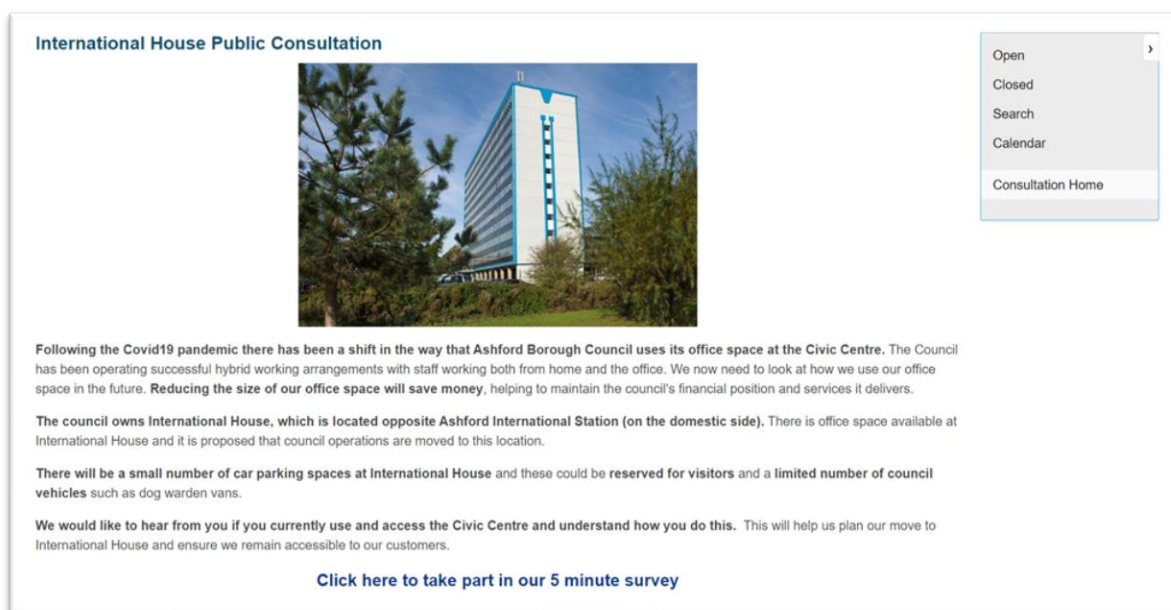


Civic Centre users asked for their views on potential relocation


Ashford Borough Council is looking to find out the views of regular visitors and users of the Civic Centre on a potential move to International House.

A public consultation is taking place now until 18 September, and the information will be used alongside feedback from council officers and members as well as other stakeholders, such as existing Civic Centre tenants.

To have your say online visit: <https://haveyoursay.ashford.gov.uk/2023international>



International House Public Consultation



Following the Covid19 pandemic there has been a shift in the way that Ashford Borough Council uses its office space at the Civic Centre. The Council has been operating successful hybrid working arrangements with staff working both from home and the office. We now need to look at how we use our office space in the future. **Reducing the size of our office space will save money**, helping to maintain the council's financial position and services it delivers.

The council owns International House, which is located opposite Ashford International Station (on the domestic side). There is office space available at International House and it is proposed that council operations are moved to this location.

There will be a small number of car parking spaces at International House and these could be reserved for visitors and a limited number of council vehicles such as dog warden vans.

We would like to hear from you if you currently use and access the Civic Centre and understand how you do this. This will help us plan our move to International House and ensure we remain accessible to our customers.

[Click here to take part in our 5 minute survey](#)

Earlier this year the council announced the authority is looking at the possibility of relocating from the Civic Centre offices, as part of wider budget saving ideas.

There is a strong financial rationale for looking at moving to International House based on building and maintenance costs that will be required at the Civic Centre over the next few years and there being capacity within the council owned International House.

A formal consultation with staff began last month and we are now talking to residents and regular visitors to the Civic Centre for their views. Officers are working through the details of these proposals before putting forward reports to members in the Autumn.

Please encourage residents to have their say on the proposals, and the other live consultations, via our website: www.ashford.gov.uk/consultations

Tracey Kerly
Chief Executive - Ashford Borough Council

Distribution:

All ABC elected members, KCC Ashford members, Directors/MT & Damian Green MP. In addition, this will also be shared with Parish, Town and Community Councils.