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Report of Head of Democratic Services

Report to Scrutiny Board (Strategy and Resources)

Date: 18th November 2019

Subject: Scrutiny Inquiry into the reduction of energy consumption in Council buildings – draft inquiry report

Are specific electoral wards affected?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, name(s) of ward(s):	
Has consultation been carried out?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input 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?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, access to information procedure rule number:	
Appendix number:	

1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 Following its recent inquiry, the Board is in a position to report on its findings and recommendations resulting from the evidence gathered. The Board's draft inquiry report is therefore attached for Members' consideration and approval.

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.

- 2.4 At its meeting on 14th October 2019, the Board formally agreed the terms of reference for its inquiry and also considered evidence in line with session one of the Inquiry. The second and final evidence session took place on 4th November 2019.

3. Main issues

- 3.1 The Board's inquiry has now concluded and the Board is in a position to report on its findings and recommendations resulting from the evidence gathered. The Board's draft report is therefore attached for Members' consideration and agreement.
- 3.2 Once the Board publishes its final report, the appropriate Director(s) will be asked to formally respond to the Scrutiny Board's recommendations.

4. Consultation and engagement

- 4.1.1 Details of those engaged in the Scrutiny Board's inquiry are set out within the inquiry report.
- 4.1.2 Scrutiny Board Procedure Rule 52 states that "where a Scrutiny Board is considering making specific recommendations it shall invite advice from the appropriate Director(s) prior to finalising its recommendations. The Director shall consult with the appropriate Executive Member before providing any such advice. The detail of that advice shall be reported to the Scrutiny Board and considered before the report is finalised".

4.2 Equality and diversity / cohesion and integration

- 4.2.1 Equality and diversity issues have been considered throughout this scrutiny inquiry and the individual, organisation or group responsible for implementation or delivery of the recommendations arising from this inquiry should also give due regard to equality and diversity and where appropriate, an equality impact assessment will be carried out.

4.3 Council policies and the Best Council Plan

- 4.3.1 This inquiry provided 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 set out to review how the Council is reducing energy consumption levels within its own corporate buildings in order to minimise both cost and carbon impact.

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

4.5.1 This report has no specific legal implications.

4.6 Risk management

4.6.1 This report has no specific risk management implications.

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 This inquiry has now concluded and the Board is in a position to report on its findings and recommendations resulting from the evidence gathered.

6. Recommendations

6.1 Members are asked to consider and agree the draft Inquiry report relating to the Scrutiny Board's recent Inquiry into the reduction of energy consumption in Council buildings.

7. Background documents¹

7.1 None.

¹ 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.