

POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR LEICESTERSHIRE DECISION RECORD

To be completed in cases where a decision is required

DECISION OF POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

Date: 4th February 2016

Officers present: Paul Stock, Andrew Dale

Received in OPCC Date: 4th February
2016

OPCC Ref: EXE0002/16

Title: Proposed sale of Welford Road Police Station

Summary of Issue:

In line with the Force Estates Strategy (which covers 2010-2030) and savings plan, and taking into consideration the operational requirements including the changes from the Edison operational policing delivery model, the Force Executive Group has recommended that the property is no longer operationally required. Since February 2015, some 12 Police Officers/PCSOs have remained based at Welford Road, the remaining 13 Police Officers/PCSOs having already transferred to Wigston Police Station as part of the neighbourhood policing boundary changes triggered by Project Edison.

Whilst the building is also used as a satellite location by several specialist police teams, the nearby (approx. 1 mile) response hub at Euston Street will be used instead.

The current Front Enquiry Desk provision (10am-2pm Monday-Friday) at Welford Road has been considered as part of the Force-wide review into the provision of customer-facing enquiry desk. That review has found that the continued provision is not required and the demand can be adequately met by either the City Centre or Wigston police stations.

An Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) has been undertaken by the Force and the results shared with the PCC within the original business case for closure. The EIA recognised a potential impact on both the Age and Disability protected characteristics. The impact was considered to be low and the Front Enquiry Desk review showed that any need for local services could be adequately met via other local provision.

A considerable amount of community consultation has taken place both within the media but also in briefings/meetings with key stakeholders (i.e. the Deputy City Mayor and other local councillors). At a meeting in November 2015, a briefing paper was provided that gave context to the consideration to close Welford Road and also reassurance that the local policing provision would be maintained irrespective of which building resources were deployed from. Whilst concerns were raised about how the front enquiry office service would be affected, alternative ways for the public to interface with their local police presence were discussed to further reassure

community representatives.

Local community representatives (at the November 2015 meeting) requested that consideration be given to including a restrictive covenant as part of a transaction such that the future use of the site would be of benefit to the local community. Legal advice was sought by the Force's Estates team and was received in mid December 2015. The Force, having considered all advice, has recommended to the PCC that no such covenant be pursued and that the site be sold on the open market instead. The OPCC were consulted in forming that view.

Key partners were briefed concerning the recommendation not to proceed with a restrictive covenant by the Superintendent responsible for Local Policing and Partnerships in mid-January 2016.

Recommendations presented:

Taking into account the advice from the Force, legal advisors and professional property advisors, It is recommended that Welford Road Police Station is placed on the open market for sale, free from any restrictive covenant. This recommendation is supported by the Chief Constable.

Furthermore, it is recommended that consultation and discussions continue by the Force with key partners with regard to the decision and the PCC is apprised of these.

Key discussion points at meeting

The following was discussed with the Commissioner:

- The background to the decision
- The consultation that the Force had undertaken to ensure the views of key local stakeholders were known and taken into account
- The changes to how local policing is delivered in the area that had already occurred or were planned to occur which would mitigate the impact of the building closure
- The financial implications of the potential sale of the building

It was resolved that :

The recommendations were approved

OFFICE OF PCC APPROVAL

Chief Executive or Chief Finance Officer:

I have been consulted about the proposal and confirm that appropriate advice has been taken into account in the preparation of this report. I am satisfied that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the Police and Crime Commissioner

Signature 

Name ANDREW DALE

Date 4/2/2016

Publication Scheme

Decision of Monitoring Officer:

As Monitoring Officer for the Office of Police and Crime Commissioner for Leicestershire I have determined that :

It is appropriate to publish this record of decision made by the Police and Crime Commissioner : **Yes / Part Redacted / No**

It is appropriate to publish the contents of the assessment of the decision by either of the senior post holders in the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Leicestershire (i.e. either the Chief Executive or Chief Finance Officer) : **Yes / Part Redacted / No**

It is appropriate to publish details of the decision by the Police and Crime Commissioner for Leicestershire : **Yes / Part Redacted / No**

Reasons for any non-Publication (referencing appropriate legislation):

Reference to purchase price

Signature 

Name **PAUL STOCK**

Date **4/2/16**

Police and Crime Commissioner for Leicestershire

Having received the advice set out above and reviewed relevant documentation my decision in regard of this matter is:

Supported / ~~Not-Supported~~

Signature 

Date **4/2/16.**

