

Dear All,

As we are about to enter the winter months, I hope you are all keeping well, warm and can access your booster jab as soon as possible!

I have a few updates for you this month regarding progress in our key business areas.

## **Business Update**

### **CUFS Upgrade**

I'm pleased to say last week we successfully delivered a major upgrade to CUFS (Cambridge University Finance System) from Oracle 12.1.3 to the latest version R12.2.10. The upgrade completed £300,000 under budget following work by FSG and UIS.

This is major step provides a stable platform for the significant changes to come through our [Finance Transformation Programme \(FTP\)](#), which aims to shape and enhance our Finance functionality and user experience across the University.

The upgrade will allow CUFS to remain fully supported while a new system is explored, developed and implemented through the Financial System Replacement project (FSR) - a major component of the FTP.

Replacing CUFS through the FSR will take several years to give us time to make the most of next generation functionality and data and reporting capabilities. The current upgrade is vital therefore to maintain Finance business continuity in the meantime.

Extensive work has been undertaken to push this important upgrade through and I'd like to thank Project Manager Paul Humphreys, Technical Lead Douglas Youngson, Chief Database Administrator Selina Donnelly and Testing Automation Coordinator Jason Allen, together with the whole team for this success, particularly as the project was delivered on time and significantly under budget!

### **Year-End**

Following an extremely challenging process last year and with significant changes in our team and against the backdrop of Covid-19, I am pleased to say we have delivered our accounts and audit with no material issues. University Council signed everything off today (Monday) and senior stakeholders have complimented the team on managing the process. I'd like to thank all of those involved across the extended finance community, noting in particular the exceptional efforts of Imran Amir-Ali, Mike Sinclair and Heather Davis.

### **Enhanced Financial Transparency**

We are making further progress regarding Enhanced Financial Transparency (EFT) and held a positive session with the School Council from the School of Physical Sciences. As a result of this we are now planning further such engagements with key stakeholders, building towards a greater level of involvement and understanding. We are moving closer to our first prototype of a new financial planning tool and the Project Board recently reviewed this for the first time. Please see the [EFT webpage](#) for further information.

Best Wishes,

David Hughes  
**Director of Finance**

