Council

14 April 2015

Member Questions (1)

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Question from Councillor Lillywhite to Cabinet Member Finance, Councillor 1. The vision for this council is to reduce its staff and responsibilities, it is claimed that the Municipal offices is too big, it would seem somewhat disingenuous to then buy a building that is possibly larger? For almost triple the book value of our own asset at the peak of the last property boom and then claim that the Council is branching out into property speculation on the back of its last disastrous commercial property transaction that floundered just eight days after breaking ground. It seems particularly surprising given the recent Athey Economic Report which stated that Cheltenham had a surplus of non grade 'A' office space, that we should be rushed into investing in this area on the back of a Government loan without the requisite consultation of the Councillors or sufficient detail being passed into the public, to judge whether they are prepared to allow this Council to consider such speculative risk in an area where CBC have clearly been advised there is an oversupply, where they have such a poor record and no clear mandate. Why are the public not being fully consulted when it is they that are responsible for the costs? **Response from Cabinet Member Finance**