

# **RIYAT ASSOCIATES LTD**

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## **Statement Of Loss Of Community Facility For Change Of Use Of Vacant Police Station To Residential Development At Batley Police Station, Market Square Batley WF17 5AA**

### **INTRODUCTION**

**This document is submitted as a brief Statement in support of a submission of Full Planning application for the refurbishment, improvement and conversion of existing vacant police station to nine self-contained flats at ground floor and first floor.**

### **LOSS OF COMMUNITY FACILITY**

**The former police station has been vacant for a number of years , the closure of this facility has been due lack of funding this was confirmed by commissioner of West Yorkshire Police in a press release on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2019:**

“PCC Mark Burns-Williamson, who is responsible for the overall policing budget in West Yorkshire, said: “Since 2010, West Yorkshire Police has experienced Government cuts to the tune of £140m, with the loss of around 2,000 jobs.

“Given this sustained austerity, we have explored every possible option with West Yorkshire Police that ensures we retain a strong frontline presence, coupled with premises which are fit for modern-day policing.

“It led to the development of the West Yorkshire Police Estates Strategy 2015-2020, looking at ways in which savings and efficiencies could be made from our estate, whilst mitigating the impact upon communities.

“After assessing the use of our buildings against a back-drop of a reducing workforce, we were able to determine those that offered the best value for money and operational effectiveness.

“Batley Police Station was within those considerations and having been vacant for some time, was recently placed on the market

Much of our plans have been about having fit for purpose and more cost-effective police premises in a similar location.

“The local officers previously based from Batley are therefore using the nearby Heckmondwike Police Station as their new deployment base and regularly undertaking drop-in sessions in Batley town centre.

“What is important to recognise, however, is that the loss of a building, does not equate to the loss of police presence or a change in response times.

“We have been careful to ensure that there is an enduring neighbourhood policing footprint across the town and that every opportunity for contact is exploited.

## **CONCLUSION**

**The proposals represents a substantial investment that will bring a vacant historic building back into use and safeguard its future and provide much needed housing stock to the town centre. In addition the loss of a local community facility is justifiable.**