COUNCIL 9th February 2022

Cabinet 17th January 2022

81 CORPORATE ESTATE – CAPITAL INVESTMENT REQUIREMENTS

Councillor Scullion, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member with responsibility for Regeneration and Strategy presented a written report of the Director, Regeneration and Strategy seeking consideration of the implications for the estate arising from service priorities/changes, while identifying opportunities; to address health and safety and other essential maintenance issues; to optimise usage; and to reduce the estate's carbon emissions. Through its cross-cutting scope and focus, this report linked to a number of the items included on the agenda for this meeting. This is a key decision, requiring significant financial investment, which was outside Officers' delegated authority. The aim of this report was to ensure that the Council's estate supported the Council to deliver its Vision 2024, to be a distinctive place of enterprise and talent, kindness and resilience; and its three priorities: developing strong and resilient towns; responding to the climate emergency; and reducing inequalities.

This report set out an approach that sought to ensure that use of the organisation's assets directly supported delivery of the Council's priorities, and that any investment requirements were appropriate and targeted.

The report outlined background information, options considered, consultation, financial, legal, human resources and organisational development, environmental, health and economic implications.

During discussions Members commended the work of Officers for a comprehensive examination of the maintenance requirements of the corporate estate, and which provided a framework for potential future developments from the information contained in the report.

*RECOMMENDED AND RESOLVED that:

- (a) Option 2 detailed in paragraph 7.2 of the Director, Regeneration and Strategy's written report be approved;
- (b) it be recommended to Council that £2.6m be added to the Council's capital programme for the essential health and safety works required, to be funded by prudential borrowing;
- (c) it be recommended to Council that the additional £169k revenue funding required to service the borrowing be added to the Council's revenue budget from 2022/23 onwards:
- (d) the resultant investment programme be monitored through the cross-party Corporate Asset and Facilities Management, Asset Management Board;

- (e) the building/strategic reviews referred to in paragraph 5.5 of the Director, Regeneration and Strategy's written report be noted, to be submitted for separate consideration in due course;
- (f) separate business cases for the carbon reduction schemes referred to in the Director, Regeneration and Strategy's written report as priority 2 be submitted for approval by Cabinet and Council when available; and
- (g) the further works identified as priority 3, 4 and 5 in the Director, Regeneration and Strategy's written report be considered as part of future reviews of the capital programme.