



East
Northamptonshire
Council

Policy and Resources Committee – 11 February 2013

CCTV in East Northamptonshire

Purpose of report

To seek Members' approval of the final arrangements for the future of CCTV in East Northamptonshire and the next steps.

Attachment(s)

Appendix 1 – Equalities Impact Assessment (originally presented to committee 2 July 2012)

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The East Northamptonshire CCTV network has been in place for some 10 years. It consists of 24 cameras situated across the six towns, linked by fibre cables to a Control Room at the Newlands Centre Kettering.
- 1.2 Policy and Resources Committee considered a report on the future of CCTV at its meeting on 2 July 2012 (minute 76). Members took the decision to cease this council's financial contributions to CCTV from 31 March 2013. Currently each town council meets two-thirds of the costs for its town's cameras, with the other third met by ENC.
- 1.3 Members also agreed that detailed discussions should continue with the town councils to explore potentially cheaper and more effective options for future provision. Officers have co-ordinated this through a Project Steering Group (the group) consisting of representatives from the six town councils and the police. A further report was presented to this committee (27 September 2012 – minute 202) giving an update on the work carried out by the group.

2.0 Latest position

- 2.1 The town councils stated they could not make up this council's one third contribution if they were to continue with the current network from 31 March 2013. Therefore cost savings would need to be found. The group considered a number of possible solutions to this.
- 2.2 A proposal based on reduced monitoring has been presented to all six town councils based on:-
 - Reduced monitoring of the cameras to 70 hours per week
 - Twenty-four hour, seven days per week recording of the camera images
 - Ownership and responsibility for the cameras and equipment transferring to the town councils, who would co-ordinate the management arrangements from 31 March 2013.
 - The costs for 2013/14 would be in line with the financial contributions each town council has made in 2012/13, providing that all six remain in the network.
- 2.3 This proposal would provide a short term (12 month) arrangement allowing further time for the town councils to consider and procure a replacement system. Officers would continue to support the work but ENC would not be contributing financially.

- 2.4 Officers prepared a report for all six town councils to present to their January/February cycle of meetings, detailing the proposal and recommending that the town councils adopt it. At the time of preparing this report the position was as follows:-
- Thrapston Town Council at its meeting 22 January 2013 considered the proposal and took the decision to withdraw from the network and put in place its own arrangements to run from 31 March 2013.
 - Oundle had been considering an alternative solution and will be considering this and the proposal in late February.
 - Raunds Town Council and Higham Ferrers Town Council have both deferred a final decision, on the basis that their members wish to review the alternative options as a result of one town council rejecting the proposal and withdrawing from the network.
 - Irthlingborough and Rushden had yet to confirm their positions going forward.
- 2.5 Given the position of the town councils it is unlikely that all six town councils will adopt the proposal and remain in the network. The town councils have been made fully aware throughout the process, which has now been going on for over 6 months, that this council's funding will cease from 31 March 2013.

3.0 Risks

- 3.1 Thrapston has decided to procure new system and the others town councils may decide to follow this. It has been put to the town councils that the time constraints between now and the 31 March 2013 increase the risk of not having a CCTV system in the towns.

4.0 Final arrangements

- 4.1 As we approach 31 March 2013 the final arrangements for the closure of our involvement in the CCTV network will consist of:-

1. Giving notice to the appropriate suppliers for the existing network, based on the final decisions taken by the town councils,
2. Organising for the legal transfer of the CCTV equipment and responsibilities to the town councils, and / or
3. Arranging for CCTV camera units to be decommissioned and removed from their locations and disposed off after 31 March 2013.

- 4.2 Northampton BC's legal team has been consulted on the transfer arrangements referred to above and is able to prepare the necessary legal documentation for this as part of our shared service arrangement.

- 4.3 The maintenance contractor for the current network has provided a proposal for decommissioning the cameras and disposing of them. This has been provided on a price per camera basis and the potential costs are set out in section 8 below.

5.0 Equality and diversity issues

- 5.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) was prepared to support the original decision taken by Members to withdraw funding for CCTV (2 July 2012 minute 76). This assessment has been included with this report for reference at Appendix 1.

6.0 Legal implications

6.1 The legal ownership of the equipment is with this council and the proposal made provision for the transfer of the ownership to the town councils. As referred to in 4.2 above, Northampton BC's legal team would carry this out as necessary.

7.0 Risk management

7.1 The key risk going forward is set out in section 3 above.

8.0 Financial implications

8.1 The costs associated with decommissioning the cameras have been obtained. This would be £105.00 per camera on the basis that the company undertaking the work would retain the camera units. The work would also involve disconnection from the fibre cabling and the electricity supply. The poles the cameras are mounted on would remain in place.

8.2 It is not certain how many cameras would require decommissioning; however, based on 24 cameras the maximum provision required would be £2,520. In the event that these costs arise, the intention would be to meet them from within the budget set out in the report elsewhere on the agenda.

9.0 Corporate outcomes

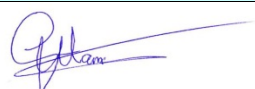
9.1 CCTV has contributed to our corporate outcomes as follows:-

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

10.0 Recommendations

10.1 Members are recommended to note the current position of the town councils and the final arrangements to end our involvement in CCTV in East Northamptonshire.

(Reason: To make arrangements for ending of this council's involvement in CCTV from 31 March 2013.)

Legal	Power: Crime & Disorder Act 1998				
	Other considerations:				
Background Papers:					
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Date: 31 January 2013					
CFO		MO		CX	

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