

**POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR  
WEST MERCIA**



**RECORD OF DECISION**

**TITLE: Forensics Building Modernisation**

Ref: PCC/D/2019/16

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The original specification for the refurbishment of the Forensics building has been refined to reflect the evolution of forensic work, tougher accreditation standards and improved service resilience.

The First Phase construction is almost complete. The plant and equipment together with further technical adaptations have now been identified to allow the building to become operational. These have now been costed and the necessary funding is requested.

**PROPOSAL**

The Police and Crime Commissioner approves the additional budget and financing to allow the building to become operational.

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

I hereby approve the above proposal.

Signed .....  


Date: 12<sup>th</sup> April 2019

## **PART 1 – NON-CONFIDENTIAL REPORT OR EXEMPTION FACTS AND ADVICE**

### **BACKGROUND**

The Digital Forensics Unit (DFU) has been located on the ground floor of the Hindlip CID/Forensics Building for many years. In that time the complexity of work, increased demand, numbers of staff and specification of forensic hardware and software have increased almost beyond recognition.

The overall project specification has been further developed to support a modern DFU and ensure that the ISO 17025 accreditation is retained, taking into account technological and other improvements in standards. A number of design consultation meetings were held with DFU to challenge and review the requirements.

The plant, equipment and adaptations are essential operational requirements.

The costs submitted by the contractor have been appraised and substantiated by consultant quantity surveyors and confirmed to represent value for money.

The refurbishment works will ensure the built environment meets the requirements of the Forensic Science Regulators Codes of Practice and Conduct. This is regulated by the Forensic Science Regulator who is anticipated to get mandatory powers in the next Parliament.

### **FINANCIAL COMMENTS**

The requested funding of £253k will be met from additional borrowing. Costs will continue to be monitored to identify any efficiencies, and to ensure that the work is completed within the revised budget provision.

### **LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS**

By virtue of schedule 11, paragraph 14 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 the Police and Crime Commissioners may do anything which is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to, the exercise of the functions of commissioner. That includes: entering into contracts and other agreements (whether legally binding or not) and acquiring and disposing of property (including land).

**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 ..... *Andy Clarys* ..... Date: 12<sup>th</sup> April 2019

