

040/2014

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Title: Walsall LPU Estate Review

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Walsall Local Policing Unit (LPU) estate has been reviewed as part of the overall Estates Review Programme. This has been carried out in two stages. The first stage has already been agreed and will see the colocation of officers and staff to provide a policing service from Walsall Civic Centre. Other officers and staff, who to date have been located in Walsall town centre premises at Green Lane, will be moved to make use of the building at Bloxwich Police Station thus enabling the disposal of the town centre premises at Green Lane.

The second stage has been a comprehensive review of the estate used to support the rest of the Walsall Local Policing Unit. This stage has involved a detailed options appraisal, implementation feasibility, risks and timelines and consultation with partners and the public. The outcome of the review is outlined in the background section of this decision. The review of the Walsall estate was considered by the Strategic Policing and Crime Board at its meeting on 11 September 2014. The link to the Board's paper, which is on the Commissioner's website is, <http://www.westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk/media/346409/05-spcb-11-sep-14-estates-update-and-walsall-lpu-estate-review-decision.pdf>.

The Board supported the recommendation contained in the paper which would see services in the wider Walsall LPU making use of buildings located in Aldridge, Bloxwich, Brownhills, Calmore, Darleston and Willenhall. The Board acknowledged that the use of the Willenhall Police Station is being analysed as part of the review of the use of 'front desks' in police premises across the Force so any identified need to retain a front office in this area will need to be considered through the front office project. Therefore the recommendation would result in the closure and future disposal of the premises detailed in the decision.

DECISION

I support the recommendations contained in the paper considered by the Strategic Policing and Crime Board and therefore have decided that the buildings used by Walsall LPU at the following locations can be closed and disposed of in accordance with my Scheme of Governance: Bentley Lane, Blakenhall, University of Wolverhampton, Delves, Rycroft and Brownhills Main Station.

That provision is made for policing services in Caldmore through a licence agreement with the housing association, Caldmore Accord.

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 David Jamieson

Date 30 October 2014

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

This decision follows on from a paper considered by the Strategic Policing and Crime Board at its meeting on 11 September 2014. This paper provides the background and can be found on the Commissioner's website at <http://www.westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk/media/346409/05-spcb-11-sep-14-estates-update-and-walsall-lpu-estate-review-decision.pdf>.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The changes to the estate included in the decision are anticipated to deliver a reduction in annual revenue costs of circa £170,000 and realise capital receipts of circa £500,000, based on present day valuations. Subject to alignment with the front office project, these changes can be progressed immediately. The licence to be taken on with the housing association, Caldmore Accord has a nil cost. This will be reviewed annually.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Schedule 1, paragraph 14, sub-section 1 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 provides for police and crime commissioners to do anything which is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to, the exercise of the functions of the commissioner. By virtue of sub-section 2 (b) this includes the acquiring and disposing of property, including land. The disposal of property will be conducted in accordance with the Commissioner's Scheme of Governance.

Schedule of Background Papers

<http://www.westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk/media/346409/05-spcb-11-sep-14-estates-update-and-walsall-lpu-estate-review-decision.pdf>

Public Access to Information

Information contained in this decision is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and other legislation. This decision will be made available on the Commissioner's website.