

Item 8iv - Question Time

To the Chair of the Corporate Resources Committee

“What will the additional cost be of the recent instruction given to schools to keep their ICT equipment on at all times?”

Response to Ms K Currie

It is recognised that leaving printers and computers turned on when not in use does result in some additional power usage, no specific cost has been calculated for this, however this is standard practice across organisations for good operational reasons:-

- As evidenced by the impact of recent cyberattacks, it is essential for cybersecurity best practice that regular security updates and patches are deployed to all devices. This can only be achieved when devices are powered and networked. We have had significant numbers of devices not updated in the past as they have been completely powered down and this makes these devices and the Council more vulnerable to attacks;
- The computers currently deployed were chosen for their low power consumption and significant energy savings have been achieved over the last 5 years following the device refresh. Computers should be set to automatically turn off the display and then go into low power mode after a certain amount of time;
- Printers also automatically go into low power mode after a certain amount of time. A full analysis was carried out when the printers were rolled out and it was shown that the power usage in low power mode was so low that there was no benefit in turning the device off compared to the problems caused in relation to security updates and remote monitoring of the devices.