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- **Board Meeting:** 15 May 2012
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- **Advice:** To **note** progress on the Daventry town centre programme.

1. Summary

- 1.1 Investments made by WNDC and our public sector partners to help support the growth and regeneration of Daventry have resulted in significant levels of activity.
- 1.2 After a successful programme of launch events in June 2011 the award winning Daventry iCon continues to growth from strength to strength.
- 1.3 The Daventry Library project continues to make good progress.
- 1.4 The application to designate Site 3 and 6 as a Village Green has been withdrawn.
- 1.5 All planning applications within the Daventry Urban Development Area, including site 1 and 5, 3 and 6 and the Daventry Canal Arm, have been transferred to Daventry District Council (DDC) as part of the transfer of planning powers. With the transfer all planning related discussions have ceased with all commercial and residential developers in and around Daventry and with the Daventry Town and Parish Forum.

2. Daventry iCon

- 2.1 Daventry iCon has now been open for one year and has seen fluctuating levels of interest during the year from tenants. Currently 60% of the building is occupied; which is significantly above the target rate of 40%.
- 2.2 The iCon has featured in a number of award schemes recently. It has been named as runner up in the 'Best Public Project' category in the Building Magazine Awards and has won the 'Best Commercial Workplace' category at the British Council for Offices Awards Midlands ceremony. It now goes forward to the national awards in October. The iCon has also been shortlisted for the East Midlands Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) Awards – the ceremony is on 20 June in Leicester.
- 2.3 A defects inspection was held on the 1 May to confirm the outstanding defects and Winvic are now programming the completion of these in the next 2 – 3 weeks.
- 2.4 The defects period has been extended from the 9 March due to the level of outstanding defects including repeat defects experienced with the external fin lighting. This extended period will provide the University with the assurance that any

repeat defects have been addressed and will not present the University with a liability going forward beyond that normally associated with ongoing operation and maintenance.

2.5 On completion of all defects the ongoing project management of the iCon will transfer from WNDC to the University and this is now expected to be completed by the end of May 2012.

3. Daventry Library

3.1 WNDC's innovative use of GAF funding to relocate Northamptonshire County Councils (NCCs) Children and Young People team (which had shared the existing library building) to bespoke offices in DDC's Lodge Road building has meant that the new library in Site 1 will be purpose built for the library and related cultural and community uses.

3.2 Last year, WNDC set up a Daventry Library project team including private and public sector partners to look specifically at the library to ensure plans were taken forward positively and in a timely manner in respect of the planning application for Site 1. In light of the planning transfer this meeting has evolved and is now led by NCC who have procured Marchini Curran Associates to support the detailed design of the internal fit out of the library. WNDC are still a member of the project team.

3.3 MCA are also working with Henry Boot (DDC's preferred Development Partner) on the planning application for Site 1 and 5. It is envisaged that a full planning application for Site 1 and an outline planning application for Site 5 will be submitted to DDC at the end of June 2012 (currently two months behind the revised schedule).

4. University Technical College (UTC)

4.1 On the 10th October 2010 DDC received confirmation from the Department of Education that the UTC was approved to pre-opening stage to bring forward a 600 place UTC specialising in environmental sustainability, sustainable construction and new technologies in engineering.

4.2 On the 5th July 2011, WNDC Board approved investment up to £300,000 to support this new educational facility in Daventry.

4.3 The application to designate Site 3 and 6 as a Village Green (VG) has been withdrawn following agreement between the VG applicant and DDC. This has seen the reservation of an area of land to the south of Falconers Close as green space in any further iteration of the Site 3 masterplan/planning application. In return, the VG

applicant would not impede the progress of the UTC scheme until at least October 2012.

4.4 There remains a small but inherent risk to the expenditure of allocated monies prior to the construction of the UTC facility, that a third party may submit a VG application for the UTC site.