

Communities and Environment Scrutiny Committee
18 September 2024

Outcome of the Heat Network Options Spotlight Review

Report of the Statutory Scrutiny Officer

1 Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to formally confirm any recommendations made by the Review Group to the Executive member for Carbon Reduction, Leisure and Culture following the Spotlight Review considering the various options open to the Council around the future of the Heat Network, allowing the Review Group to contribute to the decision making process.

2 Action required

- 2.1 The committee is asked to form recommendations to the Executive member for Carbon Reduction, Leisure and Culture to consider in formulating proposals to the Executive Board.
- 2.2 Due to time constraints these recommendations will be presented verbally at committee and forwarded directly to the Executive Member.

3 Background information

- 3.1 A decision about the future of the heat network beyond 2030 is due to take place in the autumn of 2024, contract negotiations are underway and Officers approached the Scrutiny Committee to ask that this subject be included within its work programme. This review gives members of the Committee an opportunity to scrutinise the options available, consider the risks and benefits associated with each option and any mitigation that can be put in place to reduce risk and provide feedback to Officers and recommendation to the Executive, prior to a final decision.
- 3.2 The committee will hear from expert officers around the options available to the Council, how each they impact the Medium Term Financial Plan, implications for the Improvement Plan and long term financial stability of the Council as well as how each option may impact citizens and business currently served by the District Heat network.

4 List of attached information

- 4.1 Heat Network Options Review Document

5 Background papers, other than published works or those disclosing exempt or confidential information

5.1 None

6 Published documents referred to in compiling this report

6.1 None

7 Wards affected

7.1 All

8 Contact information

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