

To: Cabinet
Date: 14 September 2022
Report of: Scrutiny Committee
Title of Report: Lease of Council Office Accommodation at St Aldate's Chambers

Summary and recommendations	
Purpose of report:	To present Scrutiny Committee recommendations for Cabinet consideration and decision
Key decision:	No
Scrutiny Lead Member:	Councillor Lizzy Diggins, Scrutiny Committee Vice-Chair
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Ed Turner, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Asset Management and Councillor Nigel Chapman, Cabinet Member for Citizen Focused Services
Corporate Priority:	All
Policy Framework:	Council Strategy 2020-24
Recommendation: That the Cabinet states whether it agrees or disagrees with the recommendations in the body of this report.	

Appendices	
Appendix A	Draft Cabinet response to recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee

Introduction and overview

1. The Scrutiny Committee met on 06 September 2022 to consider a report on the Lease of Council Office Accommodation. The report, which is due for Cabinet consideration on 14 September 2022, recommends that Cabinet resolves to approve the decision to relocate Council staff from St Aldate's Chambers (subject to any changes to terms and conditions of employment required), approve the reallocation of existing budget from the capital programme, recommend to Council the approval of a contingency budget of £300,000 and delegate authority to officers to enter into appropriate contracts and let the whole of St Aldate's Chambers.

Summary and recommendations

2. Councillor Nigel Chapman, Cabinet Member for Citizen Focused Services, introduced the report. He set out the rationale for the proposal and explained that extensive staff consultation had begun and would continue.
3. Tom Hook, Executive Director (Corporate Resources), apologised that the discussion with the Leaders of all the political parties with representation on the Council, as well as the independent ward councillor, described in paragraph 19 of the report had not happened before the report was published.
4. The Executive Director (Corporate Resources) outlined the commitment to ensuring the move was a positive one that benefitted staff and the Head of Corporate Property outlined practical steps that would be taken to help ensure this.
5. The Committee raised a number of questions regarding accessibility and terms and conditions and was largely satisfied with the assurances provided.
6. The Committee recognised that, given the speed with which the move would take place, not everything would be ready within the timeframes but sought reassurance that adequate secure cycle storage would be available and recommended that consideration be given to providing this at the earliest possible opportunity. Members of the Committee shared positive experience of Spokesafe as a provider of such.

Recommendation 1: That the Council ensures the provision of significant secure cycle storage at the Town Hall at the earliest possible opportunity.

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