

Why do you need a new Police Station at Clough Road?

The new police station will bring together police officers and staff who are currently located at different sites across Hull. This will improve the operational efficiency of officers, staff and property. One of the main drivers has been to replace the custody suite currently located at Queens Gardens Police Station which is 50 years old and can no longer be improved to meet new Home Office Guidance. Many of the functions which support custody, such as detectives, criminal justice and property, need to be close by. The existing Queens Gardens Police Station needs upgrading and major investment if it is to continue to be used effectively. It is currently very expensive to run and maintain. It was therefore decided to move everything to a new building designed to meet the needs of modern policing.

Why are you going ahead with the project when you have to make savings?

By building a new facility at Clough Road we are able to consolidate our property portfolio, moving out of buildings which are expensive to operate, inefficient in terms of space and no longer fit to meet our needs. The new building is purpose designed and will be built to modern energy efficient standards. This will enable us to make considerable savings on running costs such as rents, rates, energy, cleaning and maintenance. If we don't do this project we will have to continue to operate out of the same inefficient buildings, with rising costs. We would also be left with the problem of a custody suite which would still need to be relocated.

How much is it going to cost?

A budget of under £30 million has been allocated for the project and is already built into our financial plans. This is not just for the construction of the building but also covers the cost of the land, the preliminary ground works (carried out by Hull based contractor, Halls Construction Ltd) and fees, e.g. design, archaeology, surveys, contamination investigation and flood risk assessment. It also includes the cost of fitting out the new building and moving from the existing sites, including Queens Gardens Police Station.

Why spend so much money on this project if the Police have to save £30 million?

The money to pay for the capital project will be borrowed over 30 years. Simply cutting the project will not achieve the ongoing savings that the Force has to make over the next four years. The yearly cost of the borrowing is offset by the other savings the project will create. This is on the basis that we would still need to upgrade Queens Gardens Police Station and build a new custody suite if we didn't build the new Police Station at Clough Road.

How will the building affect Council Tax?

As we have been planning this project since 2007, the cost of the project is already included within the financial plans of the Authority and Force. Therefore, there will be no increase in your Council Tax to pay for this project.

Would it be possible to upgrade Queens Gardens Police Station?

The custody suite at Queens Gardens Police Station is unable to be improved any further to meet new Home Office Guidance. This is one of the main reasons why the Force needs to move out of Queens Gardens. The cost of building a new custody facility elsewhere and refurbishing the offices for future use will cost roughly the same as constructing the new facility. However, we would not be able to achieve the level of efficiency benefits, particularly around energy efficiency. Additionally, the Force would continue to have to operate out of old buildings with old services which require additional maintenance costs.

Will the new building make any savings?

Yes. The new police station will be cheaper to heat and operate than the existing facilities it will replace. The building is very energy efficient, and will generate more than 30% of its own energy needs on site. Given increasing energy costs this will produce savings which will increase over time.

Building maintenance will also reduce as there will be no need to undertake the continuous work required to ensure that the older properties remain fit for use. We will also be making savings by moving from two rented properties, disposing of two of our most expensive sites to operate, and there will be operational efficiency savings because of consolidating staff on to one site.

Why have you chosen the site at Clough Road?

Operationally the site at Clough Road enables easy access across Hull. It is close to the geographical centre of Hull, and will make it easier to respond to the majority of the "hotspot" incident areas.

A study of possible sites was undertaken during 2008. The sites were required to be within a 1 mile radius of the Clough Road area, west of the River Hull to avoid bridge delays and north of the City centre to reduce flood risk. The site was also required to be on a main arterial route for convenient access to the City centre, and the north and west of Hull. The chosen site, on Clough Road, provided the best option from the five sites available at the time.

Will it take longer to respond to 999 calls?

No. The site at Clough Road enables quicker access to most areas of Hull.

The geographic relocation will improve response, save officer time and reduce mileage. Currently the Incident Response Team is located at Bransholme Police Station. This team will be relocated to Clough Road from where they have easier access to all of the area covered by the Team

Will there still be a police station in the City Centre?

Yes. A police base will remain in the City Centre. This will include the Neighbourhood Policing Team, Public Order and a public enquiry reception. Many people report crime by phone and this will not be affected by the move to the new facility.

What will it mean to East Hull if Tower Grange Police Station closes?

Tower Grange Police Station does not provide neighbourhood policing but has a public enquiry reception. After the Clough Road Police Station becomes operational, it is planned to close Tower Grange. Alternative public access will be provided at police bases nearby. Further details will be released closer to the time.

Will you be using local contractors to build the new Police Station?

We will use as many local contractors and suppliers as we can throughout the project. It is not possible to provide everything from within Hull or even the area served by Humberside Police. You will see a mixture of contractors from both within and outside of the area.

Will the development create local jobs?

The main contractor has been set specific targets on employing local people, including work experience and getting a number of unemployed back into work. The sub-contractors will also buy some of their materials locally and employ local people. Wherever possible we will seek to support the local economy.

It was reported that you are going to spend £25,000 on public art. Are you?

No, despite what you may have heard, we never were. It would not be justified, particularly in this 'age of austerity'.

How will the Clough Road area be affected whilst the building work is underway?

This is a big construction project and building work will take nearly two years to complete. The site has its own access from Clough Road and will mean an increase in traffic. However, every effort will be made by the contractor to avoid disruption on the main road and to have materials delivered outside of the rush hours.

The contractor will also be using the 'considerate contractor' scheme to keep noise, dust and waste to a minimum as well as keeping the public informed of progress and any potential disruptions.

Police Authority Specific FAQs

With responsibility for ensuring an 'efficient and effective police force' do you really believe this is the best way to spend money in these times of austerity?

Yes as the new custody suite and operational base will create a more efficient and effective police force for a number of reasons. One reason being that the site rationalises spending on buildings; currently we have a number of sites across the city that are not fit for purpose and are a drain on resources, to fix them up would cost millions and they are not going to last for around 50 years like the Clough Road building will. This building will be very fuel efficient, it will generate renewable energy to minimise energy costs, those savings over the years will add up. It also means we can sell on other buildings and move teams to one centralised location. Moving teams to the very centre of Hull means they can respond to the communities call outs more efficiently.

Why is the Police Authority signing off such a large project with only one year remaining?

We want to have the best product possible to hand over to the Police and Crime Commissioner if the Bill is given Royal Assent, that includes ensuring the Chief Constable has a solid policing plan in place which reflects the views and concerns of the local communities, with targets and measures the Commissioner can use to assess performance, ensuring facilities such as the custody suite are up to Home Office standards, and that operational bases are sufficient for police officers to do their jobs as efficiently and effectively as possible.

What will happen if a Police and Crime Commissioner is appointed and they do not agree with the project?

I'm sure the Police and Crime Commissioner will want to review the use of all resources after their appointment; however I'm certain that when they understand the rationale, planning and the requirement for this project they will support it. The decision has been made by the Police Authority and the building is due for completion in Autumn 2012.

Why has the Police Authority agreed to this when the Force are losing police officers and staff under the CSR 2015 Plan?

Both the savings plan and the Clough Road project are not over night decisions, a lot of thought and work that has gone in to each, both with the same aim of ensuring the best possible policing service for local people. The savings plan is a short term plan to balance the budget; the new operational policing base is planning for a modern and efficient police force for the future.