

Report to: Partnerships Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting: 22nd June 2017

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Title: Denbighshire CCTV Partnership

1. What is the report about?

1.1 This report relates to the Denbighshire CCTV Partnership which commenced on the 1st 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, its effectiveness in delivering a service and work being undertaken by the Partnership to develop a more sustainable future.

3. What are the Recommendations?

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

4. Report details

4.1 The Denbighshire CCTV Partnership began on the 1st 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. The partnership has now completed its first 12 months and all partners have committed for a further minimum of 12 months.

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

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 was 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.
- 4.6 All CCTV cameras in the 3 towns were retained and have continued to record 24/7 i.e it is no longer 24/7 monitoring.
- 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 and the new way of providing a CCTV service. 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 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).
- 4.9 The Board have considered two aspects in relation to the future of CCTV in Denbighshire. These are the day to day running of a CCTV service and also the ICT of the CCTV system.

Day to day running of the service

- 4.10 The Board wanted to ensure that CCTV had a more sustainable and resilient future. After considering several options, they agreed to start working with Cheshire West and Chester Council (CWCC) to undertake the day to day management of the service for the Partnership. This means that the pictures from all CCTV cameras in Rhuddlan, Rhyl and Prestatyn will be beaming over to Chester. CWCC have a 24/7 CCTV service and will then provide a reactive monitoring service on behalf of the Partnership where they will react to any incidents 24/7, have immediate communication routes with North Wales Police and also provide some limited monitoring. This is an improvement to the current service delivered.
- 4.11 The Board are currently working closely with CWCC to plan the future service including developing a service level agreement and working procedures. This is in full consultation with North Wales Police who are part of the Partnership Board.
- 4.12 Once the service is established with Cheshire West and Chester, we will contact the City and Town Councils to see whether they wish to join the Partnership. This would involve City and Town Councils paying any initial one off costs and an annual contribution to the Partnership.

The ICT/Server

- 4.13 The current server in the control room at Rhyl Police Station is old and is many years beyond its serviceable lifetime. It was clear to the Board that to secure a more sustainable and resilient CCTV system it was necessary to replace the server. This would reduce the risk of a failing server which would prevent any further CCTV service.

Replacing the server will cost in the region of 80k. The Board have explored numerous funding options including grant bids, of which 1 decision is still pending.

4.14 The Board has also recently agreed a camera rationalisation/prioritisation programme. A report was recently presented to the Board (see Appendix 1) to seek agreement for a future camera repair programme. The reason for the report was to seek agreement from the Board on implementing a new camera prioritisation and maintenance programme which reflects the financial contributions by the three Town Councils and the priority of importance of those cameras in preventing and reducing crime and disorder.

4.15 The report helped to prioritise 32 cameras within Rhyl, Prestatyn and Rhuddlan based on their crime and disorder priority and community importance. The other 48 cameras will be categorised as lower priority and if they break down would not be repaired or replaced. This will help to prioritise the Board's limited financial resources.

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?

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 beyond the Partners. Reports have been previously presented to Partnerships Scrutiny Committee. This update report was requested by Scrutiny Members.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

9.1 The Council agreed in 2014 to the withdrawal of the CCTV base budget from 2016/17. However, a creative partnership solution has meant that the provision of the service has remained in a different form. The risks highlighted around the ICT equipment should be kept under review.

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. As detailed in the report, the CCTV Board are working to address these risks.

11. Power to make the Decision

Section 7.4.2(b) sets out scrutiny's powers with respect of reviewing performance in relation to policy objectives and particular service areas.

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