



CABINET – 16TH MAY 2018

SUBJECT: PROPERTY REVIEW REPORT 2018

REPORT BY: ACTING DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES AND SECTION 151 OFFICER

- 1.1 The attached report was considered by the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee on 10th April 2018 and sought endorsement of the Property Review Report 2018, prior to its presentation to Cabinet for approval.
- 1.2 Members were advised that the Property Review Report 2018 (appended to the Officer's report) attempts to provide a succinct overview and record of what is a very large and diverse non domestic property portfolio. It presents some key metrics, highlights in period trends, summarises disposals and acquisitions and sets out some of the challenges that lay ahead. It makes no recommendations. The report follows on from the State of the Estate Report issued in May 2016 but is based on a more structured format intended to ease updating and comparison with subsequent versions. It is proposed that the Property Review Report is updated and reissued annually.
- 1.3 Reference was made to the percentage of schools rated as in 'poor' condition (71.24%) as detailed in the report and a Member queried whether this will improve once new methodology for calculating ratings is introduced. Officers explained that this is not expected to create a significant variance, but that by the time the next report is issued, there will be some improvements to this figure arising from the removal of several buildings from the portfolio during 2018/19. Clarification was also provided in respect of the criteria for the condition ratings listed in the report.
- 1.4 Discussion took place regarding the investment potential available for schools and it was noted that a report on 21st Century Schools and Education Band B Proposals is due to be presented to the Education for Life Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet, which will include proposals for refurbishments across a number of buildings and reduce the number of poor condition schools across the county borough. Officers also responded to queries regarding a report listed on the Cabinet Forward Programme in respect of Bedwellty School Site Playing Fields and provided clarification on the current use of these football fields.
- 1.5 Following consideration of the report, the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee unanimously recommended to Cabinet that for the reasons contained therein, the Property Review Report 2018 as appended to the Officer's report be endorsed.
- 1.6 Members are asked to consider the recommendation.

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Appendices:

Appendix Report to Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee on 10th April 2018 - Agenda Item