

## **REPORT OF THE HAMPSHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY**

### **BLUE LAMP TRUST**

The Authority has supported the formation of the Blue Lamp Trust and has made an initial contribution of £75,000 to support the start up costs of the Trust including the establishment of a driving school and the provision of funding for crime prevention grants. The Trust will incorporate the current activities of the Bobby Trust which the Authority has supported for many years. Bobby Trust staff visit vulnerable victims of crime, primarily burglaries, and take steps to make properties secure by replacing locks providing crime prevention advice and general security measures such as smoke alarms. As part of the Blue Lamp Trust, its remit will be expanded to assist a wider range of vulnerable victims from anti social behaviour and domestic violence as well as burglaries. The driving school will deliver classroom, simulator and road based training to companies and public customers.

The Trust has been established by the High Sheriff and the Chief Officers of Police and Fire and Rescue and the Chief Executive of Hampshire Chamber of Commerce. Its charitable objectives are to promote the safety, security and well being of people and property in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

### **NEW HEADQUARTERS PROGRAMME**

The Police Authority has reconsidered the decision to approve the construction of a new building at Alpha Park as the solution to the new headquarters programme which was taken at its meeting on 16 February 2010 in the light of the current financial situation. The Authority took into account the emergency budget statement on 22 June 2010 when the government announced that there will be cuts in public sector funding of an average of 25% over 4 years and also the forthcoming Comprehensive Spending Review.

The options considered by the Authority were:

- i. To proceed with the construction of a new building at Alpha Park as approved on 16 February 2010 as all the preparatory work was concluded and the option could proceed immediately at a current indicative cost of £40.3m. However, in the changed financial situation the affordability of this was now a serious concern.
- ii. To do nothing and to remain indefinitely at West Hill, Winchester, however, the existing building is structurally unsound and requires a significant programme of maintenance to be implemented if it is to be retained. Any refurbishment work to the building is constrained by the fact that planning permission has twice been refused to carry out the required works.

- iii. To consider other alternatives which may offer a better value for money solution for the replacement of headquarters and one site had been identified which appeared to offer better value for money.

Following consideration of all the options available the Authority agreed not to proceed at this time with the development of Alpha Park as the new Headquarters but would wait the outcome of the ongoing Estates Review due to report in November 2010 which will include further information regarding the alternative site already identified.

### **SOUTH EAST REGIONAL COLLABORATION ON AIR SUPPORT**

The Authority has considered the benefits highlighted in the business case for the proposed South East Region Air Support Unit. The business case supported the Authority's aims around securing value for money, operational capability and collaborative working.

The three force collaboration with Surrey Police and Sussex Police which has been agreed will provide effective air support for the Hampshire Constabulary force area. Currently Hampshire Constabulary operates a fixed wing aircraft based at Lee-on-Solent whereas the collaboration model provides two rotary wing aircraft based at Shoreham and RAF Odiham.

The development of the South East Air Consortium offers considerable financial and operational benefits as follows:

- (a) Financial savings for Hampshire of £201k in year one rising to £279k in year two. This represents a reduction in cost of 21% for Hampshire. The collaborating forces will in total benefit to the amount of £8.141m over 5 years. Hampshire will retain the proceeds from the sale of their Aircraft.
- (b) Operational benefits including improved efficiency of air support delivery across the three forces; regional alignment with the strategic objectives of the National Air Strategy; more efficient tasking of valued yet expensive resources; enhanced national compliance; a more consistent approach to adopting best practice; and an enhanced collaborative approach to the delivery of specialist protective service support.

It is intended that the implementation of the new arrangements will commence in October 2010 for completion by April 2011.

Councillor Mrs J Rayment  
Chair  
Hampshire Police Authority

August 2010