

COUNCIL MEETING: 19TH MAY 2020

TIM OLIVER, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

MR NICK DARBY (THE DITTONS) TO ASK:

What fees and costs were incurred in relation to the intended move to Midas House, Woking, including costs incurred in preparing for or assessing the move?

Within the figures please include for:-

- Legal
- Surveying
- Valuation
- M&E consultants
- Fit out planning and consultants
- All other reporting and assessments

Separately what is the total internal cost of the Midas House project e.g. hours spent by officers and additional staff employed, in the latter case including agents’ fees, if any?

RESPONSE:

Following an assessment of alternative premises in Woking and Guildford to accommodate a ‘Civic Heart’ for the Council, as a part of the Moving Closer to Residents (MCTR) programme, Midas House was identified as the preferred option and the initial stages were progressed for its acquisition from Woking Borough Council as the building owner, including agreeing Heads of Terms.

The costs and fees incurred by the Council directly attributable to Midas House are as follows:

- Legal – £34,000
- Surveying – nil (Surveys commissioned by Woking Borough Council were used).
- Valuation – £40,000
- M&E – nil
- Fit out planning and consultants – £27,000
- All other reporting and assessments – £52,000 (energy efficiency consultants and property agents)

The acquisition was led by two existing members of the Property team. No additional internal revenue costs have been booked specifically to the acquisition of Midas House. An external programme manager was engaged between October 2019 and April 2020 at a cost of £30,000 for time spent on Midas House.

Much of the work done in relation to the fit-out planning, design and space utilisation at Midas House has value for the re-cast programme, obviating the need to incur some further costs.

The total costs associated directly to the potential acquisition of Midas House are therefore £183,000.

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