

COMMITTEE: GRAMPIAN JOINT POLICE BOARD

DATE: 7 SEPTEMBER 2012

TITLE OF REPORT: NEW ABERDEEN CUSTODY SUITE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update the Members of the Grampian Joint Police Board on progress made and the current position in relation to this project.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 2.1 Members are asked to note the contents of this report.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The financial position remains as reported at the Grampian Joint Police Board meeting of 8 June 2012. A predicted maximum price of £11.89m has been agreed with hub North Scotland. When other costs are taken into consideration, the total cost breakdown is as follows;

Predicted Maximum Price	; £ 11,890,000
Site purchase	; £ 1,700,000
Estimated IT / communications costs	; £ 400,000
Estimated TOTAL	; £ 13,990,000

- 3.2 Of this figure, £50,000 has already been paid, leaving a balance of £13.94 million. There is £13.9M in the Force's Capital Plan with £5M in 2012/13 and £8.9M in 13/14. With the programme for the build being met with the receipt of planning consent, £5M of expenditure (including the land purchase) is on track to be spent on the project this financial year.
- 3.3 Stage 2 of the process will see the large majority of the detailed work submitted for competitive tender. This is likely to see the actual price reduce from the predicted maximum, but cannot exceed that figure unless Grampian Police change the specifications.

4. SERVICE AND COMMUNITY IMPACT

- 4.1 The new-build will significantly reduce the current level of risk accepted by the Force in terms of both the current facility and the transportation of custodies. Appropriate resources can then be redirected to support the weekend operational response and then critically reduce the impact on Local Policing Teams.
- 4.2 The provision of a base for the Kittybrewster Local Policing Team (LPT) within the LPT area is seen as a significant benefit by local residents and supports the Force Community Focus objective in addition to following the "Local Policing Closer to You" theme of recent years.

5. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The creation of new custody facilities at Kittybrewster provides an opportunity to consider the future use of the existing cells at the Queen Street building building. In particular, opportunities can be explored with Criminal Justice partners such as the Scottish Courts Service, Scottish Prison Service and G4S. The office space at Kittybrewster also provides excellent estate rationalisation opportunities.

6. REPORT

- 6.1 At the Grampian Joint Police Board meeting of 8 June 2012, Members approved the design and costs associated with the proposed new custody facility at Kittybrewster. Plans were approved for an application for Planning Permission.
- 6.2 Plans were duly submitted to the Local Authority and a period of consultation with statutory consultees and other interested parties followed. It was anticipated that, owing to the nature of the building, a number of objections would be received and the application would, as a result, be referred to the Planning Committee.
- 6.3 Contrary to expectations, no objections were received. This is being attributed, at least in part, to the well-targeted community engagement that was carried out by the Project Team, allaying the fears of local residents and the School Board at Kittybrewster Primary School. As a result, the Local Authority Planning team were able to deal with the matter as day-to-day business and the Force received Planning Approval for the Project on 10 August 2012.
- 6.4 The legal details of the land purchase can now be concluded, the agreement having been made subject to the granting of Planning Permission.
- 6.5 Intensive work is now underway for the Stage 2 process, during which the fine design detail required for cost tendering is carried out. The tenders will be agreed and the legal construction contract signed off prior to construction commencing in early November 2012. In the meantime, demolition of the existing warehouse is due to commence on 10 September 2012.
- 6.6 The project is still on track to see the construction completed in November 2013 and occupied the following month.

7. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

N/A

Chief Constable
27 August 2012