

RECORD OF DECISION

TITLE: Custody Infrastructure Refresh

Ref: PCC/D/2021/42

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A review has been undertaken of the key custody infrastructure system: fire alarms, cell call intercoms, affray alarms and CCTV. Most of those systems have been found to be outdated, no longer manufactured or not fit for purpose. This presents an operational risk to the effective operation of custody and the risk of potential closure should there be a significant failure of unsupported equipment.

Due to the obsolescence of much of the equipment, maintenance costs associated with them are artificially high and increasing year on year. They are costs that could be reduced if new systems were installed.

Systems have been reviewed by external specialists and estimated costs of £303,500 put forward to undertake the upgrades required at all sites, with a proposed contingency allowance to cover IT infrastructure upgrades taking the total budget required to £500,000.

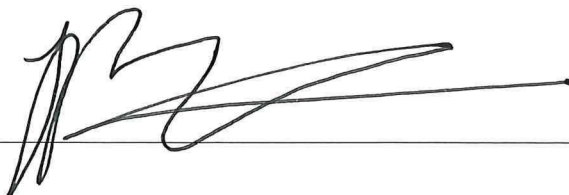
PROPOSAL

It is recommended that end of life fire alarm, cell call, affray alarm and CCTV systems are replaced to support the resilience of the critical infrastructure that supports custody provision, and that capital of £500,000 is allocated to deliver this.

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

I hereby approve the above proposal.

Signed



PART 1 – NON-CONFIDENTIAL/EXEMPT FACTS AND FIGURES

SUPPORTING REPORT

A review has been undertaken of the key custody infrastructure system – fire alarms, cell call intercoms, affray alarms and CCTV. Most of those systems have been found to be outdated, no longer manufactured and not fit for purpose.

These systems are key to ensuring the safe and effective running of custody as well as providing, through CCTV, an opportunity to demonstrate openness and accountability when removing someone's liberty.

With a number of these systems no longer manufactured and out of support, it is essential that they are replaced and upgraded as soon as possible. If any of these key systems fail, then there is a significant risk of lengthy closures of the custody units affected.

The fact that many of the systems are at end of life is reflected in the growing cost of maintaining them to an operational standard. The cost of repairs for the Shrewsbury Custody fire system from April to Oct 2021 is currently £2,937. These are costs that can be avoided.

The initial review undertaken by an external firm has provided estimated costs of £303,500 for the upgrades required at all sites. However, this quote is based on certain broad assumptions around existing cabling being adequate and the ICT systems at Telford and Hereford both being fully able to be split successfully (not all run through the existing fragile Genysis system).

On that basis, it has been strongly recommended by Estates and I.T stakeholders that due to the complex I.T work, the additional estates work envisaged and the strong likelihood that the existing I.T structures may not be suitable to support the proposed upgrades, a realistic contingency of £196,500 is recommended, taking the total estimated cost to £500,000. This figure is based on a worse-case scenario but is prudent to be included at this early scoping stage so that further detailed work can be agreed in principle, with full awareness as to the possible final project costs.

STRATEGIC CONSIDERATIONS

This decision supports the following element(s) of the Safer West Mercia Plan:

- Putting Victims and Survivors First Building a More Secure West Mercia
 Reforming West Mercia Reassuring West Mercia's Communities

The decision supports this/ these objective(s) through the following

Building a More Secure West Mercia

Ensuring we have fit for purpose custody units enables staff to bring offenders to justice more effectively

Reforming West Mercia

Improving technology and working practices to enable roles to be carried out more effectively

Reassuring West Mercia

Investing in critical infrastructure and equipment, to enable the PCC and WMP to continue to run an effective independent custody visitor scheme, to provide reassurance around how people are being detained in West Mercia

FINANCIAL COMMENTS

Following detailed review the cost of the required work is considered to be up to £500,000 capital, made up of £303,500 works costs as identified by external specialists and a contingency of £196,500 to cover IT infrastructure upgrades to support the works

TREASURER COMMENTS

The funding bid has been included in the 2022/23 capital programme, for inclusion in the full budget report. Expectation that works will not commence until the 2022/23 financial year. Consideration should be given to wider programme of rationalisation across the estate to ensure that works are undertaken on assets that are being retained

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

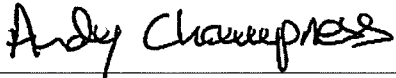
By virtue of schedule 11, paragraph 14 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 the Police and Crime Commissioner may do anything which is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to, the exercise of the functions of commissioner. That includes: entering into contracts and 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

Signature 

Date 22nd December 2021