

Report To: Partnerships Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting: 30th July 2015

Lead Member / Officer: Cllr David Smith (Public Realm) Graham H Boase
(Head of Planning and Public Protection)

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Title: Denbighshire CCTV Update Report

1.0 What is the report about?

1.1 To provide Members with an update on the Council's CCTV exit strategy including working with Partners to try and secure an alternative CCTV delivery model for the future.

2.0 What is the reason for making this report?

2.1 Members decided as part of the Council's Freedoms and Flexibilities that the Council should no longer be funding or managing the CCTV service from the 1st of April 2016. This will deliver £200k of savings for 2016/17. Members asked Officers to work with partners to explore the possibility of developing a different CCTV service delivery model. The reason for this report is to update Members on progress to date.

3.0 What are the Recommendations?

3.1 It is recommended that Members note the contents of this report and support the work done by Officers to date in progressing the decision to close down the Council's CCTV function, while exploring possible alternative delivery models.

4.0 Report details

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

4.2 The primary purpose of the system is to support the Community Safety Partnerships approach to reduce both the level of crime and fear of crime, to provide a safe public environment for the benefit of those who reside, visit and work in the 3 towns in the County that have public space CCTV, namely Rhyl, Prestatyn and Rhuddlan.

4.3 The service also monitors a small number of CCTV cameras located on Council land and buildings for the purposes of security.

4.4 Council Officers staff the CCTV control room, working shifts to provide 24 hour cover, 7 days a week, 365 days per year monitoring of the cameras.

4.5 The Public Space CCTV Cameras are allocated as follows:

- Rhyl 59 Cameras
- Prestatyn 18 Cameras
- Rhuddlan 4 Cameras

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

4.6 Following the decision to close the CCTV Service, officers have engaged with partners to form a working group to explore options of delivering a reduced CCTV service in the future.

4.7 The working group membership is made up of a representative from North Wales Police, Rhyl Town Council, Prestatyn Town Council, Rhyl Member Area Group, Prestatyn Member Area Group and Elwy Member Area Group. The group has agreed terms of reference and has met on four occasions.

4.8 All partners value the CCTV service. Discussions have taken place in relation to potential different types of service delivery models.

4.9 It has been agreed to focus on a delivery model which involves keeping the CCTV cameras operating and recording but with no monitoring. One member of staff would be required to maintain the system and be the point of contact and coordinator between all Partners. No agreement has been secured on who would be the Lead Partner, be responsible for the budget, employ the member of staff etc.

4.10 This “minimum” CCTV Service delivery model would cost approx. £65k for 12 months and is broken down as follows:

ACTIVITY	BRIEF DESCRIPTION	ANTICIPATED COSTS FOR “MINIMUM” CCTV SERVICE
1 Member of Staff	Based in Rhyl Police station to manage the minimum service	£25k
Quadrant	Repair and maintenance of Control room	£9k
Street Camera	Repair and maintenance of cameras	£17k
BT Redcare	Quality of pictures	£5k
Costs of Control Room	Electricity, air conditioning etc	£9K

4.11 In terms of how these costs could be met the Working Group has broadly agreed the following:-

- North Wales Police – Will continue to contribute the same amount to the CCTV Service as they have done in previous years (in the region of £16.5k)
- Rhyl Town Council – Agree in principle to contribute financially to a new model (approx. £15k)
- Prestatyn Town Council – Agree in principle to contribute financially to a new model (approx. £8.5k)
- Rhuddlan Town Council – Yet to be fully considered by the Town Council but it is hoped they could commit approx. £3.5k.
- Internal re-charges to services that benefit from security as a result of non-public space cameras being connected to the system – approx. £17.5k
- External charges for private cameras connected to the system – approx. £3k.

4.12 This gives an approx. “income” of £64k to offset the approx. costs of £65k. It appears therefore that the model is viable, and Legal Services have been asked to draft an Agreement for the Partners to consider on the basis of a 12 month trial period.

4.13 The Council requires all financial savings from the closure of the CCTV service to be secured by the 31st of March 2016. This includes all redundancy costs. It therefore means that the CCTV Service will need to close during the autumn, likely to be the 31st of October 2015.

4.14 Officers and HR Partner have met with all CCTV staff and Unison representative to discuss the process. We are currently in a period of consultation with staff on the redundancy process.

5.0 How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?

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

6.0 What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

6.1 Costs will be contained within budgets having regard to the Freedoms & Flexibilities requirement of £200k savings for 2016/17.

7.0 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.

8.0 What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?

8.1 Reports have been presented to Members through the Freedoms and Flexibilities process. CCTV staff and Unions have been engaged. The Working Group is made up of partner organisations (NWP, Town Councils and relevant MAGs) which is all part of the consulting process.

9.0 Chief Finance Officer Statement

9.1 The proposals within this report will enable the implementation of the decision by Council on 9th December 2014 to withdraw £200k funding from this service area in 2016/17. This formed part of the Phase 2 Freedoms and Flexibilities savings.

10.0 What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

10.1 There are no risks associated to this report.

11.0 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..."