

Merton Council Climate Action Plan - Stakeholder Workshop

Briefing Paper: A vision for 2050

To help you start to think about how we can achieve net zero carbon, we've put together the ideas below to help you imagine how we might be living and working in Merton in 2050. These are not set in stone in any way but help to indicate the breadth and pace of change that we'll all have to take part in if we're to meet our targets.

If you have time, do please have a read before you get to the workshop and for each of the six themes below have a think about:

- What actions you think Merton Council should be undertaking
- What actions you think wider society should be undertaking in Merton

1. Domestic Buildings & Household Energy Use

- Everyone will benefit from more comfortable housing that requires less energy to heat it. Smart energy solutions will be built into everyday lives.
- Existing houses and flats will be upgraded to be very well insulated and fitted with new heating systems using low carbon heat or electricity (to replace natural gas).
- Poor quality housing that is not feasible to upgrade will be replaced. New homes will be designed and built to be zero carbon.
- Renewable heat and electricity will be generated on many more houses.
- Funding and finance will be provided to ensure that these upgrades are made possible for householders and landlords.
- District or community heating schemes will provide low carbon heat to new developments.
- Domestic appliances will be replaced with highly efficient appliances.

2. Non-Domestic Buildings & Business Energy Use (including Council buildings and schools)

- Businesses and organisations will be actively encouraged (financially and through social responsibility) to reduce their carbon emissions.
- All buildings will be upgraded or replaced so that energy use is minimised, local energy generation is maximised and fossil fuel heating systems are replaced with low carbon heating.
- Businesses and public sector organisations will spend less of their money on energy use, enabling money to be spent elsewhere.
- Green economy businesses will expand to supply low carbon solutions across the Borough.
- Working practices will change to enable a shift in travel needs. It is likely that people will travel less far to work - working at home or using co-working spaces close to home. Connectivity will improve to allow this to be possible.

3. Transport

- There will be fewer cars and other vehicles on the roads. The vehicles that are used will be powered by electricity or zero carbon fuels (such as hydrogen and biofuels). Re-fuelling/charging infrastructure will have changed to enable this to be normal.
- Air quality will be much improved and road layouts will change to make them easier to use by cyclists and pedestrians.
- A much higher number of journeys will be completed by walking, cycling and public transport.
- Public transport will be cheaper, more complete in coverage, more regular and easier to use for everyone.
- Distribution of goods will be more efficient, requiring fewer HGVs and fewer journeys by vans.
- Car ownership will be lower, with more shared use cars.
- The need to travel will be reduced through more home-working, co-working spaces, use of improved local facilities rather than needing to travel further.

4. Waste and Sustainable Procurement

- People will produce less waste from their households and businesses - packaging and other single use materials will be reduced.
- Re-use of objects and materials will become the norm, with fewer items becoming waste.
- Most of the remaining waste streams will be composted or recycled.
- Food waste will be reduced by more efficient (shorter) distribution systems and changes to behaviour or both retailers and consumers.
- Waste collection will be more strictly monitored.
- Individuals and companies will consider the environmental credentials of what they buy much more carefully - for products and services. Environmental performance information will be more readily available and scrutinised.

5. Green Spaces

- Green spaces in Merton will be improved to provide green corridors for nature and people.
- Biodiversity will increase.
- Green spaces will enable better climate adaptation for the Borough, reducing runoff and providing shade.
- People will be able to use green spaces to improve their journeys across the borough by cycling and walking.
- More space will be available for individuals or community groups to grow their own food.

6. Governance, Reporting and Finance

- Carbon emissions and climate change adaptation will be a significant issue for policy choices in aspects of the Council's work.
- Investments and purchases will be scrutinised for environmental performance.
- Businesses in the Borough will be actively encouraged to invest in the green economy.
- Positive attitudes towards the environment and reducing climate change will be encouraged at all levels.