

# Minutes



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## Climate Emergency Working Group – Meeting 1

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24 September 2019, 18:00-20:00  
Committee Room B, Merton Civic Centre

**Present:** Working Group Chair  
(**TB**) Tobin Byers, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Health and the Environment

Working Group Secretariat  
(**KH**) Katie Halter, LBM Climate Change Officer  
(**DH**) Dominique Hill, LBM Climate Change Projects Officer  
(**RS**) Rebecca Sokolov, LBM Climate Change Intern

Working Group Members  
*Organisation or community group included when relevant*  
(**AR**) Alice Rayner  
(**BW**) Benedict Woodward, First Mile  
(**CC**) Cecily Church  
(**JG**) Jenifer Gould, Liberal Democrats  
(**KM**) Katie Meech  
(**KG**) Kelly Gunnell, Haydon's Road North Community Group  
(**LM**) Lily Marcel  
(**MN**) Mehmood Naqshbandi  
(**NG**) Nick Golson, Deen City Farm  
(**PM**) Pippa Maslin  
(**RHJ**) Richard Hackforth-Jones  
(**TC**) Toby Costin, Crew Energy  
(**TW**) Tom Walsh, Sustainable Merton

Apologies received from Franki Appleton, Friends of the Earth Merton.

Item	Actions
1. <u>Welcome &amp; Introductions</u> <i>See above list of attendees</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Members agreed to share their contact details with the group.</li><li>- <b>TB</b> explained that two young residents may join the working group for future meetings.</li></ul>	

## 2. Introduction to the Climate Action Plan

- **KH** provided an overview of the Climate Action Plan (CAP) process (*see presentation slides on the CAP process*). The CAP will focus on climate mitigation. The working group will focus on the 2050 borough-wide target and engaging with the wider community.
- **RHJ** asked whether the Council will be looking at air quality as part of the CAP – **KH** clarified that there is an important overlap between air quality and greenhouse gas emissions reductions and the Council is working on a range of initiatives regarding air quality, but the CAP will focus on the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.
- The group discussed opportunities to work with other boroughs. The Council has already engaged with a number of boroughs across London and the UK to identify opportunities to work together. The Greater London Authority (GLA) and the London Environmental Directors Network (LEDNET) are also identifying opportunities to work collaboratively across London in response to the Climate Emergency.
- The group discussed the scope of the CAP and the Working Group. The CAP will set the foundation for what is required to decarbonise the borough but future work will be required to progress specific work streams and projects following the adoption of the CAP.
- **KH** presented the initial evidence summary (*see Evidence Summary document*). KH highlighted that this evidence summary is incomplete as evidence will continue to be gathered over the coming months. The Council is also currently in the process of commissioning consultant support to help develop a robust evidence base for the CAP including greenhouse gas reporting and modelling; the Council hopes to have interim results to share with the Working Group by the end of 2019. The Secretariat is also happy to help members access further evidence upon request.
- **MN** highlighted the information gap regarding emissions from local businesses within the borough and suggested introducing sustainability indicators and encouraging businesses to provide information on their emissions.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>KM</b> introduced the 'Big Climate Fightback', an initiative by the Woodland Trust looking to get more than a million people to pledge to plant a tree in the run-up to a day of tree planting across the UK on 30 November 2019. <b>KM</b> recommended that the group maximise on the current appetite for tree planting through this initiative. <b>TW</b> highlighted the difficulty of finding appropriate land for tree planting with access to water and easy access to the site. <b>KG</b> requested a GIS map of potential sites from the Council.</li> </ul>	<p>Secretariat to enquire if a GIS map of potential sites for tree planting can be provided by the Council.</p>
<p>3. <u>Discussion - How does the Working Group want to input?</u>  <i>See Draft Terms of Reference.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The group agreed to work in the following thematic sub-groups: buildings, transport, products and waste, finance, green spaces, and behaviour change and engagement (<i>see Sub-Groups document for sub-group members</i>). Members volunteered to coordinate the different subgroups based on their interests and professional expertise.</li> <li>- The group agreed that sub-groups will build on the evidence summary, and agree initial questions and proposed actions to bring to the wider Working Group at monthly meetings. Each sub-group will also consider how best to engage with the wider community for that thematic area.</li> <li>- The group agreed to have monthly Working Group meetings to report back on sub-group findings and to agree next steps. Each meeting will focus on a different thematic area but there will be the opportunity for each sub-group to provide an update at each meeting.</li> <li>- <b>TW</b> suggested inviting experts to present to the Working Group. <b>TB</b> asked the group to suggest internal and / or external speakers to the Secretariat.</li> <li>- <b>PM</b> suggested using the 'Slack' app to coordinate group activities.</li> <li>- Members agreed that minutes from the working group meetings could be published online. The group discussed including photos of group members on the website. Members requested that their personal email addresses not be made</li> </ul>	<p>Secretariat to circulate updated draft Terms of Reference.</p> <p>Secretariat to circulate sub-group membership.</p> <p>Coordinators to arrange sub-group activities between Working Group meetings.</p> <p>Members to identify internal or external speakers.</p> <p>PM to provide information on 'Slack'.</p> <p>Members to confirm if they are happy to provide a</p>

<p>public.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The group agreed that the CAP process should result in wider understanding of climate change issues within the borough and that one of the Working Group’s objectives should be to raise awareness within the wider community.</li> <li>- Group members are happy to engage with other applicants through the sub-groups.</li> <li>- <b>DH</b> directed the group to the Council’s climate change <a href="#">web pages</a> which shares some information and tools for Merton’s residents and businesses to understand their carbon footprint and what they can do to reduce it. Working Group members were encouraged to share any additional tools or sources which might be useful to include on the web pages.</li> <li>- The group discussed the potential lobbying power of the CAP and the Working Group. Merton Council has been in discussion with other boroughs across London via the GLA and LEDNET to coordinate lobbying efforts. The Working Group could help identify lobbying opportunities.</li> </ul>	<p>photo and information for the website.</p> <p>KH to make email introductions between the sub-groups and other applicants.</p>
<p>4. <u>Survey Questions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>KH</b> introduced the draft survey developed for a borough-wide consultation as part of the CAP process. The Secretariat tested the draft survey during the Council’s Car Free Day event in Morden which helped inform some amendments to the survey. <b>RS</b> provided an overview of the key findings and amendments proposed. Feedback from the event included clarifying some of the survey questions, and developing separate surveys for businesses and individuals.</li> <li>- The group discussed the potential biases from such a survey and what the survey was looking to achieve. The aim of the survey is to gather statistics on the perceptions regarding climate change within the borough and to provide an opportunity for members of the community to identify potential climate-related actions and projects. The survey has been kept short to avoid putting people off completing the survey.</li> <li>- The group agreed that the coordinators of the Behaviour Change and Engagement sub-group will review and suggest amendments to the draft</li> </ul>	<p>Secretariat to circulate updated survey.</p> <p>KM and AR to propose amendments to</p>

<p>consultation survey.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>DH</b> asked the group to consider how they will engage with young residents in the borough. Once the consultation survey has been finalised, it can be adapted for young residents and circulated to schools.</li> <li>- <b>TW</b> noted that Sustainable Merton would be able to circulate the survey via their network.</li> <li>- <b>TC</b> noted that Crew Energy could ask residents to complete the survey during Energy Cafes organised in Merton over the coming month.</li> </ul>	<p>the draft survey.</p>
<p>5. <u>Discussion: Agenda / date for second meeting</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The group agreed to use a Doodle poll to agree the date for the next Working Group meeting. The group suggested that future meetings should run from 18:30 to 20:30.</li> <li>- The group agreed that 'Green Spaces' should be discussed at the next working group to maximise on the 'Big Climate Fightback' initiative.</li> <li>- The group agreed to use electronic documents / projector at future meetings to minimise paper use.</li> </ul>	<p>Secretariat to set up Doodle Poll for the next meeting and members to confirm availability.</p>
<p>6. <u>Any Other Business</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>DH</b> noted that the Solar Together scheme is now open for registration. This pan-London scheme run by the GLA brings together households to get high quality solar panels at a competitive price. Members were encouraged to share information about this scheme. Social media links provided here for information:  Facebook: <a href="#">SolarTogetherUK</a>  Twitter: <a href="#">SolarTogether</a>  Instagram: <a href="#">Solar_Together</a></li> </ul>	