

**REPORT TO:** East Lothian Council

**MEETING DATE:** 28 March 2017

**BY:** Depute Chief Executive (Partnerships and Community Services)

**SUBJECT:** Relocation of Policing Staff to Shared Accommodation in John Muir House

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## **1 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 To inform Council of the Scottish Police Authority (SPA) decision to relocate the Operational and Community Police currently based in Haddington Police Station to John Muir House and to seek approval to proceed with this project.

## **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

Council is recommended to:

- 2.1 Welcome the Scottish Police Authority decision to relocate all Operational and Community Police currently based in Haddington Police Station to the former Sheriff Courts and John Muir House.
- 2.2 Agree, in line with the option that was agreed in principle from the *'Smarter Working for Better Outcomes: Opportunities for collaborative working with Police Scotland through co-location at John Muir House'* 11<sup>th</sup> October 2016 Cabinet report, to proceed with the detailed design and procurement work with immediate effect to enable:
- the relocation of Operational (Response) and Community Police from Haddington Police Station to the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the former Sheriff Courts and reconfiguration of Court Street reception as the police station public reception area.
  - reconfiguration of the remaining 1<sup>st</sup> floor space to accommodate up to 54 Council staff
  - the relocation of Community Police to a 'Collaborative Hub' on the ground floor of John Muir House, which will include Scottish Fire & Rescue Scotland Local Area Liaison Officers, the Council's Safer Communities Team, and other council staff.

### 3 BACKGROUND

3.1 The 'Report on the Future Delivery of Public Services' by the Christie Commission identified four key objectives for the programme of Public Sector reform:

- Public services are built around people and communities, their needs, aspirations, capacities and skills, and work to build up their autonomy and resilience
- Public service organisations work together effectively to achieve outcomes
- Public service organisations prioritise prevention, reducing inequalities and promoting equality
- Public service organisations aim to increase performance whilst reducing costs.

This collaboration with Police colleagues will support us in addressing each of these recommendations.

3.2 In response to these recommendations, East Lothian Council has been facilitating a joint approach to asset planning with our community partners. The East Lothian Partnership Joint Asset Plan was agreed in May 2015 which supports the development of well-designed, sustainable places through effective partnerships. A Joint Property Asset Management Group was convened in September 2015, supported by a Joint Asset Operational Group to help identify and support projects and initiatives.

3.3 A Strategic Brief was subsequently developed to support delivery of the Joint Asset Plan. This sets out our common principles for developing and delivering a programme of projects which will make a positive difference to East Lothian; identifying key emerging opportunities which will drive this programme.

3.4 A joint project to establish the feasibility of co-location between the Police and East Lothian Council has been underway since February 2016, supported by the Scottish Futures Trust (SFT). This project is one of two SFT 'pathfinders' aimed at creating a more integrated way of delivering services through co-location.

3.5 Cabinet considered a report on this project '*Smarter Working for Better Outcomes: Opportunities for collaborative working with Police Scotland through co-location at John Muir House*' on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2016. The report presented seven options and recommended that further work should be carried out to further explore three options from an operational and financial perspective, firming up on the capital and revenue costs and rental agreement between the Council and Police Scotland. These options were:

- Option 3a): Council Staff and Operational Police use of former Courts, and Community Police in a room within JMH.
- Option 3b): Council Staff and Operational Police use of former Courts, and Community Police integrated within existing Council teams/ locations.
- Option 3c): Council Staff and Operational Police use of former Courts, and Community Police integrated within teams and individuals in a 'Collaborative Hub'.

3.6 Cabinet agreed the following:

- in principle to the co-location of all operational and Community Police currently based in Haddington Police Station to the former Sheriff Courts and John Muir House
- to use this opportunity to enable 'smarter' and more integrated ways of working between the Council, the Police and other partners to support the prevention agenda, to make a positive impact on as broad a range of outcomes as possible and further enhance public service delivery
- that a joint business case between Police Scotland and the Council be developed which delivers fair and equitable benefits to all partners and confirms a mechanism whereby costs (revenue such as rental and/or capital contributions) are apportioned/recharged/recovered in a fair and equitable way, and agree to work with Scottish Futures Trust (SFT) on these matters
- to support immediate consultation around this to inform the joint Business Case to be presented to the Scottish Police Authority (SPA) Finance Committee for SPA approval on or around the 15th December 2016.

3.7 The further exploration of the options resulted in the development of a business case based on Option 3c - Council Staff and Operational Police use of former Courts, and Community Police integrated within teams and individuals in a 'Collaborative Hub'. This option provides the most operationally effective relocation of operational and community police and provides the most integrated approach to developing collaborative working to deliver improved outcomes through prevention and early intervention.

3.8 The joint work on developing the business case and obtaining approval by various Police Scotland and SPA groups has taken longer to complete than originally anticipated by various Police Scotland and SPA groups. However, the business case has now been considered and approved by the SPA Board.

#### **4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 These proposals demonstrate the Council’s commitment to public sector reform and working in partnership around joint asset planning, as well as our ambition to improve service delivery and outcomes for our communities whilst reducing inequality.

#### **5 INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 5.1 No Integrated Impact Assessment has been undertaken on this report. However, a full impact assessment will be carried out on the development of the collaborative hub to ensure the benefits of the moves are fully realised.

#### **6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 Financial – the 2017/18 – 2019/20 capital programme approved by Council, (21<sup>st</sup> February 2017) includes a £1.47m allocation for this project. The Scottish Police Authority will make a contribution of £226,000 to the capital costs and will be charged an annual rental of £58,000 rising to £63,338pa after three years (subject to review).
- 6.2 Personnel – A project team has been established to deliver the project, with support from the Strategic Assets and Capital Plan Management Team and Engineering Services.
- 6.3 Other – None.

#### **7 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 7.1 *Smarter Working for Better Outcomes: Opportunities for collaborative working with Police Scotland through co-location at John Muir House;* Report to Cabinet – 11<sup>th</sup> October 2016.

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