

Meeting: Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date: 13 December 2012
Subject: CCTV Plan 2013-2017
Report of: Cllr Brian Spurr, Executive Member for Sustainable Communities - Services
Summary: The report proposes the adoption of a CCTV Plan 2013-2017 for Central Bedfordshire that sets out how the CCTV Service will operate and develop.

Advising Officer: Gary Alderson, Director of Sustainable Communities
Contact Officer: Jeanette Keyte, Head of Community Safety
Public/Exempt: Public
Wards Affected: All
Function of: Executive
Key Decision Yes
**Reason for urgency/
exemption from call-in
(if appropriate)** N/A

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

The provision of CCTV supports our priorities to enhance our local communities by:

- Reducing levels of crime by 10% from 3312 in 2010/11 by 10% to 2980 by 2016.
- Decreasing levels of ASB from 2011/2012 recorded incident figures by 10% to 2016.

Financial:

1. Following a service review and subsequent report to Executive in September 2010 the CCTV Service achieved efficiency savings of £95K in 2011/12 by reducing the number of operators, changing terms and conditions and reducing the hours of pro-active monitoring to peak demand times.

£100K is allocated in the capital programme to support additional investment that may be required to further develop the CCTV Service in line with the proposed CCTV Plan.

The proposed CCTV Plan does not impact upon the current revenue budget at this time. The plan does set out the need to identify how best to develop the service so that it remains effective whilst giving value for money, and this may require additional investment. Where this is the case, business cases will be developed and submitted for consideration through the agreed budget and committee processes.

The net budget for CCTV is £119K (excluding salaries).

Legal:

2. Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a statutory duty on the Council: without prejudice to any other obligation imposed on it, it shall be the duty of each authority to exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area. The provision of CCTV, whilst a discretionary service makes a significant contribution to reducing crime and disorder in its area.

Risk Management:

3. CCTV provides a key service in relation to reducing crime and disorder and promoting public confidence and reducing the fear of crime, all of which are high priorities for our communities. The service also provides significant support for key stakeholders, including Bedfordshire Police, reducing and detecting crime and disorder.

Specific risks relating to the implementation of the CCTV Plan include:

- Reputational risks, both with communities and partners, including poor public perception
- Failure to meet Corporate objectives/required outcomes
- Failure to discharge statutory responsibilities, and
- Financial risks, including the failure to deliver the required efficiency savings and failure to obtain external contributory funding.

Staffing (including Trades Unions):

4. There are no immediate implications on staffing.

Equalities/Human Rights:

5. Public authorities have a statutory duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination and to foster good relations in respect of nine protected characteristics; age disability, gender re-assignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

A CCTV equality impact assessment has been undertaken. This has highlighted that young people and vulnerable adults can be subject to more antisocial behaviour and crime than other members of the community. National evidence highlights that there is also an under reporting of antisocial behaviour, domestic abuse and serious acquisitive crime by vulnerable members of the community. Changes to camera numbers, and the levels of pro-active monitoring and recording are likely to have an impact on the experience of crime. Priorities for proactive monitoring need to take into account the safety of vulnerable groups and those at greatest risk such as taxi drivers. These issues will be considered in developing the CCTV Service.

Public Health

6. CCTV supports the identification and support of vulnerable individuals often with alcohol and drug dependencies. In addition CCTV can help to reduce fear of crime which in turn can reduce social isolation amongst vulnerable groups, thereby impacting positively upon their health and wellbeing.

Community Safety:

7. As set out under legal implications and risk implications, significant changes to the CCTV Service will impact on the Council's, and partners, ability to deter, detect and reduce crime and disorder, anti social behaviour and environmental crime. This in turn impacts on public confidence and fear of crime. With this in mind, the proposals set out in this paper identify how the CCTV Service will be developed to add value and continue the existing service provision where it is needed most and look to ways to provide sustainability in the most cost effective way.

Sustainability:

8. Sustainability relies upon improving the economic, social and environmental well-being of our area and the people who live in the area. Being safe and feeling safe in an area supports the economic, social and environmental aspirations for Central Bedfordshire. CCTV as part of the wider community safety resources available to our area means that at a very practical level we are putting measures in place to make communities sustainable.

Procurement:

9. Collaborative working on developing longer term options for CCTV will involve looking at several options, and following further investigation into operational feasibility and affordability an appropriate procurement route will be selected to demonstrate value for money through a competition.

Overview and Scrutiny:

10. This matter will be considered by Overview and Scrutiny on 13 December 2012

RECOMMENDATION(S):

The Committee is asked to:

1. **Support the agreement and adoption of the proposed CCTV Plan 2013 to 2017 for Central Bedfordshire**
2. **Support delegated authority being given to the Director of Sustainable Communities, in consultation with the Executive Member for Sustainable Communities - Services, to implement the actions set out in the CCTV Plan.**

Reason for Recommendation(s): So that the Council can develop the CCTV Service to add value, provide CCTV where it is needed most and look to ways to provide sustainability in the most cost effective way.

Summary

11. The Committee is being asked to recommend that the Executive agree and adopt the CCTV Plan 2013-2017 for Central Bedfordshire

Background

12. The Council CCTV Service comprises of 99 cameras located in Dunstable, Houghton Regis, Leighton Buzzard, Shefford, Biggleswade and Sandy. The service makes a significant contribution to community safety and crime prevention as a tool that helps to detect crime and disorder whilst providing a level of reassurance to individuals, communities and businesses where CCTV is located.
13. To support the continued development of the service, whilst ensuring value for money and efficiency, the Council needs to provide clarity, to residents and key stakeholders, as to how we intend to do this in the medium term
14. The proposed CCTV Plan 2013 to 2017 (Appendix A) sets out the Councils intentions for the management and development of CCTV from April 2013 until March 2017.

Intelligence Led CCTV and Redeployable Cameras

15. To ensure that CCTV provides an effective service in Central Bedfordshire we need to provide CCTV, within the existing infrastructure, where it will give the best community safety outcomes.

16. A review of the current CCTV infrastructure will be carried out to assess the existing provision and identify changes that will make the service more effective and better value for money. This will include a feasibility survey to rationalise the service by moving the operation of 8 Council owned cameras in Biggleswade and Sandy from Stevenage to the Councils' CCTV Control Room in Dunstable.
17. The proposed CCTV Plan sets out how the review will be used to make changes to the existing service, including working with Town Councils who already own their own CCTV cameras.
18. The Council also owns four redeployable CCTV cameras. These cameras are used on an intelligence led basis. This may be for specific cases or for wider community safety issues in an area not already covered by static CCTV Cameras. The CCTV Plan sets out how these cameras will be used.

Technology, New Public Space CCTV and Performance Management

19. CCTV technology continues to advance, offering more alternatives for how we provide CCTV. This gives the Council the opportunity to explore new or alternative ways of operating the service with potentially reduced costs.
20. The growth agenda in Central Bedfordshire may lead to an increase in demand for public space CCTV in some areas. Where this happens it is essential that new technology is used effectively and that CCTV is installed where there is a clearly evidenced need. To do otherwise runs the risk of having CCTV cameras that do not provide outcomes to support the investment in the camera.
21. The number of CCTV cameras in a given area is not an indication of an effective service, as such it is important that we show how CCTV supports our communities. The Council needs to be open and transparent about the performance of the service by publicising information and data to show how the service is performing and the impact that it has. The plan sets out how we will address these issues.

Collaboration

22. During the last 12 months, meetings have taken place with key providers and neighbouring local authorities to consider longer term options including Public Private Partnerships. This approach has been taken in other areas where a CCTV service provider has invested in and taken over delivery of the service in partnership with the local authority.

23. These meetings provided the opportunity for further scoping discussions on joint procurement and other options that may provide efficiency savings and longer term sustainable options for CCTV. Options discussed included:
- i. Maintain separate control rooms but look to undertake joint procurement on CCTV service contracts e.g. maintenance
 - ii. Merge CCTV Services undertaking joint procurement
 - iii. Merge CCTV Services as a Public Private Partnership
 - iv. Merge CCTV Services and fully outsource to private sector
24. Further work is needed to identify suitable options for Central Bedfordshire, and the CCTV Plan sets out our intent to take a collaborative approach and add value for money.

Conclusion

25. CCTV in Central Bedfordshire makes a significant contribution to community safety in Central Bedfordshire. Adopting the proposed CCTV Plan 2013 to 2017 will set out the Councils approach for CCTV in the medium term, giving clarity to residents and key stakeholders alike.

Appendices:

Appendix A – CCTV Plan 2013- 2017

Background Papers: (open to public inspection)

N/A