

Dear All,

As we approach the end of our second week of March, with Easter on the horizon and visible signs of spring emerging, I hope you are all well. This week has seen the welcome re-opening of schools, hopefully marking the end of home schooling. Coupled with the news that nearly 25 million people have now been vaccinated, I hope you can all join me in continuing to feel positive about the future.

Business Focus

Strategic Procurement and Purchasing (SPP) project

The start of March has seen the full launch of our [SPP project](#) which promises to enable the University to better buy its goods, works and services and generate financial savings of around £20m per annum. SPP is a major component of our Finance Transformation Programme ([FTP](#)), creating a compelling new future for Finance across the University, and is a flagship project under the wider University Recovery Programme.

Currently a team from PA Consulting is helping to get this off the ground and we are recruiting extra resources to run with the project over the coming months. We recently welcomed Chris Day as Head of Operational Procurement and Ian Blackwell as SPP Project Manager, who will both have key roles to play in helping us make the SPP vision a sustainable reality in the months ahead.

Appointment of Head of Estates Finance

I'd like to welcome Nigel Alcock who joined the University in February as Interim Head of Estates Finance. Nigel has assumed responsibility for both the former North West Cambridge finance team and the provision of business partnering services to the wider Estates Division, while working with our finance teams in exploring the most effective ways of delivering operational support to the newly integrated Estates organisation.

Best Wishes,

David Hughes

Director of Finance