

# MOTION ON NOTICE

City Council 16 November 2020



## A New Police Station for Plymouth

The city of Plymouth has been badly let down by the severe cutback of policing and criminal justice resources in recent years by the Conservative government and the policies of the Conservative Police & Crime Commissioner. The impact has been damaging with less police on the streets, fewer prosecutions, not enough investment in crime prevention, and worst of all, a doubling of violent crime over the past 4 years. Covid-19 has forced the police to address new challenges that will stretch them ever more until the pandemic is over. Now is the time to invest for the future. Amidst our continued efforts to drive investment for economic growth in our city, we need investment in our police. Not just more officers on the street, better community policing and improved access to police services for our people, but a new police station that can meet our city's needs for community and business safety into the future.

A new local police station was built at Devonport in 2013 with significantly improved environmental standards and operational benefits but with no public access for enquiry or reporting. Beacon Park Road police station was mothballed in 2015. Meanwhile the city's two main police stations at Crownhill and Charles Cross have remained largely unimproved on their (60's) design and environmental standards and their questionable suitability for modern crime investigation, custody provision and other services.

The Police and Crime Commissioner's capital programme has provided a new Exeter Police Station and Devon Operational HQ at Middlemoor to house around 450 officers on a wide range of duties. It is to be commended as being in the UK's top 10% of sustainable buildings, producing 22% less carbon emissions than a standard building as well as providing a "state of the art" custody centre. There has also been considerable investment in other new police stations including Cornwall Police HQ at Bodmin, Liskeard Police Station, with Okehampton and Camborne stations nearing completion, and planning underway for a new station in Barnstaple. The estimated capital spend on these projects amounts to around £45m.

Plymouth has substantive policing challenges, not surprisingly as we are the largest urban centre in Devon and Cornwall. Our Plymouth Police Command has around 430 uniformed officers and around 35 civilian staff and individuals from partner organisations. Plymouth also hosts units providing critical support to many force-wide capabilities such as Armed Response, 999 call handling, and multi-agency functions such as the Public Protection Unit. Yet our police estate has lacked the investment needed to address these challenges into the long term.

It is time for Plymouth to have the modern police infrastructure that it deserves, to improve its operational effectiveness locally and force-wide, and to bring improved environmental standards that are necessary across our city to help this Council deliver our ambitious Climate Emergency Action Plan hand in hand with our many partners.

In consideration of the above, this Council agrees that the Leader of the Council:

- (a) Will write to the Police and Crime Commissioner to request that the police estate requirements for the city and for its provision of significant force-wide capabilities are prioritised and given full consideration in the future police estate strategy. The purpose is to ensure Plymouth can meet its policing needs most cost-effectively and sustainably into the future.
- (b) Will offer every assistance to the Commissioner to help coordinate and establish proposals for any new police building(s) in Plymouth. It will be vital to ensure that any proposals are integral to the wider programme of capital investment underway to drive our economic development, public safety, and sustainable future.

**Proposer:** Cllr Gareth Derrick

**Signature** “By email”

**Seconder:** Cllr Sally Haydon

**Signature** “By email”