

Appendix 1

Response of the Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Asset Management to the recommendations arising from the committee's review of Council office buildings

Overview Committee recommendation	Cabinet Member Decision (Accept or Reject)	Action to be taken (if any) and timescale for completion
1. That the Overview Committee underlines its support for the Council's activities to date to develop an estate of operational buildings that supports the effective and efficient delivery of Council services and delivers on hybrid and smarter working principles.	Accept	No action as this is a statement of support for the vision of the programme.
2. That the use of Sir John Robinson House and Lawn View House be further reviewed, giving consideration to the opportunities provided by development of the "Hub" projects and income generating opportunities.	Accept	<p>A Programme Board consisting of Officers' representing all County Council Service Areas and chaired by the Corporate Director (Place) has been set up to provide ongoing review and challenge to the use of our Council Office Buildings. The use of Sir John Robinson House and Lawn View House will be regularly reviewed as part of the governance of the programme. Furthermore, partners who are already key occupiers of our buildings such as the NHS will be contacted to ensure that opportunities for co-location and using our "Hub" assets more efficiently are taken.</p> <p>Timescale for completion: Ongoing</p>
3. That the use of the buildings at Sherwood Energy Village should be further reviewed, with regard to the services and teams located there in order to identify the potential for	Accept	A project team has been set up to review the accommodation requirements of the teams and services located at these buildings, so as to achieve further space rationalisation and utilisation in the next financial year. The process to be gone through will be as follows; consultation with relevant teams to

	further efficiencies around space utilisation and rationalisation.		<p>collate the details of the services and the staff currently operating from the buildings along with any space requirements they have (use of meeting rooms, reception, specialist areas, parking, storage). The space requirements of these will then be planned and any necessary adaptation works identified and costed. Any proposals will be consulted on prior to a Decision.</p> <p>Timescale for completion: Autumn 23</p>
4.	<p>a) That where possible, work should be carried out with the teams and services currently based at Meadow House, Mansfield to review whether the space available at the Council's other building locations could be used by them in a way that does not adversely affect the delivery of services</p> <p>and</p> <p>b) That if having examined all possible options it is established that current service needs do not allow for services to utilise the space available at other Council buildings, then work should be carried out at Meadow House to ensure that the teams are based in the areas of the building that provide the best quality accommodation available.</p>	Accept	<p>a) A project team has been set up to review the accommodation requirements of the teams and services located at this building to understand whether the space available in other Council or Partner buildings can be used. The process to determine this will be as follows; Consultation with relevant teams to collate the details of the services and staff currently operating from the building along with any space requirements they have (use of meeting rooms, reception, specialist areas, parking, storage). There will be particular focus on the geographical requirements of the teams, the areas of the County where they work, and the limitations there are on the location of their base. There will be a review of other Council owned buildings, and available space will be identified to check on suitability for Meadow House teams. Any proposals will then be consulted on prior to a Decision.</p> <p>Timescale for completion: Due to the need to inform a works programme at Meadow House this will need to be completed by the end of April 23.</p> <p>(b) Depending on the outcome of (a) above an analysis of suitable areas within Meadow House will be undertaken to ensure that staff are in areas of the building that provide the best quality of services for our residents. A scheme of works to</p>

			<p>include urgent repair works and works to improve the working environment will be identified and progressed.</p> <p>Timescale for completion: Autumn 23</p>
5.	<p>That once built, the location of all teams based in County Council buildings, especially those located in or near to Mansfield be reviewed in order to inform those services that should be considered as being suitable for relocation to the Mansfield Hub.</p>	Accept	<p>Since the publication of the report in January 23 it has been recently announced that Mansfield District Council has been successful with its' bid for LUF funding for a new office building on the former Beales site in Mansfield town centre. Work will now take place to consider which teams located in or near to Mansfield are suitable for relocation to the Mansfield Hub. This is necessary to inform the brief for the building, to identify the size of the Councils requirement and the specifics of the design to support the services to be housed there.</p> <p>Timescale for completion: Summer 23</p>
6.	<p>That following this review a full options appraisal should be carried out in order to identify the best use of County Council buildings, especially those located in or near to Mansfield.</p> <p>That following this work, and in line with the Council's policies and procedures, that a full business case be submitted to the Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Asset Management for their consideration.</p>	Accept	<p>When the Council has identified its brief for the Mansfield hub and those staff that will be located there, Officers will undertake a review of spaces and buildings to assess whether they can be retained in efficient and effective use or disposed of through lease or sale. This work will inform a full business case to be submitted for a Decision.</p> <p>Timescale for completion: Winter 23</p>
7.	<p>That consideration should be given to County Hall's role as a building within the Council's operational estate, subject to a suitably strong business</p>	Accept	<p>The Overview Committee Report highlights issues with aspects of the County Hall building including; sustainability and the ability to meet net carbon targets, high annual running costs and essential maintenance costs and low occupancy levels. The</p>

	case that recognises the significance of the “H” block’s history and heritage as well as the opportunities provided at the Top Wighay site.		<p>report also highlights the significant ongoing maintenance costs of County Hall. It also highlights the opportunities our “Hub” buildings can give the County Council, specifically Top Wighay which can provide flexible spaces for a wide range of uses and is designed in a way that can be expanded to meet the future needs of the County Council.</p> <p>County Hall would appear to need significant upgrades to meet the commitment to be a net zero producer of Carbon by 2030 or be fit for purpose for the provision of our services into the future. Regarding this recommendation a project team has been set up to develop a business case that looks at all building options and provides a preferred option for the delivery of services.</p> <p>The project team has also been asked to review the Top Wighay building design to assess whether there are further opportunities that can be considered for the benefit of the County Council.</p> <p>All proposals in respect of this recommendation will be consulted on prior to a Decision being made.</p> <p>Timescale for completion: Spring 2023</p>
8.	That consideration should be given to the opportunities provided by the accommodation at Trent Bridge House and how it could be best used as part of the Council’s operational estate.	Accept	<p>A project team has been set up to review the space available in this building and how it can be used. The process to determine this will be to understand the current usage of the building, its running costs and income with a view to understanding how it can support additional usage.</p> <p>Timescale for completion: Summer 2023</p>
9.	That with regard to the findings above, that comprehensive assessments of the financial, human resources, sustainability, equality and diversity, hybrid working, and environmental	Accept	<p>These items will be considered in our business planning and feasibility works across the estate.</p> <p>Timescale for completion: Ongoing</p>

	impacts of these findings be carried out.		
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