

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: 1/8/22

Officers present:

Received in OPCC Date: 1/8/22

OPCC Ref: EXE0020-22

Title: Front Enquiry Accommodation - Rutland

Summary of issue:

When the new police station was built in Oakham in 2015 Estates were asked not to include an FEO (Front Enquiry Office) as it was to be sited at the Rutland County Council Offices, Catmose, Oakham. This remained open until the beginning of COVID when the council contact centre closed. The office has been closed ever since and Rutland County Council have made the decision not to reopen permanently. This has left the Force without an FEO in Rutland and with the new PCC's commitment to rural policing, efforts have been made to find an alternative location.

The following alternative locations have been considered:

- The library. This was ruled out early on. The Libraries Department did not particularly want the Police in the building and the layout and space on offer did not work for either party.
- The museum. Although this is not a good location tucked away and 5 minutes out of the town centre, this is still an option. The Force would have to pay rent and the alteration and fitout costs would be significant (estimated at £25K). Also, this is not a preferred option by staff and officers.
- Vacant High Street Shop (former Carphone Warehouse). This would come at a high revenue cost (rent, rates, utilities, repairs etc.) of around £25K p.a. It also comes with a significant initial fit out cost of around £50K. This property is no longer available. The cost would be roughly the same for any shop that did become available in the town centre.
- A concession in McColl's Newsagents. This was a large shop that already had a concession to the Post Office and had shown interest in offering the police space. Costs were never discussed as the company went into administration during these discussions. This is no longer an option.
- Oakham School. Discussions took place with Oakham school to use the former Police Station (now owned by the school) adjacent to the current police station. This was a preferred location with staff and senior officers. Unfortunately, before discussions could take place regarding costs etc, their governors decided they did not want the police using their building for child protection reasons.

- Alter the existing Police Station. With some minor alterations the existing station can accommodate an FEO by relocating some storage rooms. Although this comes at a relatively high one-off cost of around £60K, positive discussions have been had with Rutland County Council about using section 106 funding currently unallocated. There would then be no additional revenue costs which over the years add up to a significant saving over alternative options. Also, it means the staff working in the FEO can be used more flexibly within the station and much of the population of Rutland know where the police station is so will make it easier to find the FEO.

The only options now available are the museum and to alter the existing police station. From a cost perspective the existing station will be far cheaper with both the capital costs and no ongoing revenue charges. The FEO could be set up much quicker as it is entirely within the Force's control. It also means more efficient use of staff based at the station and gives certainty of tenure as other options would require a time limited lease or licence.

The budget estimate is around £60K but costs are rising rapidly at present so this could not be confirmed until the project has been tendered in a few months' time. However, most of the funding (£56K) should come from unallocated section 106 monies that Rutland County Council are holding on the Force's behalf.

Recommendations presented:

Chief Officers have reviewed the options and recommend the converting the existing police station at a cost of £4K with the remaining funds coming from section 106.

Key discussion points at meeting

It was resolved that :

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 Kira Hughes

Date 17/08/2022

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 Elizabeth Starr

Date 22/8/22

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

Signature



Date

24-8-22