



**Report of Head of Democratic Services**

**Report to Scrutiny Board (Strategy and Resources)**

**Date: 14<sup>th</sup> October 2019**

**Subject: Scrutiny Inquiry into the reduction of energy consumption in Council buildings – Session One**

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| Are specific electoral wards affected?<br>If yes, name(s) of ward(s):  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| Has consultation been carried out?   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| Will the decision be open for call-in?   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?<br>If relevant, access to information procedure rule number:<br>Appendix number: | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |

**1. Purpose of this report**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to outline the arrangements that have been made in relation to the first session of the Scrutiny Board’s Inquiry into the reduction of energy consumption in Council buildings.

**2. Background information**

2.1 Climate Change provides one of the greatest challenges to humanity today, having detrimental impacts on both society and the environment internationally, nationally and locally.

2.2 At Full Council on 27 March 2019, the Council passed a motion declaring a “Climate Emergency”. This is recognised as a significant milestone that requires the Council and the city to act at a faster pace.

2.3 At the beginning of the municipal year, the Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board particularly acknowledged the role of the Council in demonstrating leadership in this field. In accordance with its remit, the Board therefore agreed to review how the Council is reducing energy consumption levels within its own corporate buildings in order to minimise both cost and carbon impact.

### **3. Main issues**

- 3.1 During today's meeting, the Scrutiny Board is being asked to formally agree the terms of reference for its Inquiry into the reduction of energy consumption in Council buildings. However, in view of the proposed timeframe to complete this piece of Scrutiny work, the meeting is also being utilised to consider key information in line with the first session of the Inquiry.
- 3.2 The Executive Member for Resources and representatives from the Resources and Housing and City Development Directorates will be attending today's meeting to provide a presentation and lead a discussion with the Scrutiny Board in relation to the key areas currently reflected within the terms of reference for session one of this Inquiry. These are as follows:
- The scale and impact of the Council's energy consumption levels across its corporate buildings (This excludes schools and housing stock);
  - The process to prepare the new Asset Management Plan.
  - The associated links and aims of the Council's Changing the Workplace Programme, including achievements to date;
  - The guiding principles, work streams and timeline associated with future phases of the Changing the Workplace Programme;
  - Potential implications and challenges linked to the future roll out of the Changing the Workplace programme in terms of trying to minimise energy costs and carbon impact, with a particular focus around the promotion of flexible and mobile ways of working and the aim to reduce car usage and facilitate clean transport choices.
- 3.3 If any further requests for information are made by the Scrutiny Board at this stage then these are to be picked up during session two of the Inquiry.

### **4. Consultation and engagement**

- 4.1.1 Details of any specific consultation and engagement processes undertaken in relation to this area of work will be reflected as part of the information being presented to the Scrutiny Board during the meeting.

#### **4.2 Equality and diversity / cohesion and integration**

- 4.2.1 Details of any specific equality and diversity issues linked to this area of work will be reflected as part of the information being presented to the Scrutiny Board during the meeting.

#### **4.3 Council policies and the Best Council Plan**

- 4.3.1 This inquiry provides a particular opportunity for Scrutiny to influence the development of the Council's new Asset Management Strategy and to also consider the principles and proposals linked to Phase 2 of the CTW Programme in terms of improving the overall sustainability and efficiency of the Council's estate. There are also strong links with the Best Council ambition to be an Efficient, Enterprising and Healthy Organisation.

## Climate Emergency

4.3.2 The key objectives of this inquiry are closely linked to the Council's Climate Emergency declaration.

### **4.4 Resources, procurement and value for money**

4.4.1 The Scrutiny Board's Inquiry aims to review how the Council is reducing energy consumption levels within its own corporate buildings in order to minimise both cost and carbon impact.

4.4.2 Details of any specific resource implications linked to this area of work will be reflected as part of the information being presented to the Scrutiny Board during the meeting.

### **4.5 Legal implications, access to information, and call-in**

4.5.1 Details of any specific legal implications linked to this area of work will be reflected as part of the information being presented to the Scrutiny Board during the meeting.

### **4.6 Risk management**

4.6.1 Details of any specific risk management issues linked to this area of work will be reflected as part of the information being presented to the Scrutiny Board during the meeting.

## **5. Conclusions**

5.1 In accordance with its remit, the Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board agreed to review how the Council is reducing energy consumption levels within its own corporate buildings in order to minimise both cost and carbon impact.

5.2 During today's meeting, the Scrutiny Board is being asked to formally agree the terms of reference for its Inquiry into the reduction of energy consumption in Council buildings. However, in view of the proposed timeframe to complete this piece of Scrutiny work, the meeting is also being utilised to consider key information in line with the first session of the Inquiry.

## **6. Recommendations**

6.1 Members are asked to consider the information being presented during today's meeting linked to the first session of its Inquiry into the reduction of energy consumption in Council buildings.

## **7. Background documents<sup>1</sup>**

7.1 None.

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<sup>1</sup> The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.