

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:

Exe 0003115

Title: Proposed sale of Coalville Police Station and shared accommodation with Leicestershire & Rutland Fire Service

Summary of Issue:

As part of the original Estates Strategy (which covers 2010-2030), it was decided that Coalville Police Station should be replaced. The existing building is considerably oversized for modern policing, in very poor condition and is costing over £100K pa to run.

The proposal was originally to demolish the existing building and to build a small modern building on the same site as had been done at Loughborough. £1.8m had been approved in the capital programme for this purpose.

The Change Team asked the Force to consider sharing the new Leicestershire Fire & Rescue Service (LFRS) Fire Station at Broad Street, Coalville as an alternative, to try and reduce costs further. This also fits with the broader collaboration agenda in providing an opportunity to co-locate with a key 'blue-light' partner.

It is now intended to amalgamate with the LFRS by adding an extension to their new building. The project includes acquiring an area of land opposite the Fire Station, in the ownership of East Midlands Ambulance Service (EMAS) for parking purposes. It is also intended that EMAS will relocate in part of the LFRS building.

The current Coalville Police Station is not a 'response hub' in that emergency calls and deployments are not resourced directly from the site (the nearest response hub is in Loughborough). The Front Enquiry Desk also transferred to the nearby North-West Leicestershire District Council (NWLDC) offices some time ago. The current station is therefore not a public/front-facing site in the traditional sense.

Local councillors have been consulted with and raised several concerns that the Force have taken into account. These were namely concerns about (a) potential reductions in policing, (b) the impact that an empty building would have on the appearance of the area, (c) parking at the LFRS site and (d) noise levels and the impact on nearby residents.

Local policing representatives gave assurance on the above concerns in that (a) the proposal was merely a change in location and was not a reduction in the numbers of police officers or staff, (b) that the site would be adequately secured and protected

whilst still in PCC ownership, (c) that both EMAS and LFRS have recently reduced their local vehicle numbers together with the plan to acquire additional space in the vicinity for Force parking and (d) that vehicles would not routinely be leaving the site using audible warning equipment due the response hub being based in Loughborough.

The public will also be consulted through the planning process and any concerns around noise or parking that residents have would be considered as part of that. The Force is confident that they can largely mitigate any concerns and that it is not necessary to consult further before a decision is taken by the PCC.

It is, however, noted by the Force that their communication plan will ensure that the local community is engaged with and views taken into account as the project moves through to implementation.

The Force has briefed the OPCC during the planning and consideration process and provided sufficient assurance that the concerns of the local community have been heard and are being taken into account.

The Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) within the original business case identified that the two protected characteristics that could be impacted are Age and Disability. However as the Coalville police station is no longer a 'front-line' public access building, the impact will be a matter for the Chief Constable to take forward with regard to both employees and visitors.

The cost of the project, including the land for parking, would be around £1m together with a contribution to the running costs of the building (in proportion to the area we would occupy). The Force's usage of the accommodation would be covered by a long lease at a peppercorn rent.

The new accommodation, which is smaller than the current station will be considerably cheaper to operate but still be well located to serve the Coalville and surrounding areas. The existing site, which extends to 0.54ha (1.35acres), has considerable potential for redevelopment.

With the sale of the existing Police Station site and the cost of the project, a considerable saving of over £1.5m on the cost of the original scheme is anticipated.

Recommendations presented:

It is recommended that formal ratification is given for the proposed multi occupancy arrangement with LFRS, outlined above, and that the current Coalville Police Station is made available for sale on the open market at the appropriate time.

Furthermore, that the Force continues to engage positively with local community representatives as the project progresses, listening and responding to any concerns raised and briefing the OPCC as appropriate.

Key discussion points at meeting

The following was discussed with the Commissioner:

- The background to the decision
- The opportunity that the decision presented for closer working with a key blue-light partner

It was resolved that :

The recommendation was 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):

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

4/2/2016