

PFCC Decision Report

Report reference number: PFCC/059/20

Classification: OFFICIAL

Title of report: Surrender of Lease for Stansted Old Fire Station Accommodation

Area of county / stakeholders affected: Countywide

Report by: Patrick Duffy – Interim Head of Estates

Date of report: 13th May 2020

Enquiries to: Patrick.Duffy@essex.pnn.police.uk

1. Purpose of the report

This Decision Report is to notify the Commissioner that Building 31138 (known as the Old Fire Station) has been declared operationally surplus by the Bedfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner as the lead Commissioner for the Eastern Region Specialist Operations Unit (ERSOU) and therefore can be disposed of as an asset of the Essex PFCC.

2. Recommendations

To acknowledge formal surrender of the lease for the use of Building 31138 (known as the Old Fire Station, Stansted Airport).

3. Benefits of the proposal

Surrendering the lease ensures maximum financial efficiencies and reduction of our underutilised estate.

4. Background and proposal

The Eastern Region Specialist Operations Unit (ERSOU) operates under a Collaboration Agreement throughout the seven forces of the Eastern region. ERSOU operates under the Bedfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner as the lead Commissioner / Force.

OFFICIAL

The Old Fire Station was primarily utilised by ERSOU and funded by Bedfordshire through a recharge arrangement, although the building was also utilised as the “Silver Cell” for Essex Police for managing hijacked aircraft.

As part of the ERSOU estate review, which aimed to ensure it maintains operational efficiency and best value for money, it was identified that the ERSOU functions would relocate to other assets within the region. The “Silver Cell” operational function has also been relocated to an alternative location, declaring the building operationally surplus to requirements.

The building does not form part of the Essex Police Estate Strategy and there are no operational reasons for the building to be maintained as an operational asset. Therefore, the proposal is to return the building back to Manchester Airport Group.

5. Alternative options considered and rejected

Maintain the building as an Essex Police asset: The building is now only operated for hijack incidents. All of these functions can now be performed at alternative premises and therefore it does not fulfil any immediate or future requirements of the Estate Strategy.

6. Police and Crime Plan

The lease surrender 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”*.

The lease surrender fits with the Commissioner’s Estate Strategy with particular reference to *“Strategic Management of our Estate”* and *“Our Future Direction”*

7. Police operational implications

There are no direct operational policing implications of the proposal. The operational staff have already relocated to an alternative CTBP location as well as the Essex Police functions being relocated to alternative premises.

8. Financial implications

All costs associated with the building were previously recharged to Bedfordshire as the lead force for ERSOU. As these arrangements have ceased, the building is currently exerting an unplanned cost pressure for the force.

9. Legal implications

There are no legal implications arising from the surrender of the property.

10. Staffing implications

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

11. Equality and Diversity implications

It is not considered that an Equality Impact Assessment is required for the lease surrender associated with this decision report.

12. Risks

If the surrender is not agreed, the costs for operating the building will continue to fall to Essex Police and be a budget pressure requiring a growth bid.

13. Governance Boards

This decision report was approved in principle at the Essex Police Estate Change Board chaired by the Deputy Chief Constable on 11th May 2020, and the Strategic Estates Board chaired by the PFCC on 12th May 2020.

14. Background papers

There are no background papers associated with this report.

OFFICIAL

Report Approval

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

Chief Executive / M.O.

Sign:

Print: P. Brent-Isherwood

Date: 26 June 2020

Chief Finance Officer / Treasurer

Sign:

Print: Elizabeth Helm

Date: 29 June 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)

.....
.....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

2. Of Appendix?

YES

NO

NO

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

.....
.....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:

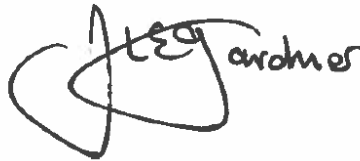
Print:

Chief Executive/Treasurer

Date signed:

Decision and Final Sign Off

I agree the recommendations to this report:



Sign:
Jane Gardner

Print:

Deputy PFCC

Date signed: 1 July 2020

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because:

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

Sign:

Print:

PFCC/Deputy PFCC

Date signed: