

## **COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 19 DECEMBER 2014**

**Statement from: Councillor M J Hill OBE– Leader and Executive Councillor for Policy, Communications, Procurement and Commissioning**

### **Commissioning**

The creation of the new Commercial Team within the Commissioning and Information area has now completed the staff consultation and the new teams will be in place from January 2015. The team brings together the skills across Procurement Lincolnshire, Performance & Programmes and the Lincolnshire Research Observatory to create a single team to support Lincolnshire County Council (and its partners) in all aspects of the commissioning cycle; analyse, plan, do, review. New posts have been created to ensure that the Serco contract is managed effectively and on a sound commercial basis; that there is additional in-house capacity to support Adult Care re-provision, improved data creation and availability across the Council.

The need for increased commercial awareness and contract management skills is reflected in the new job descriptions and structure.

The Commercial team is enabling and support commissioning activity across the Council to ensure that commissioning activity is carried out in the most effective way to deliver benefits for all Council activities.

The team are currently supporting commissioning across the council including Carers, Integrated Community Equipment (ICES), Community Support Framework, Advocacy, Adult Care Residential placements and Libraries. The team is working closely with health colleagues and is leading on ICES a joint LCC and health procurement. Procurement Lincolnshire continue to carry out commissioning activity for the Districts and on request are developing a Housing work stream which will be of benefit to all the Lincolnshire authorities.

Good progress is being made in delivering the FDSS programme to ensure the Council has continued services with improved efficiencies and reduced costs following the end of the Mouchel contract.

- The work with Serco to deliver service transformation ready for April 2015 is on schedule with the designs for the new Agresso and customer services systems completed on time and the build of these systems now well underway. The move to Agresso will result in substantial transformation of the business processes as new processes incorporate extensive application of self-service. Testing and training is underway on Agresso and in December the first tranche of customer services will be operated with Lagan the new customer service system.
- The transition of Property Services to VinciMouchel is making good progress in preparation for 1 April 2015 with teams working closely together to put in place the new arrangements.

- The Agreement has been signed with West Yorkshire Pension Service for the new shared pension service. The bulk of the work is transferring pensions and payroll data; this is progressing well with the first tranche of data transferred and validated. Accommodation has been secured for the new team.
- The insourcing of the Health and Safety team from 1 April 2015 is progressing on plan and accommodation has been identified.
- Evaluation of the catering tenders for the secure unit will be completed in early December and a decision to award is anticipated shortly after this.

### **New approach to the Council Business Plan**

The Performance and Equality Manager within the Commercial Team is leading on the development of the new look Council Business Plan and underpinning performance management reporting. The new arrangements will reflect the Council's re-focus as a commissioning organisation. The opportunity is being taken to ensure that the Business Plan is public facing and presents information in a more colourful and user friendly way so that it engages citizens. Performance reporting is being reviewed so that the information provided meets the needs of Members and Citizens.

The work will be completed in time for full Council in February 2015.

### **Procurement Lincolnshire (shared service)**

#### **Training**

The revised EU Procurement Regulation training was completed with over 80 delegates benefiting from the training. Representatives from Procurement Lincolnshire, our District partners, CoL, NHS, MOD and other public sector bodies all contributed to a successful programme of delivery.

Fifteen TIPPS (training in public sector procurement) events have been held across the region October/November to provide local businesses with the skills and knowledge needed to win public contracts, whilst demonstrating to SMEs, how to bid competitively for high value public contracts.

### **Collective Energy Switching-tackling fuel poverty in Lincolnshire**

There have been two successful rounds of switching so far. Those rounds saw 5,289 people register interest and around 1,300 switch to lower tariffs. In the most recent auction held in June the average saving per household to take up their offer is £234.36.

The third round is in the 'offer acceptance' phase with 460 households switching out of 1,516 registrations, a switch rate of 30%.

The fourth round launches on 2 December and offers will be made following an auction on 3 February.