

## QUESTION TO FULL COUNCIL 19 DECEMBER 2016

'In January, The Solihull Partnership was recruited by this council to work on a number of capital projects within the district including some within my ward.

This deal, worth £2.2m, promised, to quote the recorded minutes from January's Budget Planning meeting; "more cost-effective property maintenance services and capital works by bulk tendering, reduced contract administration and procurement time and therefore delivered better value for money."

These minutes also state that "The Committee was advised that the Solihull Partnership had been procured to carry out interim capital works and was working with Cherwell District Council Property and Facilities Management to plan and complete these works by June 2016."

Will the Lead Member for Estates and Economy confirm how many of these projects were completed by that date, how many are still unfinished and what the total value of each of these is?'

## RESPONSE

The deal approved in January 2016 was made up as follows:

Carry forward schemes from 2015/16 financial year totalled £969,000

New capital works projects for 2016/17 totalled £1.066m.

This gave a total net capital programme of £2.035m plus the management fee of 12% equates to a gross capital programme figure of **£2.249m**.

I can confirm that the amount of expenditure for schemes completed up to June 2016 that relates to the works programme brought forward from 2015/16 was £170,000 – representing 18% of the net programme.

I can confirm that the amount of expenditure for schemes completed up to June 2016 that relates to the new works programme for 2016/17 2015/16 was £40,000 – representing 4% of the net programme.

The delivery against this programme and outcomes expected has not been as anticipated and as indicated at the Budget Planning Committee on 29 November 2016 we are embarking on an improvements plan to ensure these projects are delivered as soon as possible. This plan includes the formation of a new capital

works steering group which will oversee the on-going delivery of the works, intensive performance management of the Solihull Partnership, and improved engagement with appropriate stakeholders on the schemes.

As time has progressed, decisions have been taken which have resulted in a reduction of the programme of £419,000 so the revised scheme total excluding management fee is £1.616m. It is estimated that 55% of this work will be delivered by 31 March 2017 with the remaining 45% being delivered no later than December 2017.

I have provided to all members a list of the detailed schemes that make up the total programme showing complete, to be completed by 31 March 2017, those schemes to be completed during 2017/18 and those schemes removed.

A detailed report will be considered at the January 2017 Executive outlining:

- the full improvement plan
- overview of discussions with Solihull regarding non-performance, improvement plan and commercial position
- information on the 2 main schemes to be delivered in 2017/18 – Orchard Way Improvements and the Community Buildings Condition Survey Works

I can confirm an initial meeting of the Steering Group has taken place and this group will continue to report into the Budget Planning Committee until all schemes have been delivered.