

**Report to:** Partnerships Scrutiny Committee

**Date of Meeting:** 24<sup>th</sup> November 2016

**Lead Member / Officer:** Lead Member Public Realm

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

**Title:** Denbighshire CCTV Partnership

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

1.1 This report relates to the Denbighshire CCTV Partnership which commenced on the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2016.

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

2.1 The report is to provide Members with an update on the CCTV Partnership, the governance arrangements in place for the Partnership and its effectiveness in delivering a service since its formation on the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2016.

**3. What are the Recommendations?**

3.1 It is recommended that Members consider the contents of the report, support the Council's role within the Partnership and support the retention of the Partnership.

**4. Report details**

4.1 The Denbighshire CCTV Partnership began on the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2016 for a 12 month trial period. The partnership involves Rhyl Town Council, Rhuddlan Town Council, Prestatyn Town Council, North Wales Police (NWP) and Denbighshire County Council as a lead partner.

4.2 The Partnership was formed following the decision made by the Council to remove the CCTV budget as part of the F&F process. Officers worked with the relevant Town Councils and NWP to explore options for maintaining a CCTV service in the three towns. The new CCTV Partnership is funded by financial contributions from the three Town Councils, NWP and income from some DCC services that have CCTV cameras in place for security reasons and also a couple of external contracts.

4.3 There is a legal agreement in place for the Partnership, signed by all partners.

4.4 A CCTV Partnership Board was established and it is chaired by the Council's Lead Member for Public Realm. The Board meets quarterly.

4.5 A CCTV Coordinator is in post. This is a full time post, funded by the Partnership, but employed by DCC, as "Lead Partner". This post is responsible for coordinating the

service, dealing with daily requests from partners/agencies, maintaining the systems and working with contractors to repair and maintain equipment etc, thus working closely with all Partners. The Officer provides the Board with a quarterly operational update report.

- 4.6 All CCTV cameras in the 3 towns were retained and have continued to record 24/7. All CCTV cameras have been prioritised according to frequency of use and importance to NWP. This allows the Partnership to make informed decisions on whether cameras are repaired or replaced if broken.
- 4.7 The new Partnership is delivering a valuable and important service in the three towns. The feedback from all Partners has been positive to date. NWP have identified no visible increase in crime and disorder in the three towns since the commencement of the partnership. Licensed premises related crime and shoplifting rates have remained comparable to previous years. NWP believe that CCTV is important to the prevention and detection of crime in the area.
- 4.8 From 1<sup>st</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016, the CCTV Control Room has logged, recorded and actioned a total of 446 incidents and logged 321 Video Reviews;

Total Video Reviews conducted: 321

No. of times Evidence Found: 160 (50%)

No. of times Possible Evidence Found: 105 (33%)

No of times No Evidence found or available: 56 (17%)

Total DVDs Produced and Exported: 270

- 4.9 A total of 24 NWP Officers have received basic CCTV video review and camera control training from the CCTV Coordinator. This includes 6 officers from the St Asaph CID department. A further 3 CID officers are scheduled for training in October 2016.
- 4.10 Although the feedback to date has been positive, there is an appreciation within the Board that the current arrangements are not sustainable. This was a 12 month trial and it was accepted and understood by the partners that further work would need to be done to develop a more sustainable, medium term service delivery option. It has also become evident that there is still an overreliance on the Lead Partner (DCC).
- 4.11 A report was presented to the Board on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of November 2016 to present some options for future service delivery. Much work had been undertaken by officers over recent months to investigate other possible service delivery models. This included both public sector and private sector options. The basis for all options would be for the Partnership to provide another organisation (public or private) with the existing funding to deliver a CCTV service on its behalf and thereby benefit from economies of scale. Possible delivery partners currently being considered include Cheshire West and Chester Council, Conwy County Borough Council, Newport County Council and Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board/Cornerstone Security.
- 4.12 Officers have also recently submitted applications for grant funding on behalf of the Partnership to the People & Places Fund, Coastal Communities Fund and Proceeds of Crime Funding. This funding would be used to upgrade the main CCTV server

which is at risk of failing due its age and condition and also old cameras. We are waiting to hear whether we have been successful.

**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, keeping our streets clean and tidy and economic development.

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

6.1 All costs relating to the CCTV Partnership are met by the Partners. There are no significant implications for any other DCC service.

**7. What are the main conclusions of the Well-being Impact Assessment? The completed Well-being Impact Assessment report can be downloaded from the [website](#) and should be attached as an appendix to the report**

7.1 An impact assessment is not required since there is no required decision or change.

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

8.1 There are no specific consultations. Reports have been previously presented to Partnerships Scrutiny Committee (See Appendix A & B). This report was requested by Scrutiny Members.

**9. Chief Finance Officer Statement**

9.1 This is a good example of an alternative delivery model facilitating a budget saving. The council is likely to have to consider more initiatives like this over the medium term as funding continues to reduce in real terms.

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

10.1 There are risks to the CCTV Partnership which are primarily the server and IT equipment. Proposals are being presented to the CCTV Board to address these risks.

**11. Power to make the Decision**

11.1 Sections 7.2, 7.3 and 7.4 of the Council's Constitution outline Scrutiny's powers in relation to this matter.

**Contact Officer:**  
Public Protection Manager  
Tel: 01824 706350