

RECORD OF DECISION

TITLE: Co-location of West Mercia Police and Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters

Ref: PCC/D/2017/13

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service have received grant funding for the associated building and ICT costs to enable the co-location and integration of the fire and police services' headquarters' function. This will provide an improvement in Service for the community and greater public value through reducing running costs and providing opportunities for back office efficiencies.

Hindlip Park provides the best opportunity for creating that co-location and integration of the fire and police services' headquarters' function. Accommodation suitable to the needs of the Fire and Rescue Service has been identified by them, and it maximises the benefits of proximity to the shared Operations Communications Centre.

PROPOSAL

That the Police and Crime Commissioner approves the move of the Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters functions to Police and Crime Commissioner owned premises at Hindlip Park.

**APPROVAL OF
West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner**

I hereby approve the above proposal.

Signed



PART 1 – NON-CONFIDENTIAL/EXEMPT FACTS AND ADVICE

SUPPORTING REPORT

Introduction

1.1 Following the successful application for governmental transformation funding made by Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service (HWFRS), supported by West Mercia Police (WMP), an award has been received for the associated building and ICT costs, to enable the co-location and integration of the fire and police services' headquarters' function. This will provide an improvement in Service for the community and greater public value through reducing running costs and providing opportunities for back office efficiencies

2.0 Background

2.1 The HWFRS bid built upon the Police Innovation Fund (PIF) award to West Mercia and Warwickshire Police for the delivery of a Operations Communications Centre, integrated command suite and the co-location of fire and police communications and emergency planning personnel.

2.2 The effective alignment and co-location of both Services' Headquarters functions will require the successful delivery and occupation of the PIF capital build project. This will release accommodation for refurbishment prior to occupation by the respective headquarters' functions

2.3 The HWFRS funding application to the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG), described the project vision as one which will develop Hindlip Park into 'a joint Blue Light campus providing HQ functions for multi emergency service agencies, transforming back office support services, and providing shared facilities for operational incident management, mobilisation and deployment.'

2.4 To support this vision, the HWFRS and WMP Headquarters project will identify and align respective functional areas within both organisations, to enable their co-location and the future integration of processes and systems.

2.5 The project will deliver:

- The co-location of members of the Senior Management Board of HWFRS with the WMP Executive Team within Hindlip Hall, to enable a closer proximity of command and their support functions.
- The co-location and alignment of identified FRS and Police Headquarter functions within the Hindlip Park Estate.
- The integration of HWFRS branding across the site.
- The identification of further integration opportunities for processes and systems within functional business areas.

2.6 A phased approach to delivery of the project will maximise the opportunities provided by the enabling works being carried out as part of the PIF capital build project. The first phase will allow FRS Principal Officers and SMB members to work flexibly and alongside WMP colleagues within the Hindlip site. The subsequent phase will be subject to the completion of the works necessary to

accommodate the respective functions and taking account of the opportunities afforded by the PIF capital build. The project must be completed by August 2018.

3. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

3.1 The Police and Crime Commissioner can do anything calculated to facilitate the exercise of their functions, including entering into contracts and other agreements, and acquiring and disposing of property (including land) (para 14 schedule 1 Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011).

3.2 The terms and conditions of the Fire and Rescue Service presence at Hindlip are to be determined to the best mutual advantage of the two services.

4. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

4.1 HWFRS has received an award of governmental transformation funding for the costs associated with building construction and relocation of ICT equipment, to enable the co-location of the fire service headquarters. This award forms the available budget from the fire service to deliver this project.

4.2 The management of the budget for this project will be carried out via existing finance processes and systems and in accordance to the advice given by the finance lead to the project board.

4.3 It is recognised that the project may encompass some work already identified within Hindlip Park. The final funding arrangements for these areas will be subject to discussion and agreement between the financial leads for the respective organisations.

PUBLIC ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Information in this form is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI Act) and other legislation. Part 1 of this form will be made available on the West Mercia Commissioner's website. Any facts and advice that should not be made automatically available on request are not included in Part 1 but instead in a separate Part 2 report.

OFFICER APPROVAL

Chief Executive Officer

I have been consulted about the proposal and confirm that financial and legal advice have been taken into account in the preparation of this report. I am satisfied that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the West Mercia Commissioner.

Signature



Date: 3rd November 2017

