

## **CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL**

**23 February 2022**

### **COUNCILLOR BRIAN LONG - CABINET MEMBER FOR CORPORATE SERVICES**

For the period 25 January 2022 to 10 February 2022

#### **1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.**

Progress this month has been difficult for me spending most of the reporting time in the QEH followed by time recuperating. However I have still managed a number of virtual meetings with officers and colleagues. However important updates are included below.

#### **Air Source Heat Pumps, King's Court**

The BCKLWN successfully applied for £3.8 million in funding from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme, an initiative which provides grants to public sector bodies to fund heat decarbonisation and energy efficiency measures. This grant has facilitated the installation of heat pumps (both ground and air source), insulation upgrades, solar photovoltaics and timerclock controls (for water heaters) across 11 sites. These measures are being installed by Ameresco, who were appointed following a mini competition under the Re:Fit framework. Ameresco have prior experience of the Council's building portfolio, having delivered a previous phase of energy efficiency upgrades. Heat pumps use the principle of a refrigeration cycle to extract heat, typically from the air or ground. Electricity is used to drive this cycle, although (generally) three to four units of heat are provided for every unit of electricity consumed. It is this high efficiency (usually referred to as a 'Coefficient of Performance') that makes heat pumps a low carbon form of heating. Across the 11 sites brought forward, carbon savings of 464 tonnes per annum are projected, with King's Court expected to achieve nearly 42 tonnes from its new air source heat pumps and timerclock controls. After assessing a number of locations, the King's Court heat pumps were installed on the third floor roof, requiring a crane lift from the adjoining Juniper car park. The crane lift took place on the 18th January, with the heat pumps and supporting steelwork successfully landed. Works are now continuing to integrate the new heat pumps with our existing heating distribution and retained boilers, which will serve as backup to the new heat pumps.

### **Kings Court / Office Accommodation**

In response to the Omicron variant of COVID19 Management Team had reviewed and decreased the number of staff working from King's Court and other Council sites at any time, helping to protect staff and service delivery during the period that COVID infection rates were on the increase. Following the announcement that Plan B has come to an end more staff are working from their office bases each day. However, we are still taking measures to protect staff whilst at work, including asking staff to continue wearing face coverings in communal areas and when moving around buildings. King's Court has remained open to the public on an appointment only basis, except of course for emergency situations, and this position will be reviewed in light of changes to guidance going forward.

### **2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.**

Nothing to report

### **3 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled**

Due to health issues I have only attended online meetings this month.