

Finance Portfolio Update

Key Issues/Priorities

Overview and Scrutiny – 14th May 2007

Corporate Property Services

- **Community Buildings** – A new policy framework is being implemented to improve the use and performance of community buildings and establish a better landlord tenant relationship.
- **Commercial Portfolio** – A review is to be carried out of the portfolio to improve the contribution that our shops and industrial estates make to the Council's key priorities. It is hoped this will drive up satisfaction levels amongst actual and prospective tenants.
- **Regeneration** - Delivering major land developments of Council owned sites and work with others to contribute to the social and physical regeneration of Haringey.
- **Accommodation Strategy** - Developing the next phase of the strategy to achieve further efficiencies through asset rationalisation as well as facilitate smart working throughout the Council to achieve excellence by promoting team working, collaboration and flexibility in the use of accommodation.

Corporate Procurement

- **Contract Management System** - Haringey's new contract management system (CMS) has gone live recently. The system will aid the council in contract monitoring and will direct SAP/SRM shoppers to using contracts wherever possible and will be a major tool in the council's drive to increase 'on contract' spending. Contract details are now being loaded by departments and should be complete by September.
- **The 'Local Government Energy Procurement Action Plan'** – This has been developed and implemented by the Haringey Corporate Procurement team. The plan is now being rolled out to all London councils by CPU on behalf of the London Centre of Excellence (LCE), which is funded by Whitehall to promote local authority efficiency. The LCE says that the action plan could realise up to a 10 per cent efficiency gain on energy bills - a £16 million saving across London if all councils implement its recommendations. All other regions in the country will be adopting the action plan from next month.

Benefits and Local Taxation (BLT)

- **BLT Partnership working with the Pensions Service** -The final arrangements for the partnership working initiative between Benefits and Local Taxation and the Pensions Service have been put in place. The aim of the partnership is to maximise income for customers through Benefit take up and to ensure that any changes in circumstances are reported to BLT at the earliest opportunity, thus improving the accuracy of data and preventing unnecessary overpayments.
- **Annual Billing Process** – This years Annual Billing process has ran smoothly and all bills have been issued within the legal timeframe. This year postal savings were realised in BLT by combining the 'A to Z Directory of Council Services' with the Council Tax Booklet in each bill, thus enabling BLT to share the postage costs with the Communications Unit .

