

WEST MIDLANDS POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

NON-CONFIDENTIAL

NOTICE OF DECISION

[033 / 2015]

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Title: Disposal of 28 Non-Core Buildings

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In line with the West Midlands Police Estates strategy 28 non-core building closures were discussed at the Strategic Police and Crime Board (SPCB) in October 2015. A period of public engagement was then undertaken and co-ordinated through Local Policing Units ensuring that a detailed overview of the plans was provided to Members of Parliament, Local Councillors, Community & Ward Forums, Key Individual Networks, Community Safety Partnerships and other key stakeholders.

During the engagement period stakeholders were asked their views on the outlined proposals. The exercise was an opportunity to provide the community with information in relation to how the various services are provided across the Force area and how the estate is currently used. In overall terms, the main concerns expressed related to perceptions about reductions in service levels resulting from reductions in estate footprint, which were addressed, locally, by senior officers. LPU Commanders have not expressed a need to review the building closure plan following the feedback received as a result of local engagement.

The outcomes of the engagement exercise were then presented to the Strategic Police and Crime Board on the 1st December 2015 in a report that is included as an Appendix to this decision. The report details a timeline for the closure of the 28 non-core buildings, the financial and legal implications.

During the engagement process two petitions were submitted to my office. I have reviewed these petitions and I am satisfied the disposal of the 28 non-core buildings is justified. I am also satisfied there are adequate mitigations in place where the disposals have implications for partners and community organisations.

In accordance with the Policing Protocol, while decisions relating to the operational use of police premises rest with the Chief Constable and those under his or her direction and control, decisions relating to the disposal of assets rest with the Police and Crime Commissioner.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Since 2010/11 West Midlands Police has had a 26% reduction in central government funding. This has resulted in significant budget reductions across the Force and meant all areas of expenditure being challenged to identify savings and efficiencies. In addition, the requirement for the Force to make further significant savings is anticipated over future financial years.

The closure of 28 buildings yield a reduction in annual revenue costs of £1.3m, a saving in backlog maintenance costs of £3.1m and potential capital receipts of £7.3m.

There will be costs associated with the disposal of these buildings which will be met through existing devolved budgets or netted against the savings to be realised. These costs are estimated to be in the region of £500,000 (4% of the anticipated capital receipts and revenue savings) and will cover legal, marketing, dilapidation and external contractor support costs

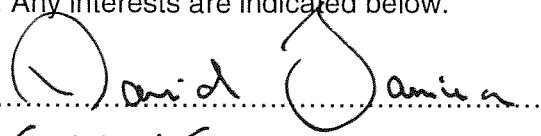
DECISION

Where applicable to authorise the disposal of properties and / or the non renewal of property leases when the current terms cease as detailed in the attached report. The task of disposing of the particular properties and / or the non renewal of the particular property leases 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.

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 West Midlands Office for Policing and Crime. Any interests are indicated below.

Signature..........

Date.....15.12.15.....