

# WEST MIDLANDS POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

NON-CONFIDENTIAL

## NOTICE OF DECISION

[ 001/2018 ]

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**Title: Proposed Sale of Darlaston and Old Hill Police stations**

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### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

#### Part 1 - Request to review decisions around closure of police stations in Walsall

Previous reports proposed to reduce the number of stations within Walsall NPU across two phases.

Phase 1 related to the closure and sale of Walsall Green Lane police station, relocating officers and staff into a joint location within Walsall Civic Centre and upgrading facilities at Bloxwich Police station. This has now been completed.

Phase 2 looked to reduce the number of stations/locations utilised by officers and staff by 5 buildings, these were to be:

Location	Tenure Arrangement
Ryecroft	Not WMP owned – Rent Free - No formal agreement
Blakenhall	Not WMP owned – Rent Free - No formal agreement
University of Wolverhampton	Not WMP owned – Rent Free – No formal agreement
Willenhall	Freehold
Brownhills	Freehold

Locations at Ryecroft, Blakenhall and University of Wolverhampton are no longer utilised by WMP officers and staff.

Due to TS1 and operational changes and in consultation with the local Command team it is recommended that the proposed sale of Willenhall is postponed. It is now requested that Darlaston police station is closed and Willenhall police station remains open and operational, as this is where the majority of demand is for this area of Walsall NPU. The proposal is that

officers and staff from Darlaston are relocated to Willenhall police station and a local "drop-in" location is identified within the Darlaston area, which would continue to support an appropriate policing presence for the community.

Discussions have taken place with the local command team and they fully support this approach.

Discussions have previously been had with the community and politicians regarding the proposed initial sale of Willenhall, however, there have been no recent contact with either group regarding the proposed sale of Darlaston. New discussions will be led by the local Commander, with plans to meet with local councillors and then the wider community.

**Recommendation:** Sell Darlaston and delay sale of Willenhall Police station

### Part 2 - Request to close a building – Old Hill Police Station

Following recent discussions with WMFS, an opportunity has arisen to relocate officers and staff less than ½ mile away into Hadens Cross Fire Station and close Old Hill police station. This new location will provide fit for purpose accommodation for offices and staff, engender greater collaboration with WMFS and have limited impact on the community due to the proximity of both buildings.

In relation to formal consultation locally nothing specific has been done, however, local councillors are aware of this proposed move.

Discussions have taken place with the local command team and they fully support this approach.

**Recommendation:** sell Old Hill police station

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

### **Part 1 – Sale of Darlaston Police Station**

Willenhall Police station revenue costs = £44,942 (16/17 value)

Darlaston Police station revenue costs = £20,935 (16/17 value)

Willenhall Asset value = £290,000 (based on asset value to WMP)

Darlaston Asset value =£180,000 (based on asset value to WMP)

### **Part 2 – Sale of Old Hill Police Station**

Old Hill Asset value = £280,000 (2017) (based on asset value future use)

Old Hill current annual revenue = £24,608 (with £50,000 stock condition work necessary if retained)

Hadens Cross proposed annual revenue = £24,885.

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Whilst financially there is a small increase in revenue costs, this is off set by the savings from unnecessary stock condition work, £50,000, and the capital receipt that can be achieved.

**DECISION**

To authorise the sale of Darlaston and Old Hill Police stations. The task of disposing of the particular properties will be undertaken in line with the arrangements set out in the Scheme of Corporate Governance.

This decision is in accordance with schedule 1, paragraph 14, sub-section 1 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 provides for the PCC to do anything which includes by virtue of sub-section 2(b) acquiring and disposing of property including land.

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**West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner**

I confirm that I do not have any disclosable pecuniary interests in this decision and take the decision in compliance with the Code of Conduct for the Police and Crime Commissioner of the West Midlands. Any interests are indicated below.

Signature.....

Date.....12.1.18.....