

CCTV AND COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Community Safety refers to the protection of local communities from the threat and consequence of criminal and anti-social behaviour by achieving reductions in relation to both crime and the fear of crime. This is a statutory function under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, an additional obligation is also placed by Section 17 of the Act, which directs that we must have community safety embedded into our planning, our policy and our operational day-to-day activity.
- 1.2 There are various roles that statutory partners play in delivering 'safer communities' within the New Forest area. Since 2002, New Forest District Council has contributed to Community Safety through the delivery of a CCTV Service, which has received financial contributions from those Town/Parish Councils directly benefitting from the presence of CCTV Cameras. These Towns are the most populated in the New Forest and include Hythe, Ringwood, Totton, Lymington, Lyndhurst and New Milton.
- 1.3 The financial contributions made by the Town & Parish Councils are a long standing arrangement and not captured by way of formal agreements, although previously a Service Level Agreement has existed.
- 1.4 There is a strategy in place for the delivery of Community Safety objectives and there is a clear need to align CCTV within this approach, recognising the financial contributions of the Town/Parish Councils as a contribution in itself towards Community Safety in the New Forest

2. BACKGROUND AND ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

- 2.1 The Safer New Forest Strategy and Delivery Group is created in accordance with the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The partnership comprises representatives from statutory responsible bodies including both the Police and the Local Authority.
- 2.2 Subsequently Town & Parish Councils, NFDC and Hampshire Police all have a 'Community Safety' responsibility along with being key stakeholders in CCTV Service delivery. Since the CCTV system was introduced, each partner has seen the benefits for their communities and shown commitment to CCTV as a significant collaborative aid in preventing and detecting crime
- 2.3 The key stakeholders described above each directly contribute to this approach in the following way:
 - NFDC operates and contributes significantly to the CCTV service with support from Town & Parish councils through financial contributions towards the maintenance and transmission of cameras in their area.
 - Hampshire Police provide resources (policing)
- 2.4 Following the completion of a CCTV Task and Finish Group in 2016, it was recommended '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.'

- 2.5 All Town and Parish Councils support the continuation of CCTV in their areas
- 2.6 Responsibility for the provision of CCTV throughout the district now rests with the Portfolio Holder for Communities who, in response to the recommendation from the Budget Task & Finish Group agreed to review the benefits of CCTV moving forward. Subsequent discussions and findings concluded that CCTV has a positive impact to the residents and visitors alike through prevention and detection of crime and the decrease in fear of crime from the presence of a 24 hour operational service. This significantly contributes to the Council's Community Safety objectives, fulfilling its responsibilities under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.
- 2.7 However, it was also concluded that a Service Level Agreement was not the appropriate mechanism to the partnership that was effectively in place between the District Council, the Police and the Town and Parish Council's in contributing to Community Safety through CCTV
- 2.8 Wider district benefits were also supported through the use of re-deployable CCTV cameras to allow a time limited response to particular issues in highlighted areas. There are opportunities to work in partnership with all towns and parishes over the funding and logistical arrangements for re-deployable cameras in the future.

3. PROPOSALS

- 3.1 A draft 'Partnership Agreement' **Appendix A** has been produced to agree approaches to Community Safety through the use of CCTV. This will be sent out to Town & Parish Councils to replace the draft SLA. The agreement will also include Hampshire Police, with the Chief Inspector positive with this approach.
- 3.2 NFDC Officers will also seek to attend a future NFALC meeting to inform all Town & Parish Councils of the CCTV Service, its benefits and future opportunities through the use of re-deployable cameras.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The financial contributions from Town & Parish Councils towards CCTV amount to just over £40K per annum.

5. CRIME & DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 A Partnership Agreement would capture the contributions of each key CCTV Stakeholder towards the service and therefore a commitment in preventing and detecting crime in the New Forest area.
- 5.2 Clear roles and responsibilities defined in the partnership agreement ensure both collaboration and clarity

6. ENVIRONMENTAL or EQUALITY & DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 None to note

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Community and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Panel:

- 7.1 Commend the draft 'Partnership Agreement', as attached as Appendix 1 to this report, to the Portfolio Holder for Community Affairs for approval for consultation with the relevant Town and Parish Councils

For further information contact:

Background Papers: None

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