

Corporate Property 2020

News for Corporate Property employees

ISSUE NUMBER 15 / May 2020

I'd like to wish you and your family best wishes at what continues to be a difficult time and to offer my thanks to you all who are doing your best to support front line services and the Council's wider response to coronavirus.

As the country moves out of this phase of lockdown and we look to re-open buildings whilst managing social distancing, this will impose many more challenges for Corporate Property colleagues. I am confident that we will take this in our stride and in future newsletters I shall share more news about what we are doing.

In the April newsletter we provided some information on how we are helping to support work across the council in dealing with the pandemic, and there's more on this on the next page of this issue.

There's also a brief update on the progress towards establishing the joint ventures with Concertus and Vertas, as well as next steps in the overall Corporate Property 2020 programme.

One thing you could all help us with is to give me your views on this newsletter. This is the 15th we've produced and sent to all Corporate Property employees. Do you like it, how could we improve it, what other issues would you like us to address? If you have any thoughts, ideas or suggestions please email them to **corporateproperty2020@derbyshire.gov.uk**.

As always please continue to stay safe and I hope it is not long before we are back to more normal working practices.

Kind regards
Dave Massingham
Director of Property

Corporate Property 2020 Newsletter

When we started the Corporate Property 2020 project one of the first things we did was to start a monthly newsletter for colleagues.

We hope you've found the newsletters useful to keep you up to date with what is happening.

We'd like to improve the newsletter, and would like your feedback. Please let us know:

- Do you find the newsletter useful?
- What could we do to improve it?
- Should there be more about each of the sections, Asset Management, Business Services, Estates, Facilities Management, Projects and Property Maintenance?

And we'd like your good news stories and feedback from customers and schools so we can let the whole team know and celebrate our successes.

If you have any thoughts, ideas or suggestions please email them to **corporateproperty2020@derbyshire.gov.uk**.



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Corporate Property 2020 Programme

As you know in March we decided to postpone the two joint ventures with Vertas and Concertus until 1 September.

Since then we've been in regular contact with both Vertas and Concertus and we are continuing to work towards 1 September as the new go-live date and the date when staff will transfer to the two new joint venture companies. In the meantime, we are continuing to address issues such as accommodation and IT.

The next area of service we are reviewing is grounds maintenance and we are in discussions with the team leaders as well as colleagues in other departments in particular countryside, services for schools and highways.

Public Sector Plc

In addition to the joint ventures with Vertas and Concertus, the council has also created a new partnership with Public Sector Plc (PSP). This partnership is aimed at improving poor performing buildings, some by selling for development and others by investing in them to make them more efficient, use less energy, etc.

Following the pandemic the council will be even more focused on improving building efficiency and selling property that it no longer needs. The surplus property can then be used to create new developments in Derbyshire which will help with the economic recovery in the county.

Are you aware of buildings or pieces of land that the council has that perhaps are surplus or could be surplus with some imagination and could be used for development? We'd be interested to hear of any suggestions you have, please email to corporateproperty2020@derbyshire.gov.uk.

Corporate Property work during the pandemic

Here are a few highlights from across the division:

The Corporate Property team worked with partners to help find a building for the council's food distribution operation. In a few days a building had been found, lease negotiated, the building repaired, serviced and cleaned ready for use. Corporate Property employees with vans are supporting the food operation by taking food parcels to the district and borough councils.

The team are also managing the PPE stores and have set up four hub sites to process orders and deliver equipment to sites.

Facilities Management have amended cleaning specifications and carried out deep cleans at buildings not currently in full use. The team are now starting to look at strategies for opening up council offices.

The Estates team are working with the council's business tenants to try and prevent insolvencies and manage the impact to rental income. Work is also taking place to prepare more sites for sale once new property transactions can start again.

Construction sites remain operational with reduced staff on site to ensure social distancing.

The Repairs & Maintenance team are continuing to deliver essential maintenance with some operatives being asked to carry out different duties.

The Grounds Maintenance team are now working on a rota basis, with the tree team continuing with emergency and essential works.