

# Corporate Property 2020

## News for Corporate Property employees

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I hope that you and your loved ones are keeping well and staying safe.

The Government has recently reduced the Covid-19 alert to Level 3 which means an easing of restrictions, social distancing relaxed and a reopening of some buildings. This has kept many of our colleagues busy as we help to get council buildings open in the safest possible way. Thanks to all those who are involved in this vital work.

Earlier in the month we were asked to provide a progress report on how Corporate Property is supporting the Council's climate change agenda. Over the last 10 years we have reduced our emissions from council property by over 34%. The council has set a target of achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2032, so there's plenty more to do, but

we've made good progress so far. You will find details of our plans to achieve this in this newsletter.

There's also a brief update on the progress towards the new go-live date of the 1 September for our joint ventures with Concertus and Vertas, as well as next steps in the overall Corporate Property 2020 programme. There is also information on the Vertas roadshows that were postponed in March.

Thank you to those who have contacted us to let us know what they'd like to see in our newsletter. Please keep the ideas coming - send them to **[corporateproperty2020@derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:corporateproperty2020@derbyshire.gov.uk)**.

Kind regards

**Dave Massingham**

**Director of Property**

## Vertas Inductions and Training

The proposed transfer date to Vertas Derbyshire Limited for the cleaning and caretaking teams has been delayed until 1 September 2020.

All cleaning and caretaking colleagues will be invited to revised induction and training sessions that were postponed in March. This will include company induction and essential health and safety training. The dates and general access to these sessions will be confirmed shortly.

Due to the COVID 19 virus outbreak, it is difficult to offer specific dates for the induction and training sessions at this time. And it is possible that inductions and training will

need to be conducted remotely. We know that guidance and updates are being reviewed constantly, and you will be contacted as soon as we can confirm arrangements have been put in place. This will be in line with Government guidance.

**It is important that everyone attends these sessions.**

If you are a member of the cleaning and caretaking service, we'd like to keep you up to date with our plans by sending you emails to your own personal email address. If you have not already done so please email us at **[corporateproperty2020@derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:corporateproperty2020@derbyshire.gov.uk)**, giving us your name, and where you work.

This space is left blank so that it can be used to print name and address for those newsletters that are sent out in the post.

## Climate Change and Carbon Reduction

Our Energy Manager, Kathryn Sowerby-Warrington, was asked to report to councillors at the beginning of June on how Corporate Property was supporting the council's climate change agenda. This update is important for the planet and you may have seen it was picked up by the local press.

In November 2019, the council adopted two important strategies - The Derbyshire Environment and Climate Change Framework, which sets out how the Council will work with its county wide public sector partners to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2050 in line with national targets. And the Carbon Reduction Plan, which sets out the council's ambition to achieve net zero carbon emissions from its own buildings and operations by 2032.

Emissions from the council's buildings have reduced by 34% since 2010 and now Corporate Property 2020 has a key role in furthering efforts to meet this new ambitious target.

The Carbon Reduction Plan provides an overview of the measures the council needs to undertake to get to net zero emissions by 2032. For Corporate Property, the reduction in emissions will be targeted in six ways:

- Lower our energy consumption by reducing the number of buildings the council uses
- Looking at no and low-cost measures, including employee behaviour change. A good

- example of this is encouraging more online meetings which means employees drive less, something many of us are now well used too!
- Investing in major energy efficiency projects.
- Using council buildings and land to generate energy
- Buying green energy from local or national sources to offset remaining emissions.
- Working with our new partners PSP to look for low carbon development opportunities for our surplus land, which could be low carbon housing or to improve our natural capital and carbon capture through, for example, tree planting schemes.

## Corporate Property 2020 Programme

The two joint ventures with Vertas and Concertus both have a new go-live date of the 1 September. In early August we will be writing to all council employees who are transferring to the new joint companies to update them on the transfer.

For cleaning and caretaking staff transferring to Vertas (Derbyshire) Limited we shall be writing to you very soon to invite you to an induction and health and safety training session. These will be arranged in accordance with Government guidance.

Part of the Corporate Property 2020 programme is to appoint a lead contractor for construction projects that cost over £50,000. We should have started that process by now, but the corona virus pandemic has delayed that part of our project.

When we have more information about this aspect of our work we will be in touch with our construction operatives. In the meantime we are still sending work to our construction teams.

We are still reviewing the grounds maintenance service and in August we will be in contact with all those who work in this area, about what this means and what our next steps will be.