with the market and existing service providers to reduce emissions from Merton's new and existing contracts.</p> <p>The Council will continue to trial low carbon technologies in Merton's contracts where appropriate, and seek to embed Merton's climate commitments in, and better understand the scale of emissions from, existing contracts.</p>	Engage with service providers to measure and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from existing contracts.	A
2	Implement new procurement policy and guidance to reduce	A	Commercial Services	In 2022, Merton has been implementing its new Contract Standing Orders <sup>77</sup> (CSOs) which require Responsible Officers to give due consideration to the Council's commitment to the Climate	Review Merton's procurement process and tender documents to	A

<sup>77</sup> Further information is available at: <https://democracy.merton.gov.uk/documents/s40335/Revisions%207%20July%202021.pdf>

Action No.	Priority Action in Y2	RAG	Team	Progress	Priority Action in Y3	RAG
	greenhouse gas emissions from procured services.			<p>Emergency and how the Council can reduce its carbon footprint through the tenders that it lets (CSO 6.3.3). The updated CSOs also require officers to seek approval from Procurement Board when considering procuring any contract that has any carbon implications/impacts, irrespective of the value of the contract (CSO 10.9).</p> <p>Commercial Services' Gateway report templates all have an 'Environmental Consideration' section which is to be completed by the report author and which is reviewed by either the relevant Operational Procurement Group and/or Procurement Board thereby ensuring that consideration is given to the climate emergency for all contracts over £100k (or below £100k where a specific contract has any carbon implication/ impact).</p> <p>The Climate Emergency is touched on during the revised CSO training provided by Commercial Services and is mentioned in the updated Procurement Toolkit.</p> <p>The Council's Social Value Charter has been strengthened such that the 'Environmental' themes within the new SVC, reflect the Climate Emergency declaration. There are now eight themes in this area as opposed to five from the 2021 version, and a plastics reduction measurement is now included for the first time.</p> <p>In 2022, key commissioning leads also received training on how to embed circular economy principles in Merton's procurement processes and contracts.</p> <p>As above, funding has been secured to recruit a new member of staff to lead on this area of work. Part of their role will involve</p>	further embed carbon reduction in Merton's requirements for new contracts.	

Action No.	Priority Action in Y2	RAG	Team	Progress	Priority Action in Y3	RAG
				reviewing Merton's procurement process, with lessons learned from other local authorities through the London Responsible Procurement Network, to consider how Merton's tender documents could be improved to further embed carbon reduction in Merton's procured services.		
3	Continue delivering responsible investment policy to decarbonise the Council's pension investments.	G	CS Investment	<p>Merton's sustainable investment policy is already in place and emissions are being tracked. In 2018, the Council started to measure the carbon intensity of the Merton Pension Fund.</p> <p>In 2022, the analysis of Merton's pension investments was expanded to include metrics for the two Diversified Growth Funds and the Multi-Asset Credit Fund. In total, we have been able to assess 72.3% of total assets held by the Fund as at 31 March 2022. This represents an increase in coverage of c.12% relative to previous years.</p> <p>For the equity asset metrics, we have based these on Scope 1 &amp; 2 emissions given the availability of data. For the non-equity part of the report, we have relied on information provided by fund managers which includes Scope 1, 2 &amp; 3 emissions. As such, the expanded basis impacts the total figures shown for the Fund. There has been an increase in the Fund's equity Weighted Average Carbon Intensity (WACI) since our March 2021 report, increasing from 87.4 to 96.8 tCO<sub>2</sub>/\$m sales, but still represents a reduction against the 2018 baseline (219tCO<sub>2</sub>/\$m sales). <i>Part of this can be attributed to the fund managers selecting stocks to achieve the investment mandate's objective – exceeding the benchmark returns.</i></p> <p>Progress includes:</p>	Continue delivering responsible investment policy to decarbonise the Council's pension investments.	G

Action No.	Priority Action in Y2	RAG	Team	Progress	Priority Action in Y3	RAG
				<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Moving 10% of the global equity investment to Paris aligned investment;</li> <li>Allocating £30m towards net zero renewable infrastructure investment;</li> <li>As part of equity rebalancing, moving the unrealised gains from the high carbon emitting portfolios to social impact and renewal energy;</li> <li>Continuing to engage with fund managers to better understand how they engage with companies which are more carbon intensive and as such lower the overall score of the Fund.</li> </ol>		
4	Consider ways to positively invest in carbon offset products and mechanisms should the Council not achieve its target by 2030.	A	CS Investment	No progress to date but doesn't need to be in place until 2030.	Consider ways to positively invest in carbon offset products and mechanisms should the Council not achieve its target by 2030.	A
5	New Y3 action ->		Commercial Services E&R Future Merton		Empower and equip procurement leads to consider carbon at all stages of procurement and to engage with service providers regarding the council's journey to net-zero carbon.	A



Workstream 8: Communication, outreach and LBM corporate procedure

Action No.	Priority Action in Y2	RAG	Team	Progress	Priority Action in Y3	RAG
1	Develop and implement a climate communications and engagement strategy	G	CS Comms E&R Future Merton	<p>In March 2022, Merton recruited a new Climate Engagement Officer to lead on this area of work. Since then the Council has progressed the following climate engagement and communications activities.</p> <p>Climate communications (utilising e-newsletters and social media):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promoted the Mayor’s Warmer Homes programme throughout summer 2022.</li> <li>• Celebrated Merton’s climate work during a social media campaign for London Climate Action Week in June 2022.</li> <li>• Delivered a social media campaign and news release to connect residents with green skills and career opportunities, as part of Green Careers Week in November 2022.</li> <li>• Delivered ad-hoc communications to support community-led climate action events and highlight success e.g., The Wheel’s repair cafes and upcycling workshops, or promoting the Council’s successful NZIP bid.</li> <li>• Contributions to various newsletters including the schools newsletter, business newsletter, Merton-e news.</li> </ul> <p>Climate engagement activities and events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular meetings with members of Merton’s Climate Action Group</li> <li>• Re-establishment of the Environment and Climate Subgroup of the Sustainable Communities Transport Partnership, with two sessions held in 2022 (Greening Merton and Green Economy).</li> </ul>	Consult on and deliver Merton’s Climate Engagement Strategy; draft provided as background document to the Climate Delivery Plan.	G

Action No.	Priority Action in Y2	RAG	Team	Progress	Priority Action in Y3	RAG
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Canons Summer Fair 2022 - a family friendly day out, which connected residents with local partners and local opportunities to live more sustainably.</li> <li>• Two town centre events, a cycle cinema at Canons House and Grounds, and Dr Bike maintenance support for local play streets around World Car Free Day in September 2022.</li> <li>• Merton's second Schools Climate Conference.</li> <li>• Climate Action Updates at Merton's five community forums in autumn 2022.</li> <li>• Climate Action Presentations to Merton's Youth Parliament, the Joint Consultative Committee with Ethnic Minority Organisations, Roehampton University Student Geography Teachers and a Merton Head Teacher's Meeting to inspire action and collaboration.</li> </ul> <p>Climate Action Newsletter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9 editions over the last year, with 9314 subscribers. This is an increase of 5467 subscribers over the last year. In part this can be attributed to sign ups at events and increased communications. However, this is primarily due to residents being offered the chance to subscribe, when being moved from the Council's Covid Response mailing list.</li> </ul> <p>Climate Engagement Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Climate Engagement Strategy has been developed and is in draft. It will be consulted on by Cabinet Members and with local groups in the new year, prior to adoption.</li> <li>• Ideas including the Net Zero Enablers Programme and Climate Hub development will be investigated as part of the Strategy, working in collaboration with Merton's Climate Action Group,</li> </ul>		

Action No.	Priority Action in Y2	RAG	Team	Progress	Priority Action in Y3	RAG
				In 2022, officers also secured climate outreach funding for climate engagement events and materials.		
2	Support the delivery of community-led climate action projects (incl. Merton's Climate Action Group)	A	E&R Future Merton	<p>The council continues to support Merton's Climate Action Group<sup>78</sup> with the development and delivery of community-led climate action projects. In 2022 this included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supporting the delivery of 3 Neighbourhood CIL funded Climate Action Group projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Merton Garden Streets 2022<sup>79</sup></li> <li>Energy Matters<sup>80</sup></li> <li>The Wheel<sup>81</sup></li> </ul> </li> <li>Developing case studies to showcase retrofit and low carbon development<sup>82</sup>;</li> <li>Securing funding through the Net Zero Innovation Programme with the Wheel as set out in Workstream 1 above.</li> </ul> <p>In 2022 officers also secured funding to set up a Climate Action Fund to support the development and delivery of community-led climate projects; this is expected to be delivered alongside the Council's Neighbourhood CIL fund in 2023.</p>	Support the delivery of community-led climate action projects (incl. Merton's Climate Action Group)	A

<sup>78</sup> A partnership between the community and the Council (launched in January 2021) to support the development and implementation of community-led projects, events and knowledge exchange which help reduce Merton's greenhouse gas emissions and/ or build local climate resilience, where joint efforts are more effective than the actions of individuals or the Council alone. <https://www.merton.gov.uk/planning-and-buildings/sustainability-and-climate-change/climate-action-group>

<sup>79</sup> A volunteer-led project delivered by local residents and businesses to make our streets greener. This initiative has been very well received by the local community with 124 streets signing up to planting days in 2022. Feedback highlighted positive impacts for mental and physical wellbeing, developing a greater sense of community, as well as improving local air quality, biodiversity and climate resilience. <https://www.sustainablemerton.org/gardenstreets>

<sup>80</sup> A partnership project to deliver energy training in 4 pilot schools in Merton to empower the younger generation with knowledge to drive behaviour change around energy use <https://news.merton.gov.uk/2022/06/29/energy-matters-building-the-next-generation-of-energy-champions/>

<sup>81</sup> A circular economy hub in Merton <https://www.thewheelmerton.org/>

<sup>82</sup> <https://www.merton.gov.uk/planning-and-buildings/sustainability-and-climate-change/case-studies>

Action No.	Priority Action in Y2	RAG	Team	Progress	Priority Action in Y3	RAG
3	Implement mechanisms to consider the impact of climate change mitigation and adaption in all policy, spend and procurement proposals.	A	Commercial Services, Corporate Policy and Improvement, E&R Future Merton	<p>As set out in Workstream 7 Action 2, Merton's Contract Standing Orders, Commercial Services' Gateway report templates and Social Value Charter incorporate mechanisms for considering the impact of climate change mitigation for relevant contracts. In 2022, the council has also procured a partner to deliver carbon literacy training for council staff and councillors from early 2023. This will help build capacity across the council in delivering Merton's carbon reduction commitments. However, to date carbon reduction is not embedded in all major council decisions.</p> <p>In late 2022, officers secured funding to develop and implement a tool for embedding climate considerations in all major council decision-making. Merton is currently involved in a cross-borough pilot to develop a template for embedding carbon reduction and other climate considerations from early stages of project development.</p>	Implement mechanisms to consider the impact of climate change mitigation and adaption in all major policy, spend and procurement proposals.	A
4	Develop general carbon literacy training, and engage with council staff and councillors to identify any specific training needs and consider mechanisms for delivery.	A	CS Learning & Development E&R Future Merton	<p>In 2022, Merton procured a delivery partner (APSE) to roll-out the first phase of carbon literacy training for Cabinet members, senior council staff and volunteer councillors and officers. Delivery is expected to commence in February 2023.</p> <p>Officers also secured funding to develop and deliver bespoke training for procurement leads across the council to consider carbon at all stages of procurement as set out in Workstream 7.</p>	Roll-out the first phase of carbon literacy training, and consider options for subsequent phases.	A

Action No.	Priority Action in Y2	RAG	Team	Progress	Priority Action in Y3	RAG
5	New Y3 action ->		E&R Future Merton		Launch Merton's new Schools Climate Network and Charter.	<b>G</b>

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