

NORTHERN JOINT POLICE BOARD

14 November 2008

Agenda Item	
Report No	

Operational Police Estate

Report by the Chief Constable

SUMMARY

This report informs the Board of details of active Police Stations within Northern Constabulary and procedures that will be followed prior to any closure.

Background

Northern Constabulary takes great pride in the unique policing approach it delivers to communities within the Highlands and Islands. This is delivered by staff who work and, in many instances, live within the communities they police. This is an approach which the Force is eager to maintain for the foreseeable future.

To support this style of policing the Force requires a high number of strategically placed Police Stations which are properly maintained to meet all legislative requirements e.g. Health and Safety, Disability Discrimination etc. Over the past 7 years the NJPB has fully supported this approach and has provided large capital investment to ensure that our Police estate is maintained to the highest level. This work is ongoing as reported in the Capital Plan which is presented to every meeting of the NJPB.

In order to ensure Best Value and the continuation of high quality policing services it is essential that the Police estate is continually reviewed. This is done during the annual planning cycle where Divisional Commanders and Area Commanders will consider their requirements for the years ahead. These meetings are being held at present and all NJPB members have been invited to attend.

Process

Where a Police Station is deemed to be surplus to requirements, Divisional Commanders are required to produce a detailed report setting out their rationale, which will normally include proximity to other Police Stations, crime levels, ongoing revenue costs, estimated capital costs to meet legislative requirements and impact on community. In relation to the latter, consultation will have taken place with local NJPB members, Councillors and Community Councils, after which reports are then submitted to the Chief Constable for consideration.

This procedure has been ongoing in relation to Cannich Police Station since January 2008. The closure has not yet been signed off but it has been agreed that there will be no reduction in officer numbers within the area and that surgery style sessions will be held in the village.

Attached is a full list of all current Police Stations and there are no further plans to close any stations at this time.

RECOMMENDATION

Members are invited to note the report.

**I Latimer
Chief Constable**

30 October 2008

Appendix

Central Division	East Division	North Division
Alness Broadford Cromarty Dingwall Dunvegan Evanton Fortrose Gairloch Invergordon Kyle of Lochalsh Lochcarron Muir of Ord Portree Ullapool Fort William Glencoe Mallaig Spean Bridge Strontian Kilmallie Barra Barvas Benbecula Carloway Lochboisdale Lochmaddy Ness Stornoway Tarbert	Aviemore Grantown on Spey Kingussie Nairn Ardersier Beauly Burnett Road Cannich Culloden Drumnadrochit Fort Augustus	Baltasound Brae Dunrossness Lerwick Mid Yell Scalloway Whalsay Kirkwall Stromness Bettyhill Bonar Bridge Brora Dornoch Golspie Lairg Lochinver Lybster Rhiconich Tain Thurso Tongue Wick