

PFCC Decision Report

Report reference number: PFCC/062/20

Classification: OFFICIAL

Title of report: Stage 2 Capital Bid – Co-location of Central Referral Unit (CRU) with MARAT at County Hall

Area of county / stakeholders affected: Countywide

Report by: Patrick Duffy – Interim Head of Estates

Date of report: 19th June 2020

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1. Purpose of the report

This Decision Report seeks approval for capital investment into upgrading accommodation at County Hall to facilitate the re-location of the Central Referral Unit (CRU) from Police Headquarters to County Hall to co-locate with the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Team (MARAT).

2. Recommendations

To proceed with investment of £100,000 of capital funding for the design, upgrade and implementation of accommodation for the MARAT team at County Hall.

3. Benefits of the proposal

The proposal will enable the CRU to work within the same offices as other agencies, leading to cross fertilisation of ideas and real time multi-agency partnership safeguarding activity, rather than being a Police-led and Police delivered function. The co-location provides a one team approach across multiple partners leading to more effective information sharing focussed on victim safeguarding. This will create opportunities to streamline process and prevent duplication through open dialogue across the multiple agencies. Multifunctional officers will provide greater resilience as a larger, co-located and integrated team.

4. Background and proposal

The Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) is a regular multi-agency meeting, the aims of which are to share relevant information to help increase the safety, health and wellbeing of victims of domestic abuse, and jointly construct an action plan to provide professional support to all those at high risk of domestic abuse that aims to reduce the risk of harm and determine whether the perpetrator of domestic abuse poses a significant risk to any particular individual, or to the general community. The MARAC also provides the same review in relation to honour based abuse.

Both areas liaise and work closely with other forces and partners within the public, private and third sectors to provide enhanced safeguarding for high risk victims of domestic abuse and / or honour based abuse.

There will be no change to the current structure, roles or remits. There will be a geographical change for CRU by re-locating from Essex Police Headquarters to County Hall, Chelmsford.

This co-location will provide earlier access to partner agencies and streamline the preparation for MARAC by providing direct access to the Domestic Abuse Safeguarding Officer (DASO). This will give the DASO direct interaction at an earlier opportunity with partners to join up safeguarding responses, prevent duplication, and ensure vulnerable victims are better protected while reducing duplication of effort. The structure provides increased resilience and more effective support to operational officers / Police staff and multi-agency staff.

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The proposed accommodation requires upgrading to allow full Essex Police IT network to be installed as well as suitable storage for the Police Officers' personal protective equipment. A number of relatively modest improvements to the existing accommodation to improve the facilities for the multi-agency team.

5. Alternative options considered and rejected

Do nothing – Should we not undertake this investment the teams would not be able to co-locate at County Hall due to Essex Police information security requirements.

6. Police and Crime Plan

The investment aligns with and supports Priority 3 of the Police and Crime Plan – Breaking the Cycle of Domestic Abuse. The investment also fits with the Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan objective on Finance and Resources, with particular reference to *“Rationalise the police estate, making it fit for purpose for 21st century policing and drive out savings to reinvest back into local policing”*.

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It also seeks to improve our response to domestic abuse as set out in the Southend, Essex and Thurrock Domestic Abuse Joint Commissioning Strategy.

This relocation supports how we will work more efficiently and effectively, making the most of our resources whilst developing, learning and improving. Furthermore, it will support us in building trust and confidence with our partners.

7. Police operational implications

There are no operational implications of this decision report. The funding will enable already identified space to be upgraded. There has been a separate business case associated with the relocation and staff relocating.

8. Financial implications

The relocation requires one off capital funding of £100,000 to ensure the accommodation is fit for purpose. Funding has been identified within the capital programme which is incorporated into the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

9. Legal implications

There will be a requirement to enter into a lease for the accommodation. A separate decision report will be submitted for this.

10. Staffing implications

There are no staffing or resource implications arising from this decision report.

11. Equality and Diversity implications

There are no equality and diversity implications arising from this decision report.

12. Risks

There are limited risks around the proposal. ECC will undertake the work on behalf of Essex Police through its framework and suppliers. A separate lease will be required for our use of the space. The Heads of Terms have already been agreed and the terms are of a collaborative nature.

13. Governance Boards

- Estate Change Board – 11th May 2020
- Chief Officer Group – 20th May 2020
- Strategic Board – 19th June 2020

14. Background papers

Stage 1 Capital Bid



Stage 1 Disposals
Re-Prov 20.21.pdf

Stage 2 Capital Bid



Stage 2 CRU County
Hall Move v0.5.pdf

Estate Strategy

<http://www.essex.pfcc.police.uk/finance-reporting/publications/police-estates-strategy/>

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Report Approval

The report will be signed off by the PFCC Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer prior to review and sign off by the PFCC / DPFCC.

Chief Executive / M.O.

Sign: 

Print: P. Brent-Isherwood

Date: 1 September 2020

Chief Finance Officer / Treasurer

Sign: 

Print: Elizabeth Helm

Date: 10 August 2020

Publication

Is the report for publication?

YES
NO

If 'NO', please give reasons for non-publication (Where relevant, cite the security classification of the document(s). State 'None' if applicable)

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.....N/A.....

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 NO 2. Of Appendix? YES NO

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

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.....N/A.....

Date redaction carried out:

Treasurer / Chief Executive Sign Off – for Redactions only

If redaction is required, the Treasurer or Chief Executive is 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: 

Roger Hirst

Print:

PFCC

Date signed: 3 September 2020

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because:

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Sign:

Print:

PFCC/Deputy PFCC

Date signed: