

RESPONDING TO **TODAY'S DEMANDS** PLANNING FOR **TOMORROW'S CHALLENGES**



ESSEX POLICE NEEDS A MODERN, EFFICIENT HEADQUARTERS FIT FOR THE FUTURE

The current site and the buildings of police headquarters in Springfield, Chelmsford are vast, ageing, in a poor state of repair and in chronic need of modernisation.

The site is made up of numerous buildings, some of which are nearly 100-years-old, sprawling across 20 acres. The first part of the site – the former Chief Constable's house – was developed in 1903 and since then various additions have been built to house the 1,800 staff currently based there. Unfortunately many of these additions are in a poor state of repair and badly designed. Some parts are even derelict.

Due to this piecemeal construction the land is badly used and the buildings are inefficient and not suited to current needs. The various phases of development mean each part has different maintenance requirements, making the site extremely expensive to run. The expanse of HQ means perimeter security is poor. In short the current HQ site is no longer fit for the purpose of a modern police force and it is not financially sustainable.

The Springfield site is currently much more valuable than the land Essex Police and the Police and Crime Commissioner is seeking to purchase for a new HQ. Unlocking the value of the Springfield site creates the opportunity to build a modern fit for purpose and efficient police HQ. It will deliver a very necessary annual saving of £2.5million.

Nick Alston, Police and Crime Commissioner for Essex, said: "We need a headquarters building that is modern, efficient and fit for the purposes of policing. The current Springfield site is miles away from that.

"The site is inefficiently used, hugely expensive to maintain and hinders effective operational policing.

"We have an opportunity to unlock the high value of the site at Springfield and invest in a new headquarters which designed specifically for the requirements of a modern police force, and which will also be fit for the future."

Chief Constable Stephen Kavanagh added: "It makes no sense for us to remain in buildings which waste money and no longer serve the needs of people in Essex. Selling the current HQ site unlocks money that should be better spent on policing.

I know that our current site holds lots of memories for ex-colleagues and I assure them that we will take the appropriate steps to recognise the sacrifices made by 175 years of Essex Police officers at our new headquarters."

The sale of the current HQ and purchase of the proposed site are at an advanced stage. Further details cannot be disclosed as they are commercially sensitive.

Essex Police and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Essex are working with Chelmsford City Council and it is proposed the Springfield site will be sold with outline planning permission for residential development.



Stephen Kavanagh
Chief Constable
Essex Police

Nick Alston
Police and Crime
Commissioner for Essex