

Committee: Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: 25 February 2015

Agenda item: 8

Wards: all

Subject: Progress Update: Action Plan (Climate Change and Green Deal Task Group)

Lead officer: Chris Lee, Director for Environment and Regeneration Lead member: Councillor Andrew Judge, Cabinet Member for Environmental Sustainability and Regeneration,

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Recommendations:

That Members note the action plan for the Climate Change and Green Deal Task Group which details progress on delivery of the agreed recommendations from the review and timescales for implementation.

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to update Members on progress of the action plan to deliver the agreed recommendations of the Climate Change and Green Deal Task Group and the proposed actions and timescales for implementation of the outstanding recommendations.

2 DETAILS

- 2.1. At their meeting on 30 June 2014, Cabinet considered the final report and recommendations resulting from the task group review of Climate Change and the Green Deal.
- 2.2. Members received an Executive Response and Action Plan for delivery of the agreed recommendations from the Climate Change and Green Deal Task Group at their meeting in September 2014.

Progress on Task Group's agreed recommendations

- 2.3. Since the Task Group reported to Cabinet in June 2014, and Merton's Climate Change Strategy was adopted in July 2014, officers have been tasked with delivering the agreed recommendations.
- 2.4. Appendix A to this report sets out the Action Plan which details the Task Group's recommendations that were agreed and progress on each, including how any agreed recommendations that have yet to be delivered will be implemented. It should be noted that some of the recommendations must take place sequentially and have been reordered to reflect their sequential progress.
- 2.5. In the seven months since the Task Group reported their 11 recommendations to Cabinet:

- One recommendation has been completed (Recommendation 3: adoption of Merton's Climate Change Strategy, at full council on 09 July 2014)
- Progress has been made on nine out of the eleven recommendations (see Appendix A)
- Only one recommendation has not made progress (recommendation 10 – developing a marketing and awareness campaign for residents, staff and businesses on energy efficiency measures) and that is because any campaign is dependent on the council establishing an offer to residents, businesses and staff beforehand.

3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 3.1. None for the purpose of this report.

4 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

- 4.1. None for the purpose of this report.

5 TIMETABLE

- 5.1. The action plan for the Climate Change Strategy 2014-17 and the Action Plan resulting from the agreed recommendations from the task group review (Appendix A) both set out timescales for delivery.

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 A: Action Plan and progress to date on the agreed recommendations resulting from the Task Group review of Climate Change and the Green Deal.

12 BACKGROUND PAPERS

Final Report of the Climate Change and Green Deal Task Group (June 2014);

Minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on 30 June 2014;

Executive Response and Action Plan – Climate Change and the Green Deal Task Group (16 September 2014)

Minutes of the meeting of the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel held on 16 September 2014.

Appendix A: Executive response to the 11 recommendations of Merton’s Climate Change and Green Deal Scrutiny Task Group (final report 30 June 2014)

It should be noted that many of the Task Group’s eleven recommendations must take place sequentially. The Task Group’s recommendations have been reordered to reflect this.

| Recommendations | Stakeholder | Action / Progress | Timeline | Status |
|--|-------------|---|---|--------|
| <p>Recommendation 9 – That Future Merton obtain specialist legal advice on the Council’s scope and legal limitations in generating, distributing and selling energy and advise on the development of an ESCO (paragraph 8.40)</p> | Cabinet | Future Merton has been in discussions with LBM Legal to procure external advice | Due May 2015 | A |
| <p>Recommendation 7 – That Cabinet commission a feasibility study to look at establishing an Energy Services Company (ESCO) for Merton, with a view to producing a business case for the ESCO which should include a risk assessment of the proposals. A further detailed investigation into the potential for a Merton ESCO should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feasibility investigations into the potential for district heating at Morden Town Centre and Colliers Wood / South Wimbledon • Further scoping of energy efficiency retrofit potential in Merton • Identification of where existing regeneration proposals/programmes may take forward energy efficiency improvements, alone or in partnership without the need for an ESCO to be in place. (paragraph 8.40) | Cabinet | <p><i>Progress subject to outcome of Recommendation 9 (above).</i></p> <p>Funding secured via Department of Energy and Climate Change’s (DECC) Heat Network Delivery Unit (HNDU) to explore physical/technical feasibility of heat networks in Merton.</p> <p>Future Merton are actively engaging with Merton Priory Homes on their estate regeneration programme. The CC team are advising MPH and their appointed consultants (HTA) on sustainability and the energy strategy for all three estates.</p> | <p>2015-16</p> <p>Started July 2014 (on-going until 2016)</p> | G |

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| <p>*Note that this recommendation being implemented will be subject to the outcomes of recommendation 9.</p> | | | | |
| <p>Recommendation 8 – That Cabinet receives a report on progress on rolling out the expansion of the Merton solar PV portfolio, and on the scope for making further investment, subject to the results of a scoping exercise and a viable business case. This business case should include an appraisal of whether this should be undertaken via an ESCO or not (paragraph 8.40).</p> | Cabinet | <p><i>Progress on ESCO subject to outcome of Recommendation 9 (above).</i></p> <p>Scoping of solar PV installed potential has been undertaken across approximately 65% of Merton’s operational building stock.</p> <p>Installation currently occurring (February-March 2015) of the fourth round of solar panel investment from Merton Council. Once this is finished (by the end of March 2015) more than 25 council buildings and schools will have solar panels installed.</p> | <p>May 2014</p> <p>March 2015 (round IV)</p> | G |
| <p>Recommendation 1 - That Cabinet, further to maximising the potential of its own sites, work with other public and private sector landowners, such as Registered Providers, private homeowners, businesses and community organisations installing solar PV (photovoltaics) on their buildings where this is supported by a business case (paragraph 4.17).</p> <p>*Note that this recommendation being implemented is dependent upon recommendations 8 and 9 being achieved.</p> | Cabinet | <p><i>Progress on ESCO subject to outcome of Recommendations 8 & 9 (above).</i></p> <p>Early stage discussions with registered providers in Merton (MPH; Moat; Wandle) regarding opportunities for utilisation of solar photovoltaics.</p> | <p>Aug 2014 (on-going)</p> | G |
| <p>Recommendation 2 - That Cabinet explore how solar PV could be made available to residents to access at cheaper rates/costs and how the council may promote or support this scheme to</p> | Cabinet | <p><i>Progress on ESCO subject to outcome of Recommendations 8 & 9 (above).</i></p> <p>No progress to date, subject to previous</p> | | R |

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| enable communities to purchase their own renewable technology. This may be achieved through external capital investment or the ESCO (paragraph 4.17). *Note that this recommendation being implemented is dependent upon recommendations 8 and 9 being achieved. | | recommendations | | |
| Recommendation 3 - That the council adopt Merton's Climate Change Strategy 2014-2017, which has been reviewed by the Task group and revised to take account of its recommendations (paragraph 5.6). | Cabinet | CC Strategy 2014-2017 adopted at full council | 9 Jul 2014 | Complete |
| Recommendation 4 - That Cabinet agree to build consideration of the adoption/installation of energy efficiency measures in appropriate council contracts being established or renewed by procurement, where feasible (paragraph 5.6). | Cabinet / Partners | LBM Procurement currently in the process of drafting a revised PQQ. Currently being reviewed by the Legal Team prior to use. | Sept 2014 | A |
| Recommendation 5 - That representatives from each council Directorate participate in the Climate Change Steering Group, as appropriate, to consider cross cutting issues and projects relating to tackling climate change to ensure a strategic focus and leadership on climate change priorities (paragraph 5.6) | Cabinet | Climate Change Steering Group meetings are structured thematically in line with the key topics detailed in the CC Strategy. Representatives from relevant directorates are invited to attend accordingly. | On-going | G |
| Recommendation 6 - That Cabinet commission a proposal on the feasibility of whether Merton might roll out a local Green Deal that addresses some of the issues associated with the national Green Deal scheme, as reported by residents, | Cabinet | <i>Progress on ESCO subject to outcome of Recommendations 8 (above).</i> Since the final report of the Task Group review in June 2014, Government have amended the | Apr 2014 (on-going) | A |

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| <p>which has resulted in low take up (paragraph 6.16).</p> <p>*Note that this recommendation being implemented is dependent upon recommendation 8 being delivered.</p> | | <p>incentives for measures under the Green Deal leading to increased take-up. Future Merton to review progress on take-up and changing legislative landscape of the Green Deal.</p> <p>Exploring opportunities for funding energy efficiency retrofit funded through Allowable Solutions mechanisms.</p> <p>Funding bid to the London Enterprise Panel (LEP) to enable energy efficiency retrofit in commercial properties targeting local businesses</p> | <p>2015</p> <p>2016</p> <p>Sept 2015</p> | |
| <p>Recommendation 10 - That the council develop a marketing and engagement strategy to ensure the widest promotion and awareness raising of energy efficiency measures and improvements that staff, residents and local businesses can access (paragraph 9.6)</p> <p>*Note that this recommendation being implemented is partially dependent upon recommendation 8 being delivered.</p> | Cabinet | To be developed. | 2016 | R |
| <p>Recommendation 11 – To be added to comment on relationship with MPH/Circle Housing. This will be finalised further to consideration of the response from MPH/Circle to the task group’s recommendations which will be tabled at the SC Panel meeting on 26th March).</p> | Cabinet / Circle Housing | <p><i>Progress subject to confirmation of recommendation</i></p> <p>Active engagement with MPH via housing regeneration programme (see progress on Recommendation 7)</p> | On-going | G |

