

# Subject: Investigation into Lights Left On in London Workplaces

**Report to: Environment Committee**

**Report of: Executive Director of Secretariat**

**Date: 1 December 2010**

**This report will be considered in public**

## 1. Summary

- 1.1 As agreed at its meeting on 4 November, the Committee is conducting an inquiry looking into the issue of lights left on in London workplaces.

## 2. Recommendation

- 2.1 **That the Committee notes the contents of this report as background to the discussion on lights left on in London workplaces.**

## 3. Background

- 3.1 The terms of reference for this investigation are to examine:
- the costs and benefits of leaving lights on outside working time in London's workplaces;
  - examples of best practice in reducing lights left on, from businesses and from organisations promoting carbon reduction; and
  - strategic approaches to promoting carbon reduction through reducing lights left on, including the implications for this work of public sector cuts.
- 3.2 Shops and offices lit up throughout the night are a visible manifestation of energy use and carbon dioxide emissions. It is often not obvious why these lights are left on. The investigation will discuss with London's business and public sectors the reasons for leaving lights on, how workplaces can leave lights on less, and the advantages and disadvantages of taking these steps. The Carbon Trust estimates that lighting bills can be reduced by 15% by only using lights in times and areas where they are required.
- 3.3 The purpose of the investigation is to identify ways for workplaces to save money and carbon emissions by reducing lighting and energy usage, and to recommend ways for the GLA group to promote this form of energy saving in its work and strategies.

3.4 This review takes place in the context of spending cuts across all levels and departments of government. Therefore the investigation would also seek to identify issues arising from these budget reductions, and other public sector changes such as the planned abolition of the London Development Agency.

#### **4. Issues for Consideration**

4.1 The Committee will discuss with invited guests issues around lights being left on in workplaces in London. Martin Powell, Interim Mayoral Adviser on the Environment, and Pete Daw, Policy and Programmes Manager - Climate Change Mitigation will attend the meeting, alongside experts from the Carbon Trust, the London Borough of Newham and Accenture.

#### **5. Legal Implications**

5.1 The Committee has the power to do what is recommended in this report.

#### **6. Financial Implications**

6.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

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#### **List of appendices to this report:**

None

<b>Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985</b>
List of Background Papers: As referred to in the body of the report and in footnotes
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