

If you are reading this electronically, the Council has saved **£0.28** on printing. For more information on the Modern.gov paperless app, contact Democratic Services

Merton Council

Council

3 February 2021

Supplementary agenda 1

7c	Strategic theme: motions	1 - 2
7d	Strategic theme: motions	3 - 4
7e	Strategic theme: motions	5 - 6
20	Liberal Democrat amendment to recommendations in Item 12	7 - 8

This page is intentionally left blank

COUNCIL MEETING – 3 February 2021

NOTICE OF MOTION – STRATEGIC THEME MOTION

Merton's Climate Strategy and Action Plan was adopted by Council in November 2020 with cross party support. The Plan aims to make the borough of Merton carbon neutral by 2050, with ambitions for the council to become a carbon neutral organisation by 2030.

The Delivery Plan monitors progress towards these goals. In year 1 the Plan records good progress on most workstreams, but further advances depend on external funding for two workstreams which are rated "Red" (RAG):

- Retro fit of residential and non-residential building stock to decarbonise energy
- Decarbonisation of LBM estate and fleet management

The scale of investment required is beyond Merton's own resources, but central government has announced several initiatives to provide grants for projects aiming to achieve zero carbon:

- 10-point plan for a green industrial revolution (£12bn) includes green public transport, cycling and walking
- Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (£1bn in 2020 + £0.5bn in prospect for 2021)
- Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (£3.8 bn) open to bids from LA led consortia

All of these grants are subject to competitive bids which require extensive research and documentation, yet must be submitted to tight deadlines.

Merton's excellent but already stretched climate change team does not have the capacity to submit convincing bids for all the grants likely to be available in the future. Winning even a fraction of these could be transformational in realising the ambitions of Merton's Climate Action Plan.

Council therefore requests the Cabinet Member for Climate Change to work with senior officers to determine the additional resources needed, and appoint an officer/contractor whose primary responsibility will be to submit winning bids for external funding. In this competition there are no prizes for coming second.

Cllr Edward Foley

Cllr Peter Southgate

Cllr Dickie Wilkinson

This page is intentionally left blank

COUNCIL 3 FEBRUARY 2021

NOTICE OF MOTION – STRATEGIC THEME MOTION

Council notes with concern:

1. the ever-growing plastic contamination of our oceans and the threat to life this wreaks; and
2. that at every step in its lifecycle, even long after it has been discarded, plastic creates greenhouse gas emissions that are contributing to the climate change emergency.

Council calls on Government to take action to reduce plastic use and find ways to stop our throwaway culture, and urges Government to fulfil its manifesto commitment to ban the practice of exporting unsorted plastic waste to developing countries, which the EU has banned since 1 January 2021.

In addition to necessary Government action, Council recognises that there is also a local leadership role to play in reducing plastic pollution across the borough, and therefore requests that Cabinet commits to:

1. working with residents, businesses and organisations across Merton to help them go ‘single-use plastic free,’ sharing business support and practical advice to help the transition from single-use plastics to re-usable alternatives; and
2. incorporating a relevant workstream into the Climate Change Delivery Plan (that might include, for example, the Council itself becoming ‘single use plastic free’, participation in schemes that encourage the refilling of drinking bottles, the installation of further water fountains, the collection and recycling of a full range of plastic materials, deposit schemes for plastic containers and information for residents and businesses).

Cllr Jenifer Gould Cllr Hina Bokhari Cllr Anthony Fairclough

This page is intentionally left blank

COUNCIL – 3 FEBRUARY 2021

NOTICE OF MOTION – STRATEGIC THEME MOTION

Council recognises that since the cross party declaration of a climate emergency in July 2019 the Labour administration has not taken meaningful action to reduce pollution in Merton.

Furthermore, council notes that:

- Anti-idling measures were delayed for years due to administration incompetence and inaction;
- In February 2019 council passed a motion to introduce low emission bus zones in the town centres, since that date there has been no action and there is no timetable for their implementation;
- Labour have failed to implement a large scale tree planting programme and have actively blocked attempts to increase tree planting;
- The council has failed to adopt technology led solutions to combat the pollution crisis unlike many other London boroughs;
- There has been a repeated failure to bid for available funding to improve the environment;
- Much of the pollution in Merton is caused by HGVs and busses and not by parked cars;
- The previous parking charges tax hike, which unfairly targeted the west of the borough, has not improved air quality, and neither will the proposed emissions based parking charges tax hike.

Therefore, council requests that cabinet:

- Urgently increase tree planting to ensure that the 10% increase in the borough's tree cover, as specified in the Climate Strategy and Action Plan, is met well before the 2050 target;
- Implement technology based solutions such as green living-walls and city trees to immediately improve air quality;
- Establish a position of Tree Champion to drive forward the greening of the borough;
- Implement anti-idling enforcement in key pollution hotspots near schools and shops;
- Meet with TfL to press for new clean energy buses in London;
- Increase the number of air quality monitoring stations in the borough;
- Contact local HGV companies and encourage a switch to clean powertrain technologies.



CLlr Daniel Holden



CLlr David Dean



CLlr Nigel Benbow

This page is intentionally left blank

Council, 3 February 2021

Agenda item 12

Liberal Democrat Group Amendment to the recommendations within the Pay Policy Statement and Members Allowances paper

Add recommendation, as follows:

4. In light of the BAME pay gap shown in Appendix C and the suggestion in the Council's equality and diversity training, requests Cabinet to consider the introduction of name blind recruitment, and report back to full Council

Cllr Simon McGrath

Cllr Eloise Bailey

This page is intentionally left blank