Committee:	**IT Working Group**	**Agenda Item**
Date:	**3 September 2007**	**4**
Title:	**Website Redevelopment Progress**	
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Summary

1. This report provides an update on the progress of the website redevelopment project.

Background

2. Since the existing UDC website was designed there have been major advances in the design and accessibility of websites. New techniques have meant that websites can now not only look smart but can also be smart, allowing access to all.

3. The Disabilities Discrimination Act 2005 made it a requirement for website to be accessible to all, meaning those with disabilities could also access the website. The UDC website's accessibility rating falls short of the requirements (6 out of 10 on Sitemorse rating system).

4. The decision was taken to redevelop the website using new techniques that will increase the accessibility to users and also offer an all round better online service with a fresh look, new interactive features and the opportunity for users to complete more transactions online.

5. The first step was to set up a Website Working Group to discuss ideas for the new website in terms of design, content, navigation and ease of use. The group meeting was held 16 July 2007 and consisted of discussions and brainstorming between members off staff from each of the services. From the meeting it was decided that a consultation with the public, council staff and members should be set up to get an idea of what people want from the new website.

   The consultation took place between 20 July and 20 August.

Findings from Consultation

6. A report detailing the findings from the consultation has been created and can be viewed on request.

7. To summarise the findings showed that the majority of people were satisfied with the website but not impressed by many aspects of it.

8. A list of 50 individual ideas for improvement was created from the consultation.

Next Stage

9. The next stage is to use the report and ideas to help create a list of main objectives for the new website. The objectives will be sent to three companies who have already shown their interest in taking on this project (Adapteq, Verseone, Web-Labs).

10. The companies will offer advice on how best to implement the ideas into the website and will discuss what can be implemented for the budget we have.