



RESPONSE FROM THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

to
COUNCIL
6 JULY 2022

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

1. QUESTIONS OF WHICH NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

- 1.1 In accordance with the Council's public speaking protocol the following question was received from a member of the public.

2. QUESTIONS

- 2.1 The following question was received from Mr Lance Peatling on 11 April 2022.

"Can the council clarify the comments by the officer at the previous meeting with respect to a grant of monies to undertake the proposed feasibility study with regard to new council offices. The officer insinuated that by virtue of a grant that the tax payers of MDC would not be bearing the cost of the study. This is blatant obfuscation by council officers as all public monies are either raised on the back of taxpayers or grafted onto their backs through the issuance of public debt. Can the council clarify that this is the case, mind officers of the council as to not making misleading comments and commit to clarity with respect to spending public money, however so derived?"

3. RESPONSE FROM THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

- 3.1 The Council was given an £80k grant from One Public Estate to undertake a feasibility study regarding the Council Offices. If following feasibility and a subsequent full business case the decision is taken to proceed with the final phase of development, £60k of the grant is repayable and the Council has the opportunity to apply for further funding opportunities. If rejected the grant is not required to be repaid.
- 3.2 One Public Estate is an established national programme delivered in partnership by the Office of Government Property (OGP) within the Cabinet Office and the Local Government Association. It provides practical and technical support and funding to councils to deliver ambitious property-focused programmes in collaboration with central government and other public sector partners.