

**Report To:** Performance Scrutiny Committee

**Date of Meeting:** 20<sup>th</sup> November 2014

**Lead Member/Officer:** Lead Member for Public Realm and Head of Planning and Public Protection

**Report Authors:** Head of Planning and Public Protection/Public Protection Manager

**Title:** Denbighshire CCTV and Out of Hours Call Service

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**1. What is the report about?**

1.1 To provide Members with an update on the Council's CCTV and Out of Hours Call Service.

**2. What is the reason for making this report?**

2.1 A report was presented to Members in October 2013 to present a range of potential projects to develop the CCTV service, which had the potential to bring in additional income. Members requested an update report on progress.

**3. What are the Recommendations?**

3.1 It is recommended that Members comment on the contents of this report in light of the Freedoms and Flexibilities project to enable Scrutiny's views to be reported to County Council on 9<sup>th</sup> December.

**4. Report details**

4.1 The Council's CCTV system is operated and managed by the Planning and Public Protection Service. It is located in Rhyl Police Station.

4.2 The team comprise of 10 members of staff (not all full time) working shifts to provide 24 hour cover, 7 days a week, 365 days per year.

4.3 The Public Space CCTV Cameras are located in Rhyl, Prestatyn and Rhuddlan. The cameras are located as follows:

Rhyl	59 Cameras
Prestatyn	18 Cameras
Rhuddlan	4 Cameras

4.4 All these cameras are live cameras, linked to our main CCTV control room at Rhyl Police Station and are monitored by our CCTV operators.

4.5 The cost of providing this service in 2014/15 will be £282k, with an income of £48k leaving a net budget cost of £234k. The 3 Town Councils make no

financial contribution towards the cost of the CCTV service. The Police contribute approx. £17k per annum.

- 4.6 3 other towns in the County, Denbigh, Ruthin and Llangollen have made their own arrangements over recent years to have limited CCTV public space systems in their towns. These are run independently of the DCC system and DCC make no financial contribution towards these schemes.
- 4.7 A list of potential proposals on how to develop the DCC CCTV Service were drawn up by Officers and presented to this Scrutiny Committee in October 2013. Following that meeting, Officers evaluated the proposed projects on the basis of maintaining a 24/7 CCTV Service.
- 4.8 One of the issues in considering these proposals was to establishing what level of financial investment would be required into the network providing the additional capacity to allow these projects to happen and any additional equipment that would be required.
- 4.9 This review established that DCC would need to invest in the region of £300k to create the additional capacity in the system to accommodate the additional work. These projects would also require significant management capacity within the Service. It was felt that this level of investment could not be justified in this current economic climate and having regard to the financial challenges faced by the Council. At around the same time the Freedoms and Flexibilities project started to look into all services being provided and the CCTV Services was identified as an area of potential savings.
- 4.10 At the Members budget meeting on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> of October, Members agreed in principle for DCC to stop providing, managing and funding the CCTV service in order to deliver a saving of at least £200k in financial year 2016/17. This will be presented to Full Council on the 9<sup>th</sup> of December as part of the Freedoms and Flexibilities Phase 2 project for a final decision.
- 4.11 If, following a Full Council decision on the 9<sup>th</sup> of December, the CCTV budget is to be reduced by £200k it is the intention of Officers to progress an 'exit strategy' for the CCTV service. Given that the savings will not be required until 2016/17 there is approximately 12 months to agree and implement an exit strategy. Officers believe that a multi-agency working party should be established, involving North Wales Police, Members from Rhyl, Prestatyn and Rhuddlan Town Councils and other interested parties to explore other possible options for delivering a CCTV system in the 3 towns. DCC will support this group and assist in the 'handover' of any responsibilities to a third party. At this time Officers are optimistic that an alternative CCTV Service in these 3 towns could still be delivered by a third party, not least because the existing infrastructure could be 'handed over' with an agreed method of maintaining/managing the apparatus, systems and control room.
- 4.12 It is also proposed to set up an internal Working Group with Officers from front line services who use the Out of Hours call facility provided by the CCTV team, along with and Officers from Customer Services to agree a system for Out of Hours call handling should the CCTV function cease to be managed by DCC, and in all likelihood cease to be manned 24/7.

**5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?**

- 5.1 The operation of a CCTV service directly contributes towards the corporate priorities of protecting the vulnerable within our communities and keeping our streets clean and tidy.

**6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?**

- 6.1 Any costs in terms of the exit strategy will need to be contained within existing budgets. There will be impacts upon other Services, hence the need for an agreed exit strategy.

**7. What are the main conclusions of the Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) undertaken on the decision? The completed EqIA template should be attached as an appendix to the report.**

- 7.1 The potential impact of this decision has been assessed. Any decision to progress with any of the previously mentioned proposals will need to be assessed for equality impact.

**8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?**

- 8.1 Members have been consulted through the Freedoms and Flexibilities process, CCTV staff and Unions have been advised and informal discussions have been had with NWP. The Town Councils of Rhyl, Prestatyn and Rhuddlan are also aware of the budget position and the need for an agreed exit strategy, in which they will be involved.

**9. Chief Finance Officer Statement**

- 9.1 This is one of the budget proposals being considered currently and it is assumed that a saving will be delivered in 2016/17.

**10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?**

- 10.1 If the decision is taken at Full Council in December to make £200k savings from the CCTV budget then without an appropriate exit strategy there are a number of operating, financial and reputational risks.

**11. Power to make the Decision**

- 11.1 No formal decision is required  
11.2 Article 6.3.2(c) of the Council's Constitution stipulates that Scrutiny can "consider any matter affecting the area or its inhabitants", and Article 6.3.3(a) states that Scrutiny can "assist the Council and the Cabinet in the development of its budget and policy framework..."

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