

Report of Head of Democratic Services

Report to Scrutiny Board (Strategy and Resources)

Date: 12th October 2020

Subject: Scrutiny Inquiry into the reduction of energy consumption in Council buildings – formal response to recommendations.

Are specific electoral wards affected? 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? If relevant, access to information procedure rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 This report presents a formal response to the recommendations arising from last year's Scrutiny Inquiry into the reduction of energy consumption in Council buildings. This is set out in Appendix 1.

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 2019/20 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 The Board undertook this Inquiry during October and November 2019 in accordance with the agreed terms of reference. A report summarising the conclusions and recommendations of the Scrutiny Board was then agreed on 18th November 2019 (see Appendix 2).

3. Main issues

3.1 In accordance with the Council's Scrutiny Board Procedure Rules, a formal response to the recommendations arising from this Scrutiny inquiry has been provided by the relevant Directorate for Members' consideration (see Appendix 1).

3.2 This item was scheduled to come to the March 2020 Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board but due to the emerging Covid-19 pandemic the March meeting and a number of subsequent meetings were cancelled.

3.3 The pandemic has been extremely challenging to the Council with many of the issues raised being unprecedented in terms of scale and possible implications on how the Council operates. The reduced use of Council buildings since March 2020 has impacted energy consumption and the Board does plan to look in more detail at how Covid-19 has changed ways of working and the impact on council office accommodation at its November meeting.

3.4 Members may wish to also look at how energy consumption has changed from a Council perspective but also take a holistic view of this as staff continue to use energy in different ways and often from home as opposed to the office.

4. Corporate considerations

4.1 Consultation and engagement

4.1.1 Details of those engaged in the Scrutiny Board's inquiry when compiling the recommendations are set out within the Board's Inquiry report at Appendix 2.

4.2 Equality and diversity / cohesion and integration

4.2.1 Where consideration has been given to the impact on equality areas, as defined in the Council's Equality and Diversity Scheme, this will be referenced within the Scrutiny Board's Statement and also as part of the formal response outlined in Appendix 1.

4.3 Council policies and the Best Council Plan

4.3.1 This inquiry provided an 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 Any financial implications associated with the implementation of the relevant recommendations will be reflected as part of the formal response in Appendix 1.

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

- 4.5.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

4.6 Risk management

- 4.6.1 There are no risk management implications arising from this report.

5 Conclusions

- 5.1 In accordance with the Council's Scrutiny Board Procedure Rules, a formal response to the recommendations arising from the recent Scrutiny Inquiry into the reduction of energy consumption in Council buildings has been provided by the relevant Directorate for the Board's consideration.

6 Recommendation

- 6.1 Members are asked to consider the formal response to the recommendations arising from the Scrutiny 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.

Appendix 1 – Response to the recommendations arising from the Scrutiny Inquiry into the reduction of energy consumption in Council buildings.

Scrutiny Recommendations	Directorate Response
<p>Desired Outcome – That the Council is able to capture a true picture surrounding its energy consumption levels.</p> <p>Recommendation 1 That the Director of Resources and Housing ensures that the data we capture in terms of the Council’s electricity consumption levels separates out any consequential increases linked to actions that are intended to have a positive impact on the environment, such as the expansion of the Council’s electric vehicle fleet or enabling more energy systems to be powered by electricity rather than gas.</p>	<p>We can report on energy consumption on a building by building basis.</p> <p>As new electric charging points are installed, we can collect data on their usage at each site and offset this against the buildings energy consumption. This includes the new home charging points that are being installed.</p> <p>We are also able to run reports on the electricity generated through solar</p> <p>We will work to develop a process to capture when heating systems within buildings are changed from gas to electricity so that we can assess the impact.</p>
<p>Desired Outcome – That all of the Council’s operational buildings, including heritage buildings, are being considered as part of the asset rationalisation programme linked to the new Asset Management Strategy.</p> <p>Recommendation 2 That the Executive Board supports the need to include all of the Council’s Heritage buildings as part of the asset rationalisation programme and implementation plan linked to the new Asset Management Strategy.</p>	<p>All operational buildings are now being considered as part of the Estate Rationalisation programme and this is detailed in an Executive Board report considered by Executive Board on 24th September with building details to be reported back to Executive Board.</p> <p>Approval of the draft Estate Management Strategy was paused to allow the strategy to be updated in light of the Council’s financial position and long term changes we will see as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and will be reported back to Executive Board later in the year.</p>

<p>Desired Outcome – That the Council’s Asset Management Strategy reflects the role of the Council in leading the way to promote sustainable and efficient buildings aimed at reducing the city’s overall carbon footprint.</p> <p>Recommendation 3 That the Executive Board supports the need for the Council to lead the way through its new Asset Management Strategy to make the Council’s estate as sustainable and efficient as possible and also encourage proposals being brought forward for land and buildings being disposed by the Council to help reduce the city’s overall carbon footprint.</p>	<p>The updated draft Estate Management Strategy identifies the importance of sustainability to inform decision making around the future shape and size of our estate. As part of the ongoing work to identify estate rationalisation opportunities, the carbon footprint of properties is a key consideration.</p>
<p>Desired Outcome – That the Council is able to capture data to help correlate the carbon impact of staff working from home.</p> <p>Recommendation 4 That the Director of Resources and Housing leads on exploring ways to help correlate the carbon impact of staff working from home.</p>	<p>Detailed modelling has been undertaken to consider the carbon footprint of journeys to work versus the carbon footprint of heating houses.</p> <p>We have used a housing database (Uno) that models heating across 50% of the city’s housing stock against two different profiles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard – assumes 9 hrs heating weekdays & 16hrs weekends • Extended – assumes 16 hrs heating on both weekdays & weekends <p>In both cases, it is assumed that the house is heated to 21 degrees C. We have then looked at the difference between the two patterns to ascertain the additional carbon footprint if a member of staff were to heat their home due to working from home.</p> <p>We have then profiled the carbon footprint of the journeys to work based on the staff travel survey.</p>

	<p>We have taken the average from both of these datasets to ascertain the average carbon footprint for a commute versus the additional home heating and have determined that working from home still provides greater carbon savings overall.</p> <p>For an average employee the saving will equate to circa 1kg of CO2e/day.</p> <p>When we are out of the heating season the carbon saving will be greater as the full carbon of the commute will be saved. On average this will equate to circa 1.72kg of CO2e per employee.</p> <p>There are also several factors that would reduce the carbon impact of working from home further that aren't reflected in the figures above i.e. members of staff only heat the specific room rather than the whole house, the house would already have been heated due to other members of the household being at home, some members of staff may choose to work at a coffee shop, library etc. rather than working from their own home etc.</p>
<p>Desired Outcome – That the Council is maximising appropriate investment opportunities aimed at supporting significant energy efficient measures.</p> <p>Recommendation 5 As well as maximising the use of the SALIX Finance funding stream, the Director of Resources and Housing is recommended to lead on exploring alternative investment programmes which can help finance improvements which have a longer payback period.</p>	<p>The Sustainable Energy & Air Quality (SEAQ) team have been preparing for a potential bid for an expansion of renewable energy and other energy efficiency measures across the corporate estate in anticipation of substantial grant funding becoming available from Government during Autumn 2020 for the decarbonisation of heat. Measures could include solar, ground/air source heat pumps, insulation, glazing, etc. Work on this includes compiling energy consumption, cost and technical feasibility data on the Council's portfolio of sites, as well as identifying appropriate procurement routes to enable delivery of a potentially significant range of schemes in very short timescales.</p>

