

FOI-332

I write in connection with your request for information dated 30th June 2013 concerning the potential sale/closure of Salisbury Police station.

I am required by the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to handle all requests in a manner that is blind as to the identity and motives of the requester. Any information released as a response to a request is regarded as being published and therefore in the public domain without caveat.

Following receipt of your request, searches were conducted within the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC). I can confirm that some of the information you have requested is held by the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Your request has now been considered and it is not possible to meet your requirements in full.

You wrote:

'I would like you to supply me with details of all internal and external communications regarding the potential sale/closure of Salisbury Police Station. This request should cover the past 5 years till present day. This should include all discussions to relocate the existing services currently housed within the existing Police station.

I am particularly interested, but not limited to any communications with the old Police Authority, Wiltshire Police, Wiltshire Council, and the South Wiltshire University Technical College.

Communications should include minutes of meetings (in person or electronic), internal and external e-mail, other correspondence.'

Following a telephone conversation on 26th July 2013 discussing your request we clarified that the information you sought was in relation to the decision making process in respect of the redevelopment of Salisbury Police Station as a University Technical College and where police services for Salisbury will now be accommodated.

You further clarified that this did not include emails relating to organisation of meetings or the drafting of press releases.

Response

Please see attached internal communications to all staff and relevant minutes from the Commissioner's Monitoring Board.

Further information relating to the relocation of policing services from Salisbury Police Station is not held by the OPCC as these are operational matters under the direction and control of the Chief Constable.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, when refusing to provide information (because the information is exempt) to provide you the applicant with a notice which: (a) states that fact, (b) specifies the exemption in question and (c) states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the

exemption applies. In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 this letter acts as a Refusal Notice for those aspects of your request.

Exemption applied:

Section 21: Information reasonably accessible by other means

Information relating to Salisbury Police Station was included in media releases which are published on the Commissioner's website. These include the information we hold on relocation of police services and the decision making process. They can be accessed here:

http://www.wiltshire-pcc.gov.uk/News-and-Events/News-Archive/News-Archive.aspx?NewsArchive_List_GoToPage=1

Section 43: Commercial Interests

Information is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the public authority holding it). There is some information which is being exempt under s.43. This is a qualified exemption which requires a Public Interest Test be applied and balanced against any harm that could be caused by disclosure.

Factors favouring disclosure:

These matters involve public money and it is in the interest of the public to see how their money is spent.

Factors against disclosure:

The final agreement had been reached and consultation is ongoing, therefore the release of commercially sensitive data has potential to affect the future commercial interests of the public authorities involved.

On balance, given the information already in the public domain and that discussions are ongoing and subject to change, the potential harm outweighs the benefits of disclosure.

Chief Constable briefing sheet

Salisbury Police Station



21 June 2013

As some of you may already be aware, we have recently been approached about a change of use for Salisbury police station.

A decision has now been agreed (19 June) so we feel that it would be helpful to update you all on the current situation.

UNIVERSITY TECHNICAL COLLEGE

- A new South Wiltshire University Technical College (UTC) will open in Salisbury in September 2014, providing new education and training opportunities for young people (aged 13-18yrs).
- We were approached by the UTC via Wiltshire Council - the local education authority - regarding the use of Salisbury Police station being used as the site for this new college.
- Following initial discussions - a feasibility study of the building was undertaken.
- Following further discussion, we have agreed in principle for this proposal to go ahead.
- The proposal is for a lease to be granted to Wiltshire Council. The council will, in-turn, sub-let the building to the UTC. The council will be charged a minimal rent throughout the period of the lease.
- The date that the college will take up the lease will be towards the end of this calendar year (expected to be November 2013)

POLICE PRESENCE IN SALISBURY

- It is therefore proposed that the current police presence in Salisbury will be relocated to council premises in Salisbury City Centre. As part of these changes, it is proposed that the Salisbury response hub would move to

Amesbury police station - but this is still very much in discussion

- A public policing presence in Salisbury is very important to us and to the public. I, and the PCC, remain fully committed to having a public access point within Salisbury and we are therefore looking into opening a police public access point in the city's library, with a longer term view of front counter services operating from the Salisbury community campus

SALISBURY CUSTODY

- The situation remains the same as the message that I set you in February regarding Salisbury custody, in that we remain committed to providing a custody provision in the south of the county.
- It is proposed that the current facility stays open until April 2014. Various options are however now being explored apace.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

- You will all be very aware of the on-going public sector budget cuts, against the back-drop of an increasing demand for local services.
- To help us manage these challenges and to deliver our savings targets, we need to take actions that will result in us operating in the most cost efficient way, delivering value for money.

Chief Constable briefing sheet

Salisbury Police Station



21 June 2013

- Working with Wiltshire Council, as our strategic partner, is helping us to improve the services we provide to local communities. An example of this is the co-location model, which is working very well at Monkton Park in Chippenham.
- We appreciate that this news may be unsettling to some of you, especially those based at Salisbury.
- We would like to reassure you that these decisions have been made with very careful thought and are not taken lightly.
- Furthermore, we would like to assure you that all staff who will be affected by these changes will be fully consulted once plans begin to take shape.
- We will, of course, continue to update you on this matter as and when we know more information.
- For your information, we will also be telling the public about this important news over the coming days.

OTHER INFORMATION

- I understand that Salisbury Police station is a building steeped in history and tradition and as such we are pleased that, as far as we are aware, it is the intention of the college to protect the frontage of the building in order to maintain its character.
- You can ask me any questions here today - however we do not yet have the detail. Claire (comms) will take the question away if we can't answer it and we will get you an answer as soon as we are able to.
- Or - an online feedback/ comments board is open for general questions around our strategic partnership plans with Wiltshire Council and you are welcome to use that for any questions you have about this. You can access it through 'what's current' on the homepage of firstpoint

CORPORATE MANAGEMENT BOARD

Thursday 20th December 2012 at 2.30pm
Wroughton Room, Gablecross

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Angus Macpherson, Commissioner
Patrick Geenty, Chief Constable
Mike Veale, Deputy Chief Constable
Kieran Kilgallen, Chief Executive
Mike Prince, Treasurer
Clive Barker, Head of Finance and Facilities

1. Local Developments – high impact local issues

The temporary closure of Salisbury Custody Suite could result in adverse publicity, given the suspicion in some quarters that the Wilton Road station will close. The Commissioner and Chief Constable indicated that they had not seen any business case proposing closure of Salisbury Custody Suite as a long term measure. The Head of Finance pointed out that such a business case was being worked up and that savings from a closure of Salisbury Custody Suite had been assumed as part of the Vision Wiltshire proposals for operational support.

Agreed:

That an update on work to consider the future of Salisbury Custody would be reported to the Commissioner at the next Corporate Management Board.

CORPORATE MANAGEMENT BOARD

Monday 4th February 2013 at 2.00pm
PCC's Office

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Commissioner Angus Macpherson
Chief Constable P Geenty
Chief Executive K Kilgallen
Treasurer M Prince
Deputy Chief Constable M Veale
Assistant Chief constable S Hedley
Head of Finance C Barker
Supt Paul Mills (part of meeting)

7. Local Developments – high impact local issues

- a) Salisbury Custody – the Corporate Management Board decided on Option 1 in the appraisal. There will always be a need for a Salisbury custody suite, and there will

be a custody suite in or around Salisbury. The Board agreed it would look at collaborative working regarding custody. It was also cognisant that Salisbury needs a base for response, NPT and front counter which may or may not be Wilton Road in the future. Safeguarding and Public Protection could safely move to the Bourne Hill hub. Custody and investigation team needs to be close to Salisbury in order to minimise cost.

COMMISSIONER'S MONITORING BOARD

Tuesday 28th May 2013 at 2.00pm
PCC's Office

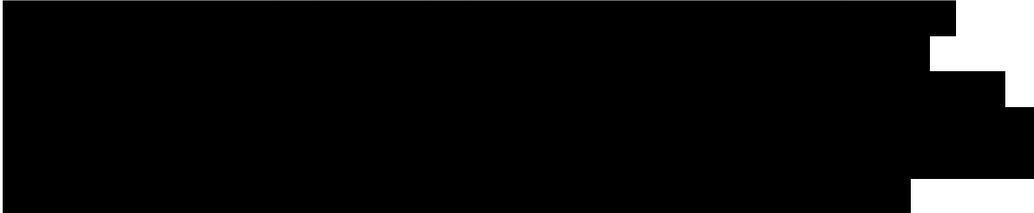
MINUTES

PRESENT:

Angus Macpherson, Police and Crime Commissioner
Pat Geenty, Chief Constable
Mike Prince, Treasurer
Mike Veale, Deputy Chief Constable
Kieran Kilgallen, Chief Executive
Clive Barker, Head of Finance

9. Local Developments – high impact local issues

- B) Estate Collaboration – as regards Salisbury, Wiltshire Council would like to take this for the technical college, preferably by Christmas 2013 to open by September 2014.**



COMMISSIONER'S MONITORING BOARD

Monday 24th June 2013 at 2.00pm
PCC's Office

MINUTES

Present:

Police and Crime Commissioner, A Macpherson
Chief Constable, P Geenty
Deputy Chief Constable, M Veale
Chief Executive, K Kilgallen
Treasurer, M Prince
Chief Finance Officer, C Barker
T/Assistant Chief Constable A Tatam

2. Project Approvals

a) Project Initiation

- i. Salisbury University Technical College – [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]. The Commissioner and the Chief Constable reiterated their commitment to provide suitable premises for the policing of Salisbury. These will include a custody suite which may have an investigation hub attached. It was agreed that the operational details would be sorted out as soon as possible so that the public can be told the precise arrangements.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] The Chief Constable confirmed that the sale of Salisbury police station is operationally viable. There will need to be a review of the effect of development in Tidworth in order to scope the full replacement requirement. The board agreed:

- 1) That officers proceed with negotiations with the council and the Department for Education with a view to the police occupying new stations in Salisbury shared with Wiltshire Council and a lease of the site of the current Salisbury police station being granted to Wiltshire Council to use for the University Technical College provision.

Nutland, Laura

Subject: FW: Update on Salisbury Police Station [NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED/UNCLASSIFIED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 24 June 2013 11:27
To: Whole Force
Subject: Update on Salisbury Police Station [NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED/UNCLASSIFIED]

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED/UNCLASSIFIED

Message sent on behalf of Chief Constable Pat Geenty and Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) Angus Macpherson

Dear colleagues,

Some of you may be aware that we have recently been approached about a change of use for Salisbury police station.

A decision has been agreed (19 June) in principle so we thought it would be helpful to provide an update on the current situation.

A new South Wiltshire University Technical College (UTC) will open in Salisbury in September 2014, providing new education and training opportunities for young people (aged 13 -18 years). We were approached by the UTC via Wiltshire Council - the local education authority - regarding the use of Salisbury police station as the site for this new college. Following initial discussions, a feasibility study of the building was undertaken.

Following further discussions we have agreed in principle for this proposal to go ahead. The proposal is for a lease to be granted to Wiltshire Council. The council will, in-turn, sub-let the building to the UTC. The council will be charged a minimal rent throughout the period of the lease.

Please note this lease relates to the main Salisbury police station building and does not include the police houses and undeveloped area on the wider site. For now they will remain in use as they currently are, however discussions are taking place about whether this land will be sold in the future.

The UTC will take up the lease in November (2013).

It is therefore proposed that the current police presence in Salisbury will be relocated to council premises in Salisbury. As part of these changes, one option is that the Salisbury response hub could move to Amesbury police station.

A public policing presence in Salisbury is very important to us and to the public. We remain fully committed to having a public access point within Salisbury and we are therefore looking into opening a police public access point in the city's library, with a longer term view of front counter services operating from the Salisbury community campus.

This sharing of our estate and closer working with partner agencies to further improve services to the public is a key part of the PCC's Police and Crime Plan.

In relation to the custody suite at Salisbury Police Station, it is proposed that this facility stays open until April 2014.

As detailed in the previous message on 5 February this year, we remain committed to providing a custody provision in the south of the county. Options are now being explored into how best that can be achieved.

You will all be very aware of the on-going public sector budget cuts, against the back-drop of an increasing demand for local services. To help us manage these challenges and to deliver our savings targets, we need to take actions that will result in us operating in the most cost efficient way, delivering value for money. Working with Wiltshire Council, as our strategic partner, is helping us to improve the services we provide to local communities. An example of this is the co-location model, which is working very well at Monkton Park in Chippenham.

We fully appreciate that this news may be unsettling to some of you, especially those based at Salisbury and we know that this station is steeped in history and tradition and as such we are pleased that the UTC is intending to protect the frontage of the building in order to maintain its character.

We would like to reassure you that these decisions have been made following a great deal of thought and are not taken lightly.

Furthermore, we would like to assure you that all staff who will be affected by these changes will be fully consulted as the plans are firmed up.

If you have any questions, there is an online feedback/comments board open for general questions around our strategic partnership plans with Wiltshire Council. You are welcome to use this for any questions you may have. You can access it through 'What's current' on the homepage of firstpoint or by accessing the [discussion board](#) here.

The Chief Constable held a briefing with staff and officers at Salisbury this morning. Chief Superintendent Steve Hedley is now going to set up a series of working groups so staff and officers can give their views and potential solutions as the project progresses.

We will, of course, continue to update you on this matter and we will also be informing the public about this important news.

Thank you for your support,



CC Pat Geenty



NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED/UNCLASSIFIED