

REPORT TO SCRUTINY – CORPORATE SERVICES

Date of Meeting: 26 January 2017

Report of: Corporate Manager Property

Title: Energy Strategy and Action Plan 2017-2022 - An Energy Neutral Council

Is this a Key Decision?

No

Is this an Executive or Council Function?

Executive

1. What is the report about?

The report provides an Energy Strategy supported by a wide-ranging Action Plan. The Strategy for the City's Corporate Estate builds on the work of the Renewables and Energy Efficiency Programme and the ambition to be an Energy Neutral Council. This is the Council's first stand-alone Energy Strategy, and one that aims to deliver a sustainable and energy efficient estate, to protect against future energy risks, and to share such benefits with others.

2. Recommendations:

That Scrutiny Committee recommend that Executive approve the Energy Strategy and Action Plan. To achieve the outcomes identified in the Strategy, projects will be progressed through the Renewables and Energy Efficiency Programme, using the existing approval process.

3. Reasons for the recommendation:

The Council has identified the need for a coherent Energy Strategy for its estate as part of its aspiration to become an Energy Neutral Council.

4. What are the resource implications including non financial resources.

The Energy Strategy will be delivered by the Energy Team, made up of two full-time posts and this level of resource continues to be supported.

Development of the Action Plan, forward planning and further feasibility work, in addition to the day to day energy management operation (monitoring and control), may require further support when the new programme and/or large projects commence. This will be subject to further reports if required.

5. Section 151 Officer Comments:

Funding remains allocated in the capital programme for projects which can demonstrate that they benefit the Council both financially and in energy savings. Any projects coming forward are checked for financial viability although any significant projects may require further Council approval if there are insufficient funds to progress.

6. What are the legal aspects?

No

7. Monitoring Officer Comments:

No concerns

8. Report details:

See the attached Energy Strategy and Action Plan.

9. How does the decision contribute to the Council's Corporate Plan?

The delivery of the Strategy aligns with specific priorities contained in the Corporate Plan, to reduce operating costs, support Exeter's Community and to grow the local economy.

10. What risks are there and how can they be reduced?

The Strategy covers a five year period to attain carbon reductions and renewable generation targets, a benefit of which is energy security. Being energy secure will provide the Council with a consistent, reliable and affordable energy supply.

There are investment risks associated with renewable technologies. Officers are aware of these issues and will manage risk appropriately when investment decisions are made.

11. What is the impact of the decision on equality and diversity; health and wellbeing; safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults, community safety and the environment?

The reduction in the City Council's carbon footprint does go some way to improving, or at least mitigating, the adverse impacts of energy use on the environment.

12. Are there any other options?

The Action Plan will be delivered through the Renewables and Energy Efficiency Programme. This is set up so that the Energy Team is constantly considering alternative approaches and other avenues of investment in this area.

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Corporate Manager Property

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1972 (as amended)

Background papers used in compiling this report:

None

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