

## **COMMUNITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL – 15 MARCH 2016**

### **CCTV TASK AND FINISH GROUP**

#### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To update the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel on the progress of the CCTV Task and Finish Group and provide recommendations for consideration by the Panel.

#### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Members convened a Task and Finish Group in October 2015. The remit was to consider the medium term position of the CCTV service.
- 2.2 The CCTV transmission and maintenance contracts expire in September 2016 and therefore any EU tender process should be instigated by April 2016. Members were asked to consider the future of the Service and make recommendations to the Panel and Portfolio Holder on potential future investment to bring the system to current industry standards.
- 2.3 The procurement process may specify alternative transmission solutions and necessary camera upgrades. The Task and Finish Group was asked, therefore, to consider the camera locations and any repositioning or decommissioning opportunities they feel are necessary. This process would also satisfy the Surveillance Camera Commissioner, who stipulates that system owners must assess the performance of their camera network in accordance with the system objectives.
- 2.4. The Task and Finish Group also considered the Town and Parish contributions made to the District Council for the CCTV provision. The previous agreement ended on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2015 and recently two Parish Councils have either stopped or reduced their CCTV contribution.

#### **3. INTRODUCTION**

- 3.1 The Group were presented with statistics to demonstrate the performance of each CCTV camera within the District (over the last 5 years), in relation to its key objectives.
- 3.2 Members were briefed on the operational costs of the system; currently costing the Council £100,000 per annum to transmit the CCTV pictures through BT fibre and £25,000 per annum to maintain. Parish and Town contributions amount to just under £41,000 per annum.
- 3.3 A CCTV privacy impact assessment was presented to inform Members of the current system's adherence to data protection and system protocols stipulated by the Surveillance Camera Commissioner.
- 3.4 A visit was made by the Group to Bournemouth Town Council's CCTV Control Room to discuss technologies and transmission solutions with the System Manager.
- 3.5. Members felt that views from Town and Parishes would assist the Group and were provided with feedback from the Town and Parish Clerks, to give an indication of their thoughts on the system in terms of performance and value for money.

- 3.6 Members were also provided with feedback from Hampshire Police on how the system directly assists their work.

#### **4. CONCLUSION**

- 4.1 Members were informed that Hampshire Police viewed the Council's CCTV service as a highly valuable resource. They indicated that without the service, they would find it more difficult to manage lower levels of crime within the District. The Council currently reviews footage on behalf of the Police.
- 4.2 Members acknowledged that not only was the service a key resource for the Police, the benefits to public perception/safety and its performance as a crime deterrent also needed to be considered when deciding on the future of CCTV provision in the District.
- 4.3 Members were informed that the Council had 56 public space cameras (not including the cameras located at ATC). The Town/Parish Council's (who continue to contribute) pay £732 per camera. The previous agreement in place amounted to a 12% contribution by Town Parish Council's towards the operational running costs of each camera. Members felt the cost to the Town/Parish Councils was inexpensive/ reasonable considering the extensive benefits the cameras brought.
- 4.4 Members felt that the system objectives continued to be appropriate and necessary. Nonetheless, members felt that additional objectives concerning the protection of vulnerable persons in the District and also environmental issues should be added. With these changes, the group felt that the Impact Assessment would become a robust and valuable tool to CCTV monitoring and would meet all the principles set out in the Surveillance Camera Commissioner's Code of Practice.
- 4.5 Members discussed the positioning of cameras in car parks and acknowledged that the presence of cameras acted as deterrents for car crime and should therefore remain.
- 4.6 The Group discussed further income opportunities; Members were informed that there was scope to increase the numbers of cameras without increasing the staff costs. Insurance companies often made subject access requests to view/use footage when dealing with motor claims. There was opportunity to start charging for this service taking into account the officer time involved in searching through CCTV footage. Members also recognised the potential in other services such as Lone Worker monitoring and there are realistic opportunities for developing this kind of business provision in the future.
- 4.7 Members were impressed with the control room visited in Bournemouth. It was noted that Bournemouth transmitted images using fibre optic. Members acknowledged that given the mix of rural and urban areas within the New Forest, a mixed approach to transmission was needed. This included consideration of re-deployable or mobile camera solutions.
- 4.8 Members were briefed on a joint procurement opportunity with Fareham Borough Council to achieve efficiencies through the Tender process. This would ensure a fit for purpose maintenance contract and equipment renewal schedule within the context of the financial challenges the Council faces.

## **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Town and Parish Council contributions amount to £41,000 per annum.
- 5.2 The combined CCTV and Community Alarm service budget is £350,000.

## **6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 CCTV is a useful tool in preventing or detecting environment offences such as fly tipping and is used for the overall management of the Districts where it is overtly placed.

## **7. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 None.

## **8. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 CCTV has a practical role in the overall strategy of the Community Safety Partnership to reduce crime and disorder in the local area.
- 8.2 CCTV is a proven deterrent of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour. CCTV is frequently used by the Police to detect or investigate allegations of crime. Statistics show that Public Space CCTV within the New Forest is still being used for the purposes for which it was introduced 14 years ago.

## **9. RECOMMENDATIONS**

Members agreed that the following recommendations be forwarded to the Community Overview & Scrutiny Panel for consideration: -

- 9.1 That the Panel supports the ongoing provision of the CCTV Service.
- 9.2 That the Panel recommends to the Cabinet that a joint procurement process be undertaken with Fareham Borough Council to source a transmission and maintenance provider, including priority works to upgrade the recording software.
- 9.3 That as part of an ongoing review of CCTV provision, Officers investigate alternative methods to fund the upgrading of equipment and examine any other revenue opportunities for the CCTV service. Officers should initiate discussions with key partners and stakeholders such as the Police to ascertain their support / need / reliance on the Council's CCTV provision and their potential future financial contributions.
- 9.4 That the Panel support a phased programme of camera replacement and control room refurbishment, either as part of the conditions within the new maintenance contract, or as and when funds become available through achieving internal efficiencies and future revenue income. Other flexible monitoring solutions, such as re-deployable cameras, should also be considered.
- 9.5 That Officers undertake discussions / negotiations with individual Town and Parish Council's to ascertain their commitment to CCTV provision within their area and their future contributions towards the system.

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**Background Papers:**

Operational and Privacy Impact  
Assessment 2015

CCTV System Privacy Impact  
Report 2015