

Sustainable Merton

Sustainable Merton welcomes that Merton wants to go above and beyond the minimum requirements. We would therefore suggest a change to the title of the Plan to emphasise Climate Emergency over Climate Change.

There are also several instances in the draft Local Plan where the Council could be more adventurous, by insisting that developments **require** certain things to be done rather than just **expect**. It is our belief that this is the only way that the challenging reduction in CO2 emissions will be met.

We would therefore want to emphasise GOOD growth, ie sustainable growth, and an emphasis on good development over growth, (which has a strictly defined meaning in the government's proposed planning legislation). We believe this is more important than chasing targets for affordable housing and growth in the local housing stock.

All buildings need to operate at net zero carbon by 2050

We agree that all new dwellings built from now on need to not use fossil fuels, have high energy ratings and use 100% renewables. We would urge that there is a robust and published system in place before buildings are signed off to ensure that the required standards have been met. (Draft template for minor developments is available for review)

Major and minor schemes

We agree that these targets should apply to both major and minor schemes, the minor schemes being above and beyond the Mayors' targets and that the minimum on site target of 60% is reasonable for major residential schemes and minor new build residential schemes

We also agree that the charge increase of the cost of carbon (offset contributions) from £95/t CO2 to £300/tCO2 is a positive move.

We also welcome the intention to drive a fabric first approach to encourage installation of heat pumps and meet the Standards over a phased period.

In addition, we welcome the move for no gas boilers in new developments from Jan 2023 in order to minimise the retrofitting challenges at a later stage.

Diana Sterck
CEO