

STREET SCENE CCTV

Report of the: Chief Executive
Contact: Kelvin Shooter, Simon Young
Urgent Decision?(yes/no) No
If yes, reason urgent decision required: N/A
Annexes/Appendices (attached): None
Other available papers (not attached): None stated

REPORT SUMMARY

This report sets out proposals in respect of arrangements for monitoring and maintaining the Street Scene CCTV cameras/system in our streets.

RECOMMENDATION (S)

That the Chief Executive be authorised to conclude arrangements for monitoring and maintaining the Street Scene CCTV cameras in the Borough in such way as she thinks fit, but with a view to implementing the proposals in section 3 of this report.

Notes

1 Implications for the Council's Key Priorities, Service Plans and Sustainable Community Strategy

- 1.1 Whilst this report does not directly impact any of the actions agreed under the Corporate Plan, it does have implications for the Council's Key Priorities of Managing Resources, Supporting our Community and Supporting Businesses and our Local Economy.

2 Background

- 2.1 This report focusses purely on the CCTV cameras in streets, not any other CCTV systems which the Council operates.
- 2.2 The Council currently operates 20 Street Scene CCTV cameras. Most of these are located in Epsom Town Centre (16), with two cameras in Ewell Village, and two in Stoneleigh Broadway.
- 2.3 The Street Scene cameras are currently monitored by the control centre operated by Runnymede Borough Council under contracts between Elmbridge Borough Council, Epsom & Ewell Borough Council, Runnymede Borough Council and Surrey Police. The cameras are

maintained by a private contractor via an arrangement with Elmbridge Borough Council. Surrey Police currently contribute to the Council's costs under the various agreements.

- 2.4 The current arrangements will come to an end at the end of March 2017, at which point new arrangements need to be made. Elmbridge Borough Council have indicated their intention to enter into new arrangements for monitoring and maintenance of their CCTV cameras, so we will need to make alternative arrangements or the system would need to be decommissioned.
- 2.5 Surrey Police have indicated that they are not prepared to contribute towards the costs of monitoring or maintenance of the system. However, they have suggested an alternative arrangement in respect of monitoring (see below).
- 2.6 Without the Surrey Police financial contribution, it is not considered that an alternative solution can be found which would allow the service to remain within the current approved budget.
- 2.7 The system is principally used by Surrey Police in order to provide evidence for incidents of crime and disorder, but, even so, the system has been used in a relatively small number of cases in recent years. There is also the deterrent effect to consider, though experience indicates that the deterrent effect of CCTV is minimal in reality.
- 2.8 It has come to light that the system is also used by Surrey County Council for the purposes of highway monitoring, with a data feed from the system being routed to the County's own CCTV control room. The County Council has not so far contributed to the costs of maintenance of the system.
- 2.9 It is understood that Surrey Police has commissioned a review of CCTV across the 11 Surrey Districts and Boroughs. It is anticipated that any outcomes of this Surrey wide review will not be available until at the earliest 2017/18. However, the contractual issue and potential for revenue savings is such that it is not considered that we should wait until the outcome of the review before making changes.

3 Proposals

- 3.1 Surrey Police have indicated a willingness to monitor the camera system free of charge from their Reigate control room. Final details will need to be agreed. There will be costs in transferring the data lines from Runnymede to Reigate, and there will be a need for some additional hardware to be purchased for use at Reigate (including monitors and hard-drives).
- 3.2 Officers have had discussions about the one-off costs associated with the move. It is hoped that contributions will be received from Surrey Police

and/or Surrey County Council, but it is considered that we should probably meet the associated costs if agreement cannot be reached.

- 3.3 It has been made clear to Surrey County Council that if they do not in future contribute towards the costs of operating and maintaining the cameras, they will not be permitted to access the data from those cameras.
- 3.4 It is important that matters are progressed at the earliest opportunity, as there will clearly be a lead-in time for completion of the hardware/line moves. It is intended that we liaise with Runnymede BC to hopefully agree to extend their monitoring or recording, until the alternative arrangements are in place, but it is possible there might be an unavoidable break in service.
- 3.5 New maintenance arrangements will also need to be put in place and initial discussions have been had by officers with a view to procuring a suitable contractor. At this stage there is some uncertainty about what those arrangements will be or what the cost will be, but officers will seek to ensure that the maintenance costs are within the current budget.

4 Financial and Manpower Implications

- 4.1 The current budget for Epsom & Ewell Borough Council associated with Street Scene CCTV is £75,500 and can be broken down approximately as follows:

| | Approximate Cost 2016/2017 £ |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Monitoring | 46,000 |
| Utilities (electricity) | 4,500 |
| Data (BT) | 15,000 |
| Maintenance | 10,000 |
| Total | 75,500 |

- 4.2 The Epsom town centre CCTV cameras are owned by this council and under the proposals outlined above would continue to be owned by this council. Therefore any direct running costs would need to continue to be funded. Unless other contributors can be found, this council would need to retain £29,500 of the current budget. However there are future potential savings within the CCTV monitoring budget of £46,000.
- 4.3 Under the proposals outlined in section 3, the costs of hardware and moving the BT lines are expected to be around £30,000. It is hoped that BT would undertake the work in the current financial year, which would mean that unbudgeted one off costs of £30,000 would have to be funded. It is proposed that these costs be met from the Corporate Property

Maintenance Provision, unless any partner contributions are secured. If the works are undertaken in the next financial year, the unbudgeted £30,000 could be funded from the potential saving of the current £46,000 monitoring budget.

- 4.4 The CCTV cameras have been in operation for a number of years. It is considered that on an ongoing basis around £10,000 should be retained of the current £46,000 budget to buy some spare cameras, to guard against breaks in service where cameras need to be removed for repair/replacement.
- 4.5 This means that there is potential to save a net £36,000 in a full year in terms of monitoring costs. There is also the potential to save on the operation/maintenance costs if Surrey CC with to continue to retain a feed from the CCTV system.
- 4.6 If the maintenance costs cannot be contained within the current budget, the scope for savings will be consequently reduced.
- 4.7 **Chief Finance Officer's comments:** *The budgetary implications detailed in the report are included in the Council's revenue estimates and Medium Term Financial and Efficiency Plan.*

5 Legal Implications (including implications for matters relating to equality)

- 5.1 The council is not legally required to provide a CCTV monitoring and recording service but where it does it is required to comply with the relevant data protection and CCTV codes of compliance. The alternative monitoring regime of the streetscene CCTV will meet all legal requirements of providing such a service.
- 5.2 **Monitoring Officer's comments:** *Under section 17 of the Crime & Disorder Act 1998, the Council has a duty to exercise its functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent:*
- (a) *crime and disorder in the Borough (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment); and*
 - (b) *the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in the Borough ;*
- and*
- (c) *re-offending in the Borough.*
- 5.3 *It will be important to have regard to the crime & disorder implications of any proposed change to CCTV arrangements, which adds weight to the proposal to wait until Surrey Police complete their county-wide review, before making any changes to the CCTV service.*

6 Sustainability Policy and Community Safety Implications

- 6.1 The streetscene CCTV service, having been established since the 1990s, is valued by the Surrey Police in stopping and detecting Anti-Social Behaviour and crime. They have stated they wish the service to remain at its current level.

7 Partnerships

- 7.1 The provision of streetscene CCTV has been a partnership between the Borough Council and Surrey Police. The proposed changes to the source of monitoring to maintain the service at its current level will continue that partnership.

8 Risk Assessment

- 8.1 At present Surrey Police are not proposing to enter into a contract to oblige them to monitor the CCTV, so it is possible they could stop doing so. Should the Surrey Police decide to end their monitoring arrangement following its implementation post March 2017 it would not be possible to maintain the service within the resources currently available. If Surrey Police subsequently seek a contribution to the monitoring costs, a further decision will be required.
- 8.2 There are potential risks in relation to crime and disorder if the system is not maintained, though the data previously obtained indicates that the direct effect would be minimal. There is also a risk to the reputation of the Council and potential for harm to our relationship with both Surrey Police and Surrey County Council if the matter is not concluded by mutual agreement.

9 Conclusion and Recommendations

- 9.1 The ending of the existing streetscene CCTV contracts in March 2017 and the removal of Police funding necessitates some change being made. Either the budgeted expenditure would need to be increased, or changes to arrangements would have been required – for example, a change to the level of service under a contract with the existing monitoring contractor.
- 9.2 The arrangements proposed in terms of the monitoring streetscene CCTV at Reigate Police Station will hopefully allow the service to be continued at its current levels within financial resources allocated to the provision of CCTV.
- 9.3 Following the results of the county wide review of CCTV by Surrey Police the Council may need to re-evaluate the provision of CCTV within this Borough.
- 9.4 On balance, it is considered that this matter should be approached with a view to making the savings indicated above at the earliest opportunity.

WARD(S) AFFECTED: (All Wards);