

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY – RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S APPROACH TO THE RATIONALISATION
OF OPERATIONAL PROPERTY**

SCOPING REPORT

20 JULY 2017

1. Purpose of the Report

To inform Members of the scope of a review of the Council's approach to the rationalisation of operational property.

2 Information

The Council has an extensive property portfolio. To ensure that maximum value is achieved from the Council's assets the Corporate Property Division works alongside colleagues in the Council and across the wider public and private estate to manage property assets and facilities. Increasingly, this entails the identification of co-location and joint working opportunities for staff and services to deliver cost savings and more integrated services.

The One Public Estate (OPE) Programme is an initiative developed by the Cabinet Office Government Property Unit and the Local Government Association with the aim of developing greater collaboration between local and central government, and other public and private sector partners. The aim of the programme is to deliver a strategic approach to asset management, getting 'more' from collective assets such as acting as a catalyst for service transformation and the unlocking of land for housing.

The Derbyshire OPE programme includes representatives from all 10 local authorities, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Derbyshire Constabulary, Derbyshire Fire and Rescue, East Midlands Ambulance Service, Community Health Partners and Derby University. The Derbyshire programme has secured OPE funding to undertake a number of public estate reviews and feasibility studies. The Derbyshire OPE steering group has also identified potential projects for future collaborative working. However the final round of OPE funding has been allocated and it is not anticipated that there will be further OPE bidding rounds.

The aim of this Scrutiny review will be to, at a strategic level, consider the Council's approach to operational property rationalisation. It will consider the current systems in place for identifying, prioritising and delivering property rationalisation or redesign projects. It will also seek to learn from the Council's involvement in the Derbyshire OPE programme and identify opportunities to build on the established collaborative working arrangements. Ultimately the review will aim to make recommendations to ensure that there is a sustainable framework in place that will promote collaboration between partners, reduce future liabilities and ensure that the Council's property portfolio is fit for purpose and cost efficient.

During the course of the review evidence will be gathered from numerous sources, including;

- Director of Property and senior managers;
- D2 Programme Manager
- Director of Finance and ICT;
- Cabinet Member for Council Services ;
- Other Local Authorities and relevant partner organisations as appropriate

A working group will be appointed by this Committee to undertake the review. The working group will submit progress reports and a final report to the full Committee at the conclusion of the review. It is anticipated that the review will be completed by January 2018.

3. Considerations

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: financial, human relations, legal and human rights, prevention of crime and disorder, equality and diversity, environmental, health, property and transport considerations.

4. Officer's Recommendations

The Committee is requested to note the scope of the review of the Councils approach to the rationalisation of operational property and appoint Members to the working group.

John McElvaney
Director of Legal Services