

# Minutes



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## Climate Emergency Working Group – Meeting 3

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4 December 2019, 18:30-20:30  
Room 3, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, Merton Civic Centre

**Present:** Working Group Chair

**(TB)** Tobin Byers, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Health and the Environment

Working Group Secretariat

**(DH)** Dominique Hill, LBM Climate Change Projects Officer

Working Group Members

*Organisation or community group included when relevant*

**(AR)** Alice Rayner

**(CC)** Cecily Church

**(FA)** Franki Appleton, Friends of the Earth Merton

**(JG)** Jenifer Gould, Liberal Democrats

**(KM)** Katie Meech

**(KG)** Kelly Gunnell, Haydon's Road North Community Group

**(LM)** Lily Marcel

**(MN)** Mehmood Naqshbandi

**(PM)** Pippa Maslin

**(TC)** Toby Costin, Crew Energy

**(TW)** Tom Walsh, Sustainable Merton

Apologies received from:

Katie Halter, LBM Climate Change Officer

Richard Hackforth-Jones

Nick Golson, Deen City Farm

Rose, Young Resident

Daniel Holden, Conservatives

Item	Actions
<p><b>1. Update from the Climate Change team</b></p> <p><u>Technical consultant support</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Council has commissioned Aether and SE2 to develop the technical evidence to support the Climate Action Plan including a Greenhouse Gas inventory for the borough and the Council, decarbonisation pathways modelling, and an approach to tracking progress against Merton's decarbonisation targets.</li> <li>- The Climate Change team held a scoping workshop on 21<sup>st</sup> November with internal Council staff and representatives from some of the Council's major contracts (Veolia, IDVerde and FMConway) and the South London Waste Partnership. The purpose of the workshop was to agree what should be included and excluded from the scope of the Council's 2030 target. Aether and SE2 led the workshop and the outputs will inform their work and the action plan moving forward.</li> </ul> <p><u>Consultation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Council launched an online consultation on 28<sup>th</sup> October which was due to close on 9<sup>th</sup> December. At the time of the meeting, the residents survey had received around 350 responses and the survey for organisations had received around 20 responses.</li> <li>- The group suggested that the deadline for the survey be extended beyond the Climate hustings planned for Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December in Mitcham.</li> <li>- <b>DH</b> asked the group to promote the surveys through their networks and social media channels.</li> <li>- Given that no responses have been received from young residents (under 18 years of age), the Climate Change team has adapted the original survey for a younger audience and will take surveys to youth engagement events over the coming weeks to capture responses from young residents in Merton.</li> <li>- <b>TW</b> volunteered to engage with some schools in the borough to get some responses from young residents.</li> </ul>	<p>The Climate Change team has extended the deadline of the online consultation to Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December.</p> <p>Working Group members and Council to promote the surveys through networks and social media.</p> <p><b>DH</b> to share updated survey with <b>TW</b>.</p>

Internal discussions within the Council

- The Climate Change team have been engaging with a number of teams across the Council to inform the action plan. This has mostly focussed on the 2030 target to date given that this is the area where the Council has most direct control and a crucial opportunity to lead by example. Teams have been commissioned to consider what will need to happen in order to decarbonise their work streams. For example, work to date has considered actions to decarbonise the Council's fleet and buildings, approaches to integrate climate considerations in the Council's procurement policies and decision-making, and integrating the Council's climate ambitions into the Staff Travel Plan to reduce emissions from the Council's grey fleet and staff commute. However, Council teams are also being encouraged to consider and identify levers that the Council can use to drive the 2050 target including exploring funding opportunities to combine the public health and climate change agenda for example.
- The Climate Change team has also been working with colleagues involved in the regeneration of Morden Town Centre to align the regeneration proposals with the Council's climate goals. The Council was selected for the Foreground Programme, a programme run by the UK Green Building Council focussed on informing and influencing the sustainability aspirations of strategically significant urban development projects. Through this programme, the Council participated in a workshop, facilitated by the UKGBC, aimed at sense-checking the current policy direction and identifying some strategic options to consider how the Morden regeneration project could deliver a "net zero carbon town centre". The team is also currently procuring a study to investigate the feasibility of developing a low carbon district heating network as part of the regeneration of Morden town centre.
- The Climate Change team is reviewing Merton's Climate Change policies in the draft Local Plan to align these policies with the Council's decarbonisation targets and make these as ambitious as possible.

Collaboration and knowledge sharing with other local authorities

- The Climate Change team has also been engaging with a number of other local authorities in London around the Climate Emergency to identify opportunities for knowledge-sharing and collaboration. This includes pan-London networks like the London Environmental Coordinators Forum (LECF), the London Environmental Directors Network (LEDNet), and the South London Partnership, as well as through schemes like Eco-Furb and the UKGBC's Accelerator Cities Workshops on domestic retrofit.

Next steps

- In order to refine the proposed list of actions to take forward in the Climate Action Plan and to engage with a wider group of stakeholders, the Climate Change team is looking to organise a workshop in February 2020. This will be an opportunity to present an update on work carried out to date by the different work streams (including internal council teams, the CEWG, Aether, and the public consultation) and to receive feedback on the proposed actions and how best to prioritise them in the plan.
- The group was invited to make recommendations on potential attendees for the workshop.
- In order to identify the long list of actions in advance of the workshop, the Climate Change team will arrange a meeting with the CEWG and Aether in mid-January 2020. **DH** asked the sub-groups to draft their lists of proposed actions in advance of this meeting in January based on Aether's proposed actions matrix template.
- The group raised concerns about the current pace of change and the lack of immediate action given that a Climate Emergency has been declared. **DH** and **TB** highlighted that the Council is required to follow due process in developing the Climate Action Plan given its wide resource and financial implications. The purpose of this work is to develop a robust and informed Climate Action Plan to bring to Council for approval which can then be implemented over the coming years.
- The group raised concerns about the lack of

Members to suggest potential attendees for the workshop.

**KM** to propose comms material to include on the Council's social media profiles.  
**DH** to raise this with the comms team.

<p>communications around the work being carried out by the Council on the Climate Emergency and that the Climate Emergency should be brought to the top of the comms agenda. <b>TW</b> suggested having a section of My Merton set aside to report specifically on the Climate Emergency every quarter.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>DH</b> agreed that more regular updates should be provided to the public on what the Council is doing to develop the action plan.</li> <li>- The group highlighted some upcoming events that could be promoted by the Council. <b>DH</b> directed the group to the Council's <a href="#">Events Calendar</a> where people can suggest events.</li> <li>- The group requested that senior staff (e.g. heads of department and Leader of the Council) be involved in discussions with the CEWG to demonstrate high-level buy-in in the action plan process as the plan is developed and to ensure that sufficient resource is committed to addressing the Climate Emergency.</li> </ul>	<p>Climate Change team to provide more regular updates.</p> <p>Members to provide comms material to the comms team for any events that they think the Council should promote.</p> <p><b>TB</b> to raise this with Chris Lee.</p>
<p><b>2. Updates from the sub-groups</b></p> <p><u>Buildings and energy</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>TC</b> provided an update for the Buildings &amp; Energy sub-group and noted the overlap with the Behaviour Change &amp; Engagement sub-group on energy use.</li> <li>- TC suggested running trials in advance of the action plan and highlighted specific proposals that could be taken forward in the borough.</li> <li>- <b>DH</b> noted that recommendations for the action plan need to be provider neutral and any proposals from specific providers would need to go through appropriate channels within the Council separate from the action plan and CEWG process.</li> </ul> <p><u>Transport</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>MN</b> provided an update for the Transport sub-group. <b>MN</b> attended a meeting with the Active Travel &amp; Transport Sub-group (ATTS - in Merton's Sustainable Communities and Transport Partnership) and has been invited to attend future meetings. The ATTS shared a list of actions that they have developed which <b>MN</b> is happy to</li> </ul>	<p><b>Buildings &amp; Energy sub-group</b> to prepare a list of actions for the next CEWG meeting in January using the actions matrix template.</p> <p><b>Transport sub-group</b> to prepare a list of actions for the next CEWG meeting in January using the actions matrix</p>

incorporate in his recommendations as they align with his original thinking on actions.

#### Products & Waste

- **TW** provided an update for the Products & Waste sub-group. To date, **TW** has primarily conducted a review of initiatives being developed elsewhere to identify potential actions. **TW** suggested that, as a minimum, the sub-group should consider food waste and single use plastic, and specifically how organisations can be encouraged or required to take action in these areas.
- Benedict Woodward has had to step back from the working group for personal reasons so **TW** would welcome any help with coordinating the sub-group. **KM** and **PM** volunteered to help coordinate the sub-group with **TW**.
- **DH** suggested that she arrange a meeting between the sub-group and the waste team within the council who are keen to be involved. **TW** confirmed that he would welcome meeting with the waste team.
- The group discussed a range of issues and suggestions around waste collection methods used across the borough particularly with regard to side-waste, food waste and recycling.
- **MN** highlighted the difficulties in reducing waste for some individuals with disabilities.
- The group made the following recommendations:
  - o Developing better guidance and comms on recycling (e.g. clarify what approach to take if concerned about contaminants) and food waste (e.g. how to keep foxes away);
  - o Minimising the requirements for single-use plastic bags in waste disposal (e.g. for the disposal of textiles, batteries and side waste);
  - o Developing a mechanism to capture feedback from the local community on waste collection;
  - o Having lids on recycling bins to keep foxes out – **TB** noted that the Council has recently acquired lids for recycling bins and confirmed that Sustainable Merton could collect some to distribute to residents;
  - o Running engagement programmes to

template.

**Products & Waste sub-group** to prepare a list of actions for the next CEWG meeting in January using the actions matrix template.

**DH** to confirm the waste team's availability for a meeting with the sub-group.

encourage people to reduce the amount of side-waste they generate;

- Running education programmes on food waste (e.g. getting students to take their food waste to an anaerobic digester and using the compost to grow food).

#### Investments

- **LM** provided an update for the Investments sub-group.
- The sub-group will be meeting with the investments officer and head of procurement on 19<sup>th</sup> December.
- **LM** identified the following areas that the group will consider:
  - Greening finance and investment decisions in the borough – how to gather more information from individuals in the borough and how to attract green investments.
  - Incorporating climate risk in investment decisions / natural accounting.
  - Identify opportunities to use the Mayor's Energy Efficiency Fund (MEEF) funding;
  - Pension funding divestments – progress has been made by the Council but LM is looking to clarify the details at the meeting with the investments officer.

#### Sustainable Diets

- **LM** provided an update for the Sustainable Diets sub-group.
- **KM** and **JG** have expressed interested in progressing this work stream with **LM**. **LM**'s husband, who is a chef with an interest in sustainable diets, has also volunteered his time to contribute to this sub-group.
- The sub-group will be meeting with the Council's public health team on 11<sup>th</sup> December.

#### Behaviour Change & Engagement

- **AR** proposed an approach that the group could use to identify how the actions fit within a wider theory of change. This involves thinking of the overall goal, what the outputs are, and breaking it down and building it back up to identify the elements that might need an infrastructure

**Investments sub-group** to prepare a list of actions for the next CEWG meeting in January using the actions matrix template.

**Sustainable Diets sub-group** to prepare a list of actions for the next CEWG meeting in January using the actions matrix template.

**Behaviour Change and Engagement sub-group** to prepare a list of actions for the next CEWG

<p>approach, comms approach or behaviour change. This will also help narrow down the actions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>AR</b> proposed the 'Mind' space tool, which was developed by central government, as a framework to develop actions. AR noted that the Behaviour Change &amp; Engagement team would need the actions from the sub-groups in order to inform this and suggested discussing this at the meeting in January once all the teams have pulled together their list of actions.</li> <li>- <b>KM</b> has focussed more on immediate communications and has identified a number of local climate change communicators within the borough to form a local network. <b>KM</b> arranged a meeting with 6-8 different people who run groups locally and hopes to use the forum to lead discussion within the community.</li> </ul> <p><u>Green Spaces</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>KG</b> provided an update for the Green Spaces sub-group. The sub-group will be meeting with planning officers involved in green spaces on 9<sup>th</sup> December.</li> <li>- <b>DH</b> suggested combining education programmes with community tree maintenance (e.g. students caring for community trees whilst learning about the benefits of green spaces and trees).</li> <li>- <b>TW</b> recommended implementing measures to require more buildings to have an external tap to facilitate tree watering.</li> </ul>	<p>meeting in January using the actions matrix template.</p> <p><b>AR</b> to circulate the information she prepared on this approach via email.</p> <p><b>Green Spaces sub-group</b> to prepare a list of actions for the next CEWG meeting in January using the actions matrix template.</p>
<p><b>3. Agree agenda and date for next working group meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The group agreed that the date and time for the next meeting should be decided by doodle poll.</li> <li>- The group agreed that the purpose of the next meeting will be to develop a long list of potential actions based on the work carried out by the CEWG, Council teams and Aether, including input from the public consultation. It will also be an opportunity for Aether to update the CEWG on the work carried out to date on the GHG inventory and decarbonisation pathways modelling.</li> </ul>	<p><b>DH</b> to set up Doodle Poll. Members to complete poll by 11<sup>th</sup> December.</p> <p>Sub-groups to prepare their action lists for the next meeting.</p>
<p><b>4. Any Other Business</b></p>	