



Council Overview Board
1 October 2015

The Property Strategy

Purpose of the report: Scrutiny of the Property Strategy

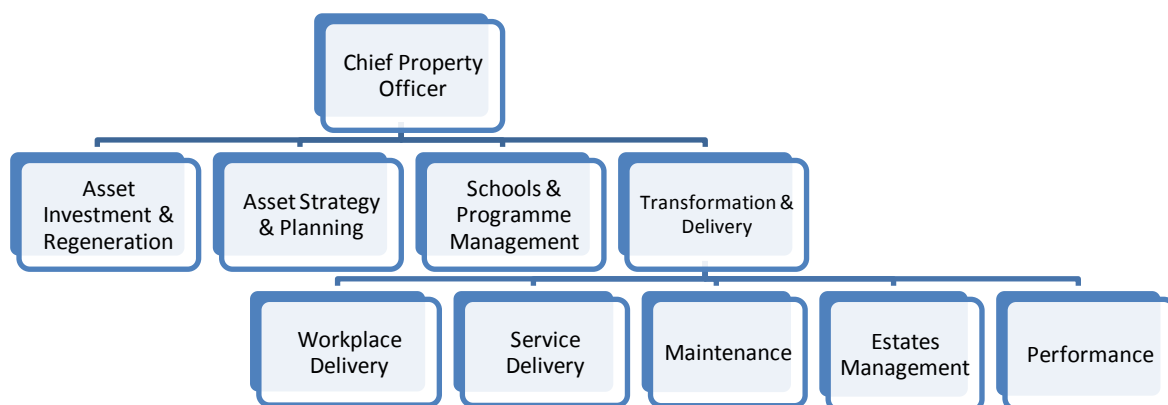
To provide the Council Overview Board with the opportunity to understand the scale and scope of Property Services and its alignment to the Corporate Strategy

Report:

Property Services is a corporate function that operates across Surrey County Council and the services it is structured around:

- Clear lines of responsibility and focus on function,
- clear role definition
- alignment of the function with the Corporate Strategy

The Property Service's structure is designed following consultation across the customer base and at strategic level and operates across the following areas as shown below.



- The structure recognises the need for continuous improvement of the service and creating a culture of improvement and the customer being at the heart of what we do.
- Sitting at the core of the Property Services function is the Strategic Asset Management Plan which will guide our future property decisions and provide the link between the strategic consideration of assets and their role in the delivery of the Council's services. This strategy was worked up in consultation with our customers and partners and is a living active document which sets out our strategy for asset management into the future and highlights areas for immediate improvement for action.

- At the core of Property Services is the overarching aim of achieving best value from our assets and enhancing the current portfolio.
- The vision for Property Services is to be a catalyst for Economic Development and Regeneration within the County, through investment in existing and new opportunities that will drive new income streams and enhance value for money from existing assets.
- Property Services' priorities flow from the priorities of the Directorate. They run right through and feature heavily in this Strategic Asset Management Plan, providing a reference and path back through the Business Services Directorate priorities and the corporate priorities. Property Services' vision is "to be a catalyst for economic development and regeneration within the County, through investment in existing and new opportunities that will drive new income streams and enhance value for money from existing assets."
- Management of our assets and the link between buildings and the delivery of services to the residents of Surrey has never been more important.
- With challenging economic times and the need to stimulate growth, asset management is now a top priority for Central Government and the wider public sector.
- We in Surrey have a key role to play and have already been recognised for our work in initiatives such as the One Public Estate, following on from the government's Capital and Asset Pathfinder Programme and Surrey First.
- Our Strategic Asset Management Plan provides a route map that allows our customers, elected members and staff to see our direction of travel and our forward-thinking and innovative approach to property. It includes the whole range of our activities, from investment and acquisition to the day-to-day management of our built estate. All of these areas will be instrumental in improving services in Surrey.

Recommendations

That the Board continues to support Property Services strategy and the strategic approach and customer focus.

Next steps

As appropriate as requested for Property Services to bring back any questions from the Council Overview Board.

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Sources/background papers: *Strategic Asset Management Plan*