

SCRUTINY BOARD (STRATEGY AND RESOURCES)

MONDAY, 14TH OCTOBER, 2019

PRESENT: Councillor M Harland in the Chair

Councillors G Almass, P Carlill,
D Chapman, L Cunningham, S Firth,
H Hayden, D Jenkins, J McKenna,
M Robinson and S Seary

CHAIRS COMMENT

The Chair welcomed Councillor Cunningham who has recently been appointed to the Board.

33 Appeals Against Refusal of Inspection of Documents

There were no appeals against refusal of inspection of documents.

34 Exempt Information - Possible Exclusion of the Press and Public

There were no exempt items.

35 Late Items

There were no late items.

36 Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

No declarations of disclosable pecuniary interest were made.

37 Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitutes

There were no apologies.

38 Minutes - 9th September 2019

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board meeting held on 9th September 2019, be approved as a correct record.

39 Scrutiny Inquiry into the reduction of energy consumption in Council buildings - draft terms of reference

The report of the Head of Democratic Services presented the draft terms of reference relating to the Scrutiny Board's Inquiry into reduction of energy consumption in Council buildings. Members were requested to consider and formally agree the terms of reference as set out at Appendix 1.

In attendance for this item were:

Councillor James Lewis – Executive Member for Resources

Neil Evans – Director of Resources and Housing

Polly Cook – Chief Officer for Sustainable Energy and Air Quality

Mark Mills – Head of Asset Management

Lisa Thornton – Executive Manager, Strategic Asset Management

Members recognised the timeliness of this piece of work and its link to the Change the Workplace (CTW) programme and the Asset Management Strategy.

RESOLVED – To agree the draft terms of reference relating to the Scrutiny Board's Inquiry into the reduction of energy consumption in Council buildings.

40 Scrutiny Inquiry into the reduction of energy consumption in Council buildings - Session One

The report of the Head of Democratic Services outlined the arrangements which had been made in relation to the first session of the Scrutiny Board's Inquiry into the reduction of energy consumption in Council Buildings.

In attendance for this item were:

- Councillor James Lewis – Executive Member for Resources
- Neil Evans – Director of Resources and Housing
- Polly Cook – Chief Officer for Sustainable Energy and Air Quality
- Mark Mills – Head of Asset Management
- Lisa Thornton – Executive Manager, Strategic Asset Management

Members were presented with information in relation to key areas currently reflected within the terms of reference for session one of the inquiry.

The presentation included the following information:

- The Council has 900 operational properties which include; offices, libraries, Town Halls, the Civic Hall, museums, and community hubs;
- The Council also has 37 schools still under its control;
- Energy Audits are taking place at a variety of buildings;
- Work is underway to extend District Heating to some of the larger civic buildings including the Town Hall and the Civic Hall;
- Where upgrades are taking place to offices energy efficient boilers are being installed;
- Work is taking place in the 37 schools still owned by the Council including providing information to Head Teachers on energy efficiency and savings, also changing lights to LED;
- Use of SALIX Funding which is a national fund. Members were advised how this funding works;
- The Asset Management Strategy 2020-25 will set out the vision of Council to have sustainable, affordable, well maintained estates that can deliver high quality services;
- The focus of the Council is to reduce the size of its estate and to better utilise the buildings that it keeps operational;
- The Asset Review will be a robust evidence based exercise which will consider the entire operational estate including heritage assets.

The Boards discussions included the following points:

- The need to ensure stringent rules about the selling off of assets including heritage assets;
- SALIX funding;
- Issues in relation to homeworking including transference of carbon footprint and how this data can be captured;
- Lease properties;
- Staff travel arrangements for those who work as visitors, social workers or surveyors;
- Carbon footprint of Council's fleet vehicles;
- Use of Community Hubs for staff involved in locality working;
- Staff engagement including hints and tips for staff to use at home as well as in the work environment;
- Street lighting;
- Use of different products to produce energy, including dog waste;
- Quick solutions such as planting trees and building of green walls, similar to the wall on the recycling plant;
- Information on energy efficiency for private owners of older buildings;
- District Heating for Council owned tower blocks.

Members requested more information in relation to SALIX Funding for the second session.

Members noted that the second session would be a workshop to be held on Monday 4th November 2019 at 10:30am.

RESOLVED – Members noted the content of the information presented.

41 Work Schedule

The Principal Scrutiny Adviser introduced the report which requested Members to consider the work schedule for the Board for the municipal year 2019/20.

Appendix 1 of the submitted report set out the Boards work schedule.

RESOLVED – To note the content of the report and agree the work schedule set out at Appendix 1.

42 Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board will be on 18th November 2019 at 10:30am, with a pre meeting for all Members at 10:00am.