

Agenda Item	8.
Report No	CCC/6/23

## **The Highland Council**

**Committee:** Climate Change Committee

**Date:** 16 March 2023

**Report Title:** Heating Policy for Non-Domestic Estate

**Report By:** Interim Chief Executive

### **1 Purpose/Executive Summary**

1.1 The purpose of this paper is to inform Members of the proposed development and adoption of a Heating Policy for the Council's non-domestic estate.

### **2 Recommendations**

2.1 Members are asked to:

- i. Note and support the proposed initiative.

### **3 Implications**

- 3.1 Resource – there are no ongoing resource implications, delivery of work will be met from existing resources.
- 3.2 Legal – there are no identified legal implications arising from this report. As staff working environments may be impacted, consultation with Union representation will be undertaken.
- 3.3 Community (Equality, Poverty and Rural) – There are no direct implications arising from this report.
- 3.4 Climate Change/Carbon CLEVER – the application of, and adherence to, a Heating Policy will reduce energy consumption associated with the provision of heating to non-domestic buildings, and accordingly improve overall Energy/Net Zero performance.
- 3.5 Risk – There is no risk directly relating to this paper.

3.6 Gaelic – There are no Gaelic implications arising from this project.

## **4 Background**

4.1 The Highland Council does not presently have a defined policy or guidance for the provision of heating within schools, offices, leisure facilities and other types of non-domestic buildings.

4.2 Although many buildings already operate within normal parameters, there are known instances where temperature setpoints and operational hours have been found to be out with expected parameters, to the detriment of good energy performance, budget management and comfort.

4.3 It is estimated that overheating a space by one degree in heating temperature can result in up to an 8% increase in energy use and cost. With increasing costs of heating our buildings, application of this policy has the potential to generate significant financial savings and reductions in carbon emissions.

4.4 The application of a heating policy is also known to typically improve comfort conditions for building users through consistent and reliable delivery of heating to occupied spaces.

## **5 Development Process**

5.1 The Built Estate and Energy Thematic Group for the Net Zero Strategy shall undertake governance and co-ordination of the policy development.

5.2 Where appropriate consultation shall be undertaken with Property, FM Staff, Service representatives, HLH, Staff Union representatives, and others as required.

## **6 Heating Policy Content**

6.1 The policy will be designed for use by Heads of Service, property, and technical managers, nominated Responsible Persons, contractors, staff and building users. It shall include definition of the roles and responsibilities associated with the implementation, ongoing application, and oversight of the policy.

6.2 The policy will include the definition of appropriate heating provision, temperature setpoints and operating times (daily, weekly, and annually). It will take account of the various building types, functions, and operational patterns of the THC non-domestic estate.

6.3 The policy will have due consideration to relevant legislation, expertise, and good practice.

## **7 Proposed timeline**

7.1 The Heating Policy is targeted for completion and consideration by the Committee by October 2023, prior to sign-off by the Housing and Property Committee in November 2023.

**Designation: Interim Chief Executive**

**Date: 6 March 2023**

**Author: Ronnie Macdonald, Energy Manager**