

Environment Strategy Progress Report - Quarter 3 2022/23

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1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Environment Strategy and Climate Emergency Response Plan sets out the Council's commitment to become London's most sustainable borough. The Climate Emergency Response Plan sets out the actions the council and others will take to support achievement of the ambitious target of becoming a net zero Council and borough. The plan is reviewed and updated annually via a report to the Council's Environment and Sustainable Transport Committee. The latest report was presented to the [December 2022 Environment and Sustainable Transport meeting](#).
- 1.2. This document provides a summary of progress during the period October - December 2022 (quarter 3 2022/23). Previous reports are available on the [Council's website](#).
- 1.3. Key highlights during quarter 3 include:
 - Phase 2 of the Government's levelling up fund was announced in the 2022 Spring Statement. The council was successful with its application to the fund for improvements between Sutton and Belmont train line to improve the frequency of services which will support staff and visitors to the London Cancer Hub and has been awarded £14 million.
 - Delivery for the Green Spaces Design Project has started with Groundwork London with work beginning on the designs for Limes Avenue and Jubilee Gardens.
 - Greening Sutton Town Centre' project awarded £157,000 from TfL to improve Green Infrastructure within the High Street.
 - Biodiversity education provided to 8,146 people this year against a target of 5,000.
 - We have plans to attend local committees in March 2023 to promote energy saving advice and how it links to the climate crisis.
 - As part of mainstreaming climate change, Officers are now completing Climate impact assessments when submitting Committee papers. The Climate and Sustainability team will report on assessments received for quarter 4 in the next report.
 - We have been awarded £34k funding for residential cycle parking by Transport for London (TfL). We are planning on going to the market by the end of January.
 - Sutton Youth Centre has been deemed suitable for retrofitting carbon saving technology. An application for external funding was submitted to the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme for £130K with a commitment from LBS to provide £90K funding. The decision is due Jan 2023.
 - The Energy Efficiency Strategy (SHP) is due to be developed in Q1 23/24 and will pick this up.
 - The Pensions Committee met in September and approved the Funds Responsible Investment Policy. In December the committee approved the new investment strategy which builds in impact and climate.
- 1.4. Challenges during quarter 3 include:
 - The work to deliver the 'SuDS in Sutton Schools' project, which would introduce natural drainage features to reduce flood risk in playgrounds and the local area continues to face issues related to costs, timescale and resources.
 - A restoration appraisal has been compiled for the development of habitat at Beddington Farmlands. Whilst the document is still being refined it has proven sufficient to highlight the significant failings with restoration. The Housing Economy and Business committee noted in December 2022 that it was considering all

enforcement options open to it. Valencia Waste Management have stated they will be undertaking a review of the Restoration Management Plan, with a view to submitting a planning application to make the restoration 'sustainable, economical and appropriate.

- Delivery of electric vehicle charging points has been delayed due to issues related to the Traffic Management Order process. However, it is expected that five Source London charging points will be installed by the end of 2022/23.
- Due to the infrastructure required, it is likely that around 60% of council fleet vehicles will be electric in the next fleet contract. This is lower than the anticipated 100%. The contract will be let during 2023 for a contract start date of 1 April 2024.
- Procurement of a new contract for a corporate and public car club is subject to a delay due to legal checks of paperwork.
- The use of alternative materials to resurface roads (to reduce the carbon intensity) has seen issues in other South West London boroughs. This included the road softening during the summer 2022 heat wave. Due to these impacts and the increased costs, the council will not use these products until further study of the impact has taken place.

2. Cleaner Air

Sustainable Transport

- 2.1. Proposals from the Sutton-Croydon Bus Review indicated Transport for London (TfL) are introducing measures estimated to involve an additional £1 million investment in Sutton and Croydon. The proposals, including improvements associated with the London Cancer Hub and Special Emergency Care Hospital, are anticipated to be implemented from Spring 2024.
- 2.2. Phase 2 of the Government's levelling up fund was announced in the Governments 2022 Spring Statement. The council was successful with its application to the fund for improvements between Sutton and Belmont train line to improve the frequency of services which will support staff and visitors to the London Cancer Hub and has been awarded £14 million.
- 2.3. Consultants have been commissioned to assess Sutton rail service timetable change impact during Covid and engaged with the Department for Transport, Network Rail, Transport for London (TfL) and Govia Thameslink Railway to discuss post-covid demand recovery and potential timetable improvement.
- 2.4. The TfL Bus Action Plan, launched on 11 March 2022 accelerated the date for a zero emission bus fleet to 2030 rather than 2037. The current TfL expectation is that the majority of Sutton routes will have electric vehicles operating by the end of 2023-24, subject to procurement and funding.
- 2.5. The short term issues related to funding from TfL have been resolved and funding confirmed until March 2024. However, the medium and long term position is still subject to further agreement between the Government's department for transport and TfL.
- 2.6. Issues relating to the Traffic Management Order process has meant that delivery of electric vehicle charging points are currently delayed. However, it is anticipated that five Source London charging points will be installed by the end of 2022/23. Work has also started to create an Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy for the borough.
- 2.7. Plans are being developed for the three schools working towards School Streets and STARs accreditation (Robin Hood Infants, Tweeddale School and Abbey School). Informal consultation plan also in development.

Cycling

- 2.8. Funding totalling £41,000 has been identified to fund cycle training in the borough. Over 940 children and 57 adults have received training during 2022/23 (year to date). In addition to this, 23 school bikeability courses are booked for March 2023.
- 2.9. The council has also been awarded £34,000 of funding for residential cycle parking by Transport for London (TfL). Procurement is expected to commence in early 2023.

3. A Greener Borough

Parks and open spaces

- 3.1. Sutton has more than 90 parks and green spaces which cover nearly 500 hectares and land. The [Parks and Open Spaces Strategy](#) sets out a vision for the boroughs parks and open spaces and trees to be well-maintained; support good public health, local culture, social activities and biodiversity and where possible opportunities will be taken to improve access to open spaces, facilities and activities.
- 3.2. In order to maximise the maintenance of parks, the council prepares and updates management plans for the boroughs parks. There are currently 12 completed plans covering more than 25% of the borough parks, with a further three in draft stage.
- 3.3. The above work has continued as business as usual during quarter three. A full range of projects covering installation of facilities and equipment to meet the council's objectives to increase physical activity such as new cricket facilities, tennis, net ball, ball courts, play facilities etc have taken place.
- 3.4. A Volunteer Coordinator continues to work with existing friends groups as well as helping to establish new groups at St Helier Open Space and Corrigan Avenue Recreation Ground. This includes working with Friends groups to increase participation and volunteering in the parks.
- 3.5. Park volunteers (including Sutton Tree Wardens, event volunteer, litter picks, gardening, scout groups and corporate task volunteers) have donated 80 volunteer days, an in kind contribution of £4,000. Park Friends Groups (see 3.4 above) have donated 76 volunteer days valued at £3,775. This is a Cumulative total of 724 volunteer days during 2022/23 at a total value of £36,904

Biodiversity

- 3.6. Work on the ReWild London funded project has progressed with 6 banks installed, most of which have high levels of public support. However due to opposition from residents, the Woodcote Green bank will be removed. The council is seeking to relocate the bank to Queen Mary's Park subject to consultation with stakeholders.
- 3.7. The Sutton Ecology Centre continues to provide biodiversity education and events to local children and families. Data for quarter two indicates that 1,568 children were engaged by school groups and 722 children at events. The number of adults engaged by the same means was 138 and 842 respectively. No Wilgings Forest School activities took place during the quarter due to staff sickness. This means, Ecology Centre totals were 2,290 children and 980 adults. Other events run by the biodiversity team such as bat walks and presentations regarding Sutton's approach to biodiversity net gain engaged a further 476 people, meaning the total number of people engaged this quarter was 3,746. This is a cumulative total of 8,136 for the year 2022/23.
- 3.8. Sutton Nature Conservation Volunteers provide the council with support to deliver a variety of improvements to nature conservation sites across the borough. A total of

31.75 task days took place during the period October - December 2022. During this time, volunteers provided 153.3 volunteer days, valued at £7,662.5. Education volunteers donated 15.67 days, valued at £783.33. The Biodiversity Assistant/Beddington Farmlands Intern provided 14 days of time valued at £700. This brings the total number of biodiversity volunteers to 198.58 days at a value of £11,137.50. Combined with the quarter one & two's figures, this is a total of 547.88 days donated during 2022/23, equating to £27,393.75.

- 3.9. The council undertakes a monitoring and advisory role regarding the restoration of Beddington Farmlands. A restoration appraisal has been compiled for the development of habitat at Beddington Farmlands. Whilst the document is still being refined it has proven sufficient to highlight the significant failings with restoration. The Council's Housing Economy and Business Committee noted in December 2022 that it was considering all enforcement options. Valencia Waste Management have stated they will be undertaking a review of the Restoration Management Plan, with a view to submitting a planning application to make the restoration 'sustainable, economical and appropriate.
- 3.10. As reported previously, sustainability comments continue to be made on planning applications in relation to Policies 26c (Biodiversity) and 33b (Climate Change Adaptation) in line with the Council's Local Plan Technical Guidance Note (June 2018). None of the three major residential developments completed within the borough during the 2020-21 financial year demonstrated compliance with the council's minimum green space factor (GSF) target since these were granted planning permission prior to the introduction of the Technical Guidance Note during 2018-19. However, of the 17 major residential developments granted planning permission since the adoption of the Local Plan in February 2018, 12 (71%) have demonstrated compliance with the council's GSF target. Four out of these 12 developments had commenced on site as of April 2022. The remaining five major residential developments for which the GSF was not sought were mostly validated prior to February 2018. The relevant data for 2021-22 and 2022-23 (up to December 2022) will be reported in the next Authority Monitoring Report (AMR) which is currently under preparation and due to be published following approval at the HEB Committee in April 2023.

4. Achieving Net Zero Carbon

Energy use in the council estate

- 4.1. In previous reports it was noted that the council had commissioned its contractor MITIE Energy to undertake a review of the 10 highest energy consuming corporate properties. The surveys were completed in September 2022 and the reports were used to form the basis of an application to phase 3b of the Government's Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme. Nine Council Commercial properties were surveyed to identify Retrofit Technologies for carbon savings and included in the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) Bid submission in September 2022. The Council was interviewed by SALIX (PSDS administrators) in December which was successful. A formal award letter is expected in early February 2023.
- 4.2. Additional council sites have continued to be identified for retrofit and surveys were undertaken in December 2022. Once received the reports will be analysed and provide information for future applications for external funding.
- 4.3. Work to explore the introduction of battery storage and electric vehicle charging points at the Sutton civic offices took place in 2022. Updated quotes have now been received from UK Power Networks and are being analysed. Phase 1 of the scheme is expected to

include the installation of a new electrical supply from Gibson Road. Phase 2 will see the installation of electric vehicle charging stations within the Civic Offices Car park.

Pathway to net zero

- 4.4. As part of the commitment to achieving net zero carbon emissions, the council has commissioned consultants to develop a pathway towards this goal. This work involves analysis of both the council's own direct operations as well as borough-wide emissions. The findings of the work will inform an update to the Environment Strategy and Climate Emergency Response Plan in 2023/24.
- 4.5. In addition to the point above, the South London Waste Partnership (SLWP) has commissioned a carbon management plan. This work is yet to be shared with the council, however funding opportunities have been identified and shared with SLWP to help achieve this goal.
- 4.6. Financing to achieve net zero continues to be an issue and the current fundraising approach taken by the council is through grants from BEIS and Defra (see social housing decarbonisation fund section).
- 4.7. The Green Community Municipal bond pitched to the Council by Abundance Investment remains an option for community sourcing of funding. The cost of borrowing is similar or marginally lower than the Public Works Loan Board rates available to the Council. This coupled with the size of the maximum amount of £1m relative to the Council's need has dissuaded further action on it. Existing route for climate emergency funding within the Council remains submitting a bid through budget setting that shows how the need meets members' and Council priorities as captured in the Corporate Plan for assessment and allocation of funding from Council resources.

Sutton Decentralised Energy Network (SDEN)

- 4.8. Sutton Decentralised Energy Network is a district heating scheme which uses waste heat from the Beddington Energy Recovery Facility to power homes in the borough. It currently serves those in the New Mill Quarter development in Hackbridge. Heat network designers have been undertaking connection surveys of existing buildings to establish potential heat loads. Other work includes the production of draft designs of the energy centre and final drafts for the heat network. A full design package is now being produced for the main spine network and identified building connections which is now forecasted for review by SDEN in January. SDEN is seeking to launch stage 1 of the tender process at the end of January 2023.

Sutton Housing Partnership (SHP)

- 4.9. Sutton Housing Partnership is an arms length management organisation responsible for the maintenance of the council's social housing properties in the borough. To deliver on the Council's net zero carbon emissions target, all homes managed by SHP will need to be retrofitted to a net zero carbon standard.
- 4.10. The council continues to work with Sutton Housing Partnership to deliver a project to retrofit 75 homes. This is part of wave 1 of the government's Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund. Over £1.7m has been allocated and the project will deliver measures including cavity or external wall insulation, loft insulation and replacement of windows and doors. The measures installed at each property will be dependent upon the housing archetype, however all work aims to increase the energy efficiency rating of the property to an Energy Performance Certificate rating of C. This approach is targeting

the fabric of the houses first before switching to onsite renewable energy. A contract for the works was awarded in quarter 3 of 2022/23 and the project is expected to be completed in Spring 2023. An application for wave 2 of the social housing decarbonisation Fund has been submitted. If successful, this will see further properties retrofitted with similar measures.

- 4.11. On developing plans for low-carbon alternatives to individual gas boilers in new and existing homes, the focus for the programme for the coming year will continue to be 'fabric first', and deploying the resources available to deliver the 100% EPC C target (aspiring to EPC B) by 2030. Current alternatives to individual gas boilers cannot be funded without additional funding streams, which will need to be included in a future options paper to be developed in 2023/24.
- 4.12. The Asset Management Strategy and Action Plan was reviewed at the council's Housing, Economy and Business Committee meeting in October 2022. As part of this work, SHP committed to developing an Emergency Efficiency strategy. This will enable a further analysis of the SHP housing stock needs and relevant funding streams. SHP is using a specialist software tool (Portfolio) to undertake a more rigorous analysis of investment needs to achieve an improved energy efficiency rating. The Energy Efficiency Strategy is due to be developed in quarter one of 2023-24.
- 4.13. On assessing the feasibility for retrofit of the next 1,800 council properties already identified as potentially suitable and developing a business case - software has been purchased to enable further modelling. Funding has also been earmarked within the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan from year 5 to support decarbonisation work. Delivery at scale will require suitable grant support.
- 4.14. Work to develop plans to retrofit the remaining council properties to zero carbon standard (6,600 properties in total) will be progressed following completion of the Energy Efficiency Strategy (see 4.12).

Housing - council new builds and regeneration

- 4.15. Planning permission has now been obtained for the council's first new build PassivHaus housing development. The project went out to tender during quarter 3 of 2022/23 and the project costs received are expected to show the financial benefit of achieving zero carbon developments in comparison to carbon offset charges. Tender returns will be scrutinised in quarter 4, with the aim to calculate the uplift required to deliver zero carbon homes.
- 4.16. Viability remains an ongoing challenge across the council newbuild and estate regeneration programmes which is being further impacted by the increase in building costs while complying with the relevant regulations including those relating to sustainability and health and safety. Being able to separate out the costs to make a development net zero carbon is important to allow us to calculate future funding requirements. In addition to this the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan Base Model now also factors in the cost of achieving net zero carbon on all existing stock by 2050.

Fuel poverty and energy efficiency

- 4.17. Work continues to address the cost of living crisis which has links with climate change. Plans are in place to attend a local committee in March 2023 to promote energy saving advice and how it links to the cost of living crisis. The council are also working with the

voluntary sector via the borough anti-poverty forum which is led by Community Action Sutton. The main focus is on supporting residents at risk of fuel poverty.

- 4.18. Cases for the Sutton Healthy Homes Project which prioritises vulnerable residents or residents at risk of fuel poverty continue to be dealt with utilising external funding leveraged through our membership of the South London Energy Efficiency Partnership. Thinking Works (the delivery partner) have provided a series of "Energy Top Tips" videos which have been promoted via various council communication channels. Two online energy workshops have been held for residents.

Planning

- 4.19. As reported previously, since the adoption of the Local Plan in 2018, carbon offset contributions have been included in the Section 106 agreement for 12 major residential developments approved within the Borough, totalling £655,780 as of 31 December 2021. These developments are therefore on track to deliver the 'zero carbon' standard in line with Policy 31 and London Plan 2021 Policy SI 2 by funding appropriate carbon reduction measures offsite such as the Council's costed programme to upgrade lighting at LBS Civic Offices. Of these 12 developments, a total of two carbon offset contributions totalling £26,563 and offsetting 14.8 tonnes of CO₂ per annum have already been collected by the Council. The remaining 10 developments could potentially generate an additional sum of £655,780 should they all be built out 195 out of the 249 new-build dwellings completed in 2020-21 (78.3%) achieved at least a 35% reduction in CO₂ emissions compared to Part L 2013, significantly up from 22.0% in 2019-20. The average reduction in emissions achieved by each completed dwelling was 44.4%, up from 29.3% in 2019-20. It should be noted that compliance with the zero carbon target is reviewed annually for inclusion in the Authority Monitoring Report (AMR) and the figures reported above describe the situation as of March 2022 as reported in the most recently published AMR 2020-21. A report will be prepared for HEB Committee during 2023-24 setting out a proposed Governance structure for Sutton's carbon offset fund and an updated and costed programme of carbon reduction measures.
- 4.20. As part of the evidence gathering stage for the new Local Plan, the Council has joined up with 19 other London Boroughs to undertake the 'Towards Net Zero Carbon' (TNZC) study and commissioned consultants to undertake the work. Amongst many other things, this study will assess the technical and commercial feasibility and viability of alternative low and zero carbon technologies in seeking to achieve further carbon reductions and/or zero carbon standards for various development types, taking account of the emerging national zero carbon standard, updated Part L 2021 and the Future Homes Standard. When completed in early 2023, the study will make specific planning policy recommendations on minimum carbon reduction standards, energy efficiency metrics and carbon pricing etc.

5. Creating a Circular Economy

Reducing waste and increasing recycling

- 5.1. Implementation of the council's waste minimisation strategy is monitored through the Reduction and Recycling Plan. This was last updated in January 2022 and the report detailing progress has been published on the [London Data Store](#). The Reduction and Recycling Plan for 2022 to 2025 has been developed and is currently being reviewed prior to the final sign off in March 2023.

- 5.2. The Refill Sutton scheme continues to operate across the borough, providing people with access to free water bottle refills while out or on the go. The council will continue to reach out to businesses and organisations to increase the number of places that people can access water towards the end of the Spring 2023.
- 5.3. To help inform waste and recycling campaigns and communications, a waste composition analysis of resident's waste took place in summer 2022. The final round of analysis has been completed and we are expecting data in early 2023. Interventions can then be put in place, targeting the materials which are most commonly disposed of and are contaminating waste and recycling streams.
- 5.4. Provision of on the go recycling facilities continues to be trialled across the borough. Scoping work has also taken place to expand the facilities. The trial includes the provision of solar powered big belly waste and recycling bins which compact the contents, resulting in fewer trips by staff to empty them. Other bins have been fitted with a sensor to inform the contract when the bin is nearly full and a collection is needed. Bids for funding to expand the trials have been submitted with the outcome expected by the end of 2022/23.
- 5.5. The council continues work to review its waste and recycling services ahead of the existing contract renewal date. This is looking at all waste and street cleansing services, reviewing the potential changes arising from the Resource and Waste Strategy (RWS) including deposit return schemes, extended producer responsibility. This work will ensure services will meet the requirements of the RWS and look for improvements to existing services using feedback from residents and Councillors. These changes will commence in 2025 in line with requirements for RWS and the review of the existing waste collections and street cleansing contract and the Household Reuse and Recycling Contract. Further work to trial different collections methods and alternative materials is being investigated to inform future collection contracts. Resident surveys and committee working groups have commenced to inform future services.

Library of Things

- 5.6. In July 2022 the council opened its first [Library of Things](#) in Sutton Central Library. The lending library helps people to save money and reduce waste by renting items that take up space and home and are often infrequently used. Items include a drill, sewing machine and garden tools. The latest usage data covers the period July - September 2022 during which more than 100 'things' were borrowed. The borrows collectively saved residents approximately £2,500, saving 1.4t CO2 and diverting 0.7tonnes of waste. Work is expected to take place during quarter 4 to raise awareness of the Library of Things and increase usage numbers.

Business Engagement

- 5.7. Using funding from the Mayor of London's High Streets for All fund, the council has created a Green Enterprise Partnership. This is a scheme that brings together local businesses and organisations interested in testing net zero business models and responding to the climate emergency. A TEDx Sutton High Street event took place on 17 November 2022 with over 70 attendees.
- 5.8. The Green Enterprise Partnership (GEP) was launched on 2 November 2022. Work is ongoing for the implementation phase with 46 local businesses formally expressing their interest in joining the partnership.

6. Tackling Climate Change

Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)

- 6.1. The quarter 1 report for 2022/23 provided a summary of the SuDS in Sutton Schools Project. The project involves the implementation of measures to reduce the risk of flooding in areas located near schools. A variety of measures may be installed such as rain gardens or swales which act to slow the rush of surface water run-off (e.g. rainwater) into the drains which in turn reduces the flood risk. The SuDS in Sutton Schools project has been delayed to 2023/24 at the request of the Environment Agency, the main stakeholder. Like many physical improvement projects, the council is reviewing the impact rising costs are having on the project and will seek to minimise this where possible while still delivering the aim of reducing flood risk. The project is expected to deliver a scheme at St Helier Open Space, close to Tweeddale Primary School and Tweeddale Children's Centre (subject to planning permission).

River Wandle

- 6.2. The council works closely with local environmental charity the South East Rivers Trust to support the delivery of improvements to the River Wandle and Beverley Brook as per the dedicated Catchment Plan. This work has been identified to support the aim of achieving the water framework directive targets for these waterways.
- 6.3. Previous reports have referred to restoration work due to take place at Goat Bridge in 2022. This is still dependent upon the demolition of the business park located on the western bank on the river. There continues to be no progress with this and as such, the restoration work has been delayed. Meanwhile the river restoration work at Richmond Green in Beddington has continued with reports to Beddington North Neighbourhood Forum in September 2022 and Beddington and Wallington Local Committee in December 2022.
- 6.4. The Shepley Mill (SES Water led project) is now in the feasibility study stage. The results of SES Water commissioned Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment and Hydraulic Modelling works assessments are expected in February 2023.

Emergency Planning

- 6.5. There is a national heatwave plan and London level severe weather frameworks. The council works off these and exercises within the London Resilience Partnership (pan-London) and Borough Resilience Forum (local) to ensure preparedness for heatwaves. The preparedness of the capability follows the planning cycle for the London framework.

Local Plan Review

- 6.6. As reported previously in quarter 2, the Local Plan review is now underway with initial evidence gathering and the sustainability appraisal work continuing as of December 2022. It is intended to strengthen the council's planning policies (or Design Codes as appropriate) relating to all aspects of sustainable design and construction, including the promotion of 'zero carbon' standards, in support of the wider aims of the Climate Emergency Response Plan.
- 6.7. As part of the sustainability appraisal process, detailed policy and technical research is being undertaken within the Strategic Planning Team to look at the existing legislative and policy context around delivering zero carbon together with a review of current best

practice. It is intended to consult on the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report with a range of internal and external stakeholders in Spring 2023.

- 6.8. As per 4.20, the council has also joined a grouping of 19 London Boroughs to commission the 'Towards Net Zero Carbon Study' from Etude Consultants. The study will evaluate the technical and commercial feasibility/viability of achieving different levels of on-site CO₂ reduction compared to the Part L 2021 baseline for each of the the main development types. It will also look into the carbon offset pricing and various mechanisms for securing carbon offset funding.

Partnership work

- 6.9. The council is involved in and supports a number of pan-London working groups established by London Councils to deliver change in response to the London Councils joint climate change mission. The mission covers seven key areas - Retrofit London, Low Carbon Development, Low Carbon Transport, Renewable Power for London, One World Living, Building the Green Economy and Creating a Green and Resilient London. Action Plans have been published for each area and London Councils are working with the groups to develop next steps including funding and resourcing the plans.
- 6.10. Sutton is also a member of the South London Partnership formed of boroughs Sutton, Merton, Kingston, Richmond and Croydon. The group is working regionally to identify best practice and deliver regional responses to the climate emergency. The group has bid for funding to deliver domestic retrofit advice for residents.
- 6.11. South London Partnership's Green Skills Academy has been established which is part of the Mayor of London's Academy programme. The GSA aims to collaborate with employers and educators to enable the retrofit, reduce/reuse/recycle and green space sectors to overcome barriers in skills provision. It also will develop opportunities for disadvantaged residents and those under-represented in the sector to secure jobs in the green economy.

7. Communications

Council communications

- 7.1. Projects and events are promoted regularly via the council's communications channels to raise awareness of the climate emergency and encourage behaviours which support the ambition to become a net zero borough. Channels used include the staff e-newsletter, resident e-newsletter and social media channels such as twitter and facebook.
- 7.2. Communications work in this quarter was prioritised on supporting the cost of living crisis (energy top tips and advice) the promotion of the Green Enterprise Partnership and Sustainable Warmth, a scheme to help residents living in inefficient homes and with a low income. Sustainable Warmth was promoted to frontline partners, via social media and through a targeted mailout, which was unfortunately affected by the postage strike.

Climate Action Community of Practice

- 7.3. The Climate Action Community of Practice (CACoP) continues to meet monthly. The group met in December to help shape the council and borough wide pathways to net zero emissions through providing information, attending workshops. Other meetings during quarter 3 included inputting into the review of the Local Plan.

If you would like more information or have any questions please take a look online at www.sutton.gov.uk/climate or email sustainability@sutton.gov.uk