

RECORD OF DECISION

TITLE: Funding for Full Electrical Survey at Hindlip site

Ref: PCC/D/2023/01

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Following issues that resulted in the loss of mains power at West Mercia's Hindlip headquarters in the summer of 2022, it was identified that to determine the reliability and capacity of the current mains and localised power infrastructure, a full electrical systems survey of the Hindlip site was required, to include all buildings.

The aim of the survey is to confirm and gain the required level of infrastructure knowledge to enable the OPCC Estates function and West Mercia Police to effectively understand and mitigate against risks around electrical power outages in the future.

This knowledge is critical to developing suitably informed business continuity plans for the site. It will also be utilised to inform future capital and / or revenue budget programmes.

PROPOSAL

That the PCC to approve funding of £68,814 for the procurement of external specialist electrical engineering consultancy services to deliver a full electrical survey of Hindlip site.

**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

The Hindlip site serves as headquarters for both West Mercia Police and Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service. As such, it hosts a range of key operational emergency services and infrastructure. These include emergency calls and ICT infrastructure.

In summer 2022, the site suffered a loss of mains power. This in turn created significant challenges around service continuity and resilience.

As a result of this and to fully understand the circumstances behind the outage, OPCC Estates commissioned the incumbent term Mechanical & Electrical (M&E) contractor to undertake an objective scoping survey of the main data room at Hindlip. Following the scoping survey, the contractor provided a '*High-Level Findings & Recommendations Report*'. To progress with implementing the recommendations of this report a separate full electrical site survey is required. This will determine if the current capacity and capability of electrical mains and local power supplies on site can support the implementation of the works recommended.

Working with the incumbent contractor, OPCC Estates have procured an external specialist electrical engineering consultant to undertake the full electrical survey at Hindlip.

The incumbent M&E Contractor will project manage this activity with support from OPCC Estates nominated personnel to manage day to day activity and the output from the project as per the *Specification* (Appendix A) and project plan, summarised in the Table below;



This activity will include confirmation of power supply from the Direct Network Operator and its route via transformers and high voltage switch gear to each of the buildings on site.

It will also incorporate any interactions with resilience equipment such as generators and uninterruptable power supplies through low voltage switchgear including functionality with mechanical control panels for air handling units, fire systems including alarms, gas suppression and aspirating/standard smoke detection.

It is of note that this information is not already known and available within the OPCC or West Mercia Police due to under-investment and a lack of routine testing

and maintenance for a number of years.

The availability of this information will enable more effective resilience planning and significant improvements to continuity of key emergency services for local communities

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

Because of the critical nature of these works, the impact and relevance to the Safer West Mercia Plan is significant and enables delivery of each central pillar of the plan.

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

Putting Victims and Survivors First

- Ensure an appropriate range of support services for every victim

Reforming West Mercia

- West Mercia Police will be an organisation fit for the digital age
- Ensure West Mercia's estate delivers the facilities police and communities need, in the most effective, efficient way possible

Reassuring West Mercia's Communities

- Ensuring all communities can access their police service quickly and conveniently when they need to

BENEFITS AND THEIR REALISATION

The completion of the electrical systems survey will develop a deeper knowledge and higher confidence in electrical power distribution across Hindlip site, including resilience equipment (generators).

The acquisition of technical asset understanding and knowledge from the survey will enable the organisation to facilitate consistent delivery of key operational services and PCC activities from Hindlip to the wider West Mercia estate.

Improving the electrical infrastructure that supports data room supporting IT, will significantly improve levels of operational, tactical, and strategic resilience

By ensuring public funds are spent in the best way possible, OPCC Estates & West Mercia Police will be best placed to plan and deliver business critical services in a more operationally, tactical, and strategically resilient manner.

AUTHOR

Name: Chris O'Hara (Head of Estates – OPCC West Mercia)

Date: 13th December 2022

FINANCIAL AND TREASURER COMMENTS

This is an opportunity to provide essential funding of £68,814 that will enable the progression and completion of the full electrical survey.

Currently there is no in year revenue budget available from the OPCC, this may change before the end of the financial year. If there is not an underspend, then there is resource available from Infrastructure Reserve which can be utilised to ensure that no additional in year revenue budget pressure is incurred.

Procurement rules have been followed and the proposal is to award to a company that best meets the specification and provides value for money.

This investment will enable OPCC Estates & West Mercia Police to acquire the relevant, critical infrastructure and asset knowledge that will enable the organisation to provide the requisite levels of resilience that will underpin business continuity and policing services to the communities of West Mercia.

Treasurer

Signature

Date 16/01/23

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gareth Ball', written over a horizontal line.

Signature

Date 16th January 2023