

# Agenda Item 6

## COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 20 FEBRUARY 2015

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

### **Commissioning**

Following last year's restructure the new Commercial Team has been in place since 1 January 2015 and has brought together 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.

The Serco Contract Manager is being recruited and the new CSC Lead Officer has been appointed to ensure that the Serco contract is managed effectively on a sound commercial basis. The new structure will provide increased commercial awareness and contract management skills.

The recently concluded contract management audits across all contract provision in Adult Care including Older People & Physical Disabilities and Learning Disabilities and Mental Health report Substantial Assurance a significant improvement on the position 18 months ago.

The Commercial Team continue to support an ambitious programme of 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. New contracts incorporating improved arrangements for short breaks and direct payments have been awarded. Procurement Lincolnshire continues to carry out commissioning activity for the Districts. A housing workshop with external speakers from the sector has been arranged and senior officers from all Lincolnshire authorities have been invited.

Good progress continues 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. There are a considerable number of staff who will be transferred under the TUPE regulations from Mouchel to new employers and the council's CSC staff will also transfer; the TUPE consultations are in progress and staff are having meetings with their new employers. Preparations for moving staff and relevant records and assets are well underway.

- The work with Serco to deliver service transformation ready for April 2015 is on track to replace SAP with the new Agresso and the customer services systems. Serco's new Partnership Director, Derek Irvine has been appointed and took up his post at the beginning of January. The inaugural shadow Operational Board met and is developing effective governance so that the Council gets the best out of the contract with Serco.

- The transition of Property Services to VinciMouchel continues to make good progress in preparation for 1 April 2015 with teams working closely together to put in place the new arrangements.
- The preparations are progressing well for the transfer of pension administration to the West Yorkshire Pension Service for the 1 April.
- The insourcing of the Health and Safety team from 1 April 2015 is progressing according to plan.
- The contract for the catering at the Sleaford Secure Unit has been agreed.

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

The Commercial Team is leading on the development of the new look Council Business Plan. The recent changes in organisational structure and focus on a commissioning approach, lead to a need to change the Council's Business Plan to report on the outcomes of the agreed 17 commissioning strategies.

The Council is seeking, wherever possible, to create channel shift to less costly ways of doing business with a move to more self-service. It is therefore planned to move to a web based business plan that incorporates the outcomes and measures from the commissioning strategies rather than duplicate information already provided elsewhere. Once the outcomes and measures that are the Council Business Plan are agreed, an IT system to report progress against Council Business Plan performance can be commissioned.