

AMENDMENTS AND WRITTEN QUESTIONS – FULL COUNCIL – 25 OCTOBER 2017

AMENDMENTS

There are no amendments.

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

1. SCRUTINY MINUTES 9 OCTOBER 2017

MIN NO 66

Questions submitted by Councillor F W Letch and the response of the Cabinet Member for Housing

Following the discussions at a recent Scrutiny meeting would Cllr Stanley, Cllr Eginton or Andrew Jarret indicate what policy or protocol was used by the members of Cabinet to agree, at the meeting of 5th January 2017, to sell Tiverton Town Hall to Tiverton Town Council at 50% of the valuer's restricted value?

RESPONSE:

There are no specific policies with regard to disposal of council assets, however Cabinet was mindful of the terms of the Asset Management and Capital Plan 2016-2020 specifically Section 4. Further the overall objective of the Council in disposal of assets is to achieve best value as included in Section 123 of the LGA 1972.

Additional consideration was given to:

- a) Total usable/ unusable square footage of the building*
 - b) Capital expenditure and future maintenance*
 - c) Suitability to attract commercial interest.*
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2. CABINET – 28 SEPTEMBER

MIN NO 57

Question submitted by Councillor Mrs J Roach and the response of the Cabinet Member for the Working Environment and Support Services

What is the cost to MDDC of each agency worker under this contract?

RESPONSE:

At the Cabinet meeting on the 28/9/17 where a new agency supplier was recommended – paragraph 2.3 showed that Mid Devon DC's expenditure on agency staff was much lower (£279k) than all of our neighbouring Councils – in fact our spend was some £188k lower than the next lowest (£467K). An appendix to the report (included in the part 2 papers as page 54) showed the hourly rates for a range of agency staff that the Council could make

use of – this indicated that comparing the new contract with the existing one – that some rates were lower (in the main these were the services that have the highest level of agency need – i.e. street scene) and some that were higher – but in services that have a lower need for agency support.

As far as the cost impact of this new agency contract – based on the same level of activity – we would see a reduction of £8k to our level of agency spend.

3. AGENDA ITEM 14 – COMMERCIAL PROPERTY ACQUISITION

Question submitted by Councillor Mrs J Roach and the response of the Cabinet Member for Housing

May I have confirmation that an offer of (sum outlined within the report) was made prior to a structural survey being undertaken?

If the survey shows serious problems will the offer of (sum outlined within the report) be rescinded?

RESPONSE:

A full structural survey was undertaken for the properties on 19 November 2015 when MDCC first considered a purchase at that time. This structural survey was undertaken by Will Gannon and Smith Limited, Consulting Engineers, subsequently as this has arisen as a possible purchase, a short review of the report by the original author is being undertaken this week. No serious concerns were evident in the original report and it is unlikely that the building would have been subject to any major failures since 2015. However, should the report be unfavourable, we will reconsider our position.