

## MOBILE CCTV

<b>Head of Service:</b>	Rod Brown, Head of Housing & Community
<b>Wards affected:</b>	(All Wards);
<b>Urgent Decision?(yes/no)</b>	No
<b>If yes, reason urgent decision required:</b>	
<b>Appendices (attached):</b>	Appendix 1 Technical details of cameras Appendix 2 Costings for proposal

### Summary

This report seeks to agree how the successful funding bid from the Surrey Community Safety Fund is used to purchase mobile CCTV.

### Recommendation (s)

#### The Committee is asked to:

- (1) Agree to purchase the mobile CCTV as set out in the report.**
- (2) To delegate any minor amendments to equipment purchased to the Head of Housing and Community in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer and the Chair and Vice Chair of Environment and Safer Communities.**

## 1 Reason for Recommendation

- 1.1 Over the recent years, the Council has strengthened the approach to community safety across the borough and this is reflected in the new vision for Epsom and Ewell which was approved by Council on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2020. This recommendation would help the Council improve the level of site monitoring and respond more effectively to incidences of anti-social behaviour (ASB) and environmental crime, both of which can have a significant negative impact on community safety within our communities.

## 2 Background

- 2.1 The Council has been successful in bidding for community safety funding for re-deployable, or mobile, CCTV, for use in tackling community safety issues within the borough.

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- 2.2 The Council has received £3,000 funding from the Surrey County Council Community Safety Fund for purchase of a portable demountable CCTV system for use in identified areas of concern.
- 2.3 As part of the strengthened approach to improving community safety, the council has developed a programme of Joint Action Groups to focus on areas of high crime including ASB or environmental crime.
- 2.4 In reviewing areas prone to ASB or other types of crime, the Council frequently seek the advice of Surrey Police's Design Out Crime Officers (DOCOs). The use of CCTV is a common recommendation from the DOCO in various locations examined by the Joint Action Groups.
- 2.5 Whilst evidence gathering is an important part of any investigation, often there is a need to gauge the extent of a problem at an early stage and to change offending patterns of behaviour before they become more ingrained and established. The lack of easily deployable CCTV has hindered the early stages of investigations and will have consumed additional staff resources to gather required intelligence.

### **3 CCTV provision**

- 3.1 There is increasing use of CCTV across the borough including those operated by private business, residential property owners, dashcam cameras as well as those provided by the Council.
- 3.2 The Council has 20 street CCTV cameras operating across the borough with 16 located within Epsom. These are all currently operated and controlled by Surrey Police who receive the imagery direct to their CCTV control room in Reigate. The future management of these street CCTV cameras is subject to on-going discussions between Surrey Police and the District and Borough Councils.
- 3.3 This report is considering mobile CCTV which would be in addition to any street CCTV cameras in operation and would be deployed to targeted areas within the borough mainly for the purposes of detecting ASB and environmental crime and assisting in the investigation of these events.

### **4 Option appraisal**

- 4.1 The purpose for which the £3,000 funding was awarded was to acquire a range of portable and easily relocatable CCTV cameras to form a resource for the swift and agile monitoring of environments subject to serious organised crime including fly-tipping, drugs hotspots, graffiti and ASB.
- 4.2 Officers have explored the various options for using this limited funding to achieve the purpose above. Given the limited funding provided two main options have emerged:

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- 4.2.1 To purchase a second hand, single professional grade expensive CCTV camera capable of high quality imagery which would require a power supply at each location it was deployed at, or
- 4.2.2 To purchase multiple less expensive pieces of consumer level equipment and be able to fund the ancillary costs such as cherry picker hire, batteries, signage, data services and security hardware within the existing budget.
- 4.3 Whilst the professional equipment option in 4.2.1 is a superior product and image, the limited funding will restrict this to a single second hand camera. If this was subject to vandalism or technical fault, this option would eliminate the capability. Funding for costs associated with provision of power and any ancillary equipment and costs associated with re-deployment are not currently budgeted for and would need to be identified for this option.
- 4.4 The option of purchasing consumer level equipment set out in 4.2.2 above would have the limitation of lower quality imagery, which might not be sufficient in some circumstances to be used as evidence in court. However the limited funding available would enable three cameras, of differing specifications, to be purchased reducing the issues associated with vandalism or technical fault and offering the advantage of allowing for three units of differing specifications so as to be able to deploy the appropriate equipment in the right place.
- 4.5 The second option, in 4.2.2 above, would also provide highly portable CCTV with ancillary costs such as hiring a cherry picker which could be met from existing budgets.

## **5 Proposal**

- 5.1 Given the limitation of the funding available through the Surrey County Council Community Safety Fund, the preferred proposal is to proceed the option set out in 4.2.2 above. This would provide three CCTV cameras of differing specifications so as to be able to be deployed at the appropriate location.
- 5.2 The proposal includes the funding for the acquisition of two different types of CCTV camera. A total of two Brenno wildlife-type models and one 4G remote access model. Included in this proposal is the purchase of sufficient consumables, data allowance, and signage and security hardware to allow for deployment in identified priority areas.
- 5.3 The technical specification for the proposal is set out in Annex 1 to this report.

## **6 Risk Assessment**

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### Legal or other duties

#### 6.1 Impact Assessment

6.1.1 The proposal set out in this paper will enable the Council to better focus resources on the community safety needs of the borough, with more effective monitoring of areas and activities which cause deteriorating community safety.

#### 6.2 Crime & Disorder

6.2.1 The proposal set out will make a positive contribution to tackling crime and disorder in the borough and help ensure Epsom and Ewell is seen as a safe place to live, work study and visit.

#### 6.3 Safeguarding

6.3.1 Safeguarding is a central part of the Council's approach to community safety. The proposal will assist in detecting activities associated with safeguarding concerns including crimes targeted at vulnerable and more deprived residents.

#### 6.4 Dependencies

6.4.1 The on-going support of the Epsom and Ewell Community Safety Partnership.

### 7 Financial Implications

7.1 The proposal will be entirely funded from the successful bid to the Surrey County Council Community Safety Fund.

7.2 The costs including ancillary equipment and costs associated with installing the cameras associated with the proposal is set out in Annex 2 to this report.

7.3 Any eventual replacement of equipment or on-going costs associated with re-locating equipment would have to be identified from exiting service budgets.

7.4 **Section 151 Officer's comments:** All financial considerations have been set out in the body of the report.

### 8 Legal Implications

8.1 All applications for the deployment of remote CCTV cameras must take into consideration of the Council's responsibilities under the Data Protection and Human Rights legislation, as well as the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000.

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- 8.2 The Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 introduced the regulation of public space surveillance cameras in England and Wales. As a result the surveillance camera code of practice was issued by the Secretary of State under Section 30 of the Act to ensure that the use of cameras in public places is regulated and only used in pursuit of a specified purpose. The code, seeks to balance the need for cameras in public places with individuals' right to privacy.
- 8.3 The Code applies to the use of surveillance camera systems that operate in public places in England and Wales, regardless of whether or not there is any live viewing, or recording of images or information or associated data. All relevant authorities must have regard to the Code. The 12 guiding principles of the surveillance camera code of practice will need to be assessed before any deployment of mobile CCTV cameras. This will take the form of a separate operational guide for officers.
- 8.4 The Act also created a regulatory body, the Office of the Surveillance Camera Commissioner, which oversees compliance with the Code of Practice.
- 8.5 **Monitoring Officer's comments:** None arising from the contents of this report.

## 9 Policies, Plans & Partnerships

- 9.1 **Council's Key Priorities:** Improving community safety is reflected in the Council's key priorities.
- 9.2 **Service Plans:** The matter is not specifically included within the current Service Delivery Plan but is reflected in plans for having a more co-ordinated approach with partners and the continued use of Joint Action groups to tackle identified focus areas within the borough.
- 9.3 **Climate & Environmental Impact of recommendations:** Environmental crime such as fly-tipping, countryside fires, illegal discharges and the effect of gradual degradation of an area can all have significant impacts on the environment including biodiversity and climate change.
- 9.4 **Sustainability Policy & Community Safety Implications:** The proposal set out in this report is intended to improve community safety across the borough.
- 9.5 **Partnerships:** The use of mobile CCTV will be influenced by the areas identified by the partners within the Epsom and Ewell Community Safety Partnership, which includes the Poice.

## 10 Background papers

- 10.1 The documents referred to in compiling this report are as follows:

**Previous reports: None**

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10.2 **Other papers:** Surveillance Camera Code of Practice

A Guide for Councillors

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/498895/SCC\\_Councillors\\_Guide - February 2016.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/498895/SCC_Councillors_Guide_-_February_2016.pdf)