

INDEPENDENT CUSTODY VISITING PANEL MEETING – 26 JULY 2010

ESTATES & BUILDING SERVICES UPDATE ON CUSTODY RELATED PROJECTS / WORKS

REPORT BY THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To inform the Panel of building projects and works related to custody provision either recently completed or currently in progress.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The following projects are being managed by the Estates and Building Services Department and specifically relate to the provision of custody.

2. BOURNEMOUTH CUSTODY PROJECT

- 2.1 This scheme involves the construction and commissioning of a 34 cell capacity custody centre and combined reception point for the site. The building will adjoin the existing Divisional Headquarters and replace the existing 18 cell facility to the south of Madeira Road. The new custody centre has been designed in compliance with the 2005 Home Office Design Guide for Custody Suites and significantly improves both the standard and capacity of custody facilities for the Bournemouth conurbation.

- 2.2 The contract commenced in early February 2009 and it is anticipated that a completion date of November 2010 will be met. The existing facilities in Bournemouth Police Station will remain in operational use up to this completion date.

- 2.3 Construction work on the custody block is now well advanced and it remains the intention to provide a sample cell to finished condition. A visit has been scheduled for August 2010 to which Mrs Emery as Chairman of this Panel has been invited.

3. POOLE JOINT EMERGENCY SERVICES BUILDING (DESPI)

- 3.1 This project including the provision of a 28 cell capacity custody centre, together with police station, property stores, and office accommodation for both Police and Fire & Rescue Personnel was handed over to the Authority in early December 2009 and has now been in operational use for approximately seven months. Any building snagging works or other operational improvements within the custody area are continuing to be pursued where identified and where any remedial action is required.

4. HMIC CUSTODY INSPECTION

- 4.1 One of the major issues arising from the recent HMIC Custody Inspection was the failure of the standard hatches used in all of our custody units. As no approved alternatives are currently available, the Home Office has agreed to fund the installation of two prototype cell door hatches (from different manufacturers), which will be installed at Weymouth Custody and then assessed by both Dorset Police and the Home Office prior to their potential approval for use. One of these sample hatches has been installed but production difficulties have delayed the installation of the second hatch. The Home Office have stated that they may invite an alternative supplier to provide the second sample hatch if the delay is prolonged.
- 4.2 Once there has been an opportunity to assess both prototype hatches the available options will be further discussed at the next meeting of the Strategic Custody Board on which the Police Authority is represented.

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 There are no other works or property related activity of significance currently being undertaken across the custody estate. As and when new works or projects take place or come forward they will similarly be reported in future update reports to the Panel.

6. RECOMMENDATION

- 6.1 Members are asked to note the report.

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