



## BWTUC Comments on the Wandsworth Environment and Sustainability Strategy (WESS)

### Paper 20-27

<https://democracy.wandsworth.gov.uk/documents/s71801/Paper%2020%2027%20AP%20cover-SSA205426.pdf>

### Appendix 1 – Action Plan

<https://democracy.wandsworth.gov.uk/documents/s71802/Paper%2020%2027%20Appendix%20One.pdf>

### Appendix Two – Borough-wide Carbon Emissions Analysis

<https://democracy.wandsworth.gov.uk/documents/s71803/Ppaer%2020%2027%20appendix%20two.pdf>

#### Background

On 17th July 2019, Wandsworth Council declared a Climate Emergency, setting a target to be a **carbon neutral organisation by 2030**. At the same time the Council published its ten-year **Wandsworth Environment and Sustainability Strategy (WESS)**, which set out a roadmap for achieving this ambitious target, and made a commitment that annual climate action plans would be developed and published and that progress would be also be reported annually'. This is an extract from the council report:

*This report sets out the key actions of the first of these climate action plans, with the detailed climate action plan for 2020/21 attached at Appendix One. These actions include*

- *allocating £5million to projects which support the achievement of the Council's 2030 target;*
- *embedding environmental and sustainability aims across the Council by becoming a Gold Level Carbon Literate organisation and introducing environmental comments into Committee reports;*
- *purchasing 100% green electricity;*
- *lobbying for increased powers to tackle vehicle idling; and*
- *moving to the next phase of an engagement and communications plan, that puts working with in partnership with residents, business and community groups at the heart of the Council's work to deliver real and sustainable carbon footprint reductions in Wandsworth.*

*This report acknowledges that the action plans are only the starting point.*

*Through real engagement with community groups, residents and businesses and through additional dedicated resources, the Council will build on this plan with further actions developed and delivered over the next ten years.*

*This will include challenging everyone who lives and works in Wandsworth to reduce their carbon footprint and make Wandsworth the greenest, inner London borough.'*

(Council Paper 20-27 - FINANCE AND CORPORATE RESOURCES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – JANUARY 23RD 2020 report from the Chief Executive)

## Carbon neutral by 2030

BWTUC welcomes the commitment and the production of a strategy to deliver it. However, we are not convinced that the WESS and the Action Plan proposed can meet the 2030 target. No one should be under any illusions about the scale of this challenge.

**Headline fact: LB Wandsworth has a cumulative carbon emissions budget of 5.8 million tonnes (MtCO<sub>2</sub>) between 2020 to 2100. At 2017 levels of emissions – 886,100 tonnes – the budget will be exhausted in 7 years. Looked at another way this is an annual reduction of 12.7% per year.**

Year	% reduction	Carbon (MtCO <sub>2</sub> )
2005	34% in the 10 years to 2015	1,483,700
<b>2015 Base year</b>	Base year	980,600
<b>2017</b>	10%	886,100
<b>2020</b>	24.8%	737,411
<b>2025</b>	61.8%	384,395
<b>2030 Carbon neutral year</b>	<b>80.6%</b>	<b>190,236</b>
<b>2035</b>	90.1%	97,079
<b>2040</b>	95%	49,030
<b>2045</b>	97.5%	24,515
<b>2050</b>	98.7%	12,748

**Comparison with a 2005 baseline** – It is clear that estimated emissions have dropped considerably (34%) when you compare 2015 with a 2005 baseline. This is a national trend and not specific to Wandsworth. There are different reasons, but the main ones are:

- Cleaner energy supply with the reduction in coal use for energy generation
- De-industrialisation with the unaccounted carbon emissions imported from manufacturing sources outside the UK

**Comparison with a 2015 baseline** – The base year adopted in the WESS is 2015. There are 5 year reduction cycles leading up to 2030 and beyond to 2050. The latest statistics show that by 2017 (the latest available statistics) 10% of the 24.8% target by 2020 has been achieved. After 2020 the targets get considerably tougher. The **5 year** period between 2020-2025 has to deliver a reduction of **37%**. The scale of this becomes apparent when we compare this target with the **34%** that was achieved in a **10 year** period between 2005 – 2015. Even in 2030 there will still be **190,236 tonnes** of emissions that will need to be ‘offset’ to achieve carbon neutrality. Offsetting is problematic and the council’s implantation of this will need to be closely monitored to ensure the correct criteria are being adopted.

**BWTUC comment** – We do not consider that the **actions** in the strategy can deliver the carbon reduction **target** in the strategy. Only 9 of the 170 actions listed are calculated to have a ‘high’ impact. There also needs to be a more rigorous assessment of the extent to which these actions are dependent on factors beyond the council’s control.

## Council Capacity

The decision to employ designated staff to deliver the strategy is welcome. **£575,300** over 5 years is broken down as:

Year	Budget
2019-20	£154,300
2020-21	£241,400
2021-22	£117,600
2022-23	£35,000
2023-24	£27,000

**Paras 60** *The proposals in this report outline additional resources to support the delivery of the WESS including extra staff resources, training, consultancy costs and the purchase of green electricity from its energy broker. The majority of these are for a two-three year period except energy which will form an ongoing cost. The posts are:*

A **Climate Change Campaign Officer** who will work as part of the Wandsworth Communication's Team and will lead on climate change communications, including digital and behaviour change campaigns

A **Partnership and Resident Engagement Officer** dedicated to working with Wandsworth residents and partners, including businesses and community groups, ensuring they are supported to engage and influence the work of the Council on climate change and are supported to make positive changes which reduce the Borough's footprint

**Two senior, full time Programme and Policy Officers** for Climate Change

**BWTUC Comment** – This only guarantees funding for 4 posts for 2 years from January 2020. Although there have been some assurances that these posts will be continued after January 2022, we feel that as a minimum there needs to be a guarantee that they will continue beyond that point. Otherwise we can have no confidence that this is not just a short-term measure designed to get us past the next council elections. If as stated this is an emergency, and a council priority, it is totally unacceptable to proceed on the basis of 2 year funding for a plan with commitments for the next 30 years.

### The role of the industrial and commercial sector

The WESS fails to reflect the importance of the impact of businesses and employers in the borough. The BEIS figures for estimated emissions show the following breakdown

LB Wandsworth	Industry and commercial total (MtCO2)	Domestic total (MtCO2)	Transport total (MtCO2)	Land use (MtCO2)	Total emissions (MtCO2) (per capita)
2005	531,000	641,500	310,800	300	<b>1,483,700 (5.2)</b>
2017	249,800	416,900	219,900	(- 600)	<b>886,100 (2.7)</b>

Source: 2005-2017 UK Local and regional CO2 emissions data tables

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-local-authority-and-regional-carbon-dioxide-emissions-national-statistics-2005-to-2017>

There has been a faster rate of drop in emissions from industry and commercial compared to domestic and transport. The breakdown in 2017 is:

Industry and commercial – 28%

Domestic – 47%

Transport – 25%

When you factor in transport emissions that are work related, it is not unrealistic to suggest that **over 40% of the total is linked to work activity**. Despite this only 3 of the 170 actions in the plan are targeted at employers. These are in the section on community engagement and cover information on the website, a business information event, and a stakeholder forum.

**BWTUC comment** - As a trade union organisation, we are aware that the transition to a zero-carbon economy will have huge implications for the world of work. Employers and the business sector must adopt carbon reduction plans that are at least consistent with national and Paris-aligned targets. The plan does not adequately reflect that responsibility. There should be a clearly defined section of the Action Plan that sets out business engagement. This should be a 2-way process that includes an **expectation** that medium-large businesses in the borough commit to the production of a carbon budget and establish their own targets that are consistent with net zero emissions by 2030. Given the level of industry and commercial emissions unless employers also publicly commit to the strategy it will be impossible to achieve it. We are aware that unless there is stronger regulation from national government this will remain a voluntary commitment, but measures should be explored that can provide an incentive to participate. For example, through the amendment of procurement procedures in the supply chain.

### **Employment and Worker engagement**

The limited reference to employer engagement is even more stark when compared to the zero reference to worker engagement. The WESS will have an impact on the world of work. If it doesn't then it won't address the carbon emissions from this sector referenced above. It follows that there will be an impact on jobs and terms and conditions of employment. This raises social justice issues which are often referred to as a **'just transition to a zero-carbon economy'**. This concept is enshrined in the Paris Agreement that the UK has signed up to.

**BWTUC comment** – The council, as an employer, should set an example to other employers in the borough, by recognising the right of staff unions to negotiate on those aspects of the strategy that have implications for staff employed by the council. This should include:

- Recognise the appointment of Green Reps from recognised trade unions
- Recognise the right of unions to represent staff views on those aspects of the WESS that impact or have a potential impact on conditions of employment
- Establish a programme for the just transition to a zero-carbon economy with a focus on training and re-skilling its directly employed labour force in collaboration with the GLA, other London Boroughs and Trade Union representatives.
- Recognise the growing evidence that 'insourcing' council services achieves better governance and performance, is more cost efficient and achieves greater community well-being and satisfaction and enhances local employment patterns.
- Create 500 new jobs in the Green Economy by 2023, and 1,000 new jobs by 2028.
- Produce an audit of the current network of jobs in the green sector by 2021.
- The Council to establish a sustainable transition unit with a focus on green employment creation and strategy development by 2023.