

Corporate Property 2020

News for Corporate Property employees

ISSUE NUMBER 9 / **November 2019**

By the time you receive this newsletter the November staff briefings will have started and I hope I will have had the opportunity of meeting as many of you as possible.

We've organised the briefings across the county to make them as easy as possible for you to get to so please do try and attend – see below for how to book your place.

Over the next couple of months we will also be holding meetings with Concertus and Vertas, the

two companies owned by Suffolk County Council that we intend to form joint ventures with. You can find more information about why we are working towards a joint venture with Suffolk County Council below, and on the back page you can find a message from Duncan Johnson the Chairman of Suffolk Group Holdings.

Kind regards

Dave Massingham
Director of Property

Staff briefings

In November and December we are holding 24 staff briefings across Derbyshire. You will find details of each briefing and how to book in the October Corporate Property 2020 Newsletter – go to derbyshire.gov.uk/corporateproperty2020 to find out more. Over 700 Corporate Property employees have so far signed up to attend and we would encourage all of you to do so. At these presentations we will share information and videos from Concertus and Vertas that show examples of their work and what Derbyshire employees who transfer to our new joint venture can expect to see.

Derbyshire Councillors visit Suffolk County Council

On 4 November Councillor Barry Lewis, leader of Derbyshire County Council, Councillor Angelique Foster, cabinet member with responsibility for Corporate Property and Emma Alexander, Executive Director Commissioning, Communities and Policy visited Suffolk County Council. They met with Councillor Mathew Hicks, the Leader of Suffolk County Council and Councillor Gordon Jones, Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources. They also met Nicola Beach, the Chief Executive and Chris Bally, the Deputy Chief Executive of the County Council.

The Councillors and Executive Director also visited the headquarters of both Vertas Group and Concertus and met their directors and employees. Councillor Foster said: "The visit enabled us to meet with key councillors and officers at Suffolk County Council and to find out more about Concertus and Vertas Group and what it will mean for our employees who will transfer to the new Derbyshire joint venture."

Why a joint venture and why 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. A joint venture with a public sector organisation has been chosen as this will allow 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. This means the new joint venture is an 'arms-length' company of Derbyshire County Council, something which we know is important to many of you.

In a joint venture both organisations share the risks and rewards equally so it is important that both partners have the same values and aspirations. In this case we looked at several public sector organisations before choosing Suffolk.

We believe what they have achieved in Suffolk mirrors very well Derbyshire's enterprising council ambitions. And as a large rural county council there are similarities between Suffolk and Derbyshire.

Suffolk's journey from running services directly to becoming a successful business that works for many new clients in the public and private sectors and brings a regular and sustainable income stream back into the public sector is one we want to copy.

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Message from Duncan Johnson, chairman Vertas and Concertus Design and Property Consultants Ltd

Further to the recent announcement following Derbyshire County Council's cabinet meeting in September 2019, I am pleased to be able to start talking about the exciting Joint Venture prospects between Derbyshire County Council, Concertus and Vertas.

Over the coming months, we hope to have more updates on our progress, however I would like to begin with explaining in more detail who Concertus and Vertas are.

Vertas

Vertas Group Limited is one of the fastest growing facilities management companies in the UK, employing 3,000 staff across 450 sites. Known for putting colleagues and customers at the heart of everything we do, our best-in-class people strategy is aimed at ensuring our colleagues achieve and sustain excellence in their career journey with us.

Every Vertas people manager is asked to sign our Leadership Charter, to ensure everyone feels valued and that work-life balance is protected. We are determined that health, safety and wellbeing is top of the agenda; last month we were the first FM company in East Anglia to sign the Time to Change pledge, demonstrating our commitment to an inclusive, tolerant and de-stigmatising culture for our colleagues in all sites across Great Britain.

Vertas specialises in catering (education, commercial and public-sector), cleaning, courier and postal, concierge, design and print,

grounds maintenance and design, energy management, commercial catering equipment (design, installation and maintenance), security services and business resilience, passenger transport, property management, school support services (HR, payroll, finance, governor) and waste management, recycling and pest prevention.

The eight companies in the group are:

- Churchill Catering
- Diamond View
- IEM
- Oakpark Security
- Schools' Choice
- Snackpax
- Vertas Environmental
- Verse Facilities Management (JV).

Concertus

Concertus offer wide ranging professional expertise and knowledge, creating successful solutions that are tailor-made to meet the client's needs. Working across several specialisms, including architectural and interior design, building design, construction frameworks, project management, quantity surveying, structural and civil engineering. With a talented team of property specialists and designers, who provide a range of services to clients in both the public and private sectors. Concertus strive to make places, properties and people be the best they can by working collaboratively with all parties, to create effective and sustainable built environments. The professional services that Concertus provide are:

- Architecture and interior design
- Building services and sustainability design
- Building surveying
- Carbon and energy design and management
- Construction frameworks
- Planning and development
- Estates and development management
- Landscape architecture
- Programme management
- Project management
- Quantity surveying and cost consultancy
- Structural and civil engineering
- Construction procurement

We look forward to telling you more in the coming weeks and months; in the meantime, please feel free to look at www.vertas.co.uk and www.concertus.co.uk.

Kind regards

Duncan Johnson
Chairman Vertas and Concertus Design and Property Consultants Ltd