



Reference No: 25 - 2014

# THE POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR CLEVELAND

## DECISION RECORD FORM

**REQUEST:**

For PCC Approval.

**Title:**

Review of Policing in Yarm

### 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 structure of the Force and the Estate that it is delivered from is being undertaken. Following the approval of the Estate Strategy, in which it was outlined that Cleveland Police would seek to ensure full estate utilisation, there are expected to be some opportunities to reduce the physical estate from which Cleveland Police operate from.

When reviewing policing activities in Yarm it became apparent that this area is primarily policed from Thornaby Police station currently.

The local neighbourhood officer and PCSO attend the Yarm residents association meeting held every 4 weeks in the Meadowings and a surgery was also held, up until January 2014, in the Yarm Library, however due to nobody attending the surgery this has now stopped.

Analysis of the services delivered from the building located in the centre of Yarm High Street, aligned with the footfall activity and the reasons for the use of this building showed that over a 6 month period during 2013 there were 596 visits to the station. These visits were for the following reasons:

Event	Total
Advice given and enquiries	182
Directions	100
Incidents	90
Dealing with Property	64
Building maintenance and repairs	32
Appointments and Meetings	20
Delivery of post and goods	15
Fixed Penalty	14
Shot gun application	9
Give message	5
HORT	4
SOCAP	4
Use of the toilet	3
Collection	3
Change of Address of Foreign National	2
Emergency Incident	1
Useful Information	1
Disposal (of knife)	1
Found Dog	1
Solicitor's Visiting for Officers/Custody	1
Other (unknown)	44
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>596</b>

As the table above illustrates there is very little 'policing' visits to Yarm Police Station and those that do can easily be accommodated from elsewhere.

Yarm Police Station is a building leased by the PCC with the running costs of the building alone being nearly £19k per annum. In addition to this other costs of keeping the building open and operational are approximately £25k per year. It is therefore costing the PCC approximately £35 for each visitor to this building. As per the table above, given that 16% of the visits to this station were by people asking for directions, then in effect it is costing the taxpayers of Cleveland around £7,000 per annum to provide directions to people who go into this station.

### Conclusions

Given the current way that Yarm is policed, given the current use of the Yarm High Street building and in response to the financial challenges facing the PCC and the Force, the Force have identified that they no longer need this building to provide operational policing to Yarm.

### Options

A review of the lease of this building shows that there is a break clause within the lease for Yarm station that would allow the PCC to terminate the lease earlier than originally anticipated. To terminate the lease 6 months notice MUST be given by the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014 and if this is given the PCC's responsibility for this building will cease on the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2014. The PCC will be responsible for dilapidation costs and lease termination costs that are estimated to cost £12k however this would be offset by the recurring savings of £19k per annum, in relation to the running costs of the building alone, from no longer being responsible for this building.

If the option to terminate the lease is **not** triggered by the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014 then there will be no further option to terminate this lease between now and the end of the lease on the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019. If the lease is not terminated by the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014 this will commit the PCC and the taxpayer of Cleveland to costs of around £100k over the final 5 years of this lease.

If the proposal to end this lease is taken then the surgeries that were held within Yarm library would begin again and take place twice per week. Attendance at these surgeries would then be reviewed to ensure that they are an efficient use of time. Discussions are also on going with the Fire Service to look at the potential use of the Fire Station in Yarm by Cleveland Police.

### Decision:

Given the current way that Yarm is policed and given the current use of the Yarm Police Station building, the Force have identified that they no longer need this building to provide operational policing to Yarm. The PCC is therefore asked to agree to exercise the option to terminate the lease on the building by the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014 and the subsequent closure of Yarm Police station by the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2014.

### 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)

Termination of the lease would provide a saving of around £19k per annum and the potential to make additional savings elsewhere. A one off exit cost is expected to be approximately £12k.

Termination of the lease will also mean that the PCC will avoid having to pay around £100k, over the last 5 years of the lease of this building, to continue to operate from this location.

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

The closure of the station would be in line with the lease arrangements and would seek to take advantage of a break clause within the lease. Notice is to be served a minimum of 6 months prior to vacating the building.

Notice to vacate must be given before April 2014 otherwise the lease will continue until the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019.

### Equality and Diversity Implications

There are no equality or diversity implications in relation to the community with the closure of the station.

### Human Rights Implications

There are no human rights implications

### Sustainability Implications

There are no implications in relation to providing a sustainable service as a result of this decision given that very little 'policing' is delivered from this building as highlighted in the report. Neighbourhood policing will continue to be provided currently through Thornaby police station and other police functions will be provided through the wider Cleveland police service.


### Risk Management Implications

Analysis and survey results indicate that members of the public are generally opposed to the closure of police stations; however, the survey also indicates that these same people would generally interact with the police via the telephone and not use the police stations. There is therefore a risk that this decision will not be popular with the public, especially those within Yarm however the greater impact in terms of Risk Management is that significant savings are required to balance the financial plans of the PCC in 2016-17 and beyond. Failure to deliver these savings from areas that will have no operational or service impact will mean they will then have to be made from areas that will impact on service delivery.

**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: \_\_\_\_\_



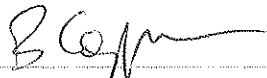
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18.03.14

**Police and Crime Commissioner:**

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

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_



Date: \_\_\_\_\_

19/3/14

