Making Assets Count (MAC) is a partnership of Cambridgeshire public sector organisations including Cambridge City Council, East Cambridgeshire District Council, Fenland District Council, Huntingdonshire District Council, South Cambridgeshire District Council, Cambridgeshire County Council, Cambridgeshire Constabulary, Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service and Health services.

MAC also works with other key public sector partners, e.g. Job Centre Plus, Highways Agency and the Homes and Communities Agency.

MAC aims to reduce the size of the public estate by removing poor quality, inefficient and incorrectly located buildings from the property portfolio, making better use of the remaining property assets and investing in new assets where these are required. New assets will have a focus on providing joined-up services to the communities they serve and providing spaces for local groups to use.

Introduction to the Spring Newsletter from Paul Medd, MAC Co-Sponsor

Welcome to the fourth Making Assets Count Newsletter

I was very pleased to be endorsed by the Cambridgeshire Public Service Board as the new MAC Co-Sponsor towards the end of 2013, to work alongside Graham Stagg (Chief Fire Officer) on the MAC Programme. I take over from Alex Plant, who left Cambridgeshire County Council in November 2013. I recognise the great contribution that Alex made to the Programme; his expertise and insight will be missed.

In the face of the continuing financial challenges faced by the public sector, there is a heightened need to rationalise the public sector estate/portfolio to achieve savings and to deliver better public services for communities in Cambridgeshire. This is where the MAC Programme can make significant contributions.

MAC has made some great advances, and I am thrilled to now be joining my co-sponsor Graham Stagg, and other dedicated colleagues in the Programme, to continue to build on this success going forward. In particular I am keen to ensure that 2014/15 results in tangible benefits being delivered through more ‘on the ground’ projects.

... talk to MAC.

Have you ideas about how to make best use of the consider- able assets of the public sector?

Are there assets in your area that should be considered by MAC?

MAC wants your knowledge and ideas. The partnership represents an unprecedented opportunity to get more from public sector buildings.

Have your say

Roger Moore
Head of Strategic Asset Management, Cambridgeshire County Council (LGSS)

Roger Moore has recently taken over from David Nuttcombe, who retired from Cambridgeshire County Council in January after 35 years service. Roger will be the Strategic Property Adviser to the MAC project. He joins from Essex county council, where he was instrumental in developing the Essex Property Partnership Board and its programme for collaborative asset management in Essex, including the One Public Estate pilot with the Local Government Association and Government Property Unit.

John MacMillan
Group Asset Manager, Cambridgeshire County Council

John MacMillan (aka JMac) was until recently Rural Estate Manager of Cambridgeshire County Council. His new role as LGSS’s Group Asset Manager in Cambridgeshire will involve managing the team who are challenged with making the most of Cambridgeshire County Council’s £620m property portfolio supporting public services across the County. He is looking forward to getting much more involved with MAC, supporting Roger Moore.

David Bethell - MAC Programme Manager

David Bethell, who has been a Project Manager for MAC since June 2011, has been appointed the MAC Programme Manager on a one-year secondment from December 2013.

Cat Rutangye - MAC Project Manager

Cat was appointed as MAC Project Manager in March 2014. Cat has previously worked in various project management roles at the County Council, including community hubs and transport.
Focus On: South Cambridgeshire Hall, Cambourne

In February 2014, the County Council’s Supporting Communities and Businesses Team moved from their former offices in Sackville House (Cambourne) to South Cambridgeshire Hall (also in Cambourne). This move was facilitated by the MAC programme.

The team of 31 staff now sits alongside District Council staff, which will facilitate flexible working for the County team, allow closer working with our District Council partners and make better use of public buildings.

As part of the change process, several meetings were held with County Council and District Council staff, including a ‘meet and greet’ event. The County Council team were also given the opportunity to visit the building before the move.

The office move went smoothly and was complete within 24 hours. It provides some useful learning points for future co-location projects. We look forward to supporting similar projects in the future.

Waste Hub (Joint Operations Centre)

The Waste Hub emerged from work on the Joint Operations Centre project. Through the development of the Business Case it became apparent that there was an opportunity to co-locate Cambridge City waste services with those of South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC) at SCDC’s new waste depot near Waterbeach. An Options Appraisal was produced that demonstrated the initial feasibility of co-location.

From December 2013 SCDC and Cambridge City Council have taken the lead on developing the Waste Hub project. Work undertaken so far includes liaison with staff and unions, developing governance and management arrangements and mapping key stakeholder issues for resolution. Both partners are committed to the project and are allocating resources to it’s delivery.

The timescale for project delivery is currently early 2015.

New Property Asset Management System

Cambridgeshire County Council through LGSS with Northamptonshire County Council has procured a new Asset Management System from Tribal Education Ltd. called K2.

The new system has wide functionality covering, for example, acquisitions, disposals, valuations, reactive and planned maintenance, condition surveys, asbestos surveys and risk assessments etc.

The OJEU compliant procurement was undertaken in such a way that any MAC partner can adopt the new system.

For further information please contact:
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MAC Project priorities 2014/15

The MAC Programme Board and the Member Reference Group have stressed the need for pace and delivery of projects that demonstrate both tangible and intangible benefits.

The key projects aimed for completion in 2014/15 are:
• Waste Hub (Cambridge City Council/SCDC)
• St Ives Phase 1 (Adult Day Services/Police Station co-location)
• Chatteris Hub phase 2
• AMS Action Plan (‘suite’ of standardised estate management documents and processes)

And to have substantially progressed these projects to their next project phase:
• MAC Joint Venture
• Ely Barton Road
• Joint Operations Centre phase 2

In addition, MAC Programme Board has endorsed a recent review of the governance and management arrangements and documentation.