

Management Committee

6 June 2017

Relocation and Upgrade of the Borough CCTV Service

For Decision

Briefholder

Community Safety

Senior Leadership Team Contact:

S Hill, Strategic Director

Report Author:

G Duggan, Head of Community Protection

Statutory Authority

None specific for the provision of the service

Purpose of Report

- 1 To inform your committee about the necessity to re-locate and upgrade the Borough CCTV monitoring service and gain your approval for officers to commence the procurement process.

Recommendations

- 2 To agree to the re-location and upgrade of the Borough's CCTV control centre and operation subject to receipt of a robust business case and suitable tender response.

Reason for Decision

- 3 To help release the Harbour Peninsular site for redevelopment. To reduce costs, improve the CCTV service and provide additional capacity for new partners.

Background and Reason Decision Needed

- 4 The Borough's CCTV control centre operates and monitors cameras in Weymouth and Portland, Bridport; Dorchester and Dorset County Hospital. Its present site at Weymouth Harbour Terminal is earmarked for redevelopment and Dorset County Council (DCC) has offered accommodation at Colliton Annexe, County Hall, Dorchester.
- 5 A scrutiny review of the CCTV service in 2011 examined cost saving options for the service including closure and service reduction. The 2012 Olympics provided some external funding for equipment upgrades and a

24-hour service was maintained until a further review in 2013, when a budget reduction of £100,000 was met by reducing to 12-hour staffed monitoring (4pm to 4am). With income from third parties of £90,000, the current net cost of the service is £150,000.

- 6 It is recognised that public space CCTV is an effective means of improving community safety especially in town centres, although the actual benefits are often difficult to quantify. The Borough Council's position has been to press for financial contribution to the continuance of the service from Dorset Police who are regarded as a principle beneficiary. The service is also recognised as contributing to the council's corporate priorities through supporting the business environment; helping to create safe public space for residents and visitors and protecting vulnerable people.
- 7 In his Police and Crime Plan 2017-21, the Dorset Police & Crime Commissioner sees it as an essential part of his role to "bring together local partners together to tackle shared priorities, issues and concerns" and will "continue to work with Dorset Police and other agencies locally, regionally and nationally to keep our communities safe". He recognises the value of CCTV to the Police, and has offered to financially contribute to making the service more resilient and co-ordinated across Dorset.
- 8 It is the council's aim to redevelop the Peninsula site and the relocation of the current CCTV control centre is required as part of this. Also, much of the technical infrastructure of the service is reaching the end of its life and investment is required. Your officers have been working with the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner (OPCC); Dorset County Council (DCC) and Dorset Police to find a solution that meets partner's needs.
- 9 DCC has offered a location to base the service on its Colliton Park site in Dorchester. This will provide the opportunity to bring together their CCTV traffic management facility with public space CCTV as well as providing a better linkage for emergency planning purposes. The accommodation costs would be met by DCC and a contribution would be made to the capital project. The OPCC has offered to fund the majority of the capital cost (subject to receipt of a suitable tender) as part of the Commissioner's ambition to have a resilient, Dorset CCTV service. Dorset Police has offered a contribution to revenue funding of the re-located and upgraded service.
- 10 The project is being managed by a project board consisting of the relevant partners and a business case is developed and awaiting detailed financial information. Your officers will ensure that the Borough Council's financial position is protected and that there will be no increase to the current level of revenue funding. Phase 2 of the project will look to bring more partners and income to the service and reduce the Borough Council's share of the costs. It is recommended that the Briefholder for Community Safety be authorised by your committee to approve the completed business case in conjunction with the Heads of Community Protection and Financial Services.

Implications

Corporate Plan

- 11 Corporate Plan 2016-2019, corporate aim “to ensure people feel safe in their neighbourhoods by working with the Police and other partners to maintain low levels of crime and anti-social behaviour”.

Financial

- 12 Detailed financial information will be provided in the business case.

Economic Development

- 13 The economy of Weymouth town centre derives significant benefit from public space CCTV as the safety of residents and visitors is increased by its presence. Dorset Police are able to prevent and resolve crime and ASB quicker and more effectively.

Risk Management (including Health & Safety)

- 14 Public space CCTV protects the council’s assets and infrastructure. It contributes to reducing reputational risk for the Borough and council.

Human Resources

- 15 The proposals have been discussed with the 5 staff who work at the CCTV control centre and union representatives. They have no objections in principle to the relocation.

Consultation and Engagement

- 16 Staff have been engaged throughout the development of the proposal. Partners are engaged through representation at the project board.

Appendices

None

Background Papers

None

Footnote

Issues relating to financial, environmental, economic and equalities implications have been considered and any information relevant to the decision is included within the report.

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