Information from Estates Manager

Current arrangement

The Force's fleet management function operates from the workshops at Force headquarters. These workshops are large enough for all the equipment and the storage of parts. There is ample car parking space on the site for all of the Force's vehicles as well as staff and visitor parking.

The Fire and Rescue Service's fleet management operates at the Catterton fire station.

Requirements for joint function

The Catterton fire station does not have enough parking space for police vehicles and is a non-starter.

Force HQ has enough parking space for fire engines and other vehicles but the workshops are not tall enough for the fire engines. They need to be 8 metres high. The fire service also needs at least one hydrant on site and an underground water tank.

A new site is therefore required. The number of vehicles that might be expected to be on site at any given time means a total area of about 1 hectare is needed. There also needs to be workshops large enough for the fire engines. Also, the site should ideally be located fairly centrally in the region and be close to major roads.

A review of current industrial sites on the market has resulted in one viable option at Charming. The site could be purchased, it is estimated, for £1.6m. The work needed to adapt the existing buildings on the site into workshops and stores is estimated to cost £250,000 and would take 4 months.

Timetable

If we can get a decision to proceed (from the Police Commissioner) by the end of June we should be able to complete the land purchase within 2 months and have the works completed on the site by 31 December.