



Reference No: 10-2015

THE POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR CLEVELAND

DECISION RECORD FORM

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| REQUEST: For PCC Approval |
| Title: The Lease of the building in Miers Avenue in Hartlepool |

Executive Summary:

In response to the financial challenges faced by Cleveland Police, as a result of the cuts in government funding, and to ensure that the best service possible is delivered in the most efficient and effective way, a review of the Force structure and the Estate that its services are delivered from is being undertaken.

The existing 25 year Estates Strategy outlines that Cleveland Police would seek to ensure full estate utilisation and that there are expected to be a number of opportunities to reduce the physical estate from which Cleveland Police operate.

This has been developed further within the recently produced draft Estates Blueprint report which will be forwarded to the Police Crime Commissioner for final approval. However due to the imminent lease end date for Miers Avenue the opportunity to explore this individual option has led to the production of this report.

The Miers Avenue Neighbourhood Police Office is situated on Miers Avenue, in Hartlepool. It serves five wards and is currently staffed by two Sergeants, eight Police Constables and nine Police Community Support Officers.

Until April 2014, it was a jointly staffed partnership office shared with the Community and Partnership Team from Hartlepool Borough Council (HBC). As part of the partnership HBC provided staff to cover the reception desk which was open daily between 10.00am and 4.00pm. When the partnership withdrew and relocated back within the Civic Centre, the office was been closed to the public unless attending by prior appointment.

Having consulted the staff they have no major concerns moving back to Hartlepool HQ as their daily place of work. For some of the staff it will actually move them closer to their wards and still keep others within walking/cycling distance of their wards or able to easily access via bus routes.

The footfall at this office is negligible and most contact by the general public is via telephone or e-mail. Contact and visible patrol will be unaffected. Due to the restructuring, Hartlepool often only has limited resources to cover the whole of the LPA therefore a more central location will assist their response across the LPA. As was seen with the relocation of the South & Central Team from York Road, the move will not make the team less accessible or reduce their effectiveness in dealing with community issues.

The lease of Miers Avenue costs Cleveland Police £5,000 per annum plus the on costs for running the building. The Force is responsible for the up keep of the building during the lease and following a recent survey of the building we would need to upgrade the fire alarm system at an estimated cost of £5,000 and replace a roof at an estimated cost of £3,000. Further issues were also identified during a recent health & safety inspection that were deferred in the belief we would be vacating the premises within the year. Additional cost will be needed to rectify these issues if we remain in the building.

Following a review of the lease and delivery of the Integrated Neighbourhood Team (INT) service based within Miers Avenue, Hartlepool the Estates team have recommended the closure of these premises when the lease expires on the 28th February 2015. Neighbourhood Policing has seen the gradual reduction in the use of these premises over the past twelve months and the property is now viewed as operationally surplus to requirements.

This report is to advise the PCC, that the Miers Avenue premises are no longer required to support Neighbourhood Police in Hartlepool, and that the officers and staff currently based there will be relocated to Hartlepool HQ.

The savings achieved by this relocation are £11,241 (per annum) and £38,000 in dilapidation cost avoidance (one off).

Decision:

The PCC is asked to note that the Chief Constable does not need the premises at Miers Avenue in Hartlepool to support Neighbourhood Policing in Hartlepool and as such the PCC is asked to approve that when the lease for the building in Miers Avenue comes to an end, at the end of February 2015, that it is not renewed.

| Implications: | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| Has consideration been taken of the following: | Yes | No | |
| Financial | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Legal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Equality & Diversity | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Human Rights | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Sustainability | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Risk | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| (If yes please provide further details below) | | | |

Decision Required – Supporting Information

Financial Implications: (Must include comments of the PCC's CFO where the decision has financial implications)

The savings achieved by this relocation are £11,241 (per annum) and £38,000 in dilapidation cost avoidance (one off).

Legal Implications: (Must include comments of the Monitoring Officer where the decision has legal implication)

The current lease for Miers Avenue comes to an end at the end of February 2015, as such there are not expected to be any legal implications resulting from this decision.

Equality and Diversity Implications

None

Human Rights Implications

None

Sustainability Implications

Neighbourhood Policing has seen the gradual reduction in the use of these premises over the past twelve months and the property is now viewed as operationally surplus to requirements. As such it is not expected that there should be any impact on the delivery of Neighbourhood Policing within Hartlepool resulting from this decision.

Risk Management Implications

The footfall at this office is negligible and most contact by the general public is via telephone or e-mail. Contact and visible patrol will be unaffected and as such the impact on the public and policing within Hartlepool should be limited if any. The risks from adverse publicity and/or reduced services is therefore expected to be low.

OFFICER APPROVAL

Chief Executive

I have been consulted about the decision and confirm that financial, legal, and equalities advice has been taken into account. I am satisfied that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Signed: 

Date: 5/2/15

Police and Crime Commissioner:

The above request HAS / ~~DOES NOT HAVE~~ my approval.

Signed: 

Date: 6/2/15