

## **Chapter 6: Emergency Services**

### **Introduction**

- 6.1 The DSIS Social Infrastructure Report contained a section on the Emergency Services, with chapters on Fire and Rescue services, Police services and Ambulance services. Information regarding these services was updated during the IDP. This section does not repeat the commentary thereon but sets out the latest position in relation to growth in the Core Strategy and current service plans.

### **Police Services**

- 6.2 The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act saw the election of Police and Crime Commissioners. The commissioner for Hertfordshire is responsible for setting the strategic policing priorities and for setting the budget for Hertfordshire Constabulary. They are also responsible for appointing the Chief Constable, who will then be accountable to the commissioner for the delivery of the Police service.
- 6.3 There are currently no custodial police facilities within Dacorum due to the downgrading of police stations at both Hemel Hempstead and Berkhamsted. In Hemel Hempstead the custody suite and front desk have closed although the station remains an operational base. The station in Berkhamsted has been sold and the construction of retirement housing and new library facility has commenced on this site. The Safer Neighbourhood team now operate from Berkhamsted Civic Centre. Similar arrangements are in place within the settlement of Tring. The custodial facilities previously provided at Hemel Hempstead station are now provided in Watford.

### **Planned provision**

- 6.4 The Council has recently granted planning permission for 'The Forum' a new facility for civic amenities bringing together new offices for the Borough

Council, the library, Hertfordshire Constabulary's Safer Neighbourhood team, Hertfordshire Registration and Citizenship Service and voluntary services including the Citizen's Advice Bureau, Relate Mediation and Community Trust Dacorum. This is due for completion in 2017.

- 6.5 Hertfordshire Constabulary were also considering the feasibility of providing a police station on land opposite Breakspear House due to its close connection to the motorway network. It is understood that such a facility would include custodial facilities and a broader range of modern policing facilities. A similar proposal to Hatifeld Police HQ would cost somewhere in the region of £20m.

### **Future Demand arising from planned growth**

- 6.6 Herts Constabulary originally used an Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) approved toolkit to assess the impact of additional housing and employment development on their service. This has not been updated and is now considered quite dated. The results of the toolkit are set out in table 6.1.

**Table 6.1: Demand placed upon police services arising from planned development**

<b>Staff requirements</b>		<b>Floorspace requirements</b>	
Number of staff	Capital set up Cost	Floorspace required	Cost of provision
25.9	£237,107	151 sqm	£472,357
<b>Total cost of requirements: £709,464</b>			

*Source: Hertfordshire Constabulary: Assessment of the impact of growth – Dacorum Local Authority*

- 6.7 The Council has been advised that it is not practicable to relate the outputs of table 6.1 into physical infrastructure. It does provide an indication of the

scale of the likely impact on the police service in Dacorum arising from the level of development planned in the Core Strategy. It is likely that some adaptation of current building stock will be required to meet the current needs of the Constabulary

## **Funding**

- 6.8 The main sources of funding for Hertfordshire Constabulary are central government funding and council tax receipts; all the funding they receive is revenue funding, a proportion of which is allocated for capital expenditure. The only capital held by the force is in the form of property, vehicles, and ICT.
- 6.9 Hertfordshire Constabulary aim to minimise capital costs by sharing facilities, for example through the PSQ in Hemel Hempstead town centre and their recent move to the civic centre in Berkhamsted.
- 6.10 Hertfordshire Constabulary are not currently reliant on S.106 monies. However, if in the future the grant funding received by them continues to decrease they will have to rely on other sources of funding including CIL monies to provide the infrastructure required to support operational needs.

## **Fire and Rescue Services**

- 6.11 The Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue service currently operate a full time crewed fire station in Hemel Hempstead together with retained duty system crewed stations in Berkhamsted, Kings Langley, Markyate and Tring. These are considered sufficient to meet the projected growth within Core Strategy.
- 6.12 The main infrastructure need arising from the Fire and Rescue Service is for the repair and replacement of their existing building stock in view of its age and condition should the funds become available.

## **Ambulance services**

- 6.13 The Ambulance service has recently implemented a planning permission for a new facility at Maxted Road within the Mayland's Employment Area and now operates from this premise as well as from their current base at Hemel Hempstead Fire Station. The service considers this to be sufficient to meet their needs in the short to medium term.