

## PFCC Decision Report

**Please ensure all sections below are completed**

**Report reference number:** PFCC/041/18

**Classification:** OFFICIAL

**Title of report:** Custody Anti Ligature Work

**Area of County/Stakeholders affected:** Countywide

**Report by :** Patrick Duffy – Interim Head of Estates

**Date of report:** 18th April 2018

**Enquiries to:** [Patrick.Duffy@essex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Patrick.Duffy@essex.pnn.police.uk)

### 1. Purpose of report

To seek approval of the Detailed Investment Business Case Stage 2 for the Custody Anti Ligature project and allocation of a budget of £643,000 of capital investment and £261,000 one-off revenue costs.

### 2. Recommendations

To approve the Stage 2 Business Case and proceed.

### 3. Benefits of Proposal

The headline benefit is that the proposed works will make it more difficult for detainees to inflict self-harm on themselves whilst in our custody, provide safer accommodation for detainees at the proposed sites and remedy risks identified by HMICFRS at the proposed sites.

In addition, key benefits from this proposal can be summarised as:

- 1) Putting into effect recommendations made by HMICFRS in relation to the safety of some of our custody suites;
- 2) Improving the safety of detainees at three of our oldest custody suites;
- 3) Providing custody staff with greater confidence in their work environment.

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The proposal is for the above works to take place at the Custody Suites located at Harlow Police Station, Colchester Police Station and Clacton-on-Sea Police Station. These three locations represent our oldest and most high-risk custody environments.

The identified improvement works across the three sites will significantly improve the safety of our custody provision without the immediate need for costly and lengthy full refurbishment works such as those at Chelmsford Police Station (2011-12) and more recently Southend Police Station (2015-17).

At a more strategic level, the proposal will ensure that we are compliant with our obligations under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984, the codes of practice, Authorised Professional Practices (APP) and Home Office requirements.

#### **4. Background and proposal**

In March 2017, HMICFRS conducted an inspection of custody provision within the Essex Police estate. The inspection identified ligature points and potential risks where they were found. The custody suites at Colchester Police Station, Harlow Police Station and Clacton-on-Sea Police Station were highlighted as containing a large number of ligature points and risks. Upon review by Estate Services, it is their view that the issues at these 3 sites cannot easily be resolved without some level of investment.

Major refurbishment works on custody suites at Chelmsford Police Station, Basildon Police Station, Grays Police Station and Southend Police Station have improved the quality and safety of the custody provision in Essex. The with the remaining suites requiring immediate intervention.

The proposal is to undertake remedial works which address the issues identified by HMICFRS in March 2017, and deliver significant safety improvements without the need for costly 'full' refurbishments. The works contained within the proposal include the replacement of cell doors and ventilation grilles, the removal of half-height walls where they exist in cells, the application of anti-pick resin to replace existing mastic and improvements to medical rooms to improve infection control.

The proposal is to undertake works in a phased manner, with works undertaken on one custody suite at a time to reduce the burden placed on other custody suites and operational resources across the county from the custody closures.

#### **5. Police and Crime Plan**

The provision of safe and secure custody accommodation is critical to the ability of Essex Police in delivering day-to-day business and the Police and Crime Plan.

In addition, Essex Police is obligated under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984, the codes of practice, Authorised Professional Practices (APP) and Home Office requirements to provide custody accommodation of a suitable standard.

It is the view of Estate Services and HMICFRS that as of writing, the 3 custody suites that are the subject of this paper do not meet these standards.

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### 6. Police Operational Implications

There will be some impact on operational policing as each effected custody suite will be closed for the remedial work to take place.

The closure of each custody suite may result in abstraction of officers with detainees having to travel longer distances, although the FCR currently direct the arresting officer to the nearest free custody rather than the nearest geographically.

Where the custody closure causes a shortfall in the number of operational officers available contingency plans will be initiated to mitigate the abstraction.

### 7. Financial Implications

The proposal will require capital funding of £643,000 and possible one-off revenue funding of £261,000. This equates to a total financial implication for Essex Police of £904,000.

### 8. Legal Implications

If approved the commissioner will be required to enter into a number of contracts. Appointed of a design consultant through the Kent and Essex Police Professional Services framework and once detailed design has been completed and the project competitively tendered in line with the Public Contract Regulations 2015. The commissioner will be required to sign and enter into a construction contract. Approval for the contract will go through the full internal governance process and necessary boards at the relevant time.

### 9. Staffing and other resource implications

Staff located at each custody suite will be temporarily re-deployed to alternative custody suites while the remedial works take place. Human Resources will need to be consulted to identify any implications in relation to travel expenses/arrangements for staff who may have a working location specified in their contract.

### 10. Equality and Diversity implications

There are no foreseen Equality and Diversity implications directly associated with the decision.

### 11. Background papers

Stage 2 Business Case - Custody Anti-Ligature Improvements



Stage 2 - Business  
Case - Custody Anti Li

**Report Approval**

The report will be signed off by the OPFCC Chief Executive and Treasurer, prior to review and sign off by the PFCC / DPFCC .

Chief Executive/M.O

Sign:

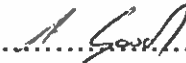


Print: ..... DAVID LAWSON .....

Date: ..... 20 APRIL 2018 .....

Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer

Sign: .....



Print: ..... AB BEN ..... GOUGH .....

Date: ..... 3.5.2018 .....

**Publication**

Is the report for publication?

YES

NO

If 'NO', please give reasons for non-publication (state 'None' if applicable)

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.....  
If the report is not for publication, the Chief Executive will decide if and how the public can be informed of the decision.

**Redaction**

If the report is for publication, is redaction required:

1. Of Decision Sheet

YES

2. Of Appendix

YES

NO

NO

If 'YES', please provide details of required redaction:

..... Do not include business case. ....  
.....

Date redaction carried out: .....

**Treasurer / Chief Executive Sign Off – for Redactions only**

If redaction is required, Treasurer or Chief Executive are to sign off that redaction has been completed.

Sign: .....

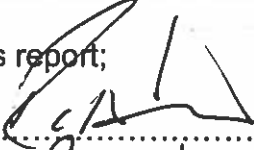
Print: .....

**Chief Executive/Treasurer**

Date signed: .....

**Decision and Final Sign Off**

I agree the recommendations to this report;

Sign: ..... 

Print: ..... *R.C. Hirst*

**PFCC/Deputy PFCC**

Date signed: ..... *8 May 2018*

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because;

.....  
.....  
.....

Sign: .....

Print: .....

**PFCC/Deputy PFCC**

Date signed: .....

