

**Committee:** Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel

**Date:** 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Wards: all

**Subject:** Making Merton future-fit through retrofit

Lead officer: Interim Executive Director for Environment, Civic Pride & Climate - Adrian Ash

Lead member: Cabinet Member for Local Environment, Green Spaces and Climate Change – Councillor Natasha Irons

Contact officer: Climate Change Officer Dominique Hill, Programme Manager Tara Butler, Energy & Sustainability Manager Corin Freshwater-Turner

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**Recommendations:**

A. That Members note the contents of this report.

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## 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to provide an update on what has happened so far in Merton to improve the energy efficiency and decarbonise the borough's buildings, and Merton's retrofitting proposals for the future. This report outlines the progress made up to and since the adoption of Merton's Climate Strategy and Action Plan in 2020, building on the updates contained in Merton's Climate Delivery Plans 2021, 2022 and 2023.
- 1.2. In 2021 and 2022, Merton's Cabinet allocated £4million council funding to be spent on many of the retrofit measures discussed in the body of this report and noted in Appendix 1.
- 1.3. The next sections of this report provide more detail on the following areas of work:
  - i) Organisational retrofit
    - Merton Council's buildings
  - ii) Borough-wide retrofit:
    - Energy masterplan and retrofit strategy
    - Business retrofit
    - Residential retrofit

## 2. DETAILS

- 2.1. Making buildings energy efficient and decarbonising heating and power is the greatest challenge in getting to net zero carbon, particularly as the decarbonisation of buildings in Merton primarily sits outside the Council's direct control. This is a key part of Merton's Climate Strategy and Action Plan.
- 2.2. Merton has approximately 86,000 homes: around 15,000 homes are owned by Housing Associations and a further 71,000 are privately owned. There are around 3,500 shops, offices, warehouses, factories and other business premises in Merton, approximately 50 schools, places of worship and other buildings across the borough. Many buildings in Merton were constructed more than 30 years ago.
- 2.3. As set out in Merton's Climate Strategy & Action Plan (2020), beyond retrofitting our own building stock, the Council's primary role in advancing retrofit in Merton is to support and encourage other key stakeholders in retrofitting their properties. This requires collaboration across the council and with Housing Associations, as well as engagement with landlords, homeowners, and businesses.
- 2.4. Estimates from Merton's Climate Strategy & Action Plan indicate that investment of circa £2.8 billion will be required to retrofit the borough's domestic and non-domestic building stock to a standard which is compatible with net zero. Achieving large scale, borough-wide retrofit will therefore require consistent, long term Government funding, and action from a range of national, regional and local stakeholders.

### **What has happened so far? – overall summary**

- 2.5. As set out in Merton's Climate Delivery Plan for Year 3 (approved by Cabinet on 20th February 2023), key areas of Council progress to date include:
  - i) Continuing to retrofit the Council's own buildings and securing funding to inform and deliver further decarbonisation plans for the Council's estate (including our operational and non-operational buildings, and community schools).
  - ii) Promoting retrofit funding for low-income households through the Mayor's Warmer Homes Programme.
  - iii) Supporting housing providers in accessing Government's Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund, Warmer Homes, Sustainable Warmth funding and using Merton Council's own Carbon Offset funding to top up government and the Mayor of London programmes to help residents retrofit their homes in Merton.
  - iv) Promoting the Mayor's "Solar Together London" scheme.
  - v) Enforcing government's Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards for landlords who rent homes in the private sector through the Housing Health & Safety Rating System.
  - vi) Working with the volunteers on Merton's Climate Action Group to promote energy efficiency and retrofit projects in Merton.
  - vii) Trying to limit the future retrofit burden by proposing ambitious climate change policies in Merton's draft Local Plan that will be applied to new homes and other buildings requiring planning permission.
  - viii) Recruiting two community retrofit officers to lead on borough-wide retrofit and energy master planning.

## What has happened so far – council buildings

- 2.6. The Council has a long history of retrofitting our operational buildings and community schools to decrease our energy usage, reduce utility bills and lower our carbon emissions.
- 2.7. The council's buildings range from small park pavilions to large buildings such as the civic centre or the boroughs three Leisure Centres. These buildings all have their own operational requirements and their own utility budgets which together have provided focus for the council's retrofit programme.
- 2.8. The council has prioritised improvements to reduce energy usage and cut carbon emissions from our building stock since before 2010. This approach has helped to reduce energy bills for schools and other council buildings, thus reducing the cost to the council taxpayer.
- 2.9. Funding for this work has been provided through Council capital and maintenance budgets, with many works installed on an Invest to Save basis. Wherever possible we have maximised investment by successful bids for government funding, such as Salix interest free loans.
- 2.10. Where works have been undertaken to improve comfort or to modernise buildings through standard cyclical maintenance we have prioritised energy efficient upgrades to ensure standard works contribute to saving carbon emissions. Retrofit works have been carried out across all types of sites, for example solar panels and lighting upgrades have been installed on parks pavilions, community and children's centres, schools and leisure centres across the borough.
- 2.11. We have:
  - i) Installed a Combined Heat and Power (CHP) Unit attached to the civic centre. CHP units are essentially large engines which burn gas to produce heat and electricity, thus operating as a standard boiler while also reducing the building's electricity demand. By performing two functions, heating and electricity production, CHPs are able to reduce site bills, taking the place of a normal boiler and feeding electricity directly into the building on which they are installed.
  - ii) Installed an Adsorption Chiller to the CHP unit to make the system "tri generation", producing heating, electricity and cooling. Together with the CHP this system has now reached the end of its life but has fed electricity, hot water for heating and cooling into the civic centre for over 10 years. This system is being replaced in part to meet climate emergency goals as the CHP runs on gas which will need to be phased out of heating systems.
  - iii) Installed voltage optimisation technology in the civic centre to reduce electricity consumption.
  - iv) Upgraded the windows of the Civic Centre to double glazing units to improve the environment in the building and lower our energy consumption.

- v) Upgraded the Building Management System across the civic centre to ensure the building can be adequately heated in sections as operationally needed.
- vi) Installed loft installation in 15 schools to reduce heat losses and lower energy consumption.
- vii) Installed 52 solar panel systems on 40 different schools, leisure centres and other council buildings since 2011, totalling of 2MWp of solar photovoltaic panels, the equivalent of over 500 standard domestic solar panel systems. These systems are fully funded by the council and largely feed electricity into the buildings on which they are situated, with excess electricity going to the national grid. In total, on average these systems produce roughly 1,000,000 kWh of free, green electricity across the borough per year. That's enough to power over 300 houses per year!
- viii) Installed solar connected battery systems on 4 buildings, including 2 schools and Pollards Hill library. These systems are designed to take the excess electricity from solar panels, store it and make it available for the site when needed.
- ix) Installed LED lighting across more than 90% of Merton's streetlights and multiple building sites including 4 large high schools, several primary schools, leisure centres, multiple children's centres and other many other operational buildings. These modern lights allow for a lower energy usage with the same lux levels.
- x) Installed trial air source heat pumps on 2 sites - West Barnes Library and Wimbledon Park Athletics Track, to remove gas from the heating system entirely. The impact of these systems is currently being reviewed.
- xi) Installed or upgraded heating controls to multiple buildings, including schools to allow for better control of heating on site.
- xii) Installed Automatic Meter Reading (AMR) equipment or "smart meters" to the majority of sites, including schools, to allow for monitoring of energy usage and targeting of future retrofit works. This installation has covered electricity, gas and water meters.
- xiii) Installed Point of Use water heaters in over 40 operational sites, including children's centre, community centres, park pavilions and libraries to allow for the removal of gas from the hot water production on site.
- xiv) Installed loft, boiler room and pipe work insulation across multiple schools, community centres and other sites to reduce heat loss and energy consumption.

2.12. Currently retrofit works are progressing our operational buildings, to allow us to move towards the Council's 2030 net zero target. Recent work includes

- i) 19 site surveys to identify potential retrofit and behaviour change works.

- ii) The ongoing recruitment of a Climate Emergency Building Surveyor to oversee survey, planning and retrofit works. This role and the associated work will cover the entire council building portfolio of operational buildings, schools and non-operational buildings, of which the latter falls under the 2050 borough net zero target.
- iii) Investigations into potential upgrades of catering equipment across the school and operational building portfolio will be undertaken in the coming year.
- iv) A new retrofit programme for solar panels will be starting in the coming year (2023/24) focusing on identifying remaining roofs with potential for installation across the council's operational buildings and schools.
- v) LED upgrades for approximately 15 primary schools are planned for the coming school summer holiday.
- vi) We have successfully bid for approximately £3million of government funding to upgrade the heating of the civic centre and entirely remove gas from the heating and hot water system<sup>1</sup>. –

2.13. To achieve net zero carbon by 2030 for operational buildings, significant further retrofit works will be needed to the council building portfolio. We will continue to develop, secure funding for and deliver decarbonisation plans for Merton Council's own offices, schools, community centres and other buildings.

2.14. Future retrofit works will most likely be focused on:

- i) Reducing heating demand through improvements to building control and fabric.
- ii) Increasing building insulation to ensure heat that is generated on site remains there.
- iii) Replacement of heating systems for modern and efficient electrical heating systems.
- iv) Reduction of electricity demand through use of modern equipment.
- v) Production of electricity on site through installation of solar panels and storage of that power in local battery systems.
- vi) Installation of on-site Electric vehicle charging points.

### **Borough-Wide Retrofit**

2.15. Key priorities for 2023 include:

- i) Continuing to support the Climate Action Group and other community action looking to drive retrofit.
- ii) Working collaboratively with residents, community groups, housing associations and other partners to develop a retrofit strategy for the borough.
- iii) Developing a retrofit engagement plan to encourage home and business owners, landlords and tenants to retrofit their properties.
- iv) Developing an Energy Masterplan, working with electricity suppliers to consider energy infrastructure needs to support the transition to net-zero to

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<sup>1</sup> Please be aware, the award of this money will not be published by central government until mid-March and therefore we have been requested by the funder to not undertake any active media engagement for the moment.

- ensure that the power supply to all streets in Merton will support electric heating and power supplies to homes, electric vehicle charging points etc.
- v) Working with neighbouring boroughs and the South London Partnership to develop a retrofit roadmap to encourage residents to retrofit their homes which will help guide how to approach improving the energy efficiency, heat and power for their homes and a reduction of utility bills and carbon.
  - vi) Developing a business retrofit support scheme.
  - vii) Developing a loan fund for homeowners looking to retrofit their homes who aren't eligible for national and regional retrofit funding.
  - viii) Investigating how best we can support residents in accessing Energy Company Obligation (ECO) funding.
  - ix) Continuing to support fuel poor households in accessing national funding.
  - x) Continuing to engage with social housing providers to drive domestic retrofit.
  - xi) Recruiting additional capacity to lead on the enforcement of Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards in Merton's Private Rental Sector.
  - xii) Working with partners to provide practical examples and guidance as to what 'good retrofit' looks like in the context of building conservation and heritage.
  - xiii) Supporting the Mayor's bid for Home Upgrade Grant 2 (HUG 2) funding for off-gas grid properties in London.
  - xiv) Considering local green skills and jobs needs, as well as upskilling and employment opportunities, for borough-wide retrofit.

2.16. To support the delivery of Merton's Climate Strategy and Action Plan adopted by the council in November 2020, the Council appointed two Community Retrofit Officers (CRO's) in December 2022. These roles will support the decarbonisation of domestic and non-domestic buildings in Merton which sit outside the Council's direct control and will contribute to achieving our borough wide 2050 net zero target.

2.17. The non-council owned buildings in Merton include approximately 86,000 homes (Census 2021 data), of which c71,000 are privately owned and c14,000 are owned by Housing Associations. There are c3,400 shops, offices and other commercial premises (Merton business rates list 2021). Other buildings in Merton include circa 70 places of worship, 70 health care premises and 14 train stations. These premises, account for circa 74%<sup>2</sup> of the borough's carbon footprint and most were built more than 30 years ago.

### **Energy masterplan and retrofit strategy**

2.18. As we transition to net zero carbon and move away from fossil fuel vehicles and heating systems, the use of renewable energy, specifically electricity, is expected to increase to meet increased demand from electric vehicles and electric water and space heating systems (including air source heat pumps). Approximately 80% of Merton's homes have gas-powered central heating (Census 2021) which will be required to change to non-gas sources to decarbonise.

2.19. Initial work with energy suppliers such as UK Power Networks (UKPN) has demonstrated that there are parts of the borough, particularly to the south, where the electricity supply is adequate for current purposes but would not support all homes,

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<sup>2</sup> [https://www.merton.gov.uk/system/files/Merton\\_2021\\_GHG\\_inventory\\_report\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.merton.gov.uk/system/files/Merton_2021_GHG_inventory_report_FINAL.pdf)

schools, shops, offices and other buildings converting to electric heat and power and wholly electric vehicle charging points without further investment.

- 2.20. We will work collaboratively with UKPN, National Grid and other partners to develop an energy masterplan to identify potential grid infrastructure upgrades needed to support the transition from gas to electric in Merton homes and businesses. To ensure energy investment is secured we will need to understand what Merton's current energy demands are, what they are predicted to be in the future as we transition to net zero, and what energy infrastructure upgrades might be required across the borough to support this. This will require collaboration and engagement with UKPN, and other key stakeholders including Housing Associations, Business Improvement Districts and public sector organisations such as the NHS, to understand likely changes to energy demand across the borough.
- 2.21. In conjunction with the energy masterplan the council will develop a retrofit strategy for the Borough. The strategy will cover the next 27 years, leading up to 2050, and will be reviewed periodically to consider changes in technology, political context and funding availability. This strategy will set out how the council will help to facilitate and enable retrofit in the borough to 2050.
- 2.22. Key performance indicators developed to measure the success of the strategy will be reviewed and reported on through the council's annual Climate Delivery Plan Workstream 2: Retrofit of the residential and non-residential building stock.
- 2.23. To help tackle fuel poverty, minimise energy demand and reduce pressure on the local energy infrastructure, the retrofit strategy will take a fabric first approach to decarbonising Merton's building stock.
- 2.24. Recognising that stakeholder engagement is a big part of this work, with most buildings in Merton sitting outside the Council's control, officers will also develop a retrofit engagement strategy. This will set out how the council will encourage the behaviour change needed to retrofit buildings across Merton.
- 2.25. We plan to undertake intensive engagement with key stakeholders in FY23/24 to inform the energy masterplan, retrofit strategy and retrofit engagement strategy, to secure stakeholder and community buy-in and to ensure that these are deliverable for residents across the borough. .
- 2.26. Government guidelines indicate that having a housing stock with an average EPC of B will be sufficient to meet our Net Zero 2050 targets. The borough's housing landscape currently has an average EPC rating of D, business sector an average of C/D.
- 2.27. Merton's Greenhouse Gas Inventory Report 2021<sup>3</sup> breaks down the energy use / carbon emissions from each sector in the borough:

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<sup>3</sup> Available at: <https://www.merton.gov.uk/planning-and-buildings/sustainability-and-climate-change/strategy>

*Table 1: estimated kilotonnes CO2 equivalent emissions for Merton Borough in 2019*

Sector	2019 (kt CO2e)	% of emissions
Residential (gas/other fuels)	207	31%
Commercial & industrial (electricity)	138	21%
Transport (cars/LGVs/HGVs/motorbikes)	124	19%
Residential electricity	85	13%
Commercial & industrial (gas/other fuels)	61	9%
Transport (buses & rail)	23	4%
Borough Waste Processing (ERF)	24	3.60%
Borough Waste Processing (landfill)	2	0.40%
Transport (other)	0.2	0.03%
Land use	-1.1	0.20%
<b>Total</b>	<b>663.4</b>	

Note: numbers may not match totals due to rounding. ERF: Energy Recovery Facility

2.28. The table above illustrates that energy use in residential and commercial buildings accounts for 74 % of Merton’s borough-wide carbon emissions. This energy is used largely for water and space heating though some business activity may also require high energy use.

### **Business premises retrofit**

#### **What has happened so far?**

2.29. To assist with the business premises in Merton reducing their carbon footprint, we are looking to relaunch ‘Brighter Business’, an energy efficiency scheme funded by Merton Council that ran from 2015-2017.

2.30. The scheme previously reached 70 SME’s, who received an energy efficient survey and a contribution to energy efficiency upgrades in their premises. The fund previously allocated to this scheme was £100,000.

#### **What will happen next?**

2.31. We are developing a new Brighter Business scheme to improve energy efficiency in businesses, helping them to save money and reduce their carbon output. This will be supported by £400,000 of the £2million council climate funds allocated by Cabinet in 2022. We are exploring the potential to maximise the amount of funding available for physical improvements to business buildings by reducing the energy audit costs by partnering with energy charities and free government energy audit schemes such as the Mayor’s Business Climate Challenge or similar.

2.32. Due to the number of business premises that are leased or sublet the engagement phase of this project is expected to present a significant challenge and appropriate time and funds will be allocated to allow for this to be successful and all the funds be allocated.

## **Residential retrofit**

### **What has happened so far? Government grants for fuel poor households**

2.33. In recent years, Merton’s low-income households have been able to apply for a series of grants through the Government’s Sustainable Warmth funding streams. The Local Authority Delivery (LAD) and Home Upgrade Grant (HUG) schemes aimed to improve the thermal comfort of homes for residents, reduce residents’ energy costs and reduce carbon emissions.

2.34. Home Upgrade Grants schemes are aimed at low-income households with homes that are not currently powered by gas central heating and have Energy Performance Certificates rated D to G (poor energy performance). The table below lists the grants that have been available in the last 5 years and the number of local applicants.

<b>Fund available</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
Sustainable Warmth – Warmer Homes 3 (LAD3 and HUG1)	<a href="#">Sustainable Warmth Competition: successful local authorities - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a>	April 2022 to October 2023
Green Homes Grant LAD 2	<a href="#">Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery scheme, Phase 2: funding allocated to Local Net Zero Hubs - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a>	April 2021 – June 2022
Green Homes Grant LAD1 Phase A and B	<a href="#">Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery scheme Phase 1: successful local authorities - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a>	April 2020 – September 2022

### **2022/23 Sustainable Warmth – Local Authority Delivery 3 and Home Upgrade Grant**

2.35. The GLA bid for Government’s Sustainable Warmth funding was administered as the “Mayor of London’s Warmer Homes programme”. It started in April 2022 and offered grants of up to £25,000 to low-income owner-occupier and privately rented households across London to upgrade the energy efficiency of their homes.

2.36. To ensure that Merton’s low-income households had the maximum opportunity to benefit from the programme, the council advertised the scheme on social media, in the council’s MyMerton magazine that goes to every household, via the council’s Climate Action Newsletter and with the support of the Climate Action Group, and by writing directly to low-income households in Merton. The GLA confirmed that this additional effort resulted in a direct boost from Merton’s residents applying for the programme.

2.37. Uniquely in London, Merton’s Future Merton and Public Health teams recognised that the Mayor’s London-wide programme residents may need support in navigating the complex application process to be successful and benefit from up to £25,000 of building work to improve insulation in their homes. Therefore, Merton Council funded a local-not for-profit organisation, Thinking

Works, to act as liaison between the Warmer Homes programme administrators and residents, helping residents with their paperwork, explaining what was happening with their application and the relevant next steps, chasing up queries on resident's behalf and generally supporting Merton residents in the whole process.

2.38. Feedback from the GLA indicates the council's outreach has been very effective in increasing the number of Merton households engaging in the programme. It was the first to be implemented in London and formed engagement best practice; Merton officers were asked to present their engagement best practice to other participating councils.

2.39. The Mayor's Warmer Homes Programme is delivered by the GLA's retrofit partner, RetrofitWorks and received over 461 applications from Merton households. The scheme, initially due to end on 31 March 2023, was recently granted an extension and will continue to deliver retrofit installations, insulation and ventilation improvements to eligible householders until October 2023.

## **What will happen next? Future grants for households**

### **Home Upgrade Grant: Phase 2**

2.40. The next round of Sustainable Warmth funding will be targeted at homes that are not currently gas-powered only (approx. 20% of properties in Merton) and will be administered by London Councils, with the Greater London Authority managing the delivery of the grant funding. London Borough of Merton has been selected as one of only ten boroughs that will be receiving funding through the scheme. The Mayor of London will make further information available in early March 2023.

### **Boiler Upgrade Scheme – open until spring 2025:**

2.41. This national fund, administered by OFGEM, is aimed at replacing gas boilers with low carbon technologies including air source heat pumps. Grants of up to £6,000 are available to part fund a boiler upgrade. Homes should be fully and well insulated for this technology to be suitable. Residents can find out more by visiting the council's business support for cost of living and climate action webpage<sup>4</sup>, or the buildings and energy webpage<sup>5</sup>[Business support for cost of living and climate action | Merton Council](https://www.merton.gov.uk/business-and-consumers/business-support-and-advice/cost-living-climate-action).

### **Loans for able-to pay-residents**

2.42. To assist residents in increasing the energy efficiency of their homes and reducing their use of fossil fuels, we have allocated £300,000 of the council's

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.merton.gov.uk/business-and-consumers/business-support-and-advice/cost-living-climate-action>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.merton.gov.uk/planning-and-buildings/sustainability-and-climate-change/buildings-and-energy>

2021 £2 million climate budget to a low interest loan, aimed to be available from Autumn 2023.

- 2.43. We have been undertaking soft market testing for a suitably qualified supplier who can administer the loan on our behalf, offering a competitive interest rate for homeowners compared to other financial providers and is preparing to go out to tender in mid-2023.
- 2.44. This will be a revolving fund – with monies returned from loanees being lent out again. It is intended that the competitive interest rate will help to make it attractive to residents.

### **Social Housing homes**

- 2.45. Social housing properties typically have higher energy efficiency ratings than privately owned homes. This is due to more funds being available to housing associations through the government, the ability to carry out works on a number of properties in one go and therefore reduce costs as well as regulation on housing associations to have well maintained buildings.
- 2.46. As already stated, in Merton social housing is owned by Housing Associations; Merton Council does not own any socially rented homes. Moat and Clarion Housing Group are the borough's biggest social housing providers – Clarion have 9,000 units, 6,500 of which are socially rented. They have ambitions to reach EPC rating 'C' by 2040.
- 2.47. Moat holds circa 400 socially rented homes in the Pollards Hill area Moat are looking at a whole house approach; each house has multiple works undertaken concurrently to improve energy efficiency, to include upgrading its heating system to be low carbon.
- 2.48. Clarion successfully applied for retrofit funding for 600 properties in Merton as part of Wave 1 of the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund in 2021. These should be complete in the next 2 years. They have also applied for Wave 2.1; the outcome of which will be announced later this year.

### **Private rented homes**

- 2.49. Government legislation known as the Minimum Energy Efficiency Standard – (MEES) requires private landlords to ensure their rented / leased buildings have a current Energy Performance Certificate to a minimum standard of E. Some exemptions apply. This legislation has been a powerful leverage for landlords to upgrade their commercial and residential buildings. The minimum is due to increase to EPC rating C in 2030, although the government may bring this forward.

2.50. £60,000 of the council's 2021 £2million climate fund has been allocated to the council's private sector housing team to help with MEES enforcement; helping to drive up standards for Merton residents in the private rented sector.

### **3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

3.1. None for the purposes of this report.

### **4. CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED**

4.1. None for the purposes of this report.

### **5. TIMETABLE**

5.1. None for the purposes of this report.

### **6. FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS**

6.1. None for the purposes of this report.

### **7. LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS**

7.1. None for the purposes of this report.

### **8. HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS**

8.1. None for the purposes of this report.

### **9. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

9.1. None for the purposes of this report.

### **10. RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

10.1. None for the purposes of this report.

### **11. APPENDICES – THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE PUBLISHED WITH THIS REPORT AND FORM PART OF THE REPORT**

- Appendix 1 - Council funding allocated to retrofit

### **12. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- Merton's climate strategy and action plan 2020
- Merton's Climate delivery Plan year 1 – 2021
- Merton's Climate delivery Plan year 2 – 2022
- Merton's Climate delivery Plan year 3 - 2023
- Merton's Greenhouse Gas Inventory Report 2021

All available via [www.merton.gov.uk/planning-and-buildings/sustainability-and-climate-change](http://www.merton.gov.uk/planning-and-buildings/sustainability-and-climate-change)

## **Appendices :**

### **Appendix 1 - Council spend allocated for retrofit 2021 and 2022**

<b>Allocated by Cabinet</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Indicative timescales</b>
2022	Business retrofit support scheme	Developing a business retrofit support scheme to help businesses in Merton decarbonise and save on their energy bills.	£450k	Launch in Summer 2023 (subject to UKSPF funding bid)
	Climate engagement	Continuing to support and strengthen climate engagement outreach to residents, businesses and community groups by making Merton's Climate Engagement Officer role permanent and securing a climate outreach budget for engagement events and materials.	£220k	Ongoing
	Community retrofit loan scheme	Establishing a community retrofit loan scheme for homeowners in Merton who are not eligible for national and regional funding.	£300k	Launch in Autumn 2023
	Council rented properties - Legal Review	Commissioning support to undertake a legal review of the leases for council-owned shops, business and industrial buildings and other non-operational buildings to help inform decarbonisation plans for these buildings. This will also feed into the Council's wider estate review.	£90k	Progress in Spring/ Summer 2023 (in liaison with Facilities Management & Estates teams)
	Council rented properties - EPCs	Commissioning of Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) for all the council's non-operational buildings, to help inform the Council's decarbonisation plans and wider estate review.	£50k	Progress in Spring 2023 (liaising with Facilities Management & Estates teams)
	Community schools heating and catering	Commissioning a review of the catering equipment and heating systems in Merton's community schools to inform decarbonisation plans, future funding bids and future procurement of new catering and heating equipment for community schools.	£100k	Progress in Summer 2023 (liaising with Facilities Management & Schools teams)

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