

CAMBRIDGESHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL	Agenda Item No. 10
3 FEBRUARY 2016	Public Report

Report of Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioner

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ESTATES AND FRONTLINE POLICING

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 The paper outlines the Police and Crime Commissioner’s (“the Commissioner”) strategic direction of the Estate, having regard to the agile working, contact points and collaboration, and to demonstrate how an annual saving of circa £700,000 can be identified by the end of the 2016/17 budget year.

- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to provide the Police and Crime Panel (“the Panel”) with an update on work being undertaken to ensure that the Estate occupied by Cambridgeshire Constabulary (“the Constabulary”) is managed and developed in such a way as to support the changing requirements of frontline policing and the achievement of the objectives of the operational policing strategy.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To note the report.

3. TERMS OF REFERENCE

- 3.1 Item 6 – To review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, by the Police and Crime Commissioner in connection with the discharge of the Commissioner’s functions.

- Item 8 – To support the effective exercise of the functions of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The implementation of mobile technology is having a major impact in the way local police teams work, allowing officers to send and receive real-time information while out and about, reducing the need to return to a fixed base to complete paperwork and increasing the amount of time they can be visible in their communities. Enquiry offices, interview rooms, meeting rooms, custody, agile working areas, locker space and radio charging points etc. are still required but the new working methods support estate rationalisation without adversely impacting on frontline policing.

- 4.2 From April 2014 the Commissioner took on the strategic responsibility for £35 million of the Constabulary’s Estates assets. The Estates Sub Group (ESG), comprising senior staff from the Commissioner’s Office and the Constabulary, hold monthly meetings to set the strategic direction of Estates in order to achieve the objectives set out in paragraph 1.2 above. Proposals arising from ESG are reviewed by both the Commissioner’s Finance Sub Group and the Business Co-ordination Board.

- 4.3 Future savings made by rationalising places rather than people enables a more modern approach to public engagement, making local policing more accessible and visible. A good example of where this works in practice can be seen in the roll-out of Police Contact Points which the Commissioner introduced across the county, typically sited within busy supermarkets and currently located at Peterborough, St Neots, Cambridge, Wisbech, Cambourne and Chatteris.
- 4.4 As collaboration with Bedfordshire Police and Hertfordshire Constabulary has progressed a number of departments have been restructured or collaborated to new sites and this has resulted in some areas of the current estate becoming underutilised as evidenced at Chord Business Park, Godmanchester.
- 4.5 With the Constabulary continuing to face financial challenges, with a further £6.6m of savings to be found by the end of the financial year 2019/20, it is clear that fixed cost resources such as buildings and maintenance need to be reviewed and, where possible, budgets reduced to contribute to the maintenance of frontline policing resource.
- 4.6 The Constabulary's workforce numbers for 2015/16 (Establishment Full Time Equivalent) are to date:

Category	Total
Police Officers	1,343
PCSOs	150
Specials – Target	300
Police Staff	825
TOTAL	2,618

- 4.7 The retained estate represents 36,883m² (gross internal area) with officers and staff occupying above the recognised average space standard. With the continued implementation of agile working improved space standards are expected as a significant proportion of both staff and police officers will not require an individually assigned desk.

5. THE ESTATE

- 5.1 The Estates Strategic Programme paper taken to the Commissioner's Business Co-ordination Board in October 2015 reported on an Estate of 41 buildings and costs in excess of £4m pa to run the Estate. A review of each of the six local policing areas and the corporate portfolio has been undertaken.
- 5.2 Shared accommodation options with partner agencies will be key to delivering the solutions for the Estates review and the project as we move forward.
- 5.3 It is envisaged that moves of appropriate business areas will be enabled to other sites, thus allowing any empty buildings/floors to be leased, reducing revenue maintenance costs and generating lease income.
- 5.4 Iterative impact of the roll-out of mobile technology, use of Contact Points and collaboration mean assets have been identified by the Constabulary as surplus to operational requirements with positive action already taken in some areas. A list of these assets are given at Appendix A along with a map showing the local policing Estate following rationalisation.
- 5.5 It is recognised that additional Estate savings will need to be achieved in the future. It is expected that opportunities around agile working and collaboration will further contribute to these savings as they enable a reduction of the back office Estate.
- 5.6 Partner discussions are being held with Councils and public services with a joint team

comprising of local authority and Constabulary officers already co-located and operating together in Peterborough. A similar shared service approach is being explored in Fenland which will assist partner agencies to improve service and rationalise their estate.

- 5.7 The Constabulary currently has three vehicle workshops across the county and a project is underway to provide services from a new single workshop at St Ives. This facility will be available from November 2016 and will be funded from the sale of Bridge Street Police Station, Peterborough. Space will also be freed up at March Police Station and Parkside Police Station, Cambridge.
- 5.8 The provision of custody facilities through collaboration is under consideration and may impact on the estate particularly to the south of the county.
- 5.9 Until such time as a review of the requirements for custody and the physical needs of policing in Cambridge are more advanced, it is considered premature to draw final conclusions to the provision of the Estate in the south of the County. This review will be simplified by the relocation of the on-site vehicle workshop at Parkside, Cambridge.

6. SUMMARY

- 6.1 The implementation of mobile technology has reduced the need to return to a fixed base. This allows police officers to spend longer in their communities and to support the public contact points and has rendered a number of operational buildings surplus to requirements.
- 6.2 The use of agile working facilities across the retained Estate will reduce unnecessary journeys, increase available working time and reduce the demand for office space. Further cultural change is required to optimise this opportunity.
- 6.3 Due to the on-going programme of collaboration with Bedfordshire Police and Hertfordshire Constabulary, a joint estate strategy across the three forces will be required in the near future and planning for the new strategy has begun.
- 6.4 The introduction of agile working is expected to achieve an annual saving of circa £700,000 through Estate rationalisation.
- 6.5 As the agile working and collaboration projects mature it is likely that further estate revenue savings can be secured and contribute to the wider financial savings highlighted in 4.5 above.

7. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

- 7.1 Estate Strategic Programme 2015, Agenda Item 7.0, Business Coordination Board, October 2015

<http://www.cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk/work/business-coordination-board/2015-2/bcb-27th-october-2015/>

Estate Strategic Programme and Frontline Policing 2016, Agenda Item 5.0, Business Coordination Board, January 2016

<http://www.cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk/work/business-coordination-board/>

8. APPENDICES

- 8.1 Cambridgeshire Constabulary Estate assets identified as surplus to requirements – Appendix A

Cambridgeshire Constabulary Estate assets identified as surplus to requirements

Asset	Comments
Cardinal Park, Godmanchester	Building no longer required operationally and returned to landlord
John Mansfield Centre, Peterborough	Building no longer required operationally & returned to Peterborough City Council
Belgic Square, Peterborough	Building no longer required operationally and returned to landlord
Chatteris	Building no longer required operationally and leased to Police Firearms Officers Association
Yaxley	Building no longer required operationally and sold to Police Federation
Bottisham	Building no longer required operationally and sold by Auction (11/01/16)
Melbourn	Building no longer required operationally and lease returned on 03/06/16
Papworth	Building no longer required operationally planning application submitted and will be sold in 2016
Bretton, Peterborough	Building no longer required operationally and will be returned to landlord agreed
Orton, Peterborough	Building no longer required operationally and terms agreed for sub-let
Werrington, Peterborough	Building no longer required operationally on the market for assignment
Bridge Street, Peterborough	Building no longer required operationally and will be sold in 2016 following relocation of Vehicle Workshop
Wisbech	Discussion on going with partners regarding future estate needs
11/12 Ferrars Road, Huntingdon	Building no longer required operationally and change of use being investigated for a sale in 2016
Ramsey	Building no longer required operationally and change of use being investigated for a sale in 2016
Whittlesey	Building no longer required operationally Change of use being investigated for a proposed sale in 2016
Sawtry	Building no longer required operationally Advanced relocation discussions with sale in 2016
Unit C Chord, Godmanchester	Building no longer required operationally and will be leased in 2016 following refurbishment
Unit D Chord, Godmanchester	Staff relocations planned and will be leased in 2016

Map showing the local policing Estate following rationalisation



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