

**POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR
WEST MERCIA**



RECORD OF DECISION

TITLE: Shifnal Policing Base

Ref: PCC/D/2022/07

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A review of the demand for a policing base in Shifnal has been completed by West Mercia Police, with a clear preference to reintroduce a physical policing base.

The original police base at Shifnal police station was earmarked for closure in 2013, with the building eventually sold to Shifnal Town Council. Since the closure, officers have made use of a facility in the local library, however this was under-utilised as it was not operationally suitable and use of this facility ceased in 2019.

Since that time there has been consistent desire for a new permanent base in Shifnal. The opportunity to re-occupy part of the former police station as a Safer Neighbourhood Office (SNO) has been presented, which is assessed as being beneficial operationally, to the local community and economically.

PROPOSAL

That the Police and Crime Commissioner approves the establishment of a new permanent police base in Shifnal, at the old police station Community Hub now owned by Shifnal Town Council.

**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 of the demand for an operational base in Shifnal, has been completed by West Mercia Police.

The original police base at Shifnal police station was identified for closure in 2013, with the building eventually sold to Shifnal Town Council in 2017.

An office was rented in the local Library to accommodate officers in 2017. However, this did not prove to ultimately be suitable operationally as it lacked suitable infrastructure. As a consequence the facility was under-used. In 2019 the use of this facility was ceased.

Since that time, there has been consistent and sustained appetite for a permanent base in Shifnal to return. This, therefore, presents an opportunity to address a legacy issue and reinstate a Police Safer Neighbourhood Office in to the former police station in Shifnal.

The proposal is economically viable (and is expected to deliver some efficiencies) and addresses relevant operational policing considerations. It is also beneficial to the local community and provides a renewed focal point for policing services in the town.

The site provides an ideal co-location opportunity, which supports the 'One Public Estate' initiative. There is also a shortage of other suitable partner buildings available within the area. A challenge that is expected to only increase in future years as the local population continues to grow.

The proposal also supports improvements to police staff welfare and working conditions.

STRATEGIC CONSIDERATIONS

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

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Putting Victims and Survivors First | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building a More Secure West Mercia |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reforming West Mercia | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reassuring West Mercia's Communities |

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

The decision supports the delivery of them through the following:

- Reforming West Mercia by providing permanent accommodation for the Safer Neighbourhood Team. This will enable them to be more efficient and effective in delivering services to the local community, whilst simultaneously reducing their annual running costs

- Reassuring West Mercia's Communities by maintaining Police functions within the area and ensuring a visible, focal presence in the heart of the local community. The facilities delivered will enable the police to deliver their duties, enable faster policing responses where needed and support partnership work with other key public services.
- Building a More Secure West Mercia by ensuring that where appropriate, buildings, facilities and services, support front line and tactical policing requirements.

BENEFITS AND THEIR REALISATION

The following benefits are anticipated in connection with the decision:

1. A more visible police presence and faster response in Shifnal
2. Increased public confidence in West Mercia Police locally
3. Supporting the recent and planned future expansion of the parishes and increases in housing development and population growth
4. Reductions in OPCC revenue costs through savings attributed to reduced fuel, vehicle repairs and maintenance costs
5. Improvements to police staff welfare and working conditions

AUTHOR

Name Chris O'Hara

Date 14th March 2022

FINANCIAL AND TREASURER COMMENTS

- Year One Capital investment of £2,500 is required for the provision of fixtures, fittings and furniture within the West Mercia police demised office areas as well as external signage referencing West Mercia West Mercia Police
- Funding for this has been identified from the 2022/23 *Local Policing Estate Transformation* budget for the Capital costs
- There will be a West Mercia PCC contribution towards annual running costs, agreed with Shifnal Town Council at £2,000 and will be supported by the OPCC Estates 2022/23 *Annual Revenue* budget

West Mercia Police Tenure of the accommodation will be in the form of a rolling Annual Lease, with an option to break after 18 months, subject to a minimum of 6 months' notice from either party.

The occupation of the Shifnal office does not create a significant budget pressure. The ongoing revenue costs should be offset by reduced travel costs and provide other benefits which demonstrates value for money in taking on this lease.

Expectation is that the ongoing efficiency benefits will include;

- Reduced travel costs and in the use of fleet across the Bridgnorth fleet
- More office time spent in Shifnal
- Increase in the satisfaction of visibility of Policing in Shifnal
- Reduction in the level of crime being recorded in the Shifnal area

Treasurer



Signature

Date 14th March 2022

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

Deputy Chief Executive Officer

Signature



Date 14th March 2022