

Report to: Partnerships Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting: 14th February 2019

Lead Member/Officer: Lead Member for Corporate Standards
Head of Planning and Public Protection

Report Author: Head of Planning and Public Protection

Title: Denbighshire CCTV Partnership Update Report

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, the service level agreement with Cheshire West and Chester Council and work being undertaken by the Partnership to develop a more sustainable future.

3. What are the Recommendations?

3.1 That Members consider and comment on the content of the report and continue to support the development of the CCTV 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 is now in its third year.

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. The DCC CCTV Service was previously a 24/7 monitored public space CCTV service, based at Rhyl Police Station as well as providing the DCC out of hours call handling service. It had a team of 8 CCTV operators, a team leader and a budget of in the region of £300k.

4.3 Following the Council's decision to remove the CCTV budget, 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 was formed and 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.

- 4.4 There is a legal agreement in place for the Partnership, signed by all partners.
- 4.5 A CCTV Partnership Board was established and it is chaired by the Council's Lead Member for Corporate Standards (Councillor Mark Young). The Board meets quarterly. The Board receives updates on operational matters, feedback from the Partners and also updates on the budget.
- 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. 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 was an appreciation within the Board that the arrangements were 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 was still an overreliance on the Lead Partner (DCC).
- 4.9 The Board 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 and possible partners, Cheshire West and Chester Council (CWAC) were chosen to undertake the day to day management of the service for the Partnership. A 3 year service level agreement was signed between the Partnership and CWAC and the service went live in July 2018. CWAC attend every CCTV Board meeting and provide an operational update to the Board. Please see Appendix 1 for an update report from CWAC (this report is exempt from public disclosure by virtue of paragraph 18 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972). The relationship with CWAC is very positive.
- 4.11 This means that the pictures from all CCTV cameras in Rhuddlan, Rhyl and Prestatyn are now being beamed over to Chester. CWAC have a 24/7 CCTV service and are providing a reactive monitoring service on behalf of the Partnership where they react to any incidents 24/7, have immediate communication routes with North Wales Police and also provide some limited proactive monitoring for example during the Rhyl Air Show. This is an improvement to the current service delivered and costs the Partnership £13.5k per year.
- 4.12 Once the service is established with Cheshire West and Chester, the Partnership 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 i.e set up costs, new cameras etc. and an annual contribution to the Partnership based on the numbers of cameras that they have. Early discussions are already taking place with one Town Council who are interested in joining.

The ICT/Server

- 4.13 The server in the control room at Rhyl Police Station was old and 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. DCC successfully sought funding on behalf of the Partnership through its prudential borrowing process and a new server was installed at a cost approximately £70k. The Partnership pays back the borrowing on an annual basis over 7 years through the income secured from partners.
- 4.14 The Board also recently agreed a camera rationalisation/prioritisation programme. A report was presented to the Board to seek agreement for a future camera repair programme to prioritise the limited funds of the partnership on the most important cameras. This is done in full consultation with North Wales Police.
- 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 have been categorised as lower priority and if they break down would not be repaired or replaced.

Governance

- 4.16 As previously mentioned the Partnership has a Board. Each Partner has a representative on the Board. The Head of Planning and Public Protection 'facilitates/supports' the Board.
- 4.17 The CCTV Partnership was recently audited by DCC Internal Audit at our request to check on how the partnership operates and in particular its governance.
- 4.18 The audit report can be seen as Appendix 2, however the audit was overall positive, with 3 actions to be completed. Two have already been fully completed with one partially completed.

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

- 5.1 This decision does not directly contribute to a corporate priority however is an example of an alternative delivery model to deliver a service for the community.

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

- 6.1 All costs are contained within the budget of the CCTV Partnership and funded through income coming into the Partnership.

7. What are the main conclusions of the Well-being Impact Assessment?

- 7.1 No assessment is required due to no decision being made.

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

8.1 Consultation has taken place with the Denbighshire CCTV Partnership Board.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

9.1 The report has no direct financial implications and all costs should continue to be contained within the budget of the CCTV Partnership

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

10.1 A detailed risk register has been completed by the CCTV Partnership and will be maintained and regularly reported to the Board.

11. Power to make the Decision

11.1 Section 7.4.1(d) of the Council's Constitution outlines Scrutiny's power with respect of reviewing policy, including examining the Council's liaison with other external organisations operating in the area in order to ensure that the interest of local people are enhanced by collaborative working.

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