

Councillors' Briefing Note

No. 149

Department: Corporate Directors

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Innovative sharing of resources reduces costs and provides ideal location for South Wiltshire University Technical College

We thought it would be helpful to provide an update on the proposals for a new South Wiltshire University Technical College and Wiltshire Police's move in Salisbury.

At last week's Salisbury Area Board, Police Crime Commissioner Angus Macpherson, Inspector Andy Noble and Deputy Chief Constable Mike Veale answered questions regarding the move and allayed fears that front-line services would be affected.

A public meeting involving the Police Crime Commissioner (PCC), Wiltshire Police, Wiltshire Council and the South Wiltshire University Technical College (UTC) will now take place on Wednesday, July 17 at The Guildhall in Salisbury from 6.30pm where people can find out more about the many elements to the proposals.

These include a new UTC opening in Salisbury in September 2014, subject to planning permission and agreement of heads of terms.

It involves the PCC granting a lease to us, as the local education authority, for the use of the current Salisbury Police Station as a UTC. The council will sub-let the building to the UTC, which would pay a minimal (peppercorn) rent. The UTC will open in September 2014, providing specialist technical education in science and engineering for more than 600 14-18 year-olds.

The proposal, which was agreed on 19 June, by Angus Macpherson and Jane Scott will have an impact on our city centre premises.

The UTC would take on the lease this November (2013), and it is proposed that the current police presence in Salisbury will be relocated to our premises at Bourne Hall offices and a front desk at Salisbury Library.

A public policing presence in Salisbury is important to the public and it is vital that there is a public access point in the city centre. The longer term view is that front counter services will be provided in the Salisbury Community Campus.

This sharing of our building and resources will result in efficiencies and savings as well as more accessible and customer focused public services. The proposal has the added benefit that it will provide a permanent location for the UTC avoiding costly temporary accommodation whilst a new purpose built facility was provided. By facilitating this arrangement it ensures that the South Wiltshire UTC opens as planned in September 2014 in fully-refurbished premises.”

You are all aware of the on-going budget cuts, along with increasing demand for local services. Working with Wiltshire Police, as one of our strategic partners, will help to improve the services provided to local communities. An example of this is the co-location model, which is working very well at Monkton Park in Chippenham.

We will keep you updated on this matter as the plans for implementing this proposal are developed and there is a better understanding of what this will mean for our Bourne Hill offices and Salisbury library. As the plan is to relocate the police services by November, we will schedule updates over the next few months to talk through the co-location and what this will mean.

In the meantime if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact one of us.

Carlton Brand, Carolyn Godfrey, Maggie Rae, Corporate Directors.