

report



meeting **COUNTY COUNCIL**

date **28 January 2010**

agenda item number **7a viii**

REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND PROPERTY

FINANCE

- As we approach the annual budget meeting for the County Council on 25 February 2010, details of the annual budget and capital programme are being finalised over the next few weeks. This is a very busy time for the Finance division and a great deal of effort is put into exploring alternative options and then refining the budget for presentation to Council.
- As usual we have provided the Opposition Groups with access to key financial staff in order that they may be able to develop independent alternative budget scenarios and those alternatives will emerge as we approach County Council day or on the day itself.
- Consultation on the Conservative Budget proposals ended on 22 January 2010 and a report highlighting the consultation views, as well as responses to those views will be considered by Cabinet on 3 February 2010.
- I have also undertaken some further work with officers in respect of reserves and the final composition and phasing of the capital programme proposals, which will again be considered on the 25 February 2010.

PROPERTY

During the period 24 November 2009 to 11 January 2010 there were 2 Property Pre-Agenda Meetings at which 19 reports were considered and these were taken on to the Property Portfolio Meetings for decisions.

- Worksop Library: (Interserve). circa £6M. This major project is progressing well on site to programme and to budget, for completion in May 2010.

- Sutton Academy: The Design & Procurement Group is working with the project sponsors (NCC and West Notts College) on the evaluation of site options and the preparation of an outline planning application.
- Greasley Beauvale Primary School: (Kier-Marriotts) circa £6.2M. The Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) has been completed and is being used by the School and the local community. However, due to some last minute changes with the internal layout of the new school, a new planning application has been made with an anticipated decision in March 2010. Work is programmed to start on site in March 2010 for completion in February 2011.
- Primary Capital Programme. circa £16.7M. This programme comprises 10 projects, including the new Ryton Park Primary School at Worksop. Eight of the projects, including the new Ryton Park Primary are on programme and two require some design changes to get them within budget. This is a very challenging programme with very tight timescales. The largest project is the Ryton Park Primary and working drawings are being completed and an application for planning approval has been made for a start on site in June 2010 and completion in the summer of 2011.
- Change Programme: Property Division is leading the development of business cases as part of the County Council's change programme. These relate to reviewing the way the West Bridgford campus is used and a wider review of the total property portfolio.

ICT SERVICES

- ICT Services has renegotiated its core software licences with IBM, realising annual savings of £60k. This will help fund the transition to Microsoft products as outlined in the One County One Network strategy. ICT is also procuring a single IT service management system to replace three of its older systems. Hornbill's "Supportworks" will provide the ICT Service with a new workflow system and realise £30k savings per annum in licence costs.
- Following an extensive period of evaluation ICT has adopted "Intalio" as the new technical standard for systems integration and the provision of business process mapping tools.
- Over the past month ICT has continued to provide a high level of service availability (99.8%) across all critical ICT systems, plus a 3% improvement on incident resolution compared to the previous period. There was also a 3% improvement on installations as measured against the standard Service Level Agreement.

STRATEGIC SERVICES

County Supplies and Design, Publications and Print

- The two trading organisations are performing well and are on track to meet their net trading targets for the year. Improvements in performance levels have been achieved in Design, Publications and Print through the introduction of more streamlined processes.

Procurement

- The Corporate Procurement team has worked with departments to deliver £1.1m per annum of savings in the year to date, against their annual target of £1m. The unit is currently involved in procurement for cash collection services, furniture, smart cards for transport and funerals.
- The team is also providing support for corporate efficiency projects including water management, print strategy and travel, accommodation and venue hire.

**CLLR REG ADAIR
CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND PROPERTY**