



Policy and Resources Committee – 27 September 2012

CCTV in East Northamptonshire – Update

Purpose of report

To update Members on the progress of the work being undertaken with the town councils and the police to explore alternative technologies for providing CCTV in East Northamptonshire.

Attachment(s)

None

1.0 Background

- 1.1 A CCTV network has been in place in the six market towns for around 10 years. This is based on a network of 24 cameras monitored at the Newlands Centre in Kettering. The network runs parallel with that of Kettering Borough Council's system and utilises its contracts for monitoring, maintenance and repairs. The six town councils meet two-thirds of the costs of the cameras in their towns, with the remaining third of each set picked up by this council.
- 1.2 At its meeting 2 July 2012, Policy and Resources Committee considered a report around potential options for providing CCTV in the district in the future (minute 76 refers). Members resolved to keep the current arrangements in place until 31 March 2013 so that detailed discussions can take place with the town councils to explore potentially cheaper and more effective options for the future provision of this service, with a view to the council providing no further funding after 31 March 2013.
- 1.3 Members also noted that an update report would be presented to committee in October 2012.

2.0 Update on Progress

- 2.1 A workshop lead by the e-Forensics Sergeant from Northants Police was recently organised to discuss the range of newer technologies available. The legal framework for operating CCTV systems was also explored. Five of the six town councils were represented. (It should be noted that Irthlingborough Town Council has not participated in this project to date.)
- 2.2 The e-Forensics Sergeant and his team have extensive knowledge of all types of CCTV systems on the market; including those using internet-based technologies. Their involvement in this project is critical to ensuring that proposals for future CCTV provision satisfy the legal framework and provide a system that can be used effectively by the police.
- 2.3 The workshop heard that operating CCTV systems puts obligations and responsibilities on the organisations involved. The key issue is ensuring the capture and transfer of images and data is undertaken in a controlled and secure way. It should be noted that, following the workshop, the town councils felt that they had a much better understanding of the legal framework and the responsibilities involved .

- 2.4 Detailed discussions were held around the potential for switching to a wireless system. One of the key risks identified is the greater risk for a wireless system to be "hacked" and the images captured by unknown sources. This could have serious consequences for the operators and partners in terms of data control. Most wireless systems use a dedicated channel for transferring the images to increase security as opposed to running such a transfer over the internet.
- 2.5 A company which offers a range of CCTV and security services has approached one or two of the town councils. The company attended the workshop and spoke about wireless systems. It was unable to provide exact figures of what a system in East Northamptonshire would be without detailed surveys and a specification. However it was able to provide indicative costs as follows:-
- New mega-pixel cameras with the wireless connectivity systems fully installed would be around £2,350 per camera.
 - The company advised that, to gain wider coverage in an individual zone, additional cameras could be considered. If such additional units could be located within the range of the principal camera's connectivity these would be around £1,650 per additional camera.

Annual (revenue) costs are likely to be in the region of:-

- Annual maintenance of the camera units would be around £153 per camera per year.
 - There may be a requirement to have a dedicated Internet-Protocol (IP) cable to link the network to the Police systems. An example of an installation the company undertook in Birmingham recently provides for a cable costing £500 per month.
- 2.6 If a wireless system was adopted, there would no longer be a requirement for the BT cables connecting the cameras to the exchange and then onto the Control Room. This is a major element in the costs of running the current CCTV network at £46,649 (excluding VAT) per year.
- 2.7 The workshop discussed the issue of 24 hour monitoring of the camera network and whether this could be reduced. If CCTV was continued, regardless of whether reduced monitoring could be achieved, it is vital that the 24 hour recording is not compromised. The option to undertake local monitoring by each town council was explored to remove the need for a Control Room. Having gained a greater understanding of the legal framework, it was felt by the town councils that they did not have the capacity to provide this monitoring service. If reduced monitoring was undertaken, it was agreed that the only practical way of undertaking it would be for the town councils to agree one regime rather than individual arrangements.

3.0 Next stages

- 3.1 The final parts of the workshop meeting concentrated on the next stages of the project. It was agreed that the attendees from the town councils, police and officers would form a Project Steering Group to progress the work. The Council's Member Champion for Community Safety will remain invited to support this group.
- 3.2 In summary the next stages of the work will be:-
1. Town Clerks to consult with those town councils across the country who have recently commissioned wireless systems. This would focus on their approach and experiences involved with the process.
 2. Police and ENC officers to gather together a draft specification for an effective CCTV system in East Northamptonshire based on the findings from the workshop.

3. ENC officers to gather together all of the relevant procurement framework that would need to be adhered to for commissioning new CCTV systems.
4. The Project Group to meet in mid to late October to identify the final proposals for consideration by the partners.

4.0 Equalities and diversity implications

- 4.1 The report to this committee on 2 July 2012 (minute 76) included an Equalities Impact Assessment – initial screen to support Members' discussions and decisions.
- 4.2 A revised EIA will be presented to support final proposals.

5.0 Legal implications

- 5.1 The legal framework for operating CCTV was discussed at the workshop and is reflected upon in section 2 above.
- 5.2 As reported to the 2 July 2012 meeting of this committee, the Council owns all of the equipment that forms the CCTV network. If Members remain minded to withdraw funding support from 31 March 2013 (minute 76) but the town councils and other partners continue to support the existing network, negotiations will be necessary for the transfer of ownership of the equipment.
- 5.3 The current arrangements for the monitoring, BT exchange and maintenance for the East Northamptonshire network are part of the Kettering Borough Council contracts. The final proposals will need to reflect any termination and contractual requirements such as notice periods that will need to be met by the partnership.
- 5.4 Following the workshop, officers have agreed to consult with the Welland Procurement Unit to ascertain the minimum requirements around tendering for a replacement system. A number of options are currently being prepared for the Working Group to consider when it meets next.

6.0 Risk management

- 6.1 As previously reported to committee, as Members have decided to withdraw funding support from 31 March 2013, we will need to make it clear that we will not be liable for any repairs or maintenance in the future. This is regardless of whether use of the existing CCTV network system is continued or a new system is commissioned.

7.0 Financial implications

- 7.1 There are no specific financial implications arising from this report. However, under minute 76 Members decided not to provide further funding support for CCTV from 31 March 2013. As a result, there will be no requirement for provision in the 2013/14 revenue budget and beyond for the maintenance and monitoring of the network. This equates to a £47,628 saving based on current provision.
- 7.2 Members are asked to keep in mind that, should the town councils withdraw from the partnership as well, the CCTV network would need to be turned off. If removal of the CCTV equipment: camera units and recording equipment is required, there would be cost implications. The details of this will be included in the final proposals.

8.0 Corporate outcomes

- 8.1 Although provided through a partnership, CCTV contributes to our corporate outcomes as follows:-


A good quality of life – safe: The district has low levels of crime and anti-social behaviour, and partners believe that CCTV contributes to this.

9.0 Recommendations

9.1 Members are recommended to:-

1. Endorse the work undertaken by the Project Steering Group so far.
2. Note that a further report will be presented to the Committee in due course detailing final proposals for the future of CCTV in East Northamptonshire.

Reason: To support the work to explore potentially cheaper and more effective options for CCTV in East Northamptonshire, following the Committee's decision on July 2012 that the Council will provide no further funding after 31 March 2013.

Legal	Power: Crime & Disorder Act 1998 and Local Government Act 2000					
	Other considerations: None					
Background Papers: None						
Person Originating Report: Mike Greenway (Community Partnerships Manager) 01832 742244 mgreenway@east-northamptonshire.gov.uk						
Date: 4 September 2012						
CFO			MO		CX	