

**Committee: Council**

**Date: 09 July 2014**

Wards: All wards

**Subject: Adoption of Merton's Climate Change Strategy (2014–2017)**

Lead officer: Director for Environment and Regeneration, Chris Lee,

Lead member:, Cabinet Member for Environmental Sustainability and Regeneration, Councillor Andrew Judge

Contact officer: Future Merton Climate Change Officer, Damian Hemmings,

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**Recommendations:**

- A. That, having noted the recommendations of the scrutiny review of Climate Change and the Green Deal (agenda item 7 of this meeting), council adopts Merton's Climate Change Strategy (2014-2017)
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**1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to recommend the adoption of Merton's Climate Change Strategy 2014-2017, following the recommendations of Merton's Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Task Group - Climate Change and Green Deal.. If adopted, the new strategy would replace Merton's previous Climate Change Strategy 2009-2012.

**2 DETAILS**

- 2.1. Merton's draft Climate Change Strategy outlines the council's aspirations for meeting the principles of environmental sustainability. It provides a framework for an on-going programme of action to tackle climate change in Merton across six themes:
- Energy within the council;
  - Energy across the borough;
  - Planning and development;
  - Sustainable resources;
  - Greening Business and Natural Environment and
  - Greenspace.
- 2.2. The strategy replaces the council's first Climate Change Strategy, which expired in 2012.
- 2.3. The draft Climate Change Strategy has been reviewed by the council's Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Task Group - Climate Change and Green Deal, and revised to take account of its recommendations.

- 2.4. The final Report and recommendations resulting from the scrutiny review of Climate Change and Green Deal are included on the agenda of the Cabinet meeting on 30 June 2014.

### **3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 3.1. **Do nothing.** Option rejected on the basis that the requirements of the Climate Change Act 2008 place a legal obligation on the UK to reduce its carbon dioxide emissions by at least 80% from 1990 levels by 2050.
- 3.2. The Mayor of London's Climate Change Mitigation & Energy Strategy (2011) targets an overall reduction in London's carbon dioxide emissions of 60% on 1990 levels by 2025.
- 3.3. The UK Committee on Climate Change has acknowledged that local authorities have a crucial role to play in contributing to emissions reductions and helping the UK meet its carbon targets and have indicated that if carbon reduction opportunities are not delivered at a local level, it could put the targets at risk.

### **4 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED**

- 4.1. The Climate Change Strategy and associated action plan was developed in consultation with officers across a number of council departments.
- 4.2. The Strategy was also reviewed as part of the Scrutiny Review of Climate Change and the Green Deal and revised to take account of its recommendations. In addition to Councillors and Officers, the task group included external (co-opted) representatives from local charity Sustainable Merton.
- 4.3. Although no specific community consultation has been undertaken on the draft Climate Change Strategy, a wide range of community engagement has been undertaken on elements included within the Strategy through a range of forums. This includes:
- The Sustainable Merton AGM (20 June 2013)
  - Residents event: 'Energy we can all afford' for Wimbledon residents (5 June 2013)
  - Big London Energy Switch (January 2013 – present)
  - Green Deal Pioneer Places engagement project (January – November 2013) – including resident survey of 243 residents across Merton on issues of climate change and energy efficiency.
  - Merton Council: 'What's the deal with the Green Deal' event (16 October 2012)
  - Wandle Valley Low Carbon Zone (2010 – 2012)

### **5 TIMETABLE**

- 5.1. The draft report was discussed at the Climate Change and Green Deal Scrutiny task Group on 21 November 2013 and included within the final report of the Task Group, which is included on the agenda of the Cabinet meeting on 30 June 2014.

## **6 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1. Actions to deliver Merton's Climate Change Strategy are primarily derived from resources already allocated in the planned programme, supplemented by successful bids for external funding.

## **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**

- Merton's Climate Change Strategy 2014-2017 is available on request by contacting 020 8545 4855 or e-mailing [future.merton@merton.gov.uk](mailto:future.merton@merton.gov.uk) Copies will be available to view at the meeting.

## **12 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 12.1. Final report of the Climate Change and the Green Deal Task Group (agenda item 7 of this meeting).

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