

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Public CCTV system Jan 2016

Report of Chief Officer (Environment)

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide information on CCTV system operated by Lancaster City Council as per the committee's request.

This report is public

RECOMMENDATIONS

(1) That the report and appendix is noted

1.0 Introduction

1.1 The Committee has previously requested information on the Council operated CCTV system. This information is attached at Appendix A.

1.2 At this stage in the report the committee should note that on 19th Jan 2016 that as part of their budget proposals Cabinet recommended that the Council no longer funds the public CCTV system from 2017/18. The actual wording is a follows-

With regard to CCTV, notice would be given as soon as possible to terminate the relevant services contracts, but within the notice period and prior to actual decommissioning of the equipment any approaches made by organisations interested in taking on the operation (at no cost to the Council) would be appraised and considered.

Cabinet recognises that at a time of Government cuts, this Council cannot continue to provide the existing funding required to maintain and/or renew the existing CCTV system in the Lancaster district from April 2017, but asks Officers to make enquiries with other organisations to see if they may be in a position to get involved in maintaining either an externally staffed or volunteer-led CCTV system.

1.3 The provision of a public CCTV system by the Council is entirely

discretionary.

- 1.4 The Council has statutory duties with regards to community safety, and also has 'Clean, Green and Safe Places' as a corporate priority. Even without a CCTV system the Council's responsibilities and aims would be more than covered in these areas.
- 1.5 Operationally the main beneficiary from CCTV is Lancashire Constabulary. Unlike some Police forces Lancashire Constabulary's policy is not to provide or directly fund public CCTV systems.
- 1.6 Since the public CCTV system was commissioned many retail and licensed premises have put in place their own CCTV systems. Besides this the vast majority of members of the public have the ability to video using their mobile devices.
- 1.7 Appendix A provides more detail on the actual system but members should note the following main points-
 - The system currently costs £165,000 per annum in direct costs per year to run. Of this £83,000 covers the cost of the contractor who staffs the system, £28,000 covers the cost of the link into BT's fibre optic network, £53,000 covers the cost of the maintenance and repairs of the cameras, monitoring and recording systems leaving a nominal amount for electricity, equipment and subscriptions.
 - As technology has advanced the system has gone beyond the point where it needs to be renewed. Anticipating the financial pressures faced by local government, and the need to provide a range of options for ongoing savings major spend has been held off in this area. Spare parts for cameras etc have been recycled from other cameras. There have been several occasions where the system has gone down and needed a 'sticking plaster' approach to get it operational again. Several cameras no longer work.
 - We estimate that a new system would cost a minimum of £185,000.
 - This one off cost clearly creates a financial pressure. There are also some potential sources of external funding that could contribute to that.
 - The more significant financial pressure though is the ongoing revenue cost. It is expected this would be reduced with an upgrading system. Nonetheless it would still leave a significant ongoing revenue cost, at a time when the Council's financial pressures have never been greater.
 - Even if funds were identified to upgrade the system the Council would effectively be financially committed for the long term. It may well be that other partners would contribute to such a project, but as long as the responsibility rests with the Council it would be committed to it.
 - Some of the Districts in Lancashire are looking at a shared CCTV project. This is on the back of a wider project that the Council was not involved in. Even with a shared project there will of course still be a requirement for officer capacity, one off costs and ongoing revenue costs.
- 1.8 As things stand the Council is not tied into any long term commitments, which obviously provided Cabinet with a timely opportunity to make a clear decision on its future.
- 1.9 Information on how other Districts operate CCTV has been requested and will be outlined at the meeting.

2.0 Details

2.1 See Appendix 1

CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT

(including Health & Safety, Equality & Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing)

No decision is required.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The council are currently contracted to Enigma Security Solutions to provide the cctv staffing services and Chubb for system maintenance and will need to comply with any termination provisions of those agreements.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no additional financial implications arising directly as a result of this report.

The latest draft revenue budget includes the following amounts towards the provision of CCTV :-

	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
	Estimate	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast
	£	£	£	£
Direct Costs	165,000	167,000	170,300	173,700

It should be noted that the above estimates are still subject to change as the budget is still being finalised.

In addition, as detailed in the report, significant investment in the equipment is required should Members support the long-term provision of a public CCTV system.

OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Human Resources:

NA

Information Services:

NA

Property:

NA

Open Spaces:

NA

SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The s151 Officer has been consulted and has no further comments.

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Monitoring Officer has been consulted and has no further comments

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Contact Officer: Mark Davies
Telephone: 01524 582401
E-mail: mdavies@lancaster.gov.uk
Ref: