

MEMBER QUESTIONS TO Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee
Under Standing Order 18 – 27 September 2018

From Councillor Thompson

Responses made by the Corporate Manager Democratic & Civic Support

Question 1

Has the rent noted in The Heads of Terms re. Premises/parking for Police specifically taken into account priority parking in spaces currently used by Councillors?

Response 1

Details of the agreed rental payments were presented to the meeting

Question 2

The rent with priority parking is noted at £22622 - given the Emergency Services operate 7 days per week is this approximate £62 per day?

Response 2

The premises rent was comparable to the existing rents paid by other organisations who occupy accommodation within the Civic Centre e.g. Citizens Advice and Devon County Council. The combined rents would give rise to a £100,000 annual income for the Council;

Question 3

Has the insurance liability for the City Council been affected with the letting of the building to the Police, which is an emergency service?

Response 3

The lease holders would be the Neighbourhood Policing team, rather than the Devon and Cornwall Police. They would not be operating as a police station or contain prison cells or have public access to the premises. Middlemore Police Station would continue to function the main Police headquarters after the closure of the Heavitree Road building. A blue box would eventually be installed externally for public use to call 101;

Question 4

Will security at the Civic Centre front desk need to be enhanced to allow for eventualities which may occur with the Police presence at the Civic Offices?

Response 4

The Civic Centre front desk and reception would not be used by the Neighbourhood Police team, but the police staff would be able to access the building directly from Dix's Field. The police may invite persons for informal discussion to the civic centre, but they would be accompanied at all times. Any formal interviews would be referred to Middlemoor Police

Station. The door entry system had been altered to make sure security was maintained within Phases 1 and 2.

Question 5

What equipment, requiring CCTV and Police observation from their offices is kept in the Police vehicles?

Response 5

The Devon and Cornwall Police had informed the Council that it was standard operating procedure to ensure they had continual observation of their vehicles at all times.

Question 6

What future proposals are in place should Heavitree Road Police Station close - will the Civic Offices be the central point of contact for the Police?

Response 6

The Civic Centre would only be used as a hub office for the neighbourhood policing team, with Middlemore operating as the main police station after the closure of the Heavitree Road station.