
CCTV UPGRADE REPORT

To: **Cabinet – 13 November 2014**

Main Portfolio Area: **Operational Services**

By: **Cllr Mike Harrison**

Classification: **Unrestricted.**

Ward: **All**

Summary: **To agree the basis for future investment in the CCTV control system and cameras.**

For Decision

1.0 Introduction and Background

- 1.1 Thanet District Council started a CCTV service in 1997 through a combined resource of a government grant and parking revenue contributions. The service focussed initially on car parks with some on-street deployment. The system expanded over 16 years to its current capacity of 93 fibre optic linked and 3 radio linked cameras. This was done using a mixture of council capital funding supported by contributions from the car parking, housing and the Ramsgate Town Partnership.
- 1.2 The existing system has cameras located at Margate, Westbrook, Cliftonville, Ramsgate and Broadstairs. Birchington Parish Council has invested separately in a system and its management although images can be viewed in the CCTV unit. East Kent Housing also has CCTV cameras within their tower blocks which can also be viewed within the CCTV unit.
- 1.3 The original objectives for the CCTV service set in 1997 were related to the protection of property and reassurance to the public and parking staff along with the over-arching aim to reduce and detect crime. Further objectives have been introduced since then including:
- Reduce anti-social behaviour, youth nuisance, drug and alcohol misuse.
 - To secure arrests and prosecutions of perpetrators of crimes and anti-social behaviour.
 - Gain evidence of environmental crimes such as graffiti, vandalism, littering and fly-tipping.
 - To ensure that traffic flows easily and safely through the district.
 - To monitor and support the public address system and help points throughout the district.
 - To provide assistance and direction in the event of a major emergency in the district.

2.0 The Current Situation

- 2.1 The owners and main funders of the system are Thanet District Council (£261,980), with a contribution from the on-street parking account (£37,920) and housing revenue account (£42,660), totalling £342,560.
- 2.2 The overall cost of maintaining and running the CCTV system is rising significantly due to its age, and its condition requires a managed replacement of the control system within the next year, and cameras over the next 5 years.

3.0 Options

The primary focus of the report is investment in the main control system at its current location and the 70 main pan, tilt and zoom cameras that are on-street (60), in car parks (4) and outside housing tower blocks (6).

Out of a wide range of potential options the three key possibilities are discussed below, and the costing summary for these is set out in Annex 1.

Option A - Replace equipment through a capital investment

- CCTV Unit to remain based at its current location in the medium term with the plan to move at a later date into the Cecil street offices if it can co-locate with the joint Police/ TDC Community Safety teams.

Option B - Joining the Medway CCTV Partnership

- Medway CCTV Partnership is a partnership of local authority CCTV units. All partners have a say in the decisions affecting the Partnership. The Partnership includes Medway, Swale, Maidstone and Gravesend. It is an aspiration that the CCTV Partnership will secure further CCTV contracts from across Kent and ultimately operate a regional control centre. The CCTV partnership seeks to provide an improved service at a viable cost, taking advantage of some economies of scale. Kent Police have been consulted on this concept & fully endorse Medway CCTV Partnership in this proposed centralisation of CCTV services.

Option C – Lease control system equipment with camera investment

- CCTV Unit to remain based at its current location in the medium term with the plan to be able to move at a later date into the Cecil street offices if it can co-locate with the joint Police/ TDC Community Safety teams. Control system and street cameras to be replaced under a managed service in which the contractor renews the control room and charges a monthly sum.

Option A is recommended as costs are very similar to Option B, but it retains direct control at Thanet, with opportunity to benefit from any competitive tender and future efficiency savings directly.

Option C has some attractions, but because the accounting rules for this type of lease have changed, and the higher costs involved, together with the basic pressure on revenue budget, this option is not recommended.

Option A will pay back all of the capital taken from receipts together with a significant proportion of the Priority Improvement Reserve investment. If more savings can be made (through the competitive tender and efficiencies) then this could be approaching a fully self-sustaining investment model based on savings over a 15 year cycle.

Increased use of mobile CCTV system

- Cameras play an important role in protecting the public and assisting the police in the investigation of crime. Fixed camera sites are important in this context, but mobile camera provision is also important in providing a flexible approach in other areas, or for short term issues.
- Thanet has two Sherpa mobile CCTV cameras that have been extremely effective over a number of years. The cameras have been used by Thanet Community Safety partnership in ASB related cases, by Street Scene Enforcement for fly tipping deterrence and on Operation Cleansweep. As with the town centre CCTV system the cameras are ageing and need replacing. It is recommended to invest in mini domes - able to be installed on street lights and other appropriate posts. The cost of the cameras is estimated at £5,500 each. In addition, to be flexible, and able to assist Community Safety and Street Scene Enforcement at locations where lamp posts are either not located or not suitable, a mobile CCTV trailer would be an effective asset. The cost of a CCTV trailer is estimated at £22,000.
- The total cost of new cameras and trailer is £33,000 and it is proposed to include their cost as part of the Priority Improvement Reserve investment as set out in Annex 1.

4.0 Next Steps

Subject to approval it is proposed to undertake a tender process to deliver:

- Matrix
- Monitor Bank
- Operator Console with new Control Keyboard
- Review Workstation
- Digital Recording Facility
- 70 pan, tilt and zoom cameras
- 2 mini dome cameras
- A mobile CCTV camera and trailer

5.0 Corporate Implications

5.1 Financial and VAT

- 5.1.1 The overall cost of maintaining and operating the static CCTV system is rising every year and is now in need of investment to keep it running satisfactorily.
- 5.1.2 It is proposed to cover the cost of delivering the new control system and investment in cameras as set out in Annex 1

5.2 Legal

- 5.2.1 Community Safety is a statutory function as prescribed within the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. Providing a CCTV service assists in satisfying this requirement in tackling crime and disorder.
- 5.2.2 Section 17 of the Act suggests that a Local Authority should consider crime and disorder implications in all that it does so that it does not negatively impact on the causes of crime.

5.3 Corporate

- 5.3.1 CCTV provides a function that aims to tackle crime and disorder, a priority under our Corporate Plan.
- 5.3.2 The risk of not upgrading the CCTV system at this time is two-fold. The maintenance engineers are finding it difficult to source parts, and are increasingly relying on spare's sourced from other decommissioned CCTV unit. The control matrix is now 17 years old and if it fails, we would be unable to control the cameras.

5.4 Equity and Equalities

- 5.4.1 There are no equality or diversity issues arising from this report.

6.0 Recommendation

- 6.1 That the control room be retained in the medium term at its current location but with financial provision made to co-locate in the Cecil Street offices and a tender exercise undertaken for the replacement of the control system, cameras, and mobile CCTV equipment in accordance with Option A in Annex 1.

7.0 Decision Making Process

- 7.1 This is a key decision that can be made by Cabinet

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| Contact Officer: | Phil Snook, Environmental Enforcement Manager |
| Reporting to: | Mark Seed, Director of Operational Services |

Annex List

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| Annex 1 | CCTV Option costs |
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Corporate Consultation Undertaken

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| Finance | Jo Kemp, Management Accountant |
| Legal | Stephen Boyle, Interim Legal Services Manager & Monitoring Officer |