

Executive Appendix 2

Committee

2nd June 2010

SUMMARY OF PRIVATE BUSINESS CENTRES OPERATING ON SIMILAR TERMS IN REDDITCH

Several developments in Redditch include 'business centre' in their name but are stand-alone buildings or buildings comprising multiple office suites or industrial bays, operating conventional (longer-term) commercial lease terms and without business support services.

There are two private business centres within Redditch which operate similar short-notice license terms and similar fees to the Borough Council's centres. Available information indicates they are experiencing similar void levels.

The Ashtenne / Imex Business Centre (Oxleasow Road, East Moons Moat) offers serviced office and industrial accommodation for start-up businesses to established businesses on flexible terms. There are approximately 48 office units (75 sqft to 380 sqft) and 25 industrial and warehouse units (870 sqft to 18,000 sqft). Meeting rooms are available to hire.

The Edward Street Business Centre offers serviced office suites, from 125 sqft in size. Units can be combined to offer suites of up to 2200 sqft. Market research by the Business Centre Manager notes the license fee and terms are comparable with the Borough Council's centres. In contrast to the other centres, units at the Edward Street Business Centre are offered fully furnished.

Comparing services, the Imex reception is manned on a part-time basis only and no additional secretarial services are offered. The Edward Street centre offers secretarial services.