

Resources and Performance Scrutiny Committee 1 July 2020

Moving Closer to Residents:
Midas House

Introduction

Original strategic intent:

- Part of Council's overall transformation and modernisation plans, to....
 -improve services to residents and secure efficiencies, be an employer of choice and attract the best talent.
- Enable Members and staff to work in more agile ways - work done anywhere, any time, with anyone, enhancing innovation and collaboration
- Council's 'Civic Heart' located in Surrey

Review

- Strategic intent remains - to move County Council HQ into the county
- Impact and implications of Covid-19, lockdown and social distancing, for foreseeable future:
 - home working and social distancing in the workplace = uncertain office space requirements
 - currently uncertain and volatile property market, valuations and investments risky and challenging
 - difficulty in moving existing Midas House tenants, so limited access to building to undertake works
 - need to engage fully with and capture learning and experiences of Members and staff under lockdown, to reflect in future ways of working
 - probable significant negative impact on public finances and future Council funding
 - re-setting Council finances, strategies, transformation and business plans, reassessing all major and financial decisions

Re-set

- Due to the aforementioned factors, decision made to not acquire Midas House
- Announced on 23rd April 2020
- Revisit options and way forward when there is hopefully more certainty about the progress of Covid-19, control measures (e.g. vaccine, social distancing)
- These will drive requirements for our operational estate and the Civic Heart.
- Treat as part of Council-wide Covid-19 're-set', with update report no later than October 2020
- Progressing plans to market County Hall