

Key Decision Required:	No	In the Forward Plan:	No
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CORPORATE FINANCE & GOVERNANCE PORTFOLIO HOLDER

ENVIRONMENT & OPEN SPACE PORTFOLIO HOLDER

1 November 2022

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR – PLACE AND ECONOMY

A.1 CONCURRENCE – ADDITIONAL RESOURCE FOR THE COUNCIL’S IN-HOUSE PROPERTY TEAM
(Report prepared by Lee Heley)

PART 1 – KEY INFORMATION

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To provide additional short term resource to Council’s property team to complete a range of work on the Council’s estate, including developing and implementing plans that will reduce the amount of energy required to run the estate, at a time of rising energy costs, and in support of the Council’s carbon reduction ambitions.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Council has a significant estate including offices, leisure centres, depots, as well as public opens space, seafronts and car parks. The property team is a central function that supports the maintenance and improvement of the estate so that it is fit for purpose and as energy efficient as possible.

The current dramatic increase in energy costs and the challenging financial situation with inflation at over ten percent makes investment in energy efficiency to reduce energy costs an effective use of resources.

In addition, the Council declared a climate emergency on August 2019 and adopted an action plan in November 2020. One strand of the action plan is improving the estate to reduce carbon emissions. In addition to saving money, energy efficiency measures will also reduce the carbon from the Council’s estate.

The Council is committed to developing new house building to support local residents. This project also draws on the capacity of the corporate building team.

It is proposed to recruit a full time surveyor for a year to assist with the development and delivery of building action plans, freeing up resource within the team that will therefore support projects across the Council, at a cost of £60,000. This sum will allow for an appointment at grade 9, allow for on-costs and some project expenses. The post would report to Jennie Wilkinson, Acting Head of Property Services.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that the portfolio holder agrees to:

- 1. Allocate £60,000 from the Climate Action Fund, related to building repairs.**

2. Recruit additional building surveyor resource.

PART 2 – IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

DELIVERING PRIORITIES

The decision will contribute to the following priorities:

Delivering High Quality Services

Modern, high quality buildings and facilities for customers and staff

Carbon Neutral by 2030

FINANCE, OTHER RESOURCES AND RISK

Finance and other resources

The Council expects its energy budget will rise significantly in future. This project will help to reduce energy usage of the Council in the medium term, reducing costs.

This project helps to increase the capacity in a corporate team within the Council delivering to a number of priorities, including financial, housing, and carbon reduction.

Risk

Delivery risk. That a surveyor cannot be recruited, despite budget, and the work is not undertaken. If the first recruitment round is not successful then to contract in the work from a firm.

LEGAL

The proposals are within the legal powers of the Council.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Consideration has been given to the implications of the proposed decision in respect of the following and any significant issues are set out below.

Crime and Disorder / Equality and Diversity / Health Inequalities / Area or Ward affected / Consultation / Public Engagement.

There are no significant issues.

PART 3 – SUPPORTING INFORMATION

BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR THE DECISION

Cabinet Report October 2022, A.2 Financial Performance Report – General Update 2022/23 and 2023/4

APPENDICES

None