
PROPERTY ASSET MANAGEMENT

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1** This paper introduces the letter of 21 May 2012 that has been issued to Local Authority Chief Executives by Alex Neil, Cabinet Secretary for Infrastructure and Capital Investment to outline the remit envisaged for the Scottish Futures Trust in relation to property asset management.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1** Colleagues are invited to note the terms of the remit.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1** Building on previous reports on Asset Management by the Scottish Futures Trust, by the end of 2016, public bodies in the local civil estate will be expected to achieve cost efficiency savings of at least £500m. This is to be made up of both revenue savings and capital receipts. It is envisaged that the savings will accrue from a more strategic and collaborative approach to property asset management.
- 3.2** The accompanying letter advises that the Scottish Futures Trust will be given the role to:
- Champion a strategic approach to take forward a programme of change, supporting and challenging public bodies to deliver a stepped change in property asset management.
 - To provide a centre of expertise and support on best practise.
 - Facilitate collaborative planning and property rationalisation between different public sector bodies.
 - Review Asset Management Plans and where appropriate, provide an external challenge to public bodies on their strategic approach.
 - Use the new £3m Asset Management Fund over the next 3 years to encourage an innovative solution to rationalise and dispose of assets to secure the maximum benefit to the public purse.
 - Measure and report on progress.

- 3.3** As previously reported, the Community Planning Partnership has already established an Executive Sub Group to promote a collaborative approach to asset management as envisaged by the Scottish Futures Trust. Substantial progress has already been achieved in mapping our assets and identifying opportunities for sharing and rationalisation. In the circumstances, it is not yet clear what additionality will be achieved from the Scottish Futures Trust remit.
- 3.4** While their role in outlining best practise and providing support is to be welcomed, it is not clear to what extent they will be able to exert pressure on public authorities to work more collaboratively. As a result, colleagues are asked to note that the Council is seeking an early meeting with Colin Proctor of the Scottish Futures Trust to discuss this matter further so an update will be provided to both the Executive Sub Group and the Management Committee as soon as possible.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1** The Scottish Futures Trust have been given a role to promote greater collaboration between public authorities in the local civil estate with a view to promoting savings of at least £500m by the end of 2016.
- 4.2** The Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership has already taken the step of establishing an Executive Sub Group to map our property assets and also to establish opportunities for property sharing and rationalisation. While considerable progress has already been made in terms of the mapping process, the role envisaged for the Scottish Futures Trust will now require partners to deliver tangible benefits.

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