

Corporate Property 2020

News for Corporate Property employees

ISSUE NUMBER 13 / **March 2020**

I hope this message finds you and your families safe and well. I could never have imagined recent events or imagined writing about something other than Corporate Property 2020, but coronavirus is clearly a concern to you all and the most important issue at this time. The council will continue to provide guidance to staff and managers and I urge you all to read this and keep up with the daily changes that can be found at: staff.derbyshire.gov.uk/coronavirus.

The council is keen to ensure that it is giving employees the right support and advice to protect our wellbeing and to ensure that we can continue our vital public service role for the people of Derbyshire.

On 16 March the council's Cabinet approved the setting up of the two joint ventures with Concertus and Vertas. This is a very important

moment, not just for our colleagues who will transfer to the new companies but also for the remainder of Corporate Property who will move towards our new operating model.

It had been planned to transfer all staff on the 1 April. However, in view of the national situation with coronavirus we wanted to let you know that we've decided to delay the transfer of the cleaning and caretaking and design services to Vertas and Concertus until 1 September.

Between now and 1 September we will work with Vertas and Concertus and begin to roll out our new systems, procedures and training so that on the 1 September the transfer can still happen.

Kind regards

Dave Massingham
Director of Property

Concertus and Vertas

At a meeting on 16 March, Cabinet gave the go-ahead for two new joint venture companies to be set up with Suffolk County Council.

In February 2019 the council considered a report produced by consultants Ernst Young. Which recommended that a new operating model for Corporate Property was required. It also said that the council should find other organisations to run some services and the internal service should concentrate on managing our properties so that we get more value from them.

In September 2019 Cabinet considered a further report which looked at the different types of organisations providing some services, in particular for cleaning, caretaking and design services and decided that there was real benefit in looking at creating joint ventures with Suffolk County Council.

A joint venture is a way of running services that fits well with the council's ambition to become an Enterprising Council and one with a public sector organisation allows Derbyshire County Council to improve the services it offers to the people of Derbyshire and its customers as well as having a real stake in the new business.

Transferring these services to commercial companies which are wholly owned by the public sector is the best possible option for these activities which provide vital services directly to the council as well as to a range of other organisations, such as Derbyshire schools. This approach offers the best value for money for council tax payers.

By moving these services to the joint ventures they will be able to work more commercially and have the freedom to find new business locally, bringing financial benefits to the council as an equal partner in each of the joint ventures.

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.

Postponement to the transfer of cleaning, caretaking and design staff

Because of the national situation with coronavirus we are postponing the transfer of any DCC employees to the joint venture companies until 1 September. This means that all staff will continue to be employed and paid by Derbyshire County Council on their existing terms and conditions until September. Your manager will follow the Council's guidance on supporting employees through this period and they will continue to be your first point of contact.

Both Concertus and Vertas have also written to all staff who would have transferred. They have advised that both companies are still very much committed to the joint ventures and that DCC employees are very important to both companies. Concertus and Vertas will continue to communicate with you over the coming months.

If you have not seen any of these communications please ask your manager for a copy, or email us at **corporateproperty2020@derbyshire.gov.uk**

Corporate Property 2020 Newsletter

We are very keen to move to an email only version of this newsletter. If you do not have a DCC email address please ensure we know your personal email address. If you do not have a personal email address, we will still send it in the post and place a copy on our website at **derbyshire.gov.uk/corporateproperty2020**

Pay award for 2020/21

Pay awards for council employees are set nationally but because the national pay award for 2020/21 had not been agreed before the original planned transfer date of the 1 April, the council and the new joint venture companies had agreed that all transferring staff should receive a pay award when they transfer. This is because after the transfer the joint venture companies will have their own pay award arrangements. It was proposed to make a 2% pay award.

As the transfer date has been delayed until September this special arrangement is no longer required. This means that if a national agreement is reached before September then the national pay award will apply to all employees. If it is not agreed by that date a separate arrangement will be required for staff who transfer and we will let you know at that time.

What is next for Corporate Property 2020?

There are other services we are now looking at to see if other organisations could run them on our behalf. At the moment we are looking at grounds maintenance and the disability design team. We may move these services to Vertas or Concertus and will work with managers and colleagues in those teams in exactly the same way that we have been working with the cleaning, caretaking and design teams.

We will also be reviewing how construction services are delivered and will be meeting colleagues in these teams in due course. This also includes roofing and the joiners shop.

Our new management team is nearly complete and we will be working with those new managers as they get to know their new teams and as we move to the new operating model. The timescale for all of these changes has now also been delayed as we direct our energy on responding to the coronavirus effort. We will let you know what the plans are in future newsletters.