

SUBJECT:	<i>CCTV review</i>
RELEVANT MEMBER:	<i>Councillor L Walsh, Portfolio Holder for Healthy Communities</i>
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	<i>Steve Bambrick, Director of Services</i>
REPORT AUTHOR	<i>Martin Holt 01494732055 martin.holt@chilternandsouthbucks.gov.uk; Julie Rushton julie.rushton@chilternandsouthbucks.gov.uk</i>
WARD/S AFFECTED	<i>(All Wards);</i>

1. Purpose of Report

To advise Cabinet on the recommendations of the Healthy Communities Policy Advisory Group following a review of CCTV cameras in the district.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **To note the recommendations from the Healthy Communities Policy Advisory Group following the review of CCTV in the district.**
2. **To agree to bring forward expenditure of up to £210,000 from the allocated Capital budget 2019/20 to 2023/24 for the replacement of the current 42 CCTV cameras with digital units.**
3. **To delegate authority to the Head of Healthy Communities to carry out the procurement and to make a decision on the final contract for the replacement of CCTV equipment in accordance with the Council's contract procedure rules.**
4. **To delegate authority to the Head of Healthy Communities in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Healthy Communities the final location of any relocated or new public realm CCTV cameras.**

2. Reasons for Recommendations

2.1 To inform the Privacy Impact Assessment as required by the Information Commissioner Office.

2.2 To reduce crime and disorder, improve public safety and support the safeguarding of vulnerable persons.

3. Content of Report Background

3.1 CCTV supports the investigation of crime and disorder and can provide reassurance to communities; it can also be used to assist in the identification of persons helping reduce risk to vulnerable persons who may be missing or otherwise at risk. CCTV can also be used to support the Council's service delivery in the areas of parking, reducing ASB and environmental crime.

3.2 The Council currently operates 42 fixed CCTV cameras across Amersham, Chesham, Chalfont St Peter and Little Chalfont with images sent to the Wycombe CCTV hub for monitoring and recording and release to Thames Valley Police for the investigation of crime. The main purpose for which the CCTV provision is used in Chiltern is to investigate crime through police officers accessing data from recorded events. Some active monitoring of the public realm occurs but this is at a very low level and is for the following reasons;

- To attempt to find missing persons
- Monitoring for stolen or suspect vehicle as part of a crime (however the current CCTV cameras are not directly linked to the ANPR network)
- Monitoring cash in transit movements
- Looking for suspect persons
- Routine monitoring car parks and high street locations

Location	Number of cameras
Chesham	13
Amersham old multi storey	16
Amersham on the Hill	6
Amersham Old Town	3
Chalfont St Peter	3
Little Chalfont	1
Total	42
Amersham new multi storey (new digital CCTV, recorded locally)	14
Total	56

3.3 The 42 public realm CCTV cameras are managed and operated at the High Wycombe Hub (CCTV control room). The Hub is contractually required via Thames Valley Police to monitor the Chiltern cameras for fixed periods which total, for the Chesham cameras for 15 hours/week and those in Amersham for 10 hours/week. Whilst these are the contractual monitoring periods, the operators respond to all incidents that are brought to their attention by the Police and this can be at any time of the day or night.

3.4 The new multi-storey CCTV cameras are recorded and encrypted locally and remain the responsibility of the Council. Following any decision to migrate the monitoring of to the CCTV Hub at Milton Keynes these will continue with local recording but dependant on the business plan may also have the ability to be monitored from the hub.

3.5 An independent CCTV review reported to Members in October 2018 recommended the removal of a number of CCTV cameras detailed in Appendix 1.

3.6 It was also recommended that the CCTV units in Appendix 2 are replaced with digital cameras producing high quality images suitable for investigating offences and for use in court and to be available for live view and access to recorded images 24 hours per day.

- 3.7 Concern was expressed over the removal of CCTV cameras detailed in Appendix 1 and Members asked for the opportunity to review the locations of CCTV prior to any removal or to have the units relocated to crime hot spots. The same report allocated funding for the provision of mobile units that could be located in crime hot spots.
- 3.8 To inform the debate over the continued use of the CCTV cameras in Appendix 1 and the option to relocate CCTV units, a presentation by officers and Thames Valley Police was made at the PAG. The presentation included the legislative requirements for operating CCTV systems, 2018 crime hot spot maps, and the incidence of recorded events and interventions at each CCTV location.
- 3.9 Members were informed that, in addition to investigating crimes which had taken place, CCTV footage was also used to track the movements of offenders and witnesses involved in major crimes. CCTV was also used when looking for missing persons, which may include elderly vulnerable residents suffering from dementia. It was therefore advantageous to have cameras located at car parks and major junctions in order to track vehicle movements.
- 3.10 The Group were informed that the new Milton Keynes hub would be staffed sufficiently to allow reviewing footage streamed in real time from around 176 cameras across Buckinghamshire, 24 hours a day. Operators would then have the ability to patch live images through to all emergency services (ambulance, fire and rescue and police) which would speed up response times and send the appropriate response to a public incident. The increased monitoring and reporting offered through the proposed Milton Keynes hub would provide the necessary evidence for future Privacy Impact Assessments and assist in determining the future CCTV needs
- 3.11 The review by members of the Healthy Communities PAG concluded that; CCTV deterred crime and disorder in the locations detailed in Appendix 1, that the proximity of these CCTV units also benefited the investigation of crime and other incidents allowing the police and other agencies to improve response times.
- 3.12 The PAG recommended to;
- Retain the CCTV units in both appendix 1 and 2 and to recommend to Cabinet to bring forward expenditure from the allocated Capital budget 2019/20 to 2023/24 for the replacement of the 42 CCTV cameras with digital units
 - To use the planned mobile CCTV units in areas of crime and disorder hotspots

4 Options (if any)

4.1 N/A

5 Corporate Implications

5.1 Financial – The Capital Programme for 2019/20 - 2023/24 has a budget of £210k for the replacement of 42 cameras spread over four years. It is recommended to draw down this funding in 2019/20 to invest in the CCTV upgrade.

5.2 Legal – the ICO requires local authorities providing CCTV surveillance to annually consider the impact of monitoring and the benefits to the local community. The CCTV review has identified cameras which are of limited impact in detecting crime and disorder and consideration should be given to removing these or relocating these to the hot spot crime areas.

6. Links to Council Policy Objectives

Working towards safe and healthier local communities

7. Next Step

The Council will continue to work with TVP on the business case for the TVP CCTV Hub and incorporate the provision of any additional or relocated CCTV units.

Background Papers:	None other than those referred to in the report.
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