

Will my estate strategy meet your needs?

Consultation open until 11 July 2022



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Introduction

I want to offer everyone who lives and works within the West Mercia area an opportunity to see and comment on my estate strategy, which will take us up to 2026.

In the past, you have told me that you want police to be visible and easy to access locally when you need them. I have pledged that I will deliver these and other commitments to our communities via my <u>Safer West Mercia Plan</u>.

Being your elected custodian of public money is a responsibility I take very seriously. In this strategy, there is a plan to ensure that the budget I have allocated to estate and property will help give you the best and most dynamic policing services now and in future years. This includes working flexibly with partners, including councils, health and fire services, to create shared facilities which offer long-term best value. I am pleased to be among the first police and crime commissioners ever to consult on their estate strategy, and I am doing so because I want local people to have a say in how policing properties and infrastructure are being re-shaped to improve the services you receive in future.

West Mercia police covers an area that includes the counties of Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Shropshire, including the unitary borough of Telford & Wrekin.

John Campion

West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner



Example: Shifnal police base

In 2013, three years before I was elected to serve as West Mercia PCC, a decision was taken to close the police station in Shifnal and the building was subsequently sold to Shifnal Town Council. A police base in Shifnal was relocated in a local library, but this arrangement did not prove to be popular with local residents and it was not successful in providing operational policing.

To address this, I commissioned my estate team to carry out a review, with the aim of finding a way to provide a more visible police presence and faster police response times to the rapidly growing communities in Shifnal.

Based on the outcome of the review, in March 2022, I took a decision to work in partnership with Shifnal Town Council, to create a Police Safer Neighbourhood Office in the old police station building. The new office will speed up police response times and boost people's confidence, knowing officers are nearby if they need them.

Judging by some of the enthusiastic comments made in response to my announcement on Shifnal Matters community Facebook page, this decision has been well-received.

Shifnal Town Councillor Ed Bird said he was extremely pleased about the move. "Shifnal is an expanding town, and therefore it makes sense to have police based here."



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I want to hear from you

My plans to reshape the police estate across West Mercia have reached a critical stage. I am about to commit to a three-year plan, in which my estate team will modernise our infrastructure and keep pace with changes in our communities. These developments are intended to achieve best value for public money and provide effective policing services long into the future. My aim is to locate policing services strategically, where they can operate efficiently and make it easy for people to have access.

This is where you come in. I am asking you to share with us anything you think needs to be taken into consideration in the estate strategy. Please tell me what you think I need to be aware of, so that nothing vital is overlooked in our program to deliver a modern, dynamic and fit-forpurpose estate that will help ensure the success of West Mercia police now and in future. West Mercia's future police estate will:

- be visible and accessible to the communities it serves
- enable the best possible policing service
- be effective, efficient and flexible
- be environmentally and socially sustainable

You can see the full version of the strategy <u>here</u>.

The target police estate

There will be at least one operational hub in each of the three counties of West Mercia policing area: Herefordshire, Shropshire and Worcestershire.

These will be supported by local stations, enabling local policing.



These sites will be supported by the headquarters at Hindlip, with other specialist facilities located in the most appropriate locations.

Examples of new projects we aim to progress during the lifetime of this strategy include:

- Upgrade the Tactics House and Firearms ranges at Hindlip.
- Deliver a new combined police and fire station for Redditch.
- Deliver a new police station for Hereford.
- Deliver a new northern policing hub for Shrewsbury and Telford.
- Tenbury Wells co-location of police into fire station (complete).
- Leominster co-location of fire service into police station.

As well as new facilities, it may be more efficient and effective to dispose of outdated and redundant police stations, where an alternative site can be identified and agreed with the local community first.

Click here to view the detailed target estate configurations for 2030:

- <u>Herefordshire</u>
- Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin
- Worcestershire



Core principles

This strategy will primarily be delivered via the Estate function within my office.

The estate will be managed and operate according to eight core principles. Click on the links below to view full details:

- <u>Commercial advantage</u>
- <u>Co-location</u>
- Compliance with laws and regulations
- Sustainability and social value
- <u>Secure</u>
- <u>Maximise potential</u>
- Flexible and connected
- Fit for purpose

You can share your views by visiting our survey at <u>https://survey.alchemer.eu/s3/90450236/Estates-</u> <u>Strategy-Consultation</u>

Closing date for responses is 11 July 2022.

You are welcome to forward this email to anyone who may wish to see it that lives and works in the West Mercia area.

A report on results of this consultation will be published here <u>www.westmercia-pcc.gov.uk</u>

Contact your Police and Crime Commissioner John Campion:

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