

Merton Council

Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel



Date: 8 March 2023

Time: 7.15 pm

Venue: Council chamber - Merton Civic Centre, London Road, Morden SM4 5DX

AGENDA

Page Number

1	Apologies for absence	
2	Declarations of pecuniary interest	
3	Minutes of the previous meeting To follow	
4	Performance monitoring	1 - 8
5	Call in: Travellers Site - Review of Licence Fee To follow	
6	Retrofitting	9 - 22
7	Planning enforcement	23 - 26
8	Community Toilet Provision Verbal update	
9	Work Programme	27 - 34

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Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel Membership

Councillors:

Stuart Neaverson (Chair)
Daniel Holden (Vice-Chair)
John Braithwaite
Caroline Charles
Anthony Fairclough
Dan Johnston
Gill Manly
Stephen Mercer
Martin Whelton
James Williscroft
Victoria Wilson

Substitute Members:

Edward Foley
Klaar Dresselaers
Slawek Szczepanski
Samantha MacArthur
Max Austin

Note on declarations of interest

Members are advised to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matter to be considered at the meeting. If a pecuniary interest is declared they should withdraw from the meeting room during the whole of the consideration of that matter and must not participate in any vote on that matter. For further advice please speak with the Managing Director, South London Legal Partnership.

What is Overview and Scrutiny?

Overview and Scrutiny describes the way Merton's scrutiny councillors hold the Council's Executive (the Cabinet) to account to make sure that they take the right decisions for the Borough. Scrutiny panels also carry out reviews of Council services or issues to identify ways the Council can improve or develop new policy to meet the needs of local people. From May 2008, the Overview & Scrutiny Commission and Panels have been restructured and the Panels renamed to reflect the Local Area Agreement strategic themes.

Scrutiny's work falls into four broad areas:

- ⇒ **Call-in:** If three (non-executive) councillors feel that a decision made by the Cabinet is inappropriate they can 'call the decision in' after it has been made to prevent the decision taking immediate effect. They can then interview the Cabinet Member or Council Officers and make recommendations to the decision-maker suggesting improvements.
- ⇒ **Policy Reviews:** The panels carry out detailed, evidence-based assessments of Council services or issues that affect the lives of local people. At the end of the review the panels issue a report setting out their findings and recommendations for improvement and present it to Cabinet and other partner agencies. During the reviews, panels will gather information, evidence and opinions from Council officers, external bodies and organisations and members of the public to help them understand the key issues relating to the review topic.
- ⇒ **One-Off Reviews:** Panels often want to have a quick, one-off review of a topic and will ask Council officers to come and speak to them about a particular service or issue before making recommendations to the Cabinet.
- ⇒ **Scrutiny of Council Documents:** Panels also examine key Council documents, such as the budget, the Business Plan and the Best Value Performance Plan.

Scrutiny panels need the help of local people, partners and community groups to make sure that Merton delivers effective services. If you think there is something that scrutiny should look at, or have views on current reviews being carried out by scrutiny, let us know.

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E&R Public Protection performance report

Dept.	PI Code & Description	Jan 2023					2022/23				
		Value	Target	Status	Short Trend	Long Trend	Value	Target	Status	Short Trend	Long Trend
Parking											
Parking	CRP 044 Parking services estimated revenue (Monthly)	1,722,810	1,927,022				16,488,417	19,270,220			
Parking	SP 258 Sickness- No of days per FTE from snapshot report (parking) (Monthly)	1.24	0.67				12.85	6.66			
Parking	SP 509 % of Permits applied/processed online (Monthly)	98%	98%				97%	98%			
Parking	SP 510 % of PCN Appeals received online (Monthly)	80%	83%				81.2%	83%			
Parking	SP 511 Blue Badge Inspections - cumulative (Monthly)	22	11				365	110			
Parking	SP 512 Total cashless usage against cash payments at machines (Monthly)	88%	75%				87.6%	75%			
Parking	SP 513 Percentage of cases 'heard' and won at ETA (Quarterly)	Quarterly measure					78%	79%			
Regulatory Services											
Regulatory Services	CRP 120 / SP 562 % of Regulatory Services service requests with an initial response within the "defined timescale" (Quarterly)	Quarterly measure					72.76%	90%			
Regulatory Services	CRP 121 / SP 565 Number of monitoring stations that meet annual Particulate air quality objectives (Annual)	Annual measure					N/A	1	N/A	N/A	N/A
Regulatory Services	CRP 122 / SP 566 Number of monitoring stations measuring below the Nitrogen Dioxide air quality objectives (Annual)	Annual measure					N/A	50	N/A	N/A	N/A
Regulatory Services	DATA 010 Safeguarding older people - number of cases investigated and intervene in cases of residents being targeted by financial scams and abuse (Quarterly)	Quarterly measure					105	Data only			
Regulatory	DATA 011 Number of new high risk massage and special	Quarterly measure					110	Data only			

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Agenda Item 4

Dept.	PI Code & Description	Jan 2023					2022/23					
		Value	Target	Status	Short Trend	Long Trend	Value	Target	Status	Short Trend	Long Trend	
Services	treatment premises inspections carried out within 20 working days of the premises being ready to trade (Quarterly)											
Regulatory Services	DATA 012 Number of Air Quality Audits (using GLA toolkit) of schools, prioritising those in the highest pollution areas (Quarterly)	Quarterly measure					8	Data only				
Regulatory Services	SP 521 Total % compliance of non-road mobile machinery on major construction sites with GLA emissions standards (Annual)	Annual measure					N/A	95%	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Regulatory Services	SP 561 Percentage of alcohol and regulated entertainment licences issued within 10 working days of the conclusion of the 28 day consultation period, excluding those that are subject to a licensing hearing (Quarterly)	Quarterly measure					94.67%	95%				
Regulatory Services	SP 564 High risk A & B and non-compliant C-rated food establishments due for inspection completed (Annual)	Annual measure					N/A	100%	N/A	N/A	N/A	

E&R Public Spaces

Dept.	PI Code & Description	Jan 2023					2022/23				
		Value	Target	Status	Short Trend	Long Trend	Value	Target	Status	Short Trend	Long Trend
Waste Services											
Waste Management & Cleansing	CRP 097 / SP 065 % Household waste recycled and composted (Monthly in arrears)	41.78%	50%				43.09%	45%			
Waste Management & Cleansing	CRP 103 / SP 454 % of fly-tips removed within 24 hours (Monthly)	90.39%	95%				86.33%	95%			
Parks and Green Spaces	CRP 119 / SP 558 Average Performance Quality Score (Litter and Cleansing Standards) (Quarterly)	Quarterly measure					4.91	4.95			
Waste	CRP 123 / SP 567 % of sites surveyed on local street	83.37%	87%				83.88%	87%			

Dept.	PI Code & Description	Jan 2023					2022/23					
		Value	Target	Status	Short Trend	Long Trend	Value	Target	Status	Short Trend	Long Trend	
Management & Cleansing	inspections for litter that meet the required standard (Monthly) and quarterly in line with NI 195 reporting											
Waste Management & Cleansing	CRP 124 / SP 568 % of street reports rectified within the contract standard time frame (Monthly)	82.14%	90%				52.94%	90%				
Waste Management & Cleansing	CRP 125 / SP 570 % of sites surveyed that meet the required standard for detritus (Quarterly)	Quarterly measure					84.67%	80%				
Waste Management & Cleansing	CRP 126 / SP 573 Number of refuse collections including recycling and kitchen waste (excluding garden waste) missed per 100,000 (Monthly)	44.45	80				96.37	80				
Waste Management & Cleansing	DATA 013 Number of street cleansing site inspections undertaken by Client team (target 868 per month, 10,416 per year) (Monthly)	574	Data only				7,413	Data only				
Waste Management & Cleansing	DATA 016 Number of Environmental Enforcement incidents formally (NOT formerly) processed (Monthly)	344	Data only				4,030	Data only				
Waste Management & Cleansing	SP 064 % Residents satisfied with refuse collection (Annual) (ARS)	Annual measure					N/A	75%	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Waste Management & Cleansing	SP 066 Residual waste kg per household (Monthly in arrear)	38.69	39.5				361.17	356				
Waste Management & Cleansing	SP 067 % Municipal solid waste sent to landfill (waste management & commercial waste) (Monthly in arrear)	4%	6%				4%	6%				
Waste Management & Cleansing	SP 262 % Residents satisfied with recycling facilities (Annual) (ARS)	Annual measure					N/A	75%	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Waste	SP 269 % Residents satisfied with street cleanliness (Annual)	Annual measure					N/A	57%	N/A	N/A	N/A	

Dept.	PI Code & Description	Jan 2023					2022/23				
		Value	Target	Status	Short Trend	Long Trend	Value	Target	Status	Short Trend	Long Trend
Management & Cleansing	(ARS)										
Waste Management & Cleansing	SP 354 Total waste arising per households (KGs) (Monthly in arrear)	66.45	75				634.6	675			
Waste Management & Cleansing	SP 407 % FPN's issued that have been paid (Monthly)	55.88%	70%				60.71%	70%			
Waste Management & Cleansing	SP 485 No. of fly-tips in streets and parks recorded by Contractor (Monthly)	1,426	1,500				15,128	15,000			
Waste Management & Cleansing	SP 569 % of sites surveyed that meet the required standard for weeds (Quarterly)	Quarterly measure					90.5%	90%			
Waste Management & Cleansing	SP 571 % of sites surveyed that meet the required standard for graffiti (Quarterly)	Quarterly measure					92.83%	95%			
Waste Management & Cleansing	SP 572 % of sites surveyed that meet the required standard for flyposting (Quarterly)	Quarterly measure					99.01%	97%			
Waste Management & Cleansing	SP 574 Resident satisfaction with the Household Re-use and recycling facility (Garth Road) (Annual)	Annual measure					N/A	75%	N/A	N/A	N/A
Parks											
Parks and Green Spaces	SP 026 % of residents who rate parks & green spaces as good or very good (Annual) (ARS)	Annual measure					N/A	79%	N/A	N/A	N/A
Parks and Green Spaces	SP 027 Young peoples % satisfaction with parks & green spaces (Annual) (ARS)	Annual measure					N/A	87%	N/A	N/A	N/A
Parks and Green	SP 032 No. of Green Flags (Annual)	Annual measure					6	7			










Dept.	PI Code & Description	Jan 2023					2022/23				
		Value	Target	Status	Short Trend	Long Trend	Value	Target	Status	Short Trend	Long Trend
Spaces											
Parks and Green Spaces	SP 318 No. of outdoor events in parks (Monthly)	0	0				74	187			
Parks and Green Spaces	SP 514 Income from outdoor events in parks (Annual)	Annual measure					N/A	£560,000	N/A	N/A	N/A
Parks and Green Spaces	SP 515 Average Performance Quality Score (Grounds Maintenance Standards) (Annual)	Annual measure					N/A	4.9	N/A	N/A	N/A
Parks and Green Spaces	SP 517 Number of street trees planted (Annual)	Annual measure					N/A	245	N/A	N/A	N/A
Parks and Green Spaces	SP 557 Average Performance Quality Score (Grass Verge Standards) (Quarterly)	Quarterly measure					4.89	4.5			
Parks and Green Spaces	SP 559 % of tree works commissions completed within SLA (30 days) (Quarterly)	Quarterly measure					89%	87%			
Parks and Green Spaces	SP 560 Number of friends and similar groups volunteering within Merton's parks and open spaces (Annual)	Annual measure					N/A	30	N/A	N/A	N/A
Transport											
Transport	SP 456 Days lost to sickness absence - Transport (cumulative) (Monthly)	6.96	0.75				60.1	7.5			
Transport	SP 136 Average % time passenger vehicles in use (transport passenger fleet) (Annual)	Annual measure					N/A	85%	N/A	N/A	N/A
Transport	SP 137 % User satisfaction survey (transport passenger fleet) (Annual)	Annual measure					N/A	97%	N/A	N/A	N/A
Transport	SP 271 In-house journey that meet timescales (transport passenger fleet) (Annual)	Annual measure					N/A	85%	N/A	N/A	N/A
Transport	SP 526 % of Council fleet using diesel fuel (Annual)	Annual measure					N/A	80%	N/A	N/A	N/A

Dept.	PI Code & Description	Jan 2023					2022/23				
		Value	Target	Status	Short Trend	Long Trend	Value	Target	Status	Short Trend	Long Trend
Leisure											
Leisure	SP 251 Income from Watersports Centre (Monthly)	£4,144	£0				£339,042	£377,500			
Leisure	SP 349 14 to 25 year old fitness centre participation at leisure centres (Monthly)	8,959	8,623				92,380	73,113			
Leisure	SP 405 No. of Leisure Centre users (Monthly)	86,945	77,747				880,600	732,122			
Leisure	SP 406 No. of Polka Theatre users (cumulative) (Quarterly)	Quarterly measure					82,783	14,720			

E&R Sustainable Communities

Dept.	PI Code & Description	Jan 2023					2022/23				
		Value	Target	Status	Short Trend	Long Trend	Value	Target	Status	Short Trend	Long Trend
Development and Building Control											
Development and Building Control	CRP 045 / SP 118 Income (Development and Building Control) (Monthly)	67,694	166,036				1,733,741	1,660,360			
Development and Building Control	CRP 051 / SP 114 % Major applications processed within 13 weeks or within agreed timescales (Monthly)	66.67%	81%				82.35%	81%			
Development and Building Control	CRP 052 / SP 115 % of minor planning applications determined within 8 weeks or within agreed timescales (Monthly)	100%	73%				70.05%	72%			
Development and Building Control	CRP 053 / SP 116 % of 'other' planning applications determined within 8 weeks or within agreed timescales (Development Control) (Monthly)	99.19%	84%				77.27%	83%			
Development and Building Control	DATA 007 /SP 414 Volume of planning applications (Monthly)	284	Data only				2,864	Data only			

Dept.	PI Code & Description	Jan 2023					2022/23				
		Value	Target	Status	Short Trend	Long Trend	Value	Target	Status	Short Trend	Long Trend
Development and Building Control	SP 040 % Market share retained by LA (Building Control) (Monthly)	42.28%	55%				41.23%	55%			
Development and Building Control	SP 113 No. of planning enforcement cases closed (Monthly)	27	45				555	450			
Development and Building Control	SP 117 % appeals lost (Development & Building Control) (Quarterly)	Quarterly measure					19.17%	35%			
Development and Building Control	SP 380 No. of backlog planning enforcement cases (Monthly)	308	300				308	300			
Future Merton											
Future Merton;	CRP 096 / SP 020 New Homes (Annual)	Annual measure					N/A	916	N/A	N/A	N/A
Future Merton;	CRP 101 / SP 389 Carriageway condition - unclassified roads, % not defective (annual)	Annual measure					N/A	75%	N/A	N/A	N/A
Future Merton;	CRP 108 / SP 475 Number of publicly available Electric Vehicles Charging Points available to Merton Residents	Annual measure					N/A	250	N/A	N/A	N/A
Future Merton;	DATA 008 Streetworks - number of utility works overrun incidents (FPN issued) (Monthly)	9	Data only				103	Data only			
Future Merton;	DATA 009 £ fines from Streetworks FPNs (Monthly)	4,060	Data only				110,690	Data only			
Future Merton;	SP 327 % Emergency callouts attended within 2 hours (traffic & highways) (Monthly)	100%	98%				100%	98%			
Future Merton;	SP 328 % Streetworks permitting determined (Monthly)	100%	98%				100%	98%			
Future Merton;	SP 391 Average number of days taken to repair an out of light street light (Quarterly)	Quarterly measure					0.86	3			
Future Merton;	SP 476 Number of business premises improved (Annual)	Annual measure					N/A	10	N/A	N/A	N/A

Dept.	PI Code & Description	Jan 2023					2022/23				
		Value	Target	Status	Short Trend	Long Trend	Value	Target	Status	Short Trend	Long Trend
Future Merton;	SP 508 Footway condition - (% not defective, unclassified road)	Annual measure					N/A	75%	N/A	N/A	N/A
Property											
Property	SP 024 % Vacancy rate of property owned by the council	Quarterly measure					0%	3%			
Property	SP 025 % Debt owed to LBM by tenants inc businesses	Quarterly measure					7.6%	7.5%			
Property	SP 386 Property asset valuations (Annual)	Annual measure					N/A	150	N/A	N/A	N/A
Property	SP 518 Number of completed Rent Reviews (Quarterly)	Quarterly measure					9	32			

Committee: Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Date: 8th March 2023

Wards: all

Subject: Making Merton future-fit through retrofit

Lead officer: Interim Executive Director for Environment, Civic Pride & Climate - Adrian Ash

Lead member: Cabinet Member for Local Environment, Green Spaces and Climate Change – Councillor Natasha Irons

Contact officer: Climate Change Officer Dominique Hill, Programme Manager Tara Butler, Energy & Sustainability Manager Corin Freshwater-Turner

Recommendations:

A. That Members note the contents of this report.

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to provide an update on what has happened so far in Merton to improve the energy efficiency and decarbonise the borough's buildings, and Merton's retrofitting proposals for the future. This report outlines the progress made up to and since the adoption of Merton's Climate Strategy and Action Plan in 2020, building on the updates contained in Merton's Climate Delivery Plans 2021, 2022 and 2023.
- 1.2. In 2021 and 2022, Merton's Cabinet allocated £4million council funding to be spent on many of the retrofit measures discussed in the body of this report and noted in Appendix 1.
- 1.3. The next sections of this report provide more detail on the following areas of work:
 - i) Organisational retrofit
 - Merton Council's buildings
 - ii) Borough-wide retrofit:
 - Energy masterplan and retrofit strategy
 - Business retrofit
 - Residential retrofit

2. DETAILS

- 2.1. Making buildings energy efficient and decarbonising heating and power is the greatest challenge in getting to net zero carbon, particularly as the decarbonisation of buildings in Merton primarily sits outside the Council's direct control. This is a key part of Merton's Climate Strategy and Action Plan.
- 2.2. Merton has approximately 86,000 homes: around 15,000 homes are owned by Housing Associations and a further 71,000 are privately owned. There are around 3,500 shops, offices, warehouses, factories and other business premises in Merton, approximately 50 schools, places of worship and other buildings across the borough. Many buildings in Merton were constructed more than 30 years ago.
- 2.3. As set out in Merton's Climate Strategy & Action Plan (2020), beyond retrofitting our own building stock, the Council's primary role in advancing retrofit in Merton is to support and encourage other key stakeholders in retrofitting their properties. This requires collaboration across the council and with Housing Associations, as well as engagement with landlords, homeowners, and businesses.
- 2.4. Estimates from Merton's Climate Strategy & Action Plan indicate that investment of circa £2.8 billion will be required to retrofit the borough's domestic and non-domestic building stock to a standard which is compatible with net zero. Achieving large scale, borough-wide retrofit will therefore require consistent, long term Government funding, and action from a range of national, regional and local stakeholders.

What has happened so far? – overall summary

- 2.5. As set out in Merton's Climate Delivery Plan for Year 3 (approved by Cabinet on 20th February 2023), key areas of Council progress to date include:
 - i) Continuing to retrofit the Council's own buildings and securing funding to inform and deliver further decarbonisation plans for the Council's estate (including our operational and non-operational buildings, and community schools).
 - ii) Promoting retrofit funding for low-income households through the Mayor's Warmer Homes Programme.
 - iii) Supporting housing providers in accessing Government's Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund, Warmer Homes, Sustainable Warmth funding and using Merton Council's own Carbon Offset funding to top up government and the Mayor of London programmes to help residents retrofit their homes in Merton.
 - iv) Promoting the Mayor's "Solar Together London" scheme.
 - v) Enforcing government's Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards for landlords who rent homes in the private sector through the Housing Health & Safety Rating System.
 - vi) Working with the volunteers on Merton's Climate Action Group to promote energy efficiency and retrofit projects in Merton.
 - vii) Trying to limit the future retrofit burden by proposing ambitious climate change policies in Merton's draft Local Plan that will be applied to new homes and other buildings requiring planning permission.
 - viii) Recruiting two community retrofit officers to lead on borough-wide retrofit and energy master planning.

What has happened so far – council buildings

- 2.6. The Council has a long history of retrofitting our operational buildings and community schools to decrease our energy usage, reduce utility bills and lower our carbon emissions.
- 2.7. The council's buildings range from small park pavilions to large buildings such as the civic centre or the boroughs three Leisure Centres. These buildings all have their own operational requirements and their own utility budgets which together have provided focus for the council's retrofit programme.
- 2.8. The council has prioritised improvements to reduce energy usage and cut carbon emissions from our building stock since before 2010. This approach has helped to reduce energy bills for schools and other council buildings, thus reducing the cost to the council taxpayer.
- 2.9. Funding for this work has been provided through Council capital and maintenance budgets, with many works installed on an Invest to Save basis. Wherever possible we have maximised investment by successful bids for government funding, such as Salix interest free loans.
- 2.10. Where works have been undertaken to improve comfort or to modernise buildings through standard cyclical maintenance we have prioritised energy efficient upgrades to ensure standard works contribute to saving carbon emissions. Retrofit works have been carried out across all types of sites, for example solar panels and lighting upgrades have been installed on parks pavilions, community and children's centres, schools and leisure centres across the borough.
- 2.11. We have:
 - i) Installed a Combined Heat and Power (CHP) Unit attached to the civic centre. CHP units are essentially large engines which burn gas to produce heat and electricity, thus operating as a standard boiler while also reducing the building's electricity demand. By performing two functions, heating and electricity production, CHPs are able to reduce site bills, taking the place of a normal boiler and feeding electricity directly into the building on which they are installed.
 - ii) Installed an Adsorption Chiller to the CHP unit to make the system "tri generation", producing heating, electricity and cooling. Together with the CHP this system has now reached the end of its life but has fed electricity, hot water for heating and cooling into the civic centre for over 10 years. This system is being replaced in part to meet climate emergency goals as the CHP runs on gas which will need to be phased out of heating systems.
 - iii) Installed voltage optimisation technology in the civic centre to reduce electricity consumption.
 - iv) Upgraded the windows of the Civic Centre to double glazing units to improve the environment in the building and lower our energy consumption.

- v) Upgraded the Building Management System across the civic centre to ensure the building can be adequately heated in sections as operationally needed.
- vi) Installed loft installation in 15 schools to reduce heat losses and lower energy consumption.
- vii) Installed 52 solar panel systems on 40 different schools, leisure centres and other council buildings since 2011, totalling of 2MWp of solar photovoltaic panels, the equivalent of over 500 standard domestic solar panel systems. These systems are fully funded by the council and largely feed electricity into the buildings on which they are situated, with excess electricity going to the national grid. In total, on average these systems produce roughly 1,000,000 kWh of free, green electricity across the borough per year. That's enough to power over 300 houses per year!
- viii) Installed solar connected battery systems on 4 buildings, including 2 schools and Pollards Hill library. These systems are designed to take the excess electricity from solar panels, store it and make it available for the site when needed.
- ix) Installed LED lighting across more than 90% of Merton's streetlights and multiple building sites including 4 large high schools, several primary schools, leisure centres, multiple children's centres and other many other operational buildings. These modern lights allow for a lower energy usage with the same lux levels.
- x) Installed trial air source heat pumps on 2 sites - West Barnes Library and Wimbledon Park Athletics Track, to remove gas from the heating system entirely. The impact of these systems is currently being reviewed.
- xi) Installed or upgraded heating controls to multiple buildings, including schools to allow for better control of heating on site.
- xii) Installed Automatic Meter Reading (AMR) equipment or "smart meters" to the majority of sites, including schools, to allow for monitoring of energy usage and targeting of future retrofit works. This installation has covered electricity, gas and water meters.
- xiii) Installed Point of Use water heaters in over 40 operational sites, including children's centre, community centres, park pavilions and libraries to allow for the removal of gas from the hot water production on site.
- xiv) Installed loft, boiler room and pipe work insulation across multiple schools, community centres and other sites to reduce heat loss and energy consumption.

2.12. Currently retrofit works are progressing our operational buildings, to allow us to move towards the Council's 2030 net zero target. Recent work includes

- i) 19 site surveys to identify potential retrofit and behaviour change works.

- ii) The ongoing recruitment of a Climate Emergency Building Surveyor to oversee survey, planning and retrofit works. This role and the associated work will cover the entire council building portfolio of operational buildings, schools and non-operational buildings, of which the latter falls under the 2050 borough net zero target.
- iii) Investigations into potential upgrades of catering equipment across the school and operational building portfolio will be undertaken in the coming year.
- iv) A new retrofit programme for solar panels will be starting in the coming year (2023/24) focusing on identifying remaining roofs with potential for installation across the council's operational buildings and schools.
- v) LED upgrades for approximately 15 primary schools are planned for the coming school summer holiday.
- vi) We have successfully bid for approximately £3million of government funding to upgrade the heating of the civic centre and entirely remove gas from the heating and hot water system¹. –

2.13. To achieve net zero carbon by 2030 for operational buildings, significant further retrofit works will be needed to the council building portfolio. We will continue to develop, secure funding for and deliver decarbonisation plans for Merton Council's own offices, schools, community centres and other buildings.

2.14. Future retrofit works will most likely be focused on:

- i) Reducing heating demand through improvements to building control and fabric.
- ii) Increasing building insulation to ensure heat that is generated on site remains there.
- iii) Replacement of heating systems for modern and efficient electrical heating systems.
- iv) Reduction of electricity demand through use of modern equipment.
- v) Production of electricity on site through installation of solar panels and storage of that power in local battery systems.
- vi) Installation of on-site Electric vehicle charging points.

Borough-Wide Retrofit

2.15. Key priorities for 2023 include:

- i) Continuing to support the Climate Action Group and other community action looking to drive retrofit.
- ii) Working collaboratively with residents, community groups, housing associations and other partners to develop a retrofit strategy for the borough.
- iii) Developing a retrofit engagement plan to encourage home and business owners, landlords and tenants to retrofit their properties.
- iv) Developing an Energy Masterplan, working with electricity suppliers to consider energy infrastructure needs to support the transition to net-zero to

¹ Please be aware, the award of this money will not be published by central government until mid-March and therefore we have been requested by the funder to not undertake any active media engagement for the moment.

- ensure that the power supply to all streets in Merton will support electric heating and power supplies to homes, electric vehicle charging points etc.
- v) Working with neighbouring boroughs and the South London Partnership to develop a retrofit roadmap to encourage residents to retrofit their homes which will help guide how to approach improving the energy efficiency, heat and power for their homes and a reduction of utility bills and carbon.
 - vi) Developing a business retrofit support scheme.
 - vii) Developing a loan fund for homeowners looking to retrofit their homes who aren't eligible for national and regional retrofit funding.
 - viii) Investigating how best we can support residents in accessing Energy Company Obligation (ECO) funding.
 - ix) Continuing to support fuel poor households in accessing national funding.
 - x) Continuing to engage with social housing providers to drive domestic retrofit.
 - xi) Recruiting additional capacity to lead on the enforcement of Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards in Merton's Private Rental Sector.
 - xii) Working with partners to provide practical examples and guidance as to what 'good retrofit' looks like in the context of building conservation and heritage.
 - xiii) Supporting the Mayor's bid for Home Upgrade Grant 2 (HUG 2) funding for off-gas grid properties in London.
 - xiv) Considering local green skills and jobs needs, as well as upskilling and employment opportunities, for borough-wide retrofit.

2.16. To support the delivery of Merton's Climate Strategy and Action Plan adopted by the council in November 2020, the Council appointed two Community Retrofit Officers (CRO's) in December 2022. These roles will support the decarbonisation of domestic and non-domestic buildings in Merton which sit outside the Council's direct control and will contribute to achieving our borough wide 2050 net zero target.

2.17. The non-council owned buildings in Merton include approximately 86,000 homes (Census 2021 data), of which c71,000 are privately owned and c14,000 are owned by Housing Associations. There are c3,400 shops, offices and other commercial premises (Merton business rates list 2021). Other buildings in Merton include circa 70 places of worship, 70 health care premises and 14 train stations. These premises, account for circa 74%² of the borough's carbon footprint and most were built more than 30 years ago.

Energy masterplan and retrofit strategy

2.18. As we transition to net zero carbon and move away from fossil fuel vehicles and heating systems, the use of renewable energy, specifically electricity, is expected to increase to meet increased demand from electric vehicles and electric water and space heating systems (including air source heat pumps). Approximately 80% of Merton's homes have gas-powered central heating (Census 2021) which will be required to change to non-gas sources to decarbonise.

2.19. Initial work with energy suppliers such as UK Power Networks (UKPN) has demonstrated that there are parts of the borough, particularly to the south, where the electricity supply is adequate for current purposes but would not support all homes,

² https://www.merton.gov.uk/system/files/Merton_2021_GHG_inventory_report_FINAL.pdf

schools, shops, offices and other buildings converting to electric heat and power and wholly electric vehicle charging points without further investment.

- 2.20. We will work collaboratively with UKPN, National Grid and other partners to develop an energy masterplan to identify potential grid infrastructure upgrades needed to support the transition from gas to electric in Merton homes and businesses. To ensure energy investment is secured we will need to understand what Merton's current energy demands are, what they are predicted to be in the future as we transition to net zero, and what energy infrastructure upgrades might be required across the borough to support this. This will require collaboration and engagement with UKPN, and other key stakeholders including Housing Associations, Business Improvement Districts and public sector organisations such as the NHS, to understand likely changes to energy demand across the borough.
- 2.21. In conjunction with the energy masterplan the council will develop a retrofit strategy for the Borough. The strategy will cover the next 27 years, leading up to 2050, and will be reviewed periodically to consider changes in technology, political context and funding availability. This strategy will set out how the council will help to facilitate and enable retrofit in the borough to 2050.
- 2.22. Key performance indicators developed to measure the success of the strategy will be reviewed and reported on through the council's annual Climate Delivery Plan Workstream 2: Retrofit of the residential and non-residential building stock.
- 2.23. To help tackle fuel poverty, minimise energy demand and reduce pressure on the local energy infrastructure, the retrofit strategy will take a fabric first approach to decarbonising Merton's building stock.
- 2.24. Recognising that stakeholder engagement is a big part of this work, with most buildings in Merton sitting outside the Council's control, officers will also develop a retrofit engagement strategy. This will set out how the council will encourage the behaviour change needed to retrofit buildings across Merton.
- 2.25. We plan to undertake intensive engagement with key stakeholders in FY23/24 to inform the energy masterplan, retrofit strategy and retrofit engagement strategy, to secure stakeholder and community buy-in and to ensure that these are deliverable for residents across the borough. .
- 2.26. Government guidelines indicate that having a housing stock with an average EPC of B will be sufficient to meet our Net Zero 2050 targets. The borough's housing landscape currently has an average EPC rating of D, business sector an average of C/D.
- 2.27. Merton's Greenhouse Gas Inventory Report 2021³ breaks down the energy use / carbon emissions from each sector in the borough:

³ Available at: <https://www.merton.gov.uk/planning-and-buildings/sustainability-and-climate-change/strategy>

Table 1: estimated kilotonnes CO2 equivalent emissions for Merton Borough in 2019

Sector	2019 (kt CO2e)	% of emissions
Residential (gas/other fuels)	207	31%
Commercial & industrial (electricity)	138	21%
Transport (cars/LGVs/HGVs/motorbikes)	124	19%
Residential electricity	85	13%
Commercial & industrial (gas/other fuels)	61	9%
Transport (buses & rail)	23	4%
Borough Waste Processing (ERF)	24	3.60%
Borough Waste Processing (landfill)	2	0.40%
Transport (other)	0.2	0.03%
Land use	-1.1	0.20%
Total	663.4	

Note: numbers may not match totals due to rounding. ERF: Energy Recovery Facility

2.28. The table above illustrates that energy use in residential and commercial buildings accounts for 74 % of Merton’s borough-wide carbon emissions. This energy is used largely for water and space heating though some business activity may also require high energy use.

Business premises retrofit

What has happened so far?

2.29. To assist with the business premises in Merton reducing their carbon footprint, we are looking to relaunch ‘Brighter Business’, an energy efficiency scheme funded by Merton Council that ran from 2015-2017.

2.30. The scheme previously reached 70 SME’s, who received an energy efficient survey and a contribution to energy efficiency upgrades in their premises. The fund previously allocated to this scheme was £100,000.

What will happen next?

2.31. We are developing a new Brighter Business scheme to improve energy efficiency in businesses, helping them to save money and reduce their carbon output. This will be supported by £400,000 of the £2million council climate funds allocated by Cabinet in 2022. We are exploring the potential to maximise the amount of funding available for physical improvements to business buildings by reducing the energy audit costs by partnering with energy charities and free government energy audit schemes such as the Mayor’s Business Climate Challenge or similar.

2.32. Due to the number of business premises that are leased or sublet the engagement phase of this project is expected to present a significant challenge and appropriate time and funds will be allocated to allow for this to be successful and all the funds be allocated.

Residential retrofit

What has happened so far? Government grants for fuel poor households

2.33. In recent years, Merton’s low-income households have been able to apply for a series of grants through the Government’s Sustainable Warmth funding streams. The Local Authority Delivery (LAD) and Home Upgrade Grant (HUG) schemes aimed to improve the thermal comfort of homes for residents, reduce residents’ energy costs and reduce carbon emissions.

2.34. Home Upgrade Grants schemes are aimed at low-income households with homes that are not currently powered by gas central heating and have Energy Performance Certificates rated D to G (poor energy performance). The table below lists the grants that have been available in the last 5 years and the number of local applicants.

Fund available	Details	Timescale
Sustainable Warmth – Warmer Homes 3 (LAD3 and HUG1)	Sustainable Warmth Competition: successful local authorities - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)	April 2022 to October 2023
Green Homes Grant LAD 2	Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery scheme, Phase 2: funding allocated to Local Net Zero Hubs - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)	April 2021 – June 2022
Green Homes Grant LAD1 Phase A and B	Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery scheme Phase 1: successful local authorities - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)	April 2020 – September 2022

2022/23 Sustainable Warmth – Local Authority Delivery 3 and Home Upgrade Grant

2.35. The GLA bid for Government’s Sustainable Warmth funding was administered as the “Mayor of London’s Warmer Homes programme”. It started in April 2022 and offered grants of up to £25,000 to low-income owner-occupier and privately rented households across London to upgrade the energy efficiency of their homes.

2.36. To ensure that Merton’s low-income households had the maximum opportunity to benefit from the programme, the council advertised the scheme on social media, in the council’s MyMerton magazine that goes to every household, via the council’s Climate Action Newsletter and with the support of the Climate Action Group, and by writing directly to low-income households in Merton. The GLA confirmed that this additional effort resulted in a direct boost from Merton’s residents applying for the programme.

2.37. Uniquely in London, Merton’s Future Merton and Public Health teams recognised that the Mayor’s London-wide programme residents may need support in navigating the complex application process to be successful and benefit from up to £25,000 of building work to improve insulation in their homes. Therefore, Merton Council funded a local-not for-profit organisation, Thinking

Works, to act as liaison between the Warmer Homes programme administrators and residents, helping residents with their paperwork, explaining what was happening with their application and the relevant next steps, chasing up queries on resident's behalf and generally supporting Merton residents in the whole process.

- 2.38. Feedback from the GLA indicates the council's outreach has been very effective in increasing the number of Merton households engaging in the programme. It was the first to be implemented in London and formed engagement best practice; Merton officers were asked to present their engagement best practice to other participating councils.
- 2.39. The Mayor's Warmer Homes Programme is delivered by the GLA's retrofit partner, RetrofitWorks and received over 461 applications from Merton households. The scheme, initially due to end on 31 March 2023, was recently granted an extension and will continue to deliver retrofit installations, insulation and ventilation improvements to eligible householders until October 2023.

What will happen next? Future grants for households

Home Upgrade Grant: Phase 2

- 2.40. The next round of Sustainable Warmth funding will be targeted at homes that are not currently gas-powered only (approx. 20% of properties in Merton) and will be administered by London Councils, with the Greater London Authority managing the delivery of the grant funding. London Borough of Merton has been selected as one of only ten boroughs that will be receiving funding through the scheme. The Mayor of London will make further information available in early March 2023.

Boiler Upgrade Scheme – open until spring 2025:

- 2.41. This national fund, administered by OFGEM, is aimed at replacing gas boilers with low carbon technologies including air source heat pumps. Grants of up to £6,000 are available to part fund a boiler upgrade. Homes should be fully and well insulated for this technology to be suitable. Residents can find out more by visiting the council's business support for cost of living and climate action webpage⁴, or the buildings and energy webpage⁵[Business support for cost of living and climate action | Merton Council](https://www.merton.gov.uk/business-and-consumers/business-support-and-advice/cost-living-climate-action).

Loans for able-to pay-residents

- 2.42. To assist residents in increasing the energy efficiency of their homes and reducing their use of fossil fuels, we have allocated £300,000 of the council's

⁴ <https://www.merton.gov.uk/business-and-consumers/business-support-and-advice/cost-living-climate-action>

⁵ <https://www.merton.gov.uk/planning-and-buildings/sustainability-and-climate-change/buildings-and-energy>

2021 £2 million climate budget to a low interest loan, aimed to be available from Autumn 2023.

- 2.43. We have been undertaking soft market testing for a suitably qualified supplier who can administer the loan on our behalf, offering a competitive interest rate for homeowners compared to other financial providers and is preparing to go out to tender in mid-2023.
- 2.44. This will be a revolving fund – with monies returned from loanees being lent out again. It is intended that the competitive interest rate will help to make it attractive to residents.

Social Housing homes

- 2.45. Social housing properties typically have higher energy efficiency ratings than privately owned homes. This is due to more funds being available to housing associations through the government, the ability to carry out works on a number of properties in one go and therefore reduce costs as well as regulation on housing associations to have well maintained buildings.
- 2.46. As already stated, in Merton social housing is owned by Housing Associations; Merton Council does not own any socially rented homes. Moat and Clarion Housing Group are the borough's biggest social housing providers – Clarion have 9,000 units, 6,500 of which are socially rented. They have ambitions to reach EPC rating 'C' by 2040.
- 2.47. Moat holds circa 400 socially rented homes in the Pollards Hill area Moat are looking at a whole house approach; each house has multiple works undertaken concurrently to improve energy efficiency, to include upgrading its heating system to be low carbon.
- 2.48. Clarion successfully applied for retrofit funding for 600 properties in Merton as part of Wave 1 of the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund in 2021. These should be complete in the next 2 years. They have also applied for Wave 2.1; the outcome of which will be announced later this year.

Private rented homes

- 2.49. Government legislation known as the Minimum Energy Efficiency Standard – (MEES) requires private landlords to ensure their rented / leased buildings have a current Energy Performance Certificate to a minimum standard of E. Some exemptions apply. This legislation has been a powerful leverage for landlords to upgrade their commercial and residential buildings. The minimum is due to increase to EPC rating C in 2030, although the government may bring this forward.

2.50. £60,000 of the council's 2021 £2million climate fund has been allocated to the council's private sector housing team to help with MEES enforcement; helping to drive up standards for Merton residents in the private rented sector.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

3.1. None for the purposes of this report.

4. CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

4.1. None for the purposes of this report.

5. TIMETABLE

5.1. None for the purposes of this report.

6. FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

6.1. None for the purposes of this report.

7. LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

7.1. None for the purposes of this report.

8. HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

8.1. None for the purposes of this report.

9. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

9.1. None for the purposes of this report.

10. RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

10.1. None for the purposes of this report.

11. APPENDICES – THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE PUBLISHED WITH THIS REPORT AND FORM PART OF THE REPORT

- Appendix 1 - Council funding allocated to retrofit

12. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Merton's climate strategy and action plan 2020
- Merton's Climate delivery Plan year 1 – 2021
- Merton's Climate delivery Plan year 2 – 2022
- Merton's Climate delivery Plan year 3 - 2023
- Merton's Greenhouse Gas Inventory Report 2021

All available via www.merton.gov.uk/planning-and-buildings/sustainability-and-climate-change

Appendices :

Appendix 1 - Council spend allocated for retrofit 2021 and 2022

Allocated by Cabinet	Project	Description	Funding	Indicative timescales
2022	Business retrofit support scheme	Developing a business retrofit support scheme to help businesses in Merton decarbonise and save on their energy bills.	£450k	Launch in Summer 2023 (subject to UKSPF funding bid)
	Climate engagement	Continuing to support and strengthen climate engagement outreach to residents, businesses and community groups by making Merton's Climate Engagement Officer role permanent and securing a climate outreach budget for engagement events and materials.	£220k	Ongoing
	Community retrofit loan scheme	Establishing a community retrofit loan scheme for homeowners in Merton who are not eligible for national and regional funding.	£300k	Launch in Autumn 2023
	Council rented properties - Legal Review	Commissioning support to undertake a legal review of the leases for council-owned shops, business and industrial buildings and other non-operational buildings to help inform decarbonisation plans for these buildings. This will also feed into the Council's wider estate review.	£90k	Progress in Spring/ Summer 2023 (in liaison with Facilities Management & Estates teams)
	Council rented properties - EPCs	Commissioning of Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) for all the council's non-operational buildings, to help inform the Council's decarbonisation plans and wider estate review.	£50k	Progress in Spring 2023 (liaising with Facilities Management & Estates teams)
	Community schools heating and catering	Commissioning a review of the catering equipment and heating systems in Merton's community schools to inform decarbonisation plans, future funding bids and future procurement of new catering and heating equipment for community schools.	£100k	Progress in Summer 2023 (liaising with Facilities Management & Schools teams)

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Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel

8th March 2023

Wards: Borough Wide

Planning Enforcement Update

Lead officer: Adrian Ash, Director Environment, Civic Pride and Climate

Lead member: Councillor Andrew Judge, Cabinet Member for Housing and Sustainable Development

Contact officer: Jonathan Berry, Head of Development Management & Building Control

Recommendations:

- A. That the report be noted by the panel.
-

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 Merton Council has previously stated that it recognises the importance of good town planning and understands local residents want planning applications which are approved to be adhered to and properly enforced. The enforcement of planning control is a key area of priority for the Council and its stakeholders. Residents demand and expect that all development in Merton is in accordance with sound planning principles and planning law.
- 1.2 “Merton 2030, our ambition for the Borough” sets out the Council’s ambition to make Merton a place every resident is proud to call home and where no one is excluded from education, learning new skills and finding employment.
- 1.3 By delivering on its climate-change commitments, Merton will become a cleaner, greener and more sustainable borough that sets a positive example to the rest of the country. It is vital that there is an effective planning enforcement process to help deliver these objectives.
- 1.4 The purpose of this report is to update Members on the current level of performance in the Planning Enforcement service with particular regard to the backlog of cases identified by Full Council in November 2021.

2 THE CURRENT NATIONAL PICTURE

- 2.1 In terms of the current national picture, the Royal Town Planning Institution (RTPI) published a research paper report in November 2022 “The scale and nature of resourcing challenges faced by enforcement teams”.

2.2 The report states that;

Planning enforcement across the country is in a resourcing, skills, and performance crisis, as revealed by a RTPI survey of 103 local planning authorities.

- Almost 90% of Local Authorities surveyed reported a backlog of cases.
- 70% of Local Authorities surveyed report difficulties recruiting enforcement officers in the last five years.
- 80% of respondents reported that there were not enough officers to carry out the workload.
- 96% of those surveyed said they would benefit from a central government pot that they could use to fund direct action.

A 43% fall in resources to the planning system from Local Authorities since 2009/10 has led to a tangible and damaging impact on planning enforcement, creating major delays, and negatively affecting both officers and the public.

Planning enforcement sits at the heart of the planning system. Without it, planning legislation is meaningless. Our recent research indicates that there has been 43% decrease in net expenditure from local authorities on planning as a whole, from £844m in 2009/10 to £480m in 2020/2021. As a result of this long-term reduction in investment, local authorities are now facing major challenges in resourcing, skills and performance. This has been felt acutely by enforcement teams across England. The RTPI a conducted a survey with responses from 133 enforcement officers representing about a third of local authorities in England. The results were striking. 80% of respondents reported that there were not enough officers in their team to carry out the workload, 89% that their councils are currently experiencing a backlog, 73% that their authority had struggled to recruit in the last year and 96% supported central government funding for direct action. Under 50% of authorities now have the capacity to monitor compliance of conditions once successful enforcement action has been taken. Additionally, 71% reported that delays from the Planning Inspectorate are negatively impacting the service. Thus, the last decade of cuts has had a tangible and damaging impact on planning enforcement.

3 DETAILS OF ACTION TAKEN SINCE THE LAST SCRUTINY REPORT

3.1. Since the last Planning Enforcement report was presented to the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel on 22nd February 2022 there has been considerable improvement in the performance of the service, despite the national constraints identified above, as a result of a successful action plan led by the current Planning Enforcement Manager who has been with the Council for the last twelve months.

3.2. At that time the backlog amounted to nearly 900 cases and a target was set to halve this number to 450 by the end of 2022. As of February 2023 there are approximately 350 live cases being handled by the time, which is business as usual for a Borough the size of Merton. The backlog has been eradicated and the target has been comfortably exceeded.

- 3.3. This is enabling the officers in the service to be more proactive in terms of taking a harder line against failures of compliance. For example, there are more instances of direct action being taken and a higher number of enforcement and breach of condition notices being served.
- 3.4. However, there has recently been a reduction in the capacity of the team compared to 2022. A temporary enforcement contractor has left the Council and an experienced member of staff is currently attending a training course for one day per week. These shortfalls have not been backfilled due to budgeting concerns for the Development Management service as a whole. This puts the Council at risk of experiencing some of the issues identified in the aforementioned national report produced by the Royal Town Planning Institute. A fall in resources can lead to a tangible and damaging impact on planning enforcement, creating major delays, and negatively affecting both officers and the public.
- 3.5. The service receives an additional 20-30 new cases per month. The reason that business as usual includes approximately 350 cases is due to the time required to remedy breaches, particularly those that are retrospective and need to be put through a planning application process. Such circumstances will often take 4-5 months to resolve. Developers and landowners can lodge challenges and have the right of appeal. Decisions by the Planning Inspectorate have been known to take in the region of one year to come through and enforcement action is essentially put on hold until the outcome is issued. Cases needing legal proceedings such as prosecution can be very time consuming.
- 3.6. The next steps for the service are set out in a report for a staff restructure of the Planning Enforcement service which has been fully costed. This will be presented to the new Executive Director, Housing and Sustainable Development upon arrival in May, together with a draft Local Enforcement Plan to set out how the service will perform moving forward.

4. FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no specific implications at this time although there will be financial implications once a restructuring exercise has taken place. Additionally, there will be financial implications for putting in place new IT systems such as an online portal/New M3/data planning system but more work will have to be undertaken to identify the cost of these.

5. LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 No specific implications at this time.

6. HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

6.1 No specific implications at this time.

7. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

7.1 No specific implications at this time.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

8.1 No specific implications at this time.

9. APPENDICES

9.1 None included.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 Planning Enforcement Report to the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel 22nd February 2022 (not appended).



Sustainable Communities Work Programme 2022/23

This table sets out the draft Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel's Work Programme for 2022/23 following discussions at the topic workshop on 7 June 2022.

The work programme will be considered at every meeting of the Panel to enable it to respond to issues of concern or to request new pre-decision items ahead of their consideration by Cabinet/Council.

The work programme table shows items on a meeting by meeting basis, identifying the issue under review, the nature of the scrutiny (pre decision, policy development, issue specific, performance monitoring, partnership related) and the intended outcomes.

Chair: Cllr Stuart Neaverson
Vice-chair: Cllr Daniel Holden

Scrutiny Support

For further information on the work programme of the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel please contact: -
Rosie McKeever, Scrutiny Officer
Tel: 020 8545 4035; Email: rosie.mckeever@merton.gov.uk

For more information about overview and scrutiny at LB Merton, please visit www.merton.gov.uk/scrutiny

Meeting date: ~~29 June 2022~~ (**Deadline for papers:** ~~5pm, 22 June 2022~~)

Item/issue	How	Lead member and/or lead officer	Intended outcomes
Cabinet Member Priorities	Verbal update with Q&A	Cabinet Members for: Housing and Sustainable Development, Local Environment, Green Spaces and Climate	To understand current priorities in relation to Panel work programme
Fly tipping strategy and Action Plan review		John Bosley Cabinet Member for Local Environment, Green Spaces and Climate	
Performance monitoring	Basket of indicators plus verbal report	AD for Public Space, AD for Sustainable Communities	To highlight any items of concern and/or request additional information
Work programme 2022/23	Written report	Rosie McKeever, Scrutiny Officer	To agree the work programme.

Meeting date: 1 September 2022 (~~Deadline for papers: 5pm, 23 August 2022~~)

Item/issue	How	Lead member and/or lead officer	Intended outcomes
Cabinet Member Priorities	Verbal update with Q&A	Cabinet Member for Transport	To understand current priorities in relation to Panel work programme
Climate Change and Net Zero progress	Report	Dominique Hill; Amy Mallet	Receive update on the Climate Change action plan and the Council's Net Zero progress
Active Travel: Cycling infrastructure and facilities in the borough, including cycle lanes and storage spaces/hangars.	Report	Louisa Green; Paul McGarry, Head of FutureMerton Cabinet Member for Transport	
School Streets – Lessons learned review	Report	Mitra Dubet; Paul McGarry, Head of FutureMerton	The panel RESOLVED in January to request officers produce a lessons learned paper on the implementation of school streets.
Performance monitoring	Basket of indicators plus verbal report	Adrian Ash, Director of Environment and Regeneration	To highlight any items of concern and/or request additional information
Work programme 2022/23	Written report	Rosie McKeever, Scrutiny Officer	To agree the work programme.

Meeting date: 3 November 2022 (~~**Deadline for papers:** 5pm, 25 October 2022~~)

Item/issue	How	Lead member and/or lead officer	Intended outcomes
Clarion: Repairs and Maintenance	Written report	Representatives from Clarion will be invited to attend the session	Monitor progress of recommendations
Cllr Natasha Irons – Brief update re; Waste and recycling	Verbal update	Cabinet Member for Local Environment, Green spaces, and Climate Change	
Clarion Housing: Estate Regeneration – including climate elements of building	Written report		
Performance monitoring	Basket of indicators plus verbal report	Adrian Ash, Director of Environment and Regeneration	To highlight any items of concern and/or request additional information
Work programme 2022/23	Written report	Rosie McKeever, Scrutiny Officer	To agree the work programme.

Meeting date: 19 January 2023 (**Deadline for papers:** 5pm, 10 January 2023)

Item/issue	How	Lead member and/or lead officer	Intended outcomes
Budget and business planning (round 2)	Report	Roger Kershaw	To comment on the budget and business plan proposals and make any recommendations to the Commission
Tree Strategy development	Written report	John Bosley; Cabinet Member	Nature based solutions to pollution – pocket parks, hedgerows
Idverde	Focus on sustainability and best practice.	Andrew Kauffman	
Wimbledon Championships Traffic Management Order	Written report	Paul McGarry	
Performance monitoring	Basket of indicators plus verbal report	Adrian Ash, Director of Environment and Regeneration	To highlight any items of concern and/or request additional information
Work programme 2022/23	Written report	Rosie McKeever, Scrutiny Officer	To agree the work programme.

***Extra Meeting date:** 13 February 2023 (*Deadline for papers: 5pm, 3 February 2023*)

Item/issue	How	Lead member and/or lead officer	Intended outcomes
Waste Management	Written report	John Bosley	

Meeting date: 23 February 2023 (*Deadline for papers: 5pm, 14 February 2023*)

Item/issue	How	Lead member and/or lead officer	Intended outcomes
Air Quality	Tracking poor air quality hotspots & HGV traffic and pollution hotspots in the borough	Jason Andrews Cabinet Member	Consider nature-based solutions
Flooding issues	Report	Tom Sly, Flood Management Officer	Thames Water independent review on flooding events in the borough
Housing: Homelessness	Report	Elliot Brunton, Head of Housing and Strategy	
Performance monitoring *Plus report from Planning Committee (AM)	Basket of indicators plus verbal report	Adrian Ash, Director of Environment and Regeneration	To highlight any items of concern and/or request additional information
Work programme 2022/23	Written report	Rosie McKeever, Scrutiny Officer	To agree the work programme.

Meeting date: 8 March 2023 (*Deadline for papers: 5pm, 27 February 2023*)

Item/issue	How	Lead member and/or lead officer	Intended outcomes
Call in: Travellers Site - Review of Licence Fee	Written report	Housing officers	
Tree Strategy update	Verbal update	Andrew Kauffman	
Council Retrofitting Plans	Written report	Dominique Hill; Amy Mallet	
Community Toilet Provision	Verbal update	Clr Stephen Mercer	
Planning enforcement	Written report	Cabinet member, James McGinlay, Lesley Barakchizadeh	Invite Officers to report back on the backlog of cases
Performance Monitoring	Basket of indicators plus verbal report	Adrian Ash, Director of Environment and Regeneration	
Topic suggestions 2023/24	Written report	Rosie McKeever, Scrutiny Officer	To seek suggestions from the Panel for the Panel's 2023/24 work programme

Carry over to next year

Disability Access / Step free access at stations	Written report	Schedule for June 2023	Include accessibility at stations
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