Merton Climate Action Plan: Stakeholder Workshop
Wednesday 26th February 2020

Workshop Report

In July 2019, Merton Council declared a Climate Emergency, committing to work towards becoming a carbon neutral borough by 2050 and a carbon neutral Council by 2030. Merton Council is now developing a Climate Action Plan to deliver these targets.

In February 2020, Merton Council invited a range of stakeholders, including Council staff and their contractors, other public sector bodies, businesses, community groups and residents, to a workshop to:

- Update stakeholders on work on the Climate Action Plan so far
- Give insights into the Council's technical scoping of their climate emergency response
- Discuss with stakeholders how we can all take action to achieve net zero carbon Merton

A briefing paper was circulated in advance of the workshop which helped stakeholders think about how net zero carbon can be achieved. This is provided in Appendix 1 for reference. A long list of suggested actions was also circulated to give food for thought. The suggested actions included have emerged from a public consultation, an evidence review, voluntary groups such as the Climate Emergency Working Group and Merton Partnership, and Council staff. The long list fed into the 'Action Ideas' session (section 3 below) and is available on the Council's website here.

This report summarises the key ideas, discussion points and areas of agreement that emerged during the workshop, and has been written by the workshop facilitator, Rachael Mills of SE2.

The workshop was attended by around 60 people including:

Merton Council Elected Members and Staff:

Cllr Stephen Alambritis	Leader of the Council
Cllr Tobin Byers	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Health and the Environment
Cllr Peter Southgate	Leader of the Merton Park Ward Independent Residents Group
Cllr Eleanor Stringer	Cabinet Member for Schools and Adult Education
Cllr Daniel Holden	Deputy Leader of Merton Conservatives
Cllr Jenifer Gould	Liberal Democrat
Jason Andrews	Environmental Health Pollution Manager
Chris Chowns	Transport Planning Project Officer
Daniel Clark	Library Service Manager
Katie Halter	Climate Change Officer
Dominique Hill	Climate Change Projects Officer
Howard Joy	Property Management and Review Manager
Chris Lee	Director of Environment and Regeneration
John Morgan	Assistant Director of Adult Social Care
Bhamini Patel	Housing Needs Officer
Jerzy Pawlicki	Communications Officer
Chelsea Renehan	Participation & Engagement Manager
Corin Freshwater-Turner	Energy Project Officer (Facilities Management)
Angela Wardell	Independent Living Manager
Dagmar Zeuner	Director of Public Health

Stakeholder representatives from:

Berkeley Homes
Catalyst Housing
Clarion Housing Group
Clean Air Merton
Cricket Green Community and Heritage
FM Conway
Gazprom Energy

Merton Chamber of Commerce
Merton Climate Emergency Working Group
Merton Clinical Commissioning Group
Merton Friends of the Earth
Merton Living Streets
Merton Tree Wardens
Merton XR
Merton Youth Parliament
South London Waste Partnership
South Wimbledon Business Area Business Improvement District
Sustainable Merton
Sustrans
Transport for London
Wimbledon Cycling Campaign
Wimbledon Society
Wimbledon Union of Residents Association

The workshop was also attended by Katrina Young from Aether, Merton Council's technical consultants on the Climate Action Plan, and the workshop facilitators Rachael Mills (SE^2) and Kelly Greer (ACE Research, ADE).

1. Welcome and Presentations

The meeting was opened by Cllr Stephen Alambritis, Leader of Merton Council, who thanked everyone for attending and spoke of the great ambitions he had for Merton Council achieving their net zero carbon targets.

This was followed by presentations by Katie Halter, Climate Change Officer at Merton Council, who updated stakeholders on the work done so far on the Climate Action Plan, and by Katrina Young of Aether, Merton's technical consultants, who explained the carbon modelling work that they have undertaken. Katrina's slides have been circulated to all attendees and are available on the Council's website here.

We then took questions from the floor:

Q1: What is being done about air pollution and non-atmospheric particles?
A1: The Air Quality Action Plan is looking at this. The Climate Action Plan will look to work alongside the Air Quality Action Plan.

Q2: The carbon impact of highway works is astonishing! Traffic lights for roadworks cause tail backs. Merton need to think about how this is done.
A2: These emissions need to be taken into account. A strategic approach needs to be taken to things like roadworks.

***Post-workshop clarification**: The number presented in Aether's slides was for all of FM Conway not just in Merton so it was very high compared to other sources in the Council. This has now been rectified in the presentation slides: only the direct emissions associated with machines and vehicles in Merton will be included in our calculations. Please note that the emissions figures and decarbonisation scenarios included in the slides are subject to change as the GHG inventory baselines and decarbonisation pathways modelling are finalised.*

Q3: Are broader utilities works included in your figures?
A3: No, the utilities figures are just for direct council activity.

Q4: Have you thought about the co-benefits of all this zero carbon activity?
A4: Yes – there's a big opportunity for co-benefits in terms of health, air pollution, food, etc.

Q5: Do projections include the use of electricity (and associated carbon) for electric vehicles and a greater use of air conditioning? What about increased building works resulting from flooding?
A5: We use the Government forecasts for increased electricity use, which does include more electric vehicles and air conditioning. Increased building works is not currently considered.

Q6: There's no mention of the Heathrow expansion, yet there's an impact both in terms of direct emissions and from traffic travelling to Heathrow. The Council needs to engage with residents about this.
A6: Merton, along with other London Councils, is a key stakeholder for the Heathrow expansion and this is something we're already lobbying about. Please see Merton's response to the Heathrow Consultation Phase 3 (2019) here. The carbon emissions don't fall into our scenarios as the airport is not in our Borough.

Q7: Do the projections include CO_2 sequestered from existing trees in Merton?
A7: The Committee on Climate Change has reported on land use projections for UK forestry stock from now to 2050: planting rates are currently decreasing but need to increase. All the current trees in Merton will only offset 0.05% of the Borough's direct greenhouse gas emissions. They are an important but small part of the solution in terms of carbon, although they do have lots of other benefits.

Other comments that were acknowledged by the Council:
- We need to prepare for a time when government aren't wanting to build airports. What is the role of this group of stakeholders meeting here today? £5trillion invested in fossil fuels this year – we need to be ready to act.
- The potential impact of the Silvertown tunnel project was also highlighted.

2. A Vision for 2050

The first workshop session asked participants to imagine that the year is 2050 and we're celebrating the London Borough of Merton meeting its net zero carbon target. We asked everyone to think about what it feels like to live, work and study in Merton. What has been achieved? What were the flagship projects? How did we get here?

The participants all created 'graffiti walls' at their tables with all their ideas for what net zero carbon Merton will look like in 2050. Photos of these 'graffiti walls' are provided in Appendix 2 and summarised below:

Buildings and energy
- Sustainable buildings, including housing (eg Passivhaus standard)
- Local energy generation and battery storage

Transport
- Cycling is the default mode of transport (and prioritised at a local level)
- Streets like Amsterdam – can't move for bikes
- Children on the streets as there will be fewer cars
- Electric pod cars (including autonomous vehicles that arrive on demand)
- Sporting occasions will be virtually viewed (not travelling to venues)
- People working closer to or at home.

Waste and recycling
- No waste produced (circular economy)
- A greater share & repair economy (repair cafes and shops, community fridges, no need for food banks)

Green spaces
- Easier to breathe: Fewer health issues due to air quality improvements
- More greenery on buildings not just at street level

- Pocket parks
- More locally grown food to reduce airmiles
- More connected to the natural environment – better for mental health (people will want to walk more)

Other ideas
- Everything local – shop, act, educate, interventions.
- Compulsory education on emissions and low carbon living.
- Demographic changes to the population in the borough.
- Money is less important – people are socially fulfilled.
- Local employment opportunities – including shared working spaces.
- We won't have a green economy – it'll just be the economy.
- Public money for good.

3. Action ideas and initial assessment

At this point, the participants all moved seats and sat at tables with different themes depending on their particular area of interest:

1. Domestic buildings and household energy use
2. Non-domestic buildings & business energy use (including Council buildings & schools)
3. Transport
4. Waste and sustainable procurement
5. Green spaces
6. Governance, reporting and finance

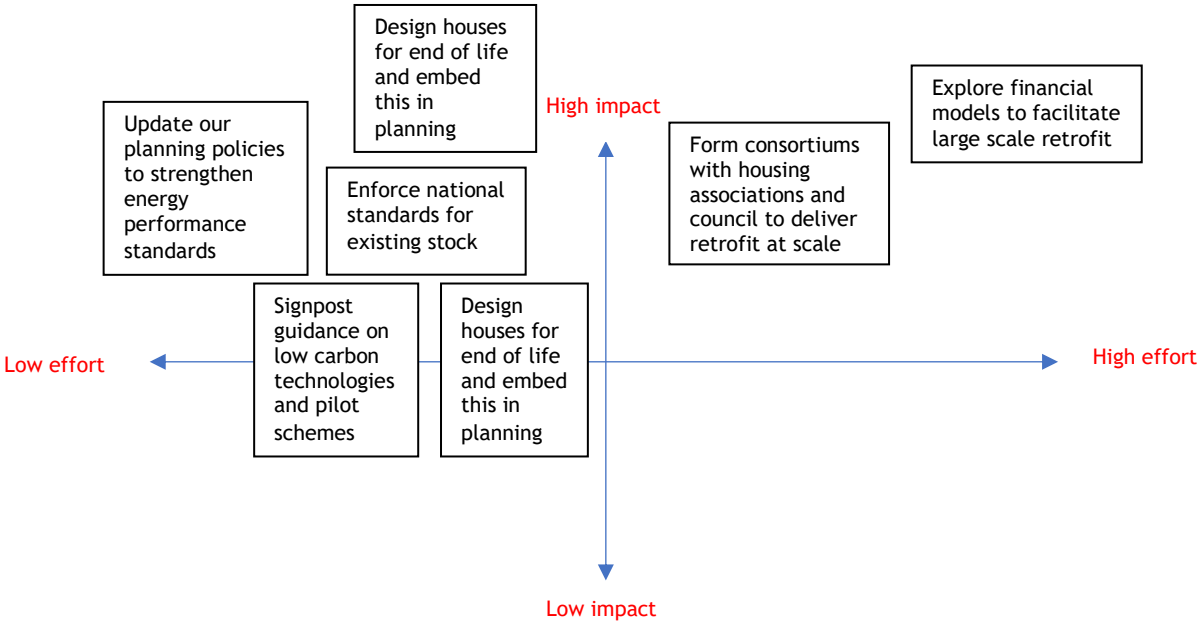
Each group was given a list of possible actions that could be implemented to achieve net zero carbon within that theme. The actions were taken from the long list circulated by the Council in advance of the workshop and were intended as a 'starter for 10' to help stakeholders generate their own ideas.

Each of the lists for the six themes are provided below, with additional ideas and comments from the stakeholder groups added in red. The participants were then asked to assess their priority ideas using an impact/effort matrix: these have been transcribed at the end of each sub-section below.

1. Domestic buildings and household energy use

- Introduce schemes to help overcome the up-front cost of installing energy efficiency (e.g. insulation) or low carbon technologies (e.g. solar panels or heat pumps).
- Consider finance models to facilitate retrofit to unlock assets (eg Energiesprong whole house retrofit)
- Raise awareness of existing tools/funding to help property owners make low carbon choices, such as:
  - Installing energy efficiency measures
  - Buying low carbon appliances or smart technology
  - Changing behaviour and reducing bills
  - Connecting to heat networks.
- Private and social landlords and housing providers to:
  - Improve their building stock
  - Invest in renewable energy and energy storage
  - Provide advice on reducing bills.
- Lobby GLA and national Government to provide a policy framework and appropriate funding/ incentives to accelerate the retrofit of the building stock by improving building regulations standards and integrating the cost of carbon in fuel prices for example.
- Council to review planning policies to ensure that the Local Plan is consistent with decarbonisation targets, by requiring all new developments to be net zero carbon on site, fossil fuel free and/or to have higher thermal insulation for example.

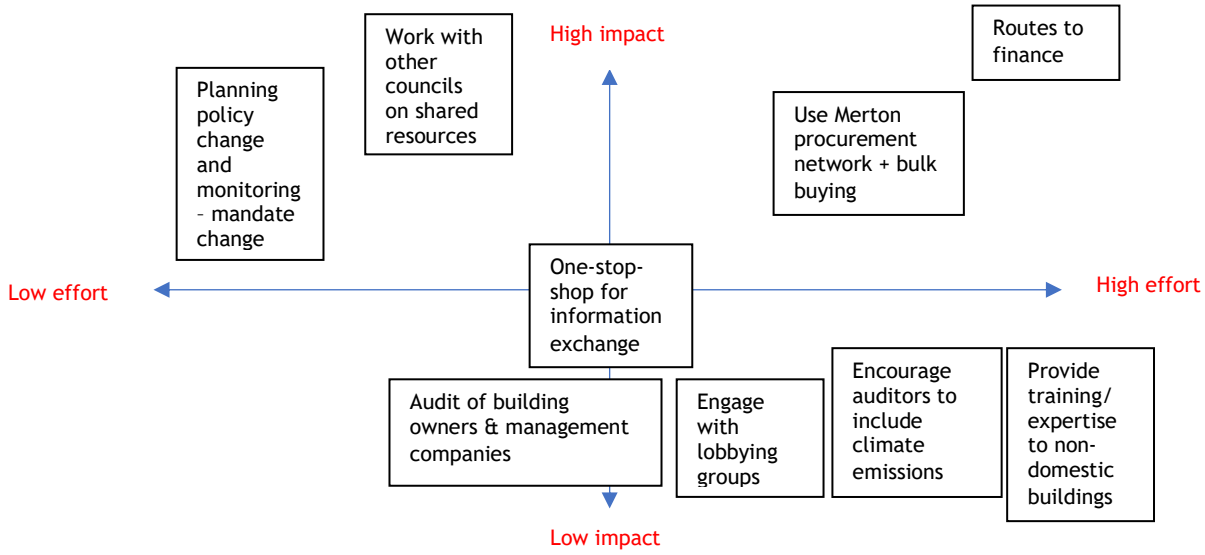
- Council to have a higher level of planning enforcement including post-construction monitoring to verify that correct works have been carried out and that the building performs as anticipated.
- Explore opportunities for low carbon district heating.
- Ensure that the energy infrastructure can accommodate the increase in electricity demand/ reduction in gas demand/ transition to green gas.
- Facilitate local training programmes to address the skills gap for installing low carbon technologies.
- Enforce standards for existing stock (eg Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards – MEES).
- Future proof developments through planning: design houses for end of life and embed this in planning policy. Housing associations to lead.
- Form consortiums with housing associations and Council to deliver domestic retrofit at scale.



2. Non-domestic buildings & business energy use (including Council buildings & schools)

- Introduce schemes to help overcome the up-front cost of installing energy efficiency (e.g. insulation) or low carbon technologies (e.g. solar panels or heat pumps).
- Raise awareness of existing tools/funding to help property owners make low carbon choices, such as:
  - Installing energy efficiency measures
  - Buying low carbon appliances or smart technology
  - Changing behaviour and reducing bills
  - Connecting to heat networks.
- Private landlords to:
  - Improve their building stock
  - Invest in renewable energy and energy storage
  - Provide advice on reducing bills.
- Encourage community energy, including for schools and community ownership.
- Lobby GLA and national Government to provide a policy framework and appropriate funding/ incentives to accelerate the retrofit of the building stock by improving building regulations standards and integrating the cost of carbon in fuel prices for example.
- Council to review planning policies to ensure that the Local Plan is consistent with decarbonisation targets, by requiring all new developments to be net zero carbon on site, fossil fuel free and/or to have higher thermal insulation for example.

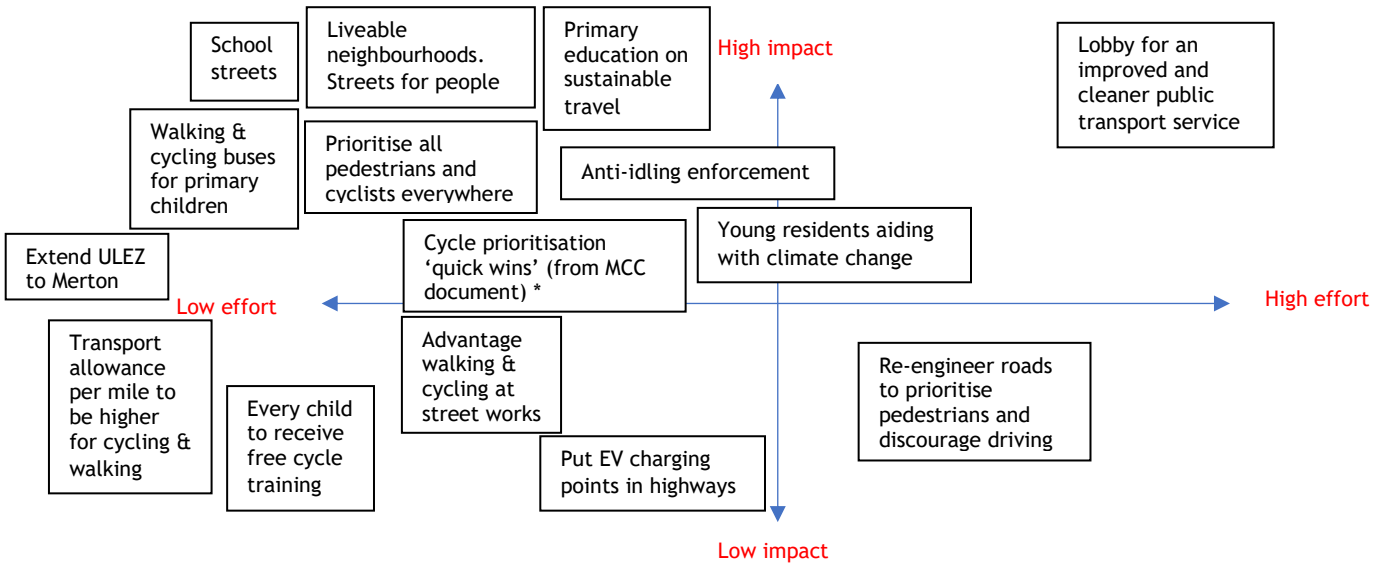
- Council to have a higher level of planning enforcement including post-construction monitoring to verify that correct works have been carried out and that the building performs as anticipated.
- Facilitate local training programmes to address the skills gap for installing low carbon technologies.
- Decarbonise schools.
- Decarbonise the Council's estate.
- Audit of ownership of businesses / management of buildings.
- Energy Savings Opportunity Scheme (ESOS) type assessment of buildings: property/building management company engagement.
- Encourage auditing bodies such as CHAS, CQC and Ofsted to increase their remit to include emissions.
- One-stop-shop / one message. Council acting as funnel for all business related messages, with lobbying back to Government (and engagement with other lobbying groups).
- Money, expertise and education for non-domestic companies.
- Merton procurement investment - incentivising (eg solar).



3. Transport

- Overarching transport strategy.
- Promote active travel. This could be via apps, media campaigns, training, competitions, behaviour 'nudges', free equipment, or events for example.
- Reduce the number of car parking spaces and review parking charges.
- Reduce barriers to cycling and walking to school, by developing school travel plans with students and introducing drop-off bans for example.
- Commercial establishments and organisations to promote sustainable travel amongst staff, consumers and supply chain.
- Implement a Council staff travel plan, to include improvements to Council-owned sites to encourage active and electrified travel.

- Lobby Transport for London/national Government to improve the public transport service. Quality, frequency, modal integration, penetration. Dial-a-ride and on demand buses.
- Improve the cycling network by segregating cycle paths, increasing connectivity and providing better cycle parking for example. Cycling in green spaces permitted. Road priority to favour the cycle route. Replace speed cushions and pinch-points with cycle-friendly calming. Proper pedestrian crossings. Upgrade poor quality cycling infrastructure: mandatory, continuous, 24-hour no parking. Filtered permeability. Shared use.
- Promote vehicle share schemes such as bike, electric bike, electric scooter and car clubs, taxi pick up points, dial-a-ride and driverless vehicles.
- Improve the pedestrian network by making it more accessible, removing street clutter, providing longer pedestrian crossings, and making town centres and public spaces more pedestrian and disability friendly, for example.
- Plan in a local low carbon distribution system in Merton for the delivery of goods.
- Encourage car free residential, commercial and community developments.
- Reduce congestion by introducing a local congestion charge for example.
- Introduce and accelerate Ultra Low Emission Zones (ULEZ)
- Install electric vehicle charging points which are accessible to the public.
- Introduce scheme to overcome the additional cost of electric vehicles and charge points.
- Council to electrify its fleet.
- Enforcement: parking, idling, speed, traffic segregation
- Radical road re-engineering to segregate and remove large vehicles.
- Remove chicane barriers



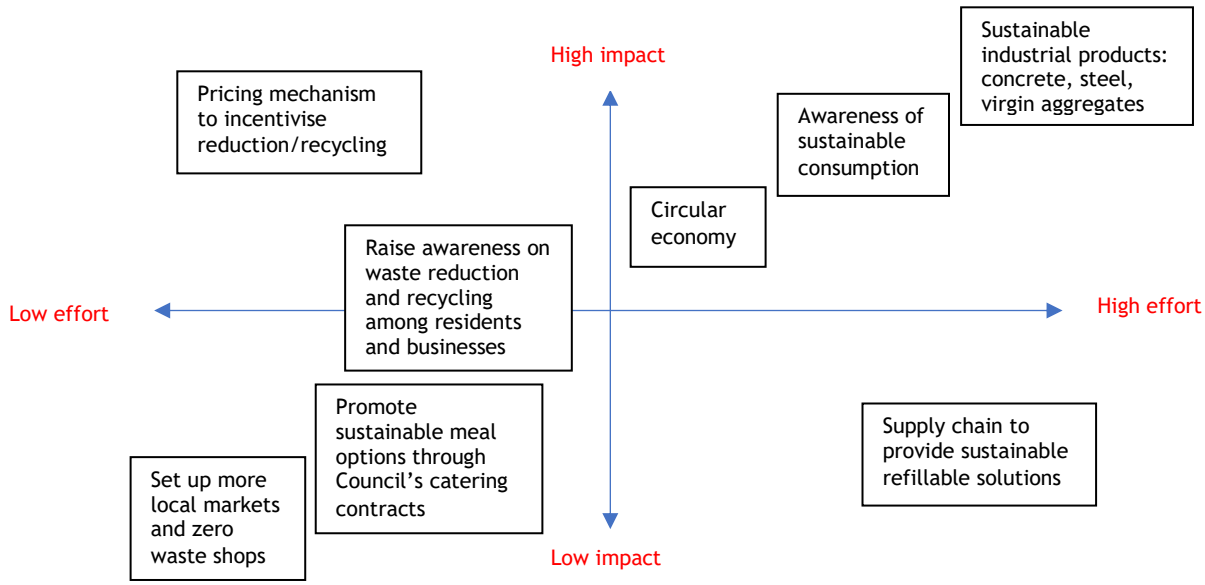
* Cycle prioritisation 'quick wins'

- Cycle exceptions for no-entry/one-way signs
- Removal of chicane barriers on paths
- Permit cycling in green spaces
- Filtered permeability
- Road priority (give way) to favour cycle route
- Replace speed cushions, perch-points with cycle-friendly alternatives
- Upgrade poor quality infrastructure: mandatory continuous 24/7

- Shared-use

4. Waste and sustainable procurement

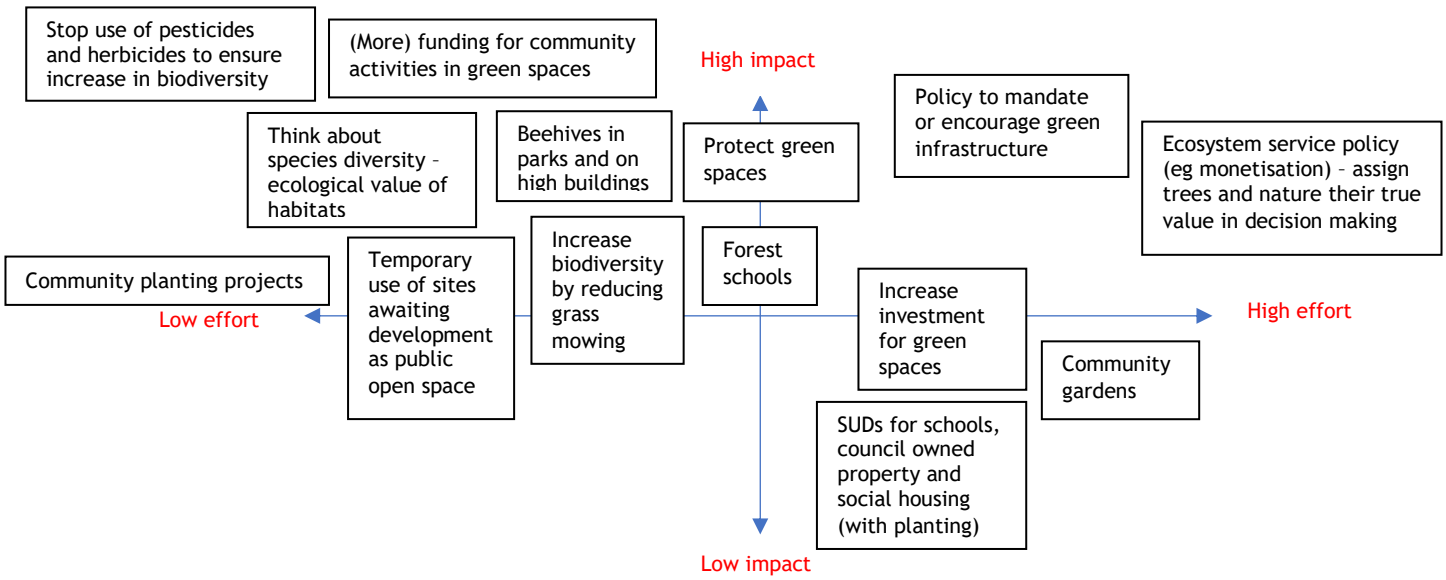
- Raise awareness on sustainable consumption (such as sustainable diets) through advertising, labelling, campaigns, events and guidance for example.
- Organisations to work with their supply chain to provide more sustainable options by reducing single-use plastic, providing local products and providing more re-fillable options for example.
- Promote local food growing by developing more allotments, community gardens and orchards, and growing spaces in parks.
- Promote food sharing with community centres and young care leavers for example.
- Set-up more local markets and zero waste shops.
- Make waste reduction pledges.
- Promote the circular economy with repair shops, swap shops and nappy libraries for example.
- Encourage food waste collection in homes, businesses, schools and Council buildings.
- Raise awareness on waste reduction and recycling amongst residents and businesses.
- Consider pricing mechanisms to incentivise waste reduction and recycling.
- Review Council's internal purchasing rules to minimise waste generation across its estate.
- Promote sustainable meal options through the Council's catering contracts.
- Lobby national Government to promote the circular economy and subsidise sustainable products through national legislation. This needs to be accessible: link to awareness.
- Sustainable procurement of industrial products: steel, concrete, virgin aggregates, asphalt. Also FSC timber and office consumables.
- Buy products that are modular and can be repaired.



5. Green spaces

- Develop a tree strategy to be incorporated into the open space strategy for the Draft Local Plan.
- Green spaces accessible diversity plan.

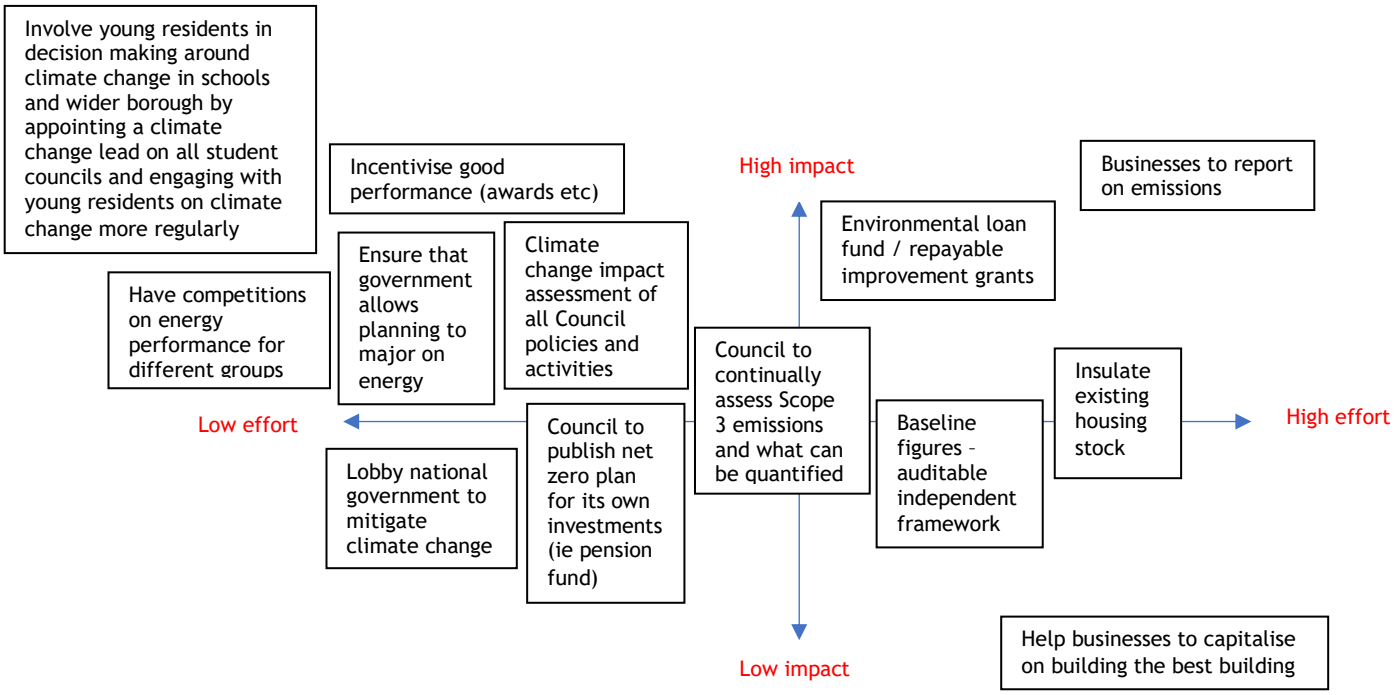
- Plant more trees and increase green infrastructure on public and private land.
- Encourage people to plant trees in own garden.
- Increase space for trees and green cover.
- Tree planting on pavement / wild verges.
- Roof gardens / planting on side of buildings.
- Prevent the loss of trees on public and private land through planning policies by preventing people from paving over their front gardens and protecting existing and maximising new green cover in new developments for example. Better planning controls re paving gardens for parking.
- Empower businesses, individuals and communities to green the borough, for example by:
  - Identifying suitable sites for community planting
  - Working with existing organisations such as environment groups and allotment associations
  - Providing education on the benefits of planting and advice on types of species and aftercare
  - Communicating available planting opportunities
  - Providing free saplings/ seeds
  - Identifying areas that can be left to re-wild.
- Local schools having links with local parks: learning about nature and conservation.
- Ban use of herbicides / pesticides.
- Sustainable urban drainage (SUDs).
- Community garden.
- Building higher.
- Bees on rooves. Encourage bee keeping in parks.



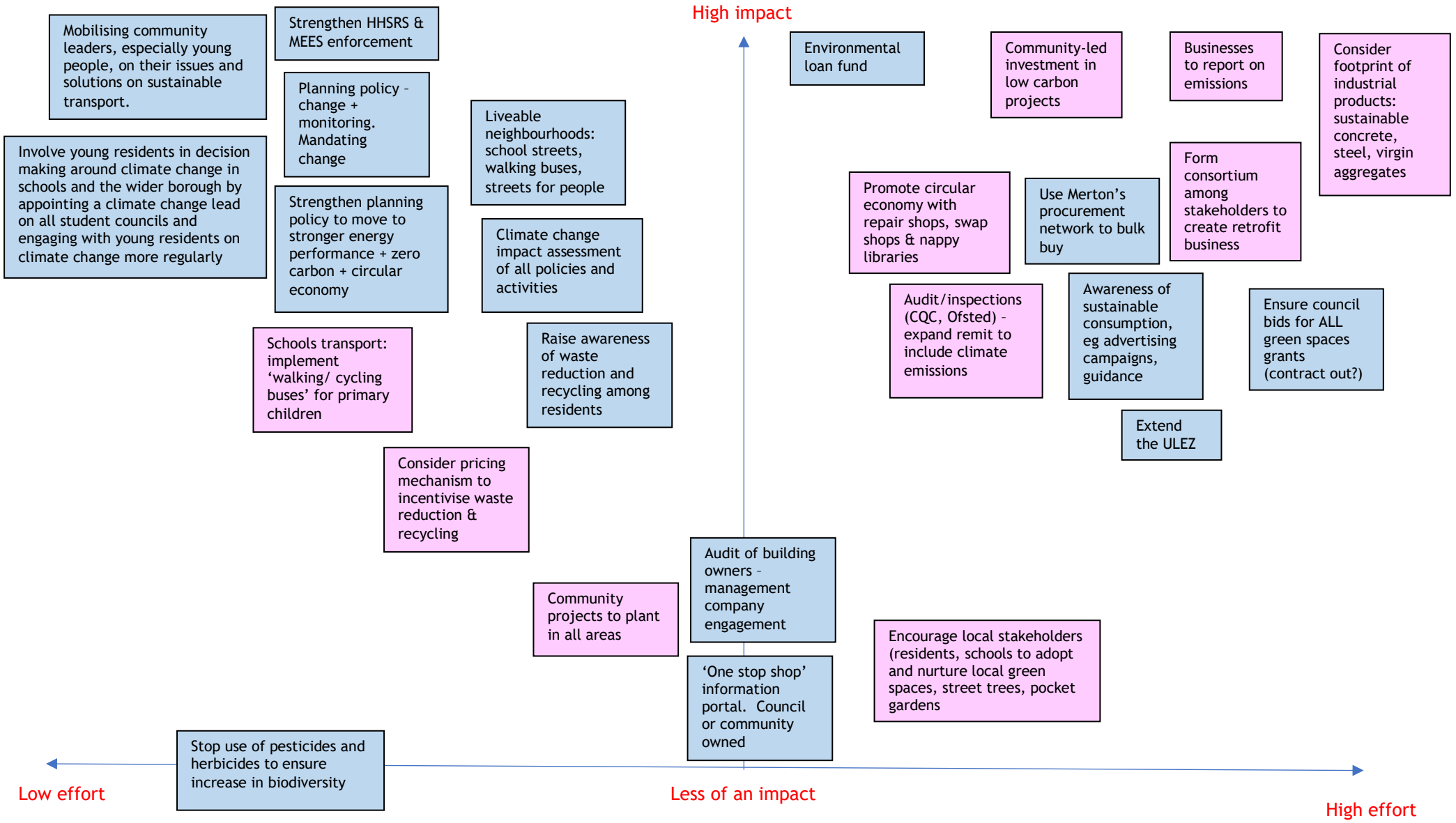
6. Governance, reporting and finance

- Businesses and financial institutions to report clearly on their sustainability credentials.
- Signpost to independent or impartial green finance advice.
- Develop a sustainability charter for local businesses with the Chamber of Commerce and Business Improvement Districts.

- Involve young residents in decision-making around climate change in schools and the wider borough by appointing a climate change lead on all student councils and engaging with young residents on climate change more regularly.
- Appoint a Councillor from each party to influence policies and act as an ambassador for climate change.
- Cross-party committee with young member representatives.
- Incentivise good performance through competitions, awards, and/or loans for example.
- Lobby national Government to accelerate actions to mitigate climate change.
- Facilitate local training programmes to address the skills gap in the green economy.
- Incorporate greenhouse gas emissions from current procured services into the Council's greenhouse gas reporting, and review the Council's business case and procurement policies to minimise greenhouse gas emissions and incorporate into local plan.
- Council to publish a greenhouse gas inventory showing progress against targets.
- Undertake a climate change impact assessment of Council policies and activities.
- Create an environmental loan fund.
- Council to publish net zero plans for its own investments.
- Group buying systems (eg Solar Together).



Finally in this session, each group was asked to choose their 3 or 4 priority actions, focusing on the high impact measures, and add these onto one large, shared matrix. This is replicated on the following page: those on a blue square are Council actions, those on a pink square are wider stakeholder actions.


High impact
Mobilising community leaders, especially young people, on their issues and solutions on sustainable transport.
Strengthen HHSRS & MEES enforcement
Planning policy – change + monitoring. Mandating change
Involve young residents in decision making around climate change in schools and the wider borough by appointing a climate change lead on all student councils and engaging with young residents on climate change more regularly
Liveable neighbourhoods: school streets, walking buses, streets for people
Strengthen planning policy to move to stronger energy performance + zero carbon + circular economy
Climate change impact assessment of all policies and activities
Schools transport: implement 'walking/ cycling buses' for primary children
Raise awareness of waste reduction and recycling among residents
Consider pricing mechanism to incentivise waste reduction & recycling
Environmental loan fund
Community-led investment in low carbon projects
Businesses to report on emissions
Consider footprint of industrial products: sustainable concrete, steel, virgin aggregates
Promote circular economy with repair shops, swap shops & nappy libraries
Use Merton's procurement network to bulk buy
Form consortium among stakeholders to create retrofit business
Audit/inspections (CQC, Ofsted) – expand remit to include climate emissions
Awareness of sustainable consumption, eg advertising campaigns, guidance
Ensure council bids for ALL green spaces grants (contract out?)
Extend the ULEZ
Audit of building owners – management company engagement
Community projects to plant in all areas
'One stop shop' information portal. Council or community owned
Encourage local stakeholders (residents, schools to adopt and nurture local green spaces, street trees, pocket gardens
Stop use of pesticides and herbicides to ensure increase in biodiversity
Low effort
Less of an impact
High effort

4. Putting our ideas into action

For the final workshop session, the groups were asked to select just one action idea that they had prioritised and to develop a more detailed plan as to how this could be taken forward. They were asked to think about:

- What's already happening?
- What else needs to happen?
- What are the key barriers to be overcome?
- Who needs to be involved?
- Interactions/interdependencies with other actions / ideas / sectors
- Any other thoughts (eg timings, resource, policy)

The worksheets from each group are transcribed below along with the key highlights each group fedback into plenary.

1. **Domestic buildings and household energy use**
   a) **Prioritised action**: Forming a consortium to deliver domestic retrofit at scale.
   b) **Key next step:** Domestic retrofit at scale. Need supply chain to come together and a willingness to take action on homes.
   c) **Key barrier to overcome:** Lack of landlord education and a lack of national policy. Funding needed from government as well as support for the able to pay and legislation on rent charges linked to energy efficiency standards. Ideas include crowd funding for neighbourhood level action (including procurement), retrofit champions, consortiums with social housing providers and the use of carbon offset funds.

What's already happening?

GLA's Energiesprong + Accelerator Programme (Turner Townsend)
- Focus on social landlords (RENEW Programme now finished)
- Lots of pilot projects in UK
- Won some money from the whole-house retrofit competition
- Now costing £70-£75k/homes: looking to reduce to £40k through bulk
- Typically gets a C or D property to A
- Relatively new in the UK: 2 approved contractors
- Offsite approach to retrofit at scale
- Insulation + technology bolted on
- 30 years energy performance guarantee

ECO funding
EnerPhit: Passivhaus retrofit
Lessons to be learnt from Green Deal
Housing providers to introduce higher rents for more efficient homes (government intervention)
Innovate UK / LEDNet
PAS2035: new retrofit standards

What else needs to happen?

Government funding
- For the able to pay & those who are not able to pay
- Green financing

Building supply chain
Government legislation to introduce rent charges based on energy performance
Consider crowd funding, eg get streets to get together
Retrofit Champions to go and communicate benefits – community led
Use carbon offset funds to retrofit existing stock
Get social landlords in Merton together: form consortium, source funding

What are the key barriers to be overcome?

Finance
Supply chain readiness: how to upskill installers

Residents willingness Conservation issues Educating landlords (coordinating organisations) Lack of certainty
Who needs to be involved? Housing providers Landlords GLA Merton Council Private funding Installers Tenants Trainers: Retrofit Academy, South Thames College Design input (housing providers)
Interactions/interdependencies with other actions / ideas / sectors
Any other thoughts (eg timings, resource, policy)

2. **Non-domestic buildings & business energy use (including Council buildings & schools)**
   a) **Prioritised action**: One-stop-shop / portal
   b) **Key next step:** Develop a one-stop-shop / portal for businesses and schools etc to share information on support services available locally, regionally and nationally and to gather information on who owns buildings etc
   c) **Key barrier to overcome:** Needs to be impartial to build trust, and it's going to cost money and resources to operate.

What's already happening? Nothing. There are organisations that exist/outreach happening but nothing central. There are points of engagement.
What else needs to happen? We need to set up a portal with information for businesses. As much information as possible on that site Sign up to the portal needs to be 2-way permissions - Allows for the portal owners to see information on buildings Links to suppliers/procurement Not for profit
What are the key barriers to be overcome? Impartiality Trust worthiness Cost for set up & running costs Do sign-uppers want to give out that info? - Maybe make it a 2-stage portal: one just info, one with access to more info and funding Separate project and team
Who needs to be involved? Council Working groups Chamber of Commerce

BIDs Business associations Large landlords NHS Property services Energy suppliers Academies Diocese Energy Saving Trust / Carbon Trust
Interactions/interdependencies with other actions / ideas / sectors Operates with all sectors Needs to include green spaces, domestic sector, transport Allows for information gathering - Building ownership audit - Energy consumption audit
Any other thoughts (eg timings, resource, policy) Resource cost for set up and running Look for sponsorship / funding to run / set up Recognition for businesses that make a difference Could be funded via energy company sponsorship (without prejudice)

3. **Transport**
   a) **Prioritised action**: Liveable neighbourhoods / school streets
   b) **Key next step:** Prioritising streets for pedestrians and cyclists. Behaviour change activities to enable residents to become car free.
   c) **Key barrier to overcome:** Investment (including enforcement cameras), displacement of traffic to neighbouring areas/boroughs, how to stop through traffic across the borough.

What's already happening? Existing trials of school streets Snap Traffic calming measures
What else needs to happen? Re-appropriate streets for pedestrians and cyclists Take away one lane of traffic to make room for pedestrians and cyclists - Route cars on 1-way systems Behaviour change – convert people to how nice car free can be
What are the key barriers to be overcome? Initial investment Displacement of traffic Need to create an alternate reality Strong political buy-in Handling through-traffic
Who needs to be involved? Council Transport authorities Private residents Planning developments that are car free

Young people / wide demographic
Interactions/interdependencies with other actions / ideas / sectors Walking buses Educating through schools
Any other thoughts (eg timings, resource, policy) Need to learn/educate/communicate and then change Need to get buy-in Do trials to get people interested

4. **Waste and sustainable procurement**
   a) **Prioritised action**: Raise awareness on sustainable consumption and waste reduction.
   b) **Key next step:** Sustainable consumption – better public health
   c) **Key barrier to overcome:** National campaigns – lobbying and consistency of waste collections.

What's already happening? Smart meters Labelling (not fully) Recycling targets
What else needs to happen? Public health & sustainable consumption – links National sustainable labelling system Lobby for national labelling Education – young residents as well as older residents National collection consistency of waste
What are the key barriers to be overcome? Communication channels High turn-over of residents Attitude changes – 'it's not my problem' Throw away culture Built in obsolescence
Who needs to be involved? Everyone – 'it is my problem' Manufacturers Influencers – good habits Young residents
Interactions/interdependencies with other actions / ideas / sectors Linking healthy work place / schemes on green and healthy choices
Any other thoughts (eg timings, resource, policy)

5. **Green spaces**
   a) **Prioritised action**: Community gardening, greening, rewilding.
   b) **Key next step:** Different activities such as planting trees that could be socially prescribed.

c) **Key barrier to overcome:** Need grassroot leadership from the council, landowner permissions, funding and for contractors to be involved.

What's already happening? 'Friends of…' groups working in parks Families looking after planning in small spaces with bulbs - Set examples / encourage others to get involved Sustainable Merton Tree Warden Group Friends of the Earth
What else needs to happen? Central database of activities and information on policy (eg where to plant new trees) Social prescribing for 'green' activity Council campaign: webcams for wildlife, social media next door Greater co-ordination: council support, grass-root leadership, school involvement
What are the key barriers to be overcome? Communication and co-ordination Gain landowners' permission Funding sources Contractor involvement/support Public education Need for continued maintenance commitment
Who needs to be involved? Anyone Residents associations Education involvement: kids being the educators Community / friend groups
Interactions/interdependencies with other actions / ideas / sectors Bid for external funding more co-ordinated Link to public health
Any other thoughts (eg timings, resource, policy) Start now! Celebrate outcomes

The Green Spaces group also started a second worksheet on banning herbicide use:

What's already happening? Nothing
What else needs to happen? Council commitment
What are the key barriers to be overcome? Education, habit Resource funding and manpower increase
Who needs to be involved? All

Interactions/interdependencies with other actions / ideas / sectors Health, well-being Enhanced biodiversity
Any other thoughts (eg timings, resource, policy)

6. **Governance, reporting and finance**
   a) **Prioritised action**: Involving young residents
   b) **Key next step:** Overcome the stigma against and lack of opportunities for young people
   c) **Key barrier to overcome:** More funding. Climate change leads in all schools. Hold adults accountable for their promises. Representation of the Youth Parliament on council/working groups etc.

What's already happening? Many young residents involved in Youth Parliament: they created a campaign Young residents advocating for climate change throughout the country Young residents involved in the Climate Change Action Group
What else needs to happen? Youth Parliament needs more funding Climate change lead in each school and deputy - They would contribute to school council and work with Heads of Department Holding adults accountable Set up Climate Change Committee for Council and ensure young members participate Overall ensure young people have a voice
What are the key barriers to be overcome? Stigma and prejudice against youth Lace of willingness to provide opportunities for young people
Who needs to be involved? Council leads Heads of Departments and Head Teachers Mentors and advisers Adult climate change champions
Interactions/interdependencies with other actions / ideas / sectors Behaviour changes Waste, air quality, planning, green spaces, energy
Any other thoughts (eg timings, resource, policy) This should be implemented immediately – there should be no lead time

The Governance/Finance group also started a second worksheet on an environmental loan fund:

What's already happening? Disability Facilities Grant – retrofit property used to be a grant, now a loan Take charge on property Land charge
What else needs to happen? Set up Environmental Loan Fund for every building in country to improve efficiency Ideally central government would be involved Sell health and financial benefits of efficient homes + improve fuel poverty
What are the key barriers to be overcome? Expense People's reluctance to incur hassle of loan and getting the builders in Needs to be administered by someone
Who needs to be involved? Central government Private sector could provide funding (ie blended finance)
Interactions/interdependencies with other actions / ideas / sectors Energy use Public health Air quality Funding
Any other thoughts (eg timings, resource, policy) Roll out as soon as possible – start small and ramp up Runs to 2050

The workshop was closed by Chris Lee, Director of Environment and Regeneration at Merton Council, who thanked everyone for their participation.

Appendix 1: Briefing Paper (sent to delegates in advance of the workshop)

Merton Council Climate Action Plan - Stakeholder Workshop Briefing Paper: A vision for 2050

To help you start to think about how we can achieve net zero carbon, we've put together the ideas below to help you imagine how we might be living and working in Merton in 2050. These are not set in stone in any way but help to indicate the breadth and pace of change that we'll all have to take part in if we're to meet our targets.

If you have time, do please have a read before you get to the workshop and for each of the six themes below have a think about:

- What actions you think Merton Council should be undertaking?
- What actions you think wider society should be undertaking in Merton?

1. Domestic Buildings & Household Energy Use

- Everyone will benefit from more comfortable housing that requires less energy to heat it. Smart energy solutions will be built into everyday lives.
- Existing houses and flats will be upgraded to be very well insulated and fitted with new heating systems using low carbon heat or electricity (to replace natural gas)
- Poor quality housing that is not feasible to upgrade will be replaced. New homes will be designed and built to be zero carbon.
- Renewable heat and electricity will be generated on many more houses
- Funding and finance will be provided to ensure that these upgrades are made possible for householders and landlords.
- District or community heating schemes will provide renewable heat to new developments
- Domestic appliances will be replaced with highly efficient appliances

2. Non-Domestic Buildings & Business Energy Use (including Council buildings and schools)

- Businesses and organisations will be actively encouraged (financially and through social responsibility) to reduce their carbon emissions
- All buildings will be upgraded or replaced so that energy use is minimised, local energy generation is maximised and fossil fuel heating systems are replaced with zero carbon heating
- Businesses and public sector organisations will spend less of their money on energy use, enabling money to be spent elsewhere
- Green economy businesses will expand to supply low carbon solutions across the Borough
- Working practices will change to enable a shift in travel needs. It is likely that people will travel less far to work – working at home or using co-working spaces close to home. Connectivity will improve to allow this to be possible.

3. Transport

- There will be fewer cars and other vehicles on the roads. The vehicles that are used will be powered by electricity or zero carbon fuels (such as hydrogen and biofuels). Re-fuelling/charging infrastructure will have changed to enable this to be normal.

- Air quality will be much improved and road layouts will change to make them easier to use by cyclists and pedestrians
- A much higher number of journeys will be completed by walking, cycling and public transport.
- Public transport will be cheaper, more complete in coverage, more regular and easier to use for everyone.
- Distribution of goods will be more efficient, requiring fewer HGVs and fewer journeys by vans.
- Car ownership will be lower, with more shared use cars.
- The need to travel will be reduced through more home-working, co-working spaces, use of improved local facilities rather than needing to travel further

4. Waste and Sustainable Procurement

- People will produce less waste from their households and businesses - packaging and other single use materials will be reduced
- Re-use of objects and materials will become the norm, with fewer items becoming waste.
- Most of the remaining waste streams will be composted or recycled
- Food waste will be reduced by more efficient (shorter) distribution systems and changes to behaviour or both retailers and consumers.
- Waste collection will be more strictly monitored
- Individuals and companies will consider the environmental credentials of what they buy much more carefully – for products and services. Environmental performance information will be more readily available and scrutinised.

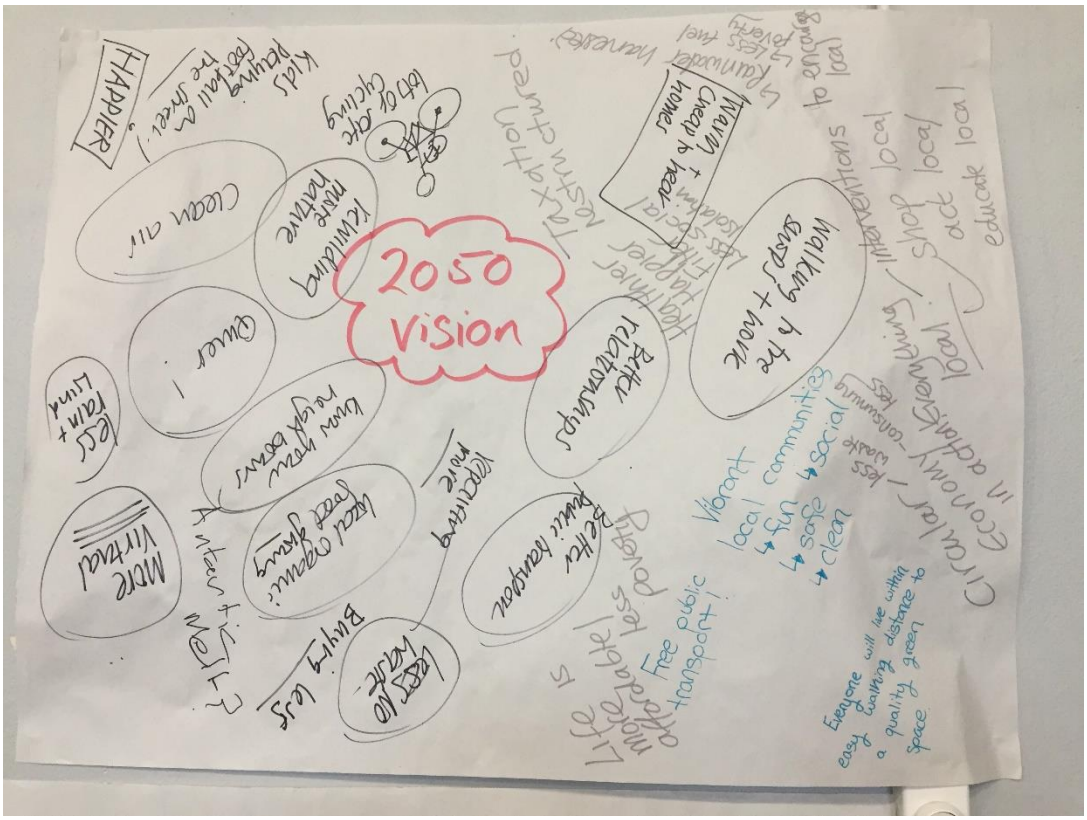
5. Green Spaces

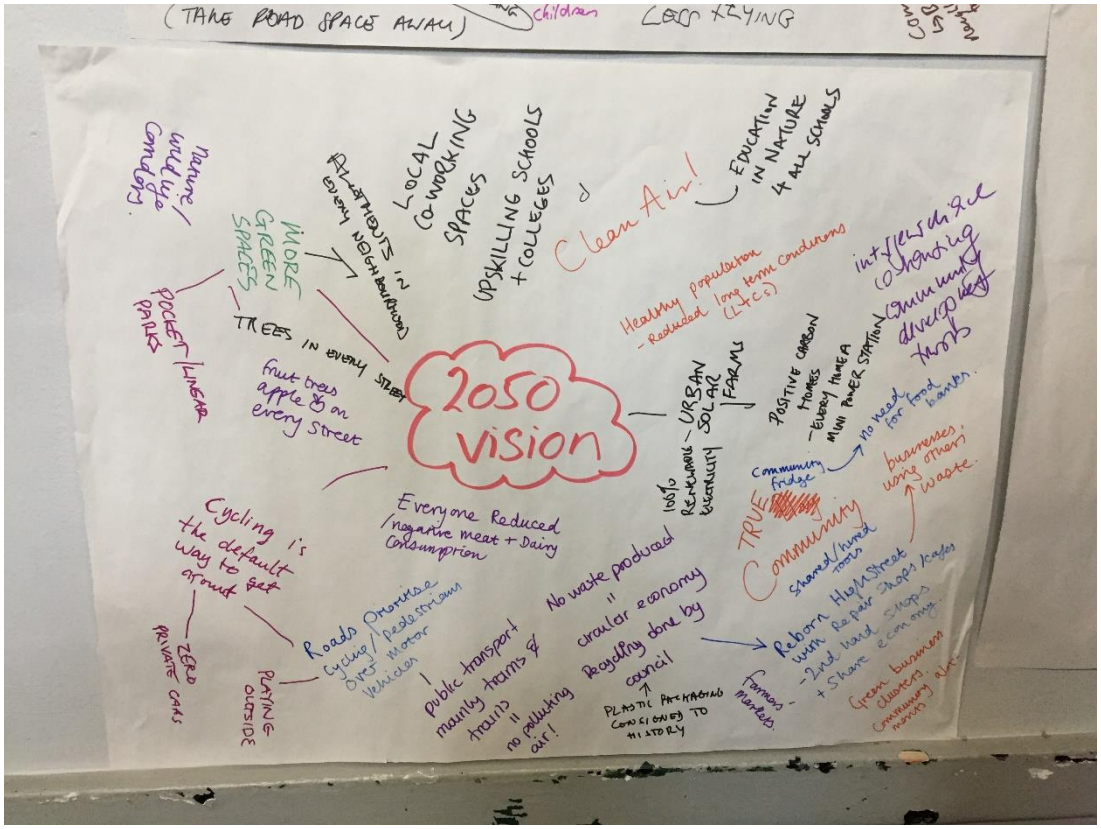
- Green spaces in Merton will be improved to provide green corridors for nature and people.
- Biodiversity will increase.
- Green spaces will enable better climate adaptation for the Borough, reducing runoff and providing shade.
- People will be able to use green spaces to improve their journeys across the borough by cycling and walking
- More space will be available for individuals or community groups to grow their own food

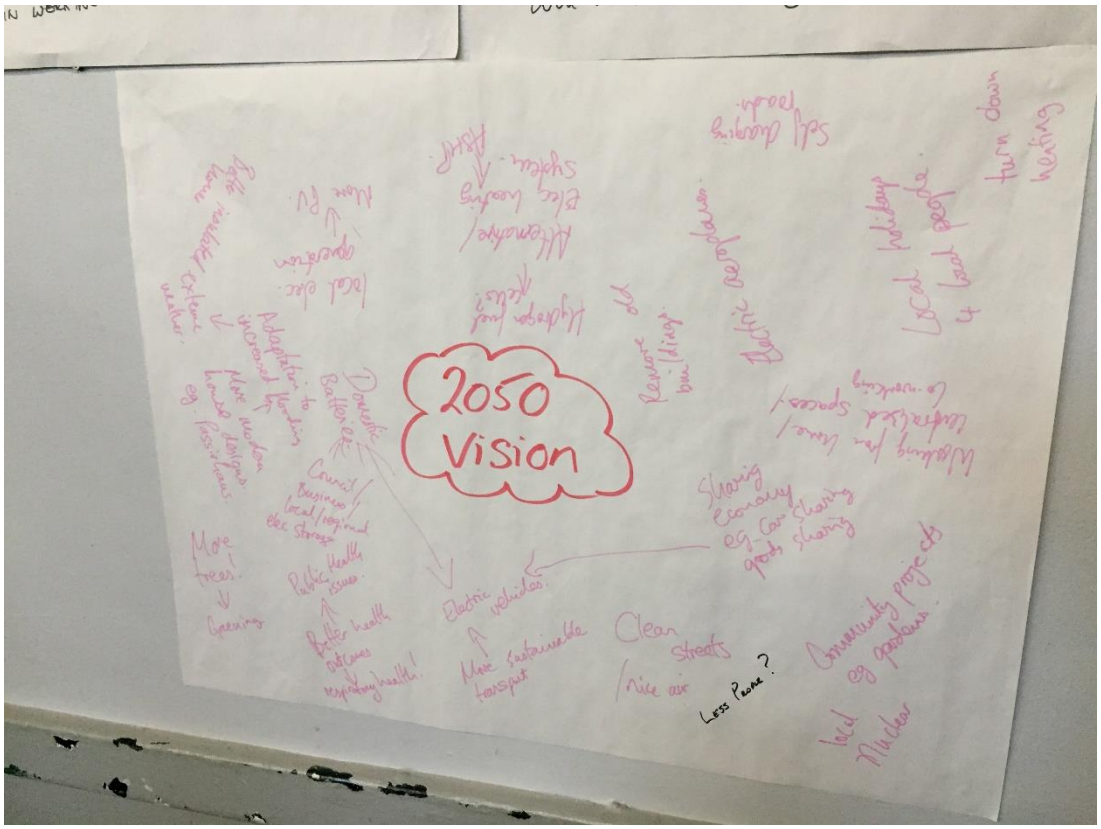
6. Governance, Reporting and Finance

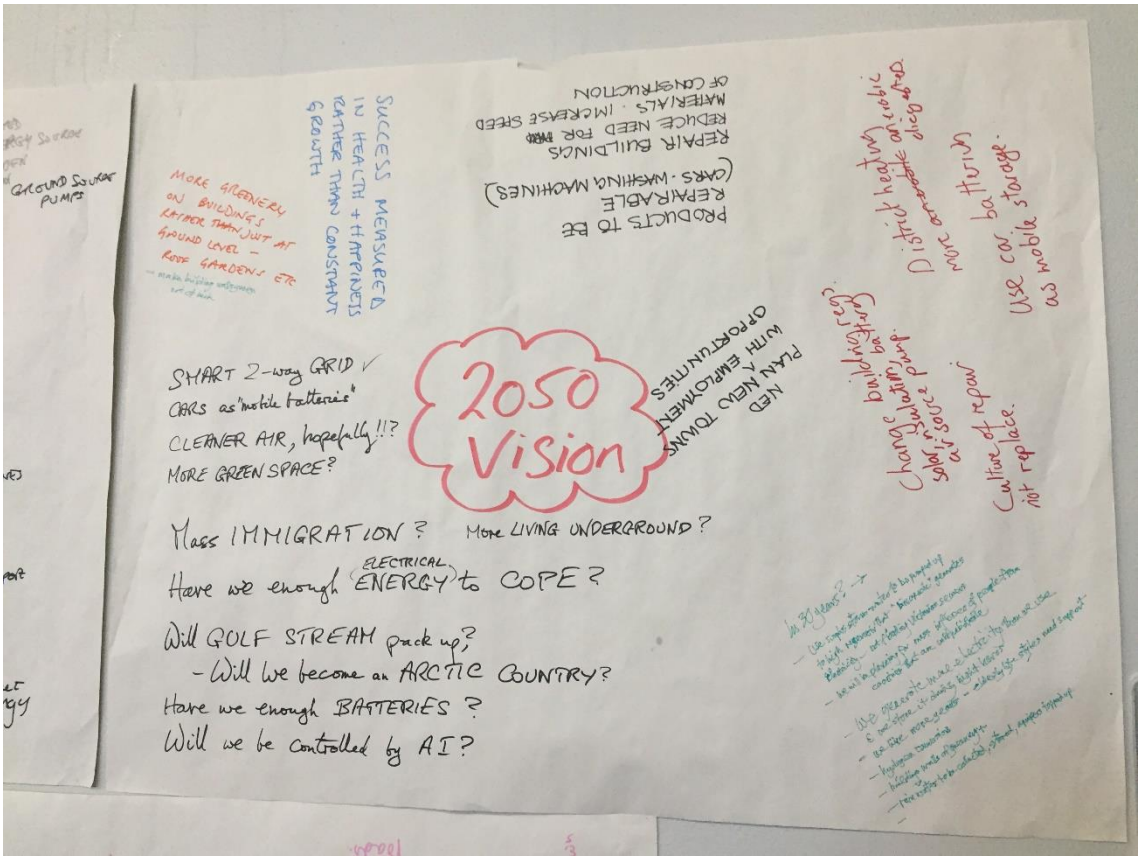
- Carbon emissions and climate change adaptation will be a significant issue for policy choices in aspects of the council's work
- Investments and purchases will be scrutinised for environmental performance
- Businesses in the Borough will be actively encouraged to invest in the green economy
- Positive attitudes towards the environment and reducing climate change will be encouraged at all levels

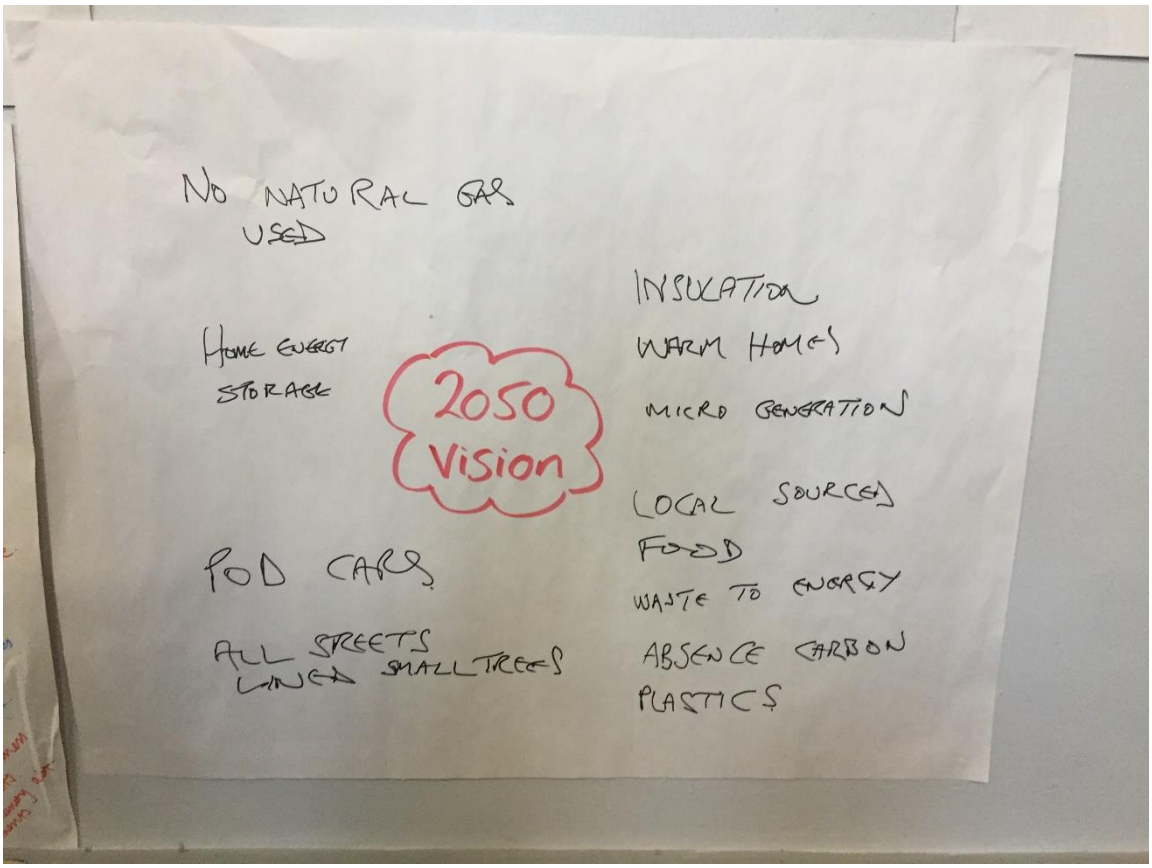
Appendix 2: A Vision for 2050: Graffiti Walls (from section 2 of the report)

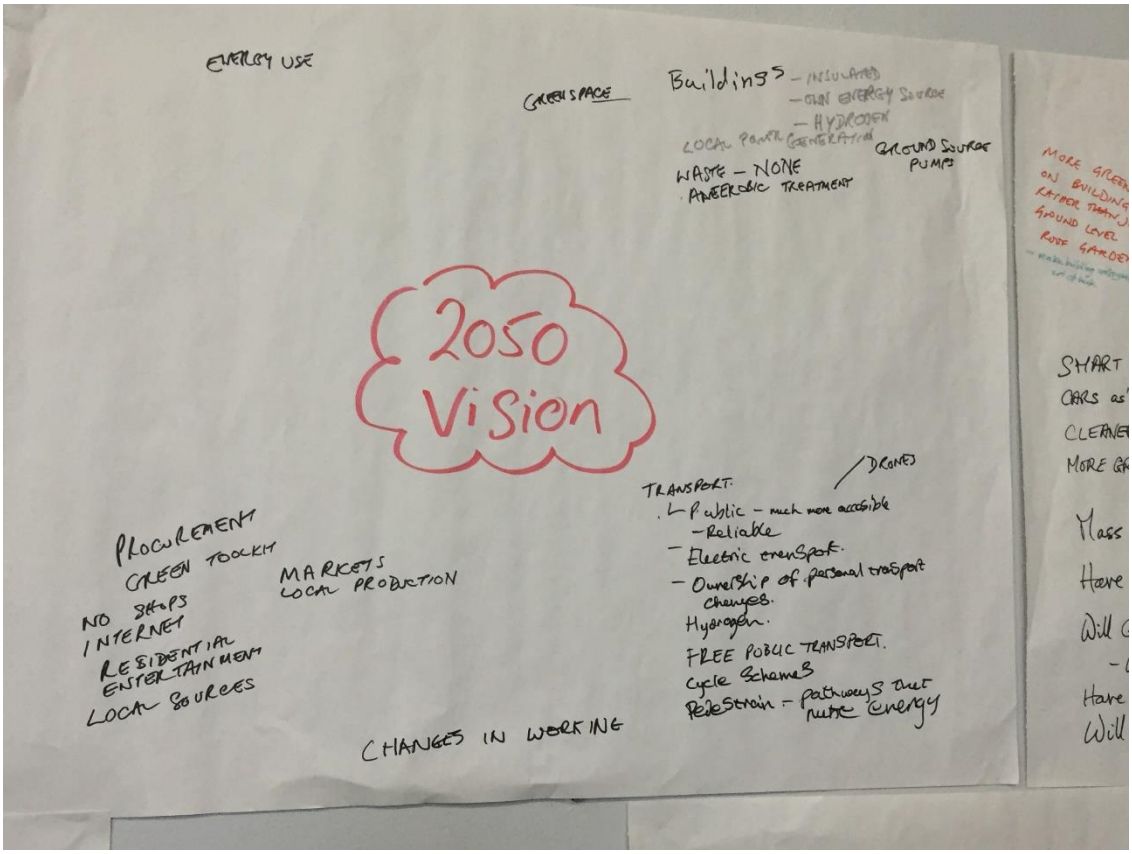

2050 Vision
HAPPIER
Clean air
More Nature
Quiet
Less rain + Less Urban heat
More Virtual
Better Health
Better Transport
Walking + bike
Circular Economy - consume less
Everyone will live within easy walking distance to a quality green space
Free public transport!
Vibrant local community
Safe
Clean
Local
Local
Local

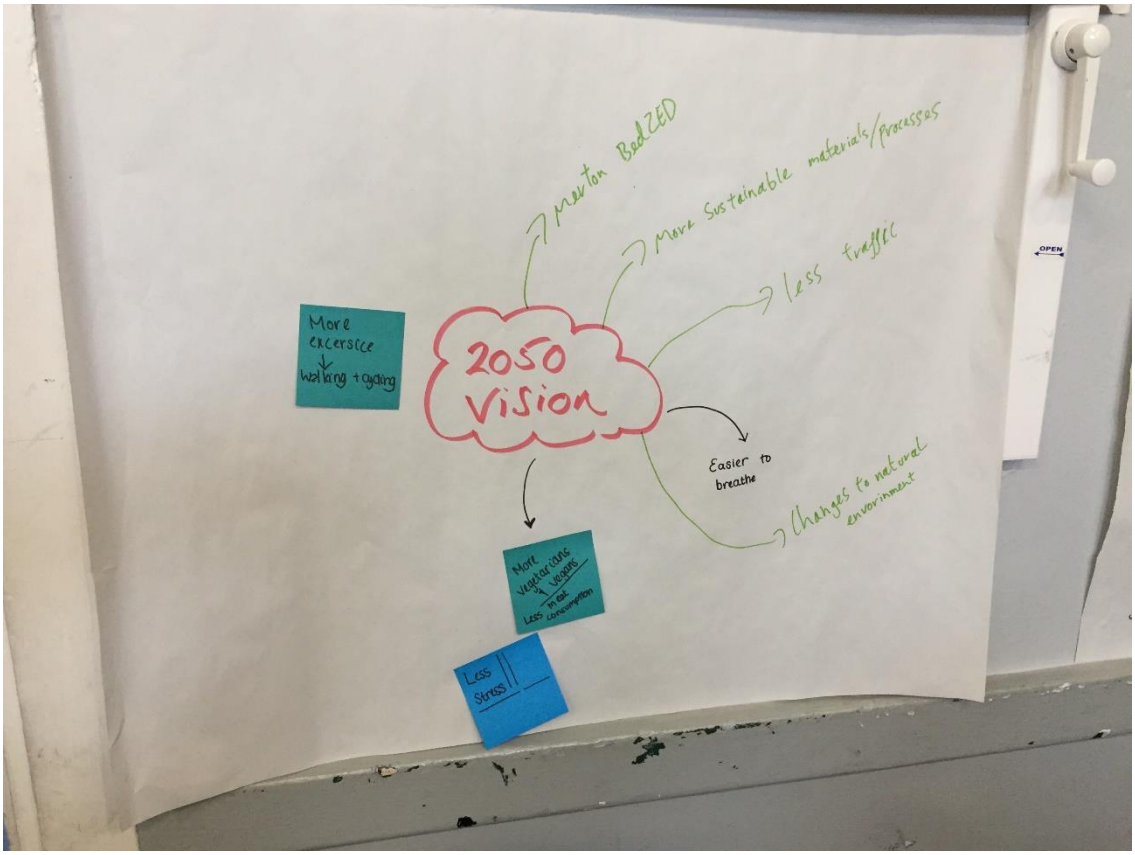

(TAKE ROAD SPACE AWAY)
LESS FLYING
2050 vision
Clean Air!
EDUCATION IN NATURE 4 ALL SCHOOLS
LOCAL CO-WORKING SPACES
UPSKILLING SCHOOLS + COLLEGES
ALLOTMENTS IN EVERY NEIGHBOURHOOD
MORE GREEN SPACES
TREES IN EVERY STREET
fruit trees apple on every street
POCKET/LINEAR PARKS
Nature/wildlife corridors
Healthy population - Reduced long term conditions (LTCs)
intergenerational co-housing community development trusts
URBAN SOLAR FARMS
100% RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY
POSITIVE CARBON HOMES - EVERY HOME A MINI POWER STATION
no need for food banks
Community fridge
TRUE Community
businesses using others waste
Everyone Reduced /negative meat + Dairy consumption
Cycling is the default way to get around
ZERO PRIVATE CARS
PLAYING OUTSIDE
Roads Prioritise cycling/pedestrians over motor vehicles
public transport mainly trams & trains
no polluting air!
No waste produced
circular economy
Recycling done by council
PLASTIC PACKAGING CONSIGNED TO HISTORY
Farmers markets
Reborn High Street with Repair shops/cafes - 2nd hand shops + Share economy
Green business clusters
Community alternatives


2050 Vision
Self charging roads
Local holidays 4 local people
turn down heating
Electric aeroplanes
Alternative/Elec heating system
Hydrogen fuel cells?
Remove old buildings
Domestic Batteries
Council/Business local/regional elec storage
Public Health issues
Better health outcomes respiratory health!
More trees!
Greening
Electric vehicles
More sustainable transport
Sharing economy eg car sharing goods sharing
Clean streets /nice air
Less Phone?
Community projects eg gardens
local Nuclear


2050 Vision
SMART 2-way GRID ✓
CARS as "mobile batteries"
CLEANER AIR, hopefully!!?
MORE GREEN SPACE?
Mass IMMIGRATION?
More LIVING UNDERGROUND?
Have we enough ELECTRICAL ENERGY to COPE?
Will GULF STREAM pack up?
- Will we become an ARCTIC COUNTRY?
Have we enough BATTERIES?
Will we be controlled by AI?
SUCCESS MEASURED IN HEALTH + HAPPINESS RATHER THAN CONSTANT GROWTH
MORE GREENERY ON BUILDINGS RATHER THAN JUST AT GROUND LEVEL - ROOF GARDENS ETC
PRODUCTS TO BE REPAIRABLE (CARS · WASHING MACHINES)
REPAIR BUILDINGS
REDUCE NEED FOR MATERIALS · INCREASE SPEED OF CONSTRUCTION
NED PLAN NEW TOWNS WITH EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES
Change building reg. solar insulation, battery a/source pump.
Culture of repair not replace.
District heating more anaerobic digested
Use car batteries as mobile storage.


2050 Vision
NO NATURAL GAS USED
HOME ENERGY STORAGE
POD CARS
ALL STREETS LINED SMALL TREES
INSULATION
WARM HOMES
MICRO GENERATION
LOCAL SOURCED FOOD
WASTE TO ENERGY
ABSENCE CARBON PLASTICS


ENERGY USE
GREEN SPACE
Buildings - INSULATED
- OWN ENERGY SOURCE
- HYDROGEN
LOCAL POWER GENERATION
GROUND SOURCE PUMPS
WASTE - NONE
ANAEROBIC TREATMENT
2050 Vision
TRANSPORT:
DRONES
- Public - much more accessible
- Reliable
- Electric transport.
- Ownership of personal transport changes.
Hydrogen.
FREE PUBLIC TRANSPORT.
Cycle Schemes
Pedestrain - pathways that make energy
PROCUREMENT
GREEN TOOLKIT
NO SHOPS
INTERNET
RESIDENTIAL ENTERTAINMENT
LOCAL SOURCES
MARKETS
LOCAL PRODUCTION
CHANGES IN WORKING
MORE GREEN ON BUILDING RATHER THAN GROUND LEVEL
ROOF GARDEN
START
CARS as
CLEANER
MORE GR
Mass
Have
Will
Have
Will


Made in BedZED
More Sustainable materials/processes
less traffic
More exercise
walking + cycling
2050 vision
Easier to breathe
Changes to natural environment
More vegetarians + vegans
Less consumption
Less Stress
OPEN