

A Proposal for Clackmannanshire Council and Police Scotland to Share Office Space: Frequently Asked Questions

Why now?

Clackmannanshire Alliance partners are committed to building on a culture of continuous improvement as a partnership, as set-out in the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan 2017-2027. This agreement recognises the need to work together in the best way possible, making the best use of resources for the benefit of communities in Clackmannanshire.

Police Scotland and Clackmannanshire Council already have excellent partnership working. However, through ongoing engagement we identified an opportunity to enhance this and ultimately provide better services for the local community.

Being located together in the one building not only achieves best value in terms of finances, it allows for greater collaboration and the development of better ways of working, such as sharing of resources, to address local needs.

What are the advantages of co-locating with partner agencies?

Co-locating with partner agencies has many advantages both for Police Scotland and Clackmannanshire Council, and is an approach which has been considered and utilised for a number of years elsewhere in Scotland.

There are already a number of positive examples of excellent partnership working across the country where communities are seeing the benefits of co-location and collaboration.

This proposal will strengthen local partnership working and allow key public sector agencies to develop new services which provide better outcomes for the local community.

It also will mean a number of key agencies are located together in the one building, which not only achieves best value, but also allows ease of access to a variety of services.

How much will this cost and who is paying for it?

Costs and how they will be funded will be determined as part of the formal business case process being undertaken later this year. Decision-making and approval processes of both Clackmannanshire Council and Police Scotland will consider the financial viability of the business case.

How much will this save?

There is an expectation that both Clackmannanshire Council and Police Scotland will save on running costs by reducing the number of buildings currently occupied from two to one. Police Scotland would pay a proportionate share of the running costs of the space occupied in Kilncraigs, providing a source of income to Clackmannanshire Council.

Is this proposal purely driven by a need to save money?

At the heart of our proposal is the desire to meet the needs of Clackmannanshire and enhance service delivery through collaboration. This proposal will see Police resources located with Clackmannanshire Council services, with staff working together to drive forward prevention work and reduce harm to local communities.

However, in a challenging financial time public sector agencies should be working together to achieve best value and co-location is one way of achieving this.

Will there be any staff losses as a result of this?

No. Police resources will simply be based in a different building and working more closely with Clackmannanshire Council staff to enhance local service delivery.

What happens to prisoners who are held in custody at Alloa Police Station?

There is no custody suite at Alloa Police Station and there are no plans to create one as part of this proposal. This has been the case for a number of years, prior to the formation of Police Scotland. Anyone arrested or taken into police custody from the Alloa area is transported directly to the nearest Police Scotland custody facility.

What will happen to Alloa Police Station?

Alloa Police Station has limited flexibility to sustain the current operating model required to meet the changing policing demands and needs within Clackmannanshire. Approximately one third of the property is surplus to requirements. Significant investment is needed because its age and construction prevent easy adaptation to modern working practices, which impacts on the ability to deliver effective demand-led services.

If this proposal is agreed and approved then it is likely that the current building used for Alloa Police Station would be disposed of. However, there would be no change to the number of police officers based in Alloa or how they are deployed; they would simply be located in a different building within the town, in effect the Police Station would remain in Alloa however within a different building.

Where will police staff be based in Kilncraigs?

The formal business case process would give full consideration to the placement of existing Council services and staff within Kilncraigs to ensure both Council and Police has adequate office space.

Will there be an increased threat to security in Kilncraigs?

It is anticipated that a permanent police presence in Kilncraigs will help to improve the security culture within the building, encouraging everyone to be vigilant.

A full security and risk assessment, including buildings and workforce, will be undertaken as part of the formal business case process. Actions to reduce any threats will also be identified.

How will this affect car parking in Alloa Town Centre?

There are eight car parks with more than 700 free parking spaces within Alloa Town Centre. Parking and vehicle safety will be considered as part of a formal business case.