

**THE OFFICE OF POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER  
FOR DERBYSHIRE  
DECISION RECORD**

<b>Request for PCC Decision</b>	<b>Received in OPCC Date: 22 January 2019</b>	<b>OPCC Ref: 13/ 2019</b>
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**OPERATIONAL AND FINANCIAL EFFICIENCIES – CLOSURE OF BUXTON  
CUSTODY SUITE**

**Executive Summary:**

The report provided detail concerning the proposal to close Buxton Custody Suite.

**Decision**

1. Assurance was gained that the Force was working to mitigate any adverse consequences arising from the Chief Constables decision to cease using Buxton Custody Suite and the introduction of a revised approach to the delivery of the custody provision for the North of county. The Commissioner gained assurance that resources arising from the closure would be re-invested into policing in the High Peak thereby improving efficiency and effectiveness, giving a greater visible presence and maintaining public confidence.

**Declaration**

I confirm that I have considered whether or not I have any personal or prejudicial interest in this matter and take the proposed decision in compliance with the Code of Conduct for the Police and Crime Commissioner for Derbyshire. Any such interests are recorded below.

None

The above request has my approval.

<b>Signature</b> Hardyal Dhindsa	<b>Date 22 January 2019</b>
<b>PUBLICATION SCHEME CONSIDERATIONS</b>	
<b>Is the related Section B report to be published</b> <b>Yes</b> The report contains commercially sensitive information.	

<b>Is the publication of this approval to be deferred</b> <b>No</b> If Yes, provide reasons below <b>Date to be deferred to –</b> NB Statutory Instrument 2011/3050 (as amended by SI 2012/2479) states that: <i>all decisions made by a PCC are in the types of information that must “be published as soon as practicable after it becomes available to the elected local policing body”.</i>
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<b>OFFICER APPROVAL</b>	
<b>Chief Executive or Nominee:</b> I have been consulted about the proposal and confirm that financial, legal and equalities advice has been taken into account in the preparation of this report. I am satisfied that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the Police and Crime Commissioner	
Name    Andrew Dale	Date 22 January 2019

# STRATEGIC PRIORITIES ASSURANCE BOARD

<b>REPORT TITLE</b>	OPERATIONAL AND FINANCIAL EFFICIENCIES – CLOSURE OF BUXTON CUSTODY SUITE
<b>REPORT BY</b>	CHIEF CONSTABLE
<b>DATE</b>	18 MARCH 2019

## **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

To provide a special report concerning the proposal to close Buxton Custody Suite

## **ATTACHMENTS**

1. None

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

To determine if the PCC can gain assurance that the closure of Buxton Custody Suite and the introduction of a revised approach to the delivery of the custody provision for the North of the county will allow custody resources to be re-invested in to High Peak policing thereby improving efficiency and effectiveness and maintaining public confidence.

## **CONTACT FOR ENQUIRIES**

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## 1. **OVERVIEW**

- 1.1 Force wide and nationally, arrests have been reducing in recent years, in the main due to the need to demonstrate 'necessity for arrest', the increased use of voluntary interviews and reduced return bail.
- 1.2 At Buxton, arrests have reduced so significantly that often the custody suite does not have any detainees at all for over a day at a time. When comparisons are made to Chesterfield and Derby suites, the significance is amplified. In fact, on average, Buxton custody manages less than 10% of detainees who are managed at Derby.
- 1.3 As a result of these demand reductions, Derbyshire Constabulary commissioned an independent review of its custody provision. The assessment period was August 2016 to October 2017.
- 1.4 **Key Findings**
- 1.5 Average weekly detainee numbers at Buxton have reduced from 36 to 17, a 51% reduction in demand. (Buxton detainee numbers have actually reduced further since the review, from November 2017 to October 18 show the average detainees reduced a further 25%).
- 1.6 During this same period, there were no detainees in the custody suite more than one third of the time.
- 1.7 Only 12.7% of the time there were more prisoners than staff members.
- 1.8 Of the 36 custody suites nationally, that were considered as part of this review, Buxton has the lowest demand by far, only half as busy as the next busiest suite.
- 1.9 To ensure the most accurate picture can be presented, a review of the previous 6 months data revealed Buxton Custody Suite only manage 6.5% of the total detainee's county wide.
- 1.10 Within the period 2/11/18 to 9/11/18 a total of 8 detainees were taken to Buxton Suite and on two of those dates there were no detainees during the entire 24-hour periods and three dates with only one detainee.
- 1.11 **Options**
- 1.12 **(1) No change – Retain Buxton Custody Suite**
- 1.13 The constabulary's current three suite formation provides good coverage with arresting officers being no more than 40 minutes away from their nearest suite.
- 1.14 Based on the independent review, maintaining a suite at Buxton is not financially

viable and does not appear to present value for money for the taxpayer.

- 1.15 The suite is in need of refurbishment at a minimal cost of £293,000.
- 1.16 This option is therefore not recommended.
- 1.17 **(2) Close Buxton Suite and move to a two-suite model (Chesterfield and Derby)**
- 1.18 This option would see High Peak officers travelling up to one hour with detainees. The increased travel time would impact on the ability to respond locally as a significant amount of time would be taken to transport detainees out of the local policing area.
- 1.19 There is also a concern regarding officer and detainee safety when transporting violent detainees for longer periods. Due to the travel time this is not the preferred option.
- 1.20 This option is therefore not recommended
- 1.21 **(3) Close Buxton Suite and split demand between Chesterfield and Greater Manchester Police (GMP)**
- 1.22 This option would see a weekly average of 7.8 detainees from Glossop, Hayfield, New Mills, Whaley Bridge travelling to GMP and 9.5 detainees travelling from Chinley, Chapel, Hope Valley and Buxton travelling to Chesterfield.
- 1.23 No journey (congestion permitting) would see travel times exceed 45 minutes.
- 1.24 Whilst from some areas there is an increase in travel time, other areas will see a decrease, for example Glossop to Ashton is 9 miles, compared to 16 miles to Buxton.
- 1.25 It is acknowledged that without modifying the current structure and processes the increase in travel time will mean officers are away from the local area for greater periods, both impacting on the ability to respond to calls for service and creating a greater risk to those officers who remain.
- 1.26 The independent review, after taking account all relevant factors recommend an increase of 2.2 full time equivalent posts into the Custody Investigation Unit (CIU), located at Chesterfield Police Station. The benefit of this will allow officers to return to the High Peak quicker than they would have if visiting the Buxton Custody Suite due to not dealing with the detainees themselves. The investigation will be managed by the CIU. Overall this represents an actual increase in time spent in the community by High Peak response officer's

equivalent to 1.8 Full time officers.

- 1.27 Considering the impact for investigating officers (CID), there will be an increase in travel time represented in a loss of 0.3 investigating officers. These officers do not routinely respond to calls for service.
- 1.28 It is also acknowledged that both Derbyshire Constabulary and Greater Manchester Police have operational differences. However, consultation has taken place and all of the issues highlighted have solutions to the extent where both Derbyshire and GMP do not consider there are any operational barriers that would prevent Derbyshire officers operating within a GMP setting. Within the proposed agreement with GMP their aim will be to guarantee cell space for Derbyshire officers.
- 1.29 There will be an increase in cell usage at Chesterfield Divisional Headquarters of 0.7 to 6.8 cells in use at any one time. This is considered manageable.
- 1.30 The chance of further arrests taking place before officers have returned to their local area would increase slightly from 1.3 occurrences per week to 1.9.
- 1.31 **Financial Overview**
- 1.32 The closure of Buxton Custody Suite could realise a saving of £195,233 through the reduction in custody resources, building and maintenance running costs and suite expenses. The saving includes the additional expenditure to GMP and the increased resources to the Custody Investigation Unit.
- 1.33 The immediate refurbishment of Buxton Custody Suite will not be required saving a further £293,000.
- 1.34 Any savings made as a consequence to closing Buxton Custody Suite will be reinvested into local policing.
- 1.35 Engage and Reform will invest an additional 9.3 officers and staff specifically into the High Peak to support and enhance local policing. An additional 52 officers and staff are also allocated to North Division, including the creation of a North Roads Policing Hub and additional rural crime resources, enhancing the policing footprint.
- 1.36 There is a risk of unknown future demand; however, a number of contingencies to cope with gradual long-term increase could include the use of Glossop and Ripley Suites, increased resources within Chesterfield and Derby Suites, further collaboration with neighbouring forces and the potential for a new build third

suite.

- 1.37 In the event of GMP terminating the agreement with Derbyshire for the use of their suites, the independent review has considered the impact of this and the increase in demand for the Chesterfield Suite. It has concluded that Chesterfield could cope with all detainees from the High Peak; of course, this does create the issue of travel time and associated risks. Any withdrawal from the contract with GMP should provide sufficient time to employ one of the aforementioned contingencies.
- 1.38 Removing Buxton Custody Suite does present a further issue from a business continuity perspective should there be an issue with more than one suite. However, such an event would be a challenge for most forces and plans already exist to assist should this eventually occur, including mutual aid arrangements on a short-term basis.
- 1.39 **Summary**
- 1.40 During a time when demands on policing are constantly increasing and changing, it is essential to achieve maximum efficiencies both operationally and financially. With this perspective when considering the current status of Buxton Custody Suite, it is difficult to justify its continued usage, when considering the financial implications weighed against service improvements from a reinvestment and increase in response capability in the high peak area.
- 1.41 Therefore, the preferred option for Derbyshire Constabulary is to close Buxton Custody Suite and move to option 3 as detailed above.
- 1.42 Should this be the preferred option, a minimum of 3 months would be required to install and formalise processes within GMP suites and close Buxton Suite.