



**Cambridgeshire  
Police & Crime  
Commissioner**

**To:** Business Coordination Board

**From:** Chief Executive

**Date:** 11 August 2016

## **LAUNCH OF CUSTODY PROJECT**

### **1. Purpose**

1.1 To report that the Business Coordination Board (“the Board”) gave approval to the relaunch of the Parkside Custody Replacement project.

### **2. Background**

2.1 The original project brief was to consider the replacement of the Parkside BCU with all the elements that made up the BCU at the time, moving to a new build facility on the edge of Cambridge City. The project was put on hold in 2010 as the austerity measures were introduced by the government.

2.2 Following the official hold of the project, work was commissioned to ensure that Parkside complied with the safer detentions regulations. The work did not, however, extend the custody provision.

2.3 Early in 2015 the Chief Constable, following a gold group run by the DCC considering custody detention in Parkside, asked that a group be set up to consider a new facility for custody in the southern end of the county and also to consider how other services at Parkside might operate in the future.

2.4 The custody function is subject to collaboration with Cambridgeshire Constabulary, Bedfordshire Police and Hertfordshire Constabulary, however, at present estate is outside the scope of collaboration. Forces are individually responsible for the development and use of their estate.

2.5 A number of potential options have been considered as to how the custody function is delivered in the future and what the estate will consist of. As part of this process the Custody profiler software from the College of Policing has been used to model a

number of potential options and look at the respective costs and impact of these options. It is assumed that a relevant site would require approximately 3 acres of land. There is also an assumption that the lifespan of the building is 25 years.

- 2.6 The current cell provision at Parkside is 10 and it is considered that 20 would be required together with a design allowing for future expansion. There is a collaborative building design which allows for a flexible number of cells with the same land envelope ensuring compliance with the Home Office design guide and futureproofing for a collaborative approach within BCH and wider, regionally.
- 2.7 The costs of refurbishing or rebuilding Thorpe Wood in the next 10 years should also be considered.
- 2.8 The continued use of Kings Lynn PIC has also been factored in as a constant due to the costs of leaving the contract.

### **3. PARKSIDE CUSTODY REPLACEMENT BOARD**

- 3.1 The board is chaired by Niki Howard and made up of the following people:

Niki Howard – Director of Finance & Resources

Andy Coles - DPCC

Mark Hotchkin – Head of Estates & Facilities

Colin Luscombe (OPCC) Director of Estates

Iain Clark - Chief Ins.

Ian Simmons - Chief Ins.

Vicky Skeels – Local Policing Commander

Jon Hutchinson – Area Commander

Tricia Harding – Head of Business Support Local Policing

Elly McKee – Estate Management Surveyor

- 3.2 The remit of the project is to secure land and build a new 20 cell custody facility within 'reasonable' travelling distance of Cambridge City and, working with the Agile Working Project, consider how other services housed at Parkside might operate in the future.
- 3.3 The Chief Constable has given a clear steer on what is considered reasonable travel distance for a new facility and therefore the first phase of the project will be to secure suitable land.
- 3.4 The preferred timescale for the project is short to medium term, with the first milestone being the land procured by March 2017.
- 3.5 It should be noted that the fleet workshop will be relocated to a new facility in December 2016 and is not in scope for this project.
- 3.6 The commercial opportunities for the Parkside site will be investigated and these may include, sale, long lease and joint venture.
- 3.7 This paper was discussed at the Estates Sub Group on 14th July where concern was raised over the current staff resource to project Manager a change programme of this nature. It was considered that the skills commensurate of an SO or MB grade would be required over the project duration estimated at 3-5 years.

#### 4. Summary

- 4.1 The Parkside Custody Replacement project has been relaunched.
- 4.2 Approximately 3 acres of land is required to support a modern custody centre built to the specification within the Home Office Design Guide.
- 4.3 The current cell provision at Parkside is 10 and it is considered that 20 would be required together with a design allowing for future expansion.

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY

<b>Source Document</b>	Cambridgeshire Constabulary Estate Management – Property Files
<b>Contact Officers</b>	Elly McKee Estates Management Surveyor, Cambridgeshire Constabulary Colin Luscombe, Director of Estates, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner