

**The Smart District
27 September 2017**

Report of Chief Officer (Environment)

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To seek Council's direction regarding the use of digital technologies to help manage the public realm, in view of the current extension of the old CCTV system coming to an end.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) That Council determines its preferred option from those set out in the report.**

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Council will recall that at its budget meeting on 2 March 2016, amongst a range of other decisions, it approved the cessation of CCTV. This decision recognised that the existing system was in need of complete replacement and in the context of the Council's financial position this was not affordable.
- 1.2 The wording of the decision was-

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 A working group led by the City Council and consisting of reps from Lancaster BID, Morecambe BID, Chamber of Commerce and the Police was set up to look at whether it was possible to achieve the above. In parallel with this work involving Lancaster, Blackpool, Wyre and Fylde Councils took place to look at the feasibility of a joined up CCTV system.

- 1.4 Subsequent to that, work centred on “re-purposing” any future CCTV provision and as part of the 2017/18 budget, Council allocated £50,000 to allow the existing CCTV system to operate on an unstaffed basis until September 2017, thereby giving more time for this work to be undertaken. This report is provided to allow Council to further consider the matter. The following proposes a new system implementation on a pilot basis, using a technologically advanced camera system.

2.0 Progress to Date

- 2.1 Due to the financial challenges facing the Council, building a case to justify ongoing funding of a traditional CCTV system – primarily for community safety purposes - is very challenging. The existing system in this District cost nearly £180,000 per year to run and as stated it is in need of replacement. The replacement of a ‘traditional’ system would cost £300,000+. Even working with other Councils the expected running costs would be at least £70,000 per year.
- 2.2 Based on this, no other organisations were prepared to take over the system. However, Morecambe BID and Lancaster BID committed to contributing to the ongoing running costs of a system (to a total of £9,000 per year for the life of the BIDs). In addition Morecambe Town Council have allocated a contribution of £5,000 per year. This still leaves a significant funding gap and raises questions about the value for money of a traditional CCTV system.
- 2.3 Accordingly the focus of work has shifted, to looking at whether a solution could be found that would offer much greater value for money, flexibility and scalability than a traditional CCTV system.
- 2.4 One of the Council's corporate priorities is that of providing clean and green public spaces. The use of modern and innovative technology and particularly live and recorded footage is something that, if readily available, could help significantly in this regard. Initially its use would be as a tool to help with issues like fly tipping, dog fouling, vandalism, event management, safety, emergency planning etc but in the future, it could help generate efficiencies from services like street cleansing.
- 2.5 Separately, linked to the digital agenda, the Council were approached by a major network provider (Vodafone). The Council already has an established relationship with this company, and they are heavily involved in realising the concept of ‘Smart Cities’. A smart city is an urban development vision to integrate information and communication technology (ICT) and Internet of things (IoT) technology in a secure fashion to manage assets. The aim is to use technology to improve the efficiency of services. It allows interaction directly with the community and the infrastructure, and helps monitor what is happening and how an area is evolving, to help enable a better quality of life. Through the use of sensors integrated with real-time monitoring systems, data can be collected – then processed and analysed. The information and knowledge gathered are keys to improving services and gaining efficiencies.
- 2.6 From discussions it is clear that the development of a strategy to develop this concept could greatly assist the Council in meeting the challenges it faces, and the expectations of its customers.
- 2.7 Vodafone have developed a very practical means of demonstrating this by the use of IoT technology to wirelessly provide footage that can easily be viewed (real time or recorded) through any device with internet access.
- 2.8 Trials of this new technology have been taking place at three existing camera locations in the District. The technology works well, is easy to use and are

considered to represent good value for money.

- 2.9 Vodafone are keen to establish a partnership with the Council to develop a strategy that would be based on the Smart City concept, but exploring how the idea could be applied to the whole District– which provides more technological challenges and also opportunities for innovation. The potential benefits of this approach, not least in terms of managing the public realm and economic development, are very significant.
- 2.10 As a District we have an ambition to be seen as innovative. It is recognised that in many areas this will require working in collaboration with credible partners. The smart district concept could provide the basis for this District to become an exemplar in this regard.
- 2.11 Technology is such that the applications of it are only limited by what we can think of. However, once this is in place obvious very practical developments could include-
- Deployment of mobile cameras to help tackle fly tipping and vandalism in parks etc
 - Rationalising all the Councils camera systems
 - Using cameras as footfall counters in selected locations
 - Using cameras to provide pay on foot car parking
 - Measuring the spare capacity on car parks
 - Measuring air quality at key locations
 - Measuring how full litter bins are in select locations
 - Providing door access systems in Council buildings/ housing blocks
 - Helping manage events
 - Safeguarding lone workers
 - Monitoring humidity in Council houses
 - Helping emergency planning
 - Providing virtual tourist information for visitors
- 2.12 There would be additional costs for these advancements. However the model that would be considered is one whereby new developments would be expected to generate efficiencies and/or other savings that would eventually offset the cost.
- 2.13 The potential economic development benefits are much wider. For example, any future partnership with a market leader could present the opportunity to broaden the coverage of the 'internet of things' to benefit a wide range of stakeholders. It could provide opportunities for research projects to be tested in our district, and provide opportunities for technology developers to showcase their products in our District.
- 2.14 Time is needed to develop the business case and any partnership proposals fully, and undertake necessary due diligence, as well as engaging with other stakeholders in the digital agenda. A report will be considered by Cabinet in October on developing this strategic approach, for consideration as part of the forthcoming budget planning process.

3.0 Proposal for Council's Consideration

- 3.1 Whilst any future strategic approach needs more time to develop and explore, in light of Council's previous decisions there is a pressing need to consider

what course of action to follow in the shorter term.

- 3.2 The proposal being put forward is therefore for a new, technologically advanced, scalable system that would provide live feed to help manage the public realm at key locations in the District on a pilot basis initially. The technology to do this can be retro-fitted to existing cameras but as ours have already surpassed their expected lifespan they would need to be renewed at the same time.
- 3.3 The first stage of this would be to support a technologically advanced camera system, which covers the area covered by the old CCTV system.
- 3.4 The initial costs of this would be -
- Capital - £100,000 - replace existing cameras with new, and connect.
 - Revenue - £52,500 to maintain the system and provide ongoing access on a pilot/fixed term basis to the end March 2019 (i.e. 18 months, based on costs being £35,000 per year).
- 3.5 Such a pilot should be viewed as very much a first step in developing a more strategic approach, as outlined earlier. Whilst this first step would involve some up-front capital investment, that would help establish a platform for future developments – it should not be considered as an end in itself. Making an immediate decision demonstrates that as an organisation we realise there is a need to take good opportunities as they arise. The speed of decision obviously needs to be proportionate to the risks which in this case are considered very low – if Council is in general support of the concept as a whole. The only financial commitment being made is to provide an up to date camera system together with a maintenance / data / service charge, with the initial period of arrangement entered into being 18 months.
- 3.6 Alternatively Council could decide to wait until Budget Council before agreeing to incur any expenditure. In this case a decision would still need to be taken as to what to do with the existing system as its operation is only funded until September. There seems little advantage in taking such an approach, unless Council is not convinced of the potential benefits that a digital solution might offer.

4.0 Details of Consultation

- 4.1 Lancaster BID, Morecambe Bid and Lancashire Constabulary have been involved in the development of this report.

4.2

5.0 Options and Options Analysis (including risk assessment)

- 5.1 There are essentially three options available to Council:

Option1: To approve on a pilot basis the implementation of a new system to help manage public realm, with the one-off costs being met from reserves.

Option 2: To support the idea of a new system in principle and consider it during the forthcoming budget and planning process, and in the meantime extend the current system to the end of this financial year, with the one-off costs being funded from reserves.

Option 3: To not support any new system, and instead fund the one-off

decommissioning of the old system from reserves (meaning that there would be no CCTV system from the end of September).

	Option 1: Approve the new system implementation on a pilot basis	Option 2: Support in principle, subject to consideration as part of the budget and extend current system	Option 3: Not support a new system and decommission the old one
Advantages	<p>Provides continuity.</p> <p>Provides safety reassurance to the Public, Partners and Businesses (eg CCTV)</p> <p>Allows commencement of development of the system to generate ongoing efficiencies and income.</p> <p>Indicates the intent of the Council to develop the concept of a smart District.</p>	<p>Allows consideration alongside all other budget options.</p> <p>Continues support of the existing CCTV system.</p> <p>Provides some safety reassurance to the Public, Partners and Businesses (eg CCTV)</p>	<p>No need for expenditure on new equipment.</p>
Disadvantages	<p>Requires Council decision and funding ahead of budget – proposal not being considered alongside other competing demands.</p>	<p>The current system is past its sell by date so funding for another 6 months means we are spending something which could be better used on a new system – so questionable VFM.</p> <p>Missed opportunity to learn and engage in pilot, to inform future budget options for development of smart district concept.</p>	<p>Decommissioning will cost approx. £70K.</p> <p>Doesn't take account of the changed context in which the Council is operating.</p> <p>Doesn't demonstrate flexibility, innovation or creation - Missed opportunity to benefit from digital developments.</p>
Risks	<p>Doesn't deliver what is expected, and so VFM isn't achieved.</p> <p>Council don't commit to (or partner doesn't deliver on) longer term</p>	<p>Could be perceived as inconsistent with a Council that wants to be seen as innovative, creative, agile and business like.</p>	<p>Public, businesses and partners see the Council as being set in its ways.</p> <p>Creates problems for Council services,</p>

	strategic approach/programme in due course, again undermining VFM.		businesses, partners.
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6.0 Conclusion

- 6.1 The report provides Council with the information needed to make a decision on this issue, and give direction regarding the way forward.

RELATIONSHIP TO POLICY FRAMEWORK

As referred to in the report. Future proposals would be informed by (and feed into) future proposals regarding the Council's corporate plan.

CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT

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

See below

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Full privacy impact assessments will be carried out for all sites under the project. Vodafone has also provided evidence of how it will comply with all data protection requirements under the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). These measures include: Secure access to data and limits to who can view it; keeping records for as short a time as possible before deleting them; using the data collected only for the stated purpose.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

As mentioned earlier, £50,000 was allocated in the budget for CCTV and actual costs to 30 September are estimated at £45,000. This leaves £5K available.

Option 1 is estimated to cost £152,500, so additional funding of £147,500 would be needed.

Option 2 is estimated to cost £45,000, so additional funding of £40,000 would be needed.

Option 3 is estimated to cost £70,000, so additional funding of £65,000 would be needed.

Whatever option Council chooses, all costs involved are one-off and so therefore can be met from reserves. Based on recent monitoring there is currently around £800K available within the renewals reserve, and also around £800K in the budget support reserve. Both reserve levels will be reviewed during the forthcoming budget exercise. Officers would utilise the replacement reserve to finance any costs for this proposal (including any decommissioning), but the Budget Support Reserve could be called upon if Council so wished.

OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS, such as Human Resources, Information Services, Property, Open Spaces:

As set out in the report

SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The s151 Officer has been consulted and has contributed to this report. The proposal presents a fair balance between allowing progress to be made now, whilst giving more time to develop and consider the more strategic aspects (and any associated ongoing budget

implications) as part of the budget planning process.

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Monitoring Officer has been consulted and has no further comments

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

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