

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

<b>Request for PCC Decision</b>	<b>Received in OPCC Date: 15 April 2015</b>	<b>OPCC Ref: 23/15</b>
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**Title: OPTIONS FOR FIREARMS RANGE**

**Executive Summary: To be completed by PCC Specialist lead**

Part of the decision to build a new joint police and fire headquarters, officers have been exploring options for a replacement firearms range.

The report considers a number of options:

Option 1	Do nothing ie keep range where it is within existing specification
Option 2	Extend and Refurbish existing range to create a new 50 meter, 4 lane range.
Option 3	Train off-site using an external firearms range
Option 4A	Build a standalone range
Option 4B	Build a range as a part of a Joint Training Facility with the Fire Service on existing land at Force Headquarters.
Option 5	Build an Open Air Range

The costs and risks associated with each option were detailed within the report and based on the appraisal the preferred option is to construct a new firearms range (option 4), detailed within the report.

**Decision**

**Resolved that**

Option 4, the provision of a new firearms range as part of a joint training facility be approved.

To fund the new facility at an estimated cost of £3.2m from borrowing be approved.

To appoint joint consultants with DFRS to manage the project be approved.

To approve the sale of part of the workshops land to DFRS to enable the project to proceed.

**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.

(Recorded interests: None )

The above request has my approval.

**Signature**

ALAN CHARLES

**Date**

20 April 2015

**PUBLICATION SCHEME CONSIDERATIONS**

**Is the related Section B report to be published** Yes

If no, please indicate relevant exemption

**Is the publication of this approval to be deferred** No

If Yes, provide reasons below

**Date to be deferred to –**

NB Statutory Instrument 2011/3050 (as amended by SI 2012/2479) states that: *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”.*

**OFFICER APPROVAL**

**Chief Executive or Nominee:**

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 HELEN BOFFY

Date 20 April 2015

**STRATEGIC GOVERNANCE BOARD**  
**20 APRIL 2015**  
**REPORT OF THE CHIEF CONSTABLE**

**8A: OPTIONS FOR FIREARMS RANGE**

**1. FIREARMS RANGE**

1.1 To consider the options for replacing the existing Firearms range.

**2. INFORMATION AND ANALYSIS**

**2.1 BACKGROUND**

2.2 As part of the decision to build a new joint police and fire headquarters officers have been exploring options for a replacement firearms range, which is currently located within the basement of the existing headquarters building.

2.3 The existing range is some 45 years old and is licensed up to 27 June 2016, when it will be subject to a further inspection.

2.4 Over recent years the force has struggled to meet national standards for firearms ranges and have also had to spend some £150,000 upgrading the range to both meet these requirement and new health and safety measures.

2.5 Given the age of the range, its size and location it is getting increasingly hard to meet both new health and safety as well as firearms training requirements.

2.6 These require much larger ranges than the footprint of the current range along with better airflow to disperse pollutants and the ability to drive onto the range to teach certain firearms tactics.

2.7 This has meant that in recent years the force has had to carry out some external training as well as closing the range for certain periods, while remedial works have been carried out.

2.8 Regardless of the decision to build a new headquarters the force would therefore have had to consider the need for a replacement firearms range for the above reasons.

2.9 This report considers a number of potential options for the replacement range.

**3. REVIEW OF OPTIONS**

3.1 The following options for the replacement of the Firearms Range have been considered.

Option 1	Do nothing ie keep range where it is within existing specification
Option 2	Extend and Refurbish existing range to create a new 50 meter, 4 lane range.
Option 3	Train off-site using an external firearms range
Option 4A	Build a standalone range

Option 4B	Build a range as a part of a Joint Training Facility with the Fire Service on existing land at Force Headquarters.
Option 5	Build an Open Air Range

3.2 A detailed appraisal has been undertaken of the operational impact and costs associated with each of the above options.

3.3 The financial cost of each of the options is set out in the table below.

	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4	Option 5
<b>£'000</b>	No Change	Refurbish	Rental	Indoor Range	Open Air Range
<b>Capital Costs</b>	525	3,450	-	3,900	2,750
<b>Ongoing Costs</b>	80	50	256	50	100

3.4 All options, except for the use of an external range, carry the risk that the force may not have a firearms range in place prior to the demolition of the old range.

3.5 The period of unavailability is smallest for the options involving the construction of either an enclosed or outdoor range.

3.6 The external range (Option 3) carries its own unique risks, especially around the ability to source a suitable external range within a reasonable travelling distance.

3.7 A number of the options carry health and safety risks. This is especially the case for Option 1 that retains the existing footprint and means that the range will still be located in a basement area that is difficult to ventilate. There are different health and safety risks associated with an open air range (Option 5), mainly around protecting any members of the public, who may be close to the range site. Again these are smallest with a completely new enclosed range (Option 4).

3.8 In risks terms it can therefore be said that:-

- Option 4 (Indoor range) is the most future proof option and as a result it is the most expensive option. It enables the force to have full control over its training venue and therefore plan the firearms training effectively. As this would be built on force owned land, it should limit the time when the force will have to manage without a firearms on-site facility.
- Option 3 (rental) is by far the cheapest option. Unfortunately there are no suitable ranges within Derbyshire, which makes this option less viable. Regardless of availability, this option also carries a large risk around being unable to acquire suitable venues at the time they are needed.
- Option 5 (open air range) would provide the force with a viable option, but without having immediate access to a suitable location may cause delays in the implementation of a new range build. Given that training needs to be carried out throughout the year with little down time, there is also a risk that weather conditions could impact on the availability of the open air range, with the need to identify other facilities at short notice.
- Option 2 (refurbishment of the existing range) would provide a viable option but carries a risk during the construction phase as the force would have to train completely externally for at least 18 months and at the end would only have a 50m 4 lane range, which may have limitations if weapon formats change as previously discussed. This option is therefore less future proof

than the option of building an entirely new range and may require further investment in the future.

- Option 1 (do nothing/limited refurbishment) is hardly a viable solution and is unlikely to meet health and safety requirements in the medium to long term

#### **4. SUMMARY FINANCIAL AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

- 4.1 On the basis of the above appraisal, the preferred option is to construct a new Firearms Range (Option 4) as part of a joint training facility that can be developed with the Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service.
- 4.2 This will enable some of the welfare facilities to be shared between the two organisations and help reduce the overall constructions costs for both the Police and Fire Service.
- 4.3 To enable the range project to progress in conjunction with DFRS training facility an area of land needs to be transferred to DFRS ownership. Both organisations have used valuers to agree that the value of this land at £825,000. This will reduce the overall cost of the range to some £3.2m
- 4.4 In addition to the above costs an indoor range provides the greatest likelihood for the delivery of some £840,000 additional savings through the rationalisation of firearms training under the PBB plan.
- 4.5 Given the fact that considerable financial resources are committed to the New Joint Headquarters building, it is proposed that this project is funded from borrowing. This will be kept under review depending on the availability of other resources.
- 4.6 The cost of borrowing to fund this facility could be in the region of £250,000 per annum over 25 years, although this would reduce over time.

#### **4.7 NEXT STEPS**

- 4.8 If the recommendation is accepted, it is important that the project commences as soon as possible to provide the greatest opportunity for the new range to be in place prior to the decommissioning of the old range.
- 4.9 A joint project with DFRS would mean that the Constabulary would share the cost of design consultants (already appointed by DFRS) and a single contractor would be employed with obvious savings to both forces in preliminaries etc.
- 4.10 As noted above DFRS are well advanced with their proposals, however, they recognise the potential for further savings to both forces by combining the buildings and as such are prepared to allow there project delivery to slip to allow the Force to effectively catch up. The outline delivery program is shown below:-

Pre application submitted by DFRS	31 January 2015	Complete
Meet with planners to discuss the project	26 February	
Pre application advice expected by	31 March	
Submit full planning application by	May 2015	
Planning consent to be received by	31 July	
Complete tender documents by	31 July	
Out to Tender on	1 August	

Return of tender on	16 October	
Appoint contractor	13 November	
Start on Site	7 December 2015	
Completion	16 December 2016	
Occupation by	31 January 2017	

**5. RECOMMENDATION**

5.1 It is recommended that the Commissioner approves:-

Option 4 the provision of a new firearms range as part of a joint training facility

5.1.1 To fund the new facility at an estimated cost of £3.2m from borrowing.

5.1.2 The appointment of joint consultants with DFRS to manage the project.

5.1.3 The sale of part of the workshops land to DFRS to enable the project to proceed.

5.2 The Commissioner is also asked to note that as a joint project it is likely that a single contractor will be appointed to undertake this joint project with Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service.

**6. IMPLICATIONS**

**All implications are assessed and scored to the table below.**

**HIGH – supporting explanation and narrative required and to be contained within the report**

**MEDIUM – narrative to be contained within the report at the discretion of the author**

**LOW – no narrative required**

	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH
Crime & Disorder		√	
Environmental		√	
Equality & Diversity		√	
Financial			√
Health & Safety			√
Human Rights	√		
Legal		√	
Personnel		√	

<b>Contact details in the event of enquiries</b>	<b>Name: Chief Superintendent Sunita Gamblin</b> <b>External telephone number: 0300 122 4196</b> <b>Email address: sgbenquiries@derbyshire.pnn.police.uk</b>
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