

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting: February 2012
Report of: Head of Community Services
Subject/Title: CCTV – service update
Portfolio Holder: Cllr Rachel Bailey

1.0 Report Summary

1.1 This report seeks to update Members on progress with the CCTV Control Room capital works and provide details on the future operation.

2.0 Recommendation

2.1 Members are asked to note the update and comment on progress.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendation

3.1 To inform Scrutiny Members of the current status of the project and the existing budgetary provision.

4.0 Wards Affected

4.1 All Wards

5.0 Local Ward Members

5.1 All Ward Members

6.0 Policy Implications including - Climate Change - Health

6.1 Feeling safe and being safe in our homes, town centres and communities are important factors affecting peoples' general health and wellbeing. The purpose of CCTV is to prevent and detect crime & disorder and as such plays a key role in tackling issues such as alcohol-related violence and anti-social behaviour.

7.0 Financial Implications

7.1 None outside existing budgetary provision

8.0 Legal implications (authorised by the Borough Solicitor)

8.1 None subject to the views of Scrutiny Members

9.0 Risk Management

9.1 Key risks for the service relate to compliance with the legislative framework of Data Protection and Human Rights which could impact on the Council's reputation and the success of prosecutions in Court.

10.0 Background

10.1 CCTV Capital Scheme:

Cheshire East BC inherited 3 independent CCTV systems originally operated from Crewe, Macclesfield and Sandbach. Since then the Council has gradually moved each system to Macclesfield to complement the ICT Data Centre plans. Whilst this ICT project is no longer progressing, the CCTV scheme has continued and completion of the new, single Control Room is expected in mid-March 2012.

The operational and partnership benefits already achieved and those due to be realised once the new system is live include;

- Full 24/7, 365 monitoring of cameras across the Borough (previously the service provided different levels of cover in each town)
- Taken on Council's 'Out-of-Hours' contact arrangements (replacing former 'messagepad' service) saving £70,000 per annum and improving the customer response.
- Supporting the Adult Services Emergency Duty Team with security saving £52,000 per annum.
- Providing 'lone worker' support to Out-of-Hours staff
- Improved links with Cheshire Police HQ based at Winsford and Primary Custody Suite at Middlewich
- 'Evidence-locker' solution to provide evidential footage directly to Police on request.
- Taken on management of Cheshire East's Urban Traffic Control cameras (previously based in Backford Hall, Chester) The images are shared with new highways contractor (Ringway Jacobs) at Delamere House, Crewe. Combines recent move of Council's back-up Emergency Control Centre from Dalton House, Middlewich.
- Moving to single 'shopwatch' radio system when existing leases expire. Technology in place in new control room to expand network.
- Simplified maintenance of Control Room equipment.
- Growth potential built-in to new control room to allow provision of services to private sector, schools etc to generate income.

10.2 Staffing & Rotas

There are 12 trained operators providing a 24/7, 365 CCTV service across the whole Borough area. The rotas have been developed by the team and are based on 12 hour shifts across an 8 week rolling timetable. This rota has been in operation since Summer 2011 and has shown itself to be resilient to staff absences and service demands.

10.3 Budgets 2012/13

The CCTV revenue budget for 2012/13 is set out in the table below. The Supplies and Services budget of £241,148 includes BT transmission line rental costs of £182,000 per annum and £51,000 for system and camera maintenance.

(£)

Employees	302,903
Premises	18,179
Transport	11,510
Supplies & Services	241,148
Total Gross Budget	573,740
Customer & Client Receipts	-12,253
Recharges	-56,968
Total Gross Income Budget	-69,221
Net Budget	504,519

In addition, the current budget proposals include a three year investment programme totalling £150,000 to undertake an audit of the existing camera network across the whole borough. The existing network has grown on an ad-hoc basis over the last 10-15 years and maintenance costs are increasing as equipment ages. An initial 'crime audit' of the cameras will identify those in need of replacement or are no longer 'fit for purpose'. New locations too will be identified where CCTV could be introduced to tackle crime & disorder issues. Savings will be achieved by removing existing cameras which are no longer required and these may be applied to new locations where there is an identified need for CCTV. The evidential quality of images will be improved and this will lead to continued successful prosecutions.

11.0 Access to Information

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

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