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## **CCTV PROVISION IN THE SCOTTISH BORDERS**

**Report by Service Director Assets & Infrastructure**

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### **EXECUTIVE**

**16 April 2019**

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#### **1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report details the current Public Space CCTV provision in the Scottish Borders and provides a further update to the previous report issued in 2015.**
- 1.2 Questions have arisen as to the viability of the Council continuing to provide and fund public space CCTV.
- 1.3 There are currently seventy Public Space CCTV cameras located within eight towns within the Scottish Borders.
- 1.4 Generally the systems are analogue and with recent technological advances they are out of date and life expired.
- 1.5 The Council is not currently in a position to fund the installation and maintenance of public space CCTV systems throughout the region.

#### **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 **We recommend that the Committee:-**
  - (a) Notes that the current Public Space CCTV provision in the Scottish Borders is no longer fit for purpose.**
  - (b) Notes that the Council is not in a position to fund the installation and ongoing maintenance of public space CCTV systems within the current available budget.**
  - (c) Supports the Police and communities that wish to install, extend or replace CCTV systems to help them find a solution fully funded by those communities. Funding to include the cost of installation and subsequent maintenance and monitoring. The protocols around the use, management and monitoring of any CCTV system would have to be agreed by the community with the Police.**

### 3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Scottish Borders Council currently operates seventy Public Space CCTV cameras located in the following towns across Scottish Borders Council – Duns; Hawick; Galashiels; Kelso; Peebles; Eyemouth; Selkirk; Melrose.
- 3.2 All Public Space CCTV cameras referred to in 3.1 are operated by Police Scotland with all maintenance of the CCTV camera systems being the responsibility of Scottish Borders Council’s Street Lighting section.
- 3.3 The Council meets all ongoing revenue costs, including energy consumption, telecoms charges, consumable items and annual charges from the contractors who provide maintenance support for each system. Police Scotland does not make any financial contribution to the town centre schemes.
- 3.4 The Councils current position with regards to CCTV provision is not to install new CCTV equipment or replace life-expired systems but to continue to maintain the current asset within the existing revenue budget until they are beyond economic repair.
- 3.5 Generally the systems are analogue and with recent technological advances they are now out of date. The systems are in various states of repair as summarised in the table below:-

3.6

Town	Comments
Duns	Installed in 2003 the system consists of 7 cameras of which 2 currently need replaced.
Eyemouth	Installed in 2007 the system has 8 cameras of which only 1 is operational due to the corrosion caused by the salt air.
Gala	Installed in 1994 the system consists of 12 cameras of which 3 currently need replaced and 1 has an intermittent fault. The cameras were renewed in 2008. The cabling is currently installed in a combination of underground and above ground section that are in need of replacement.
Hawick	This system has 16 cameras and is relatively new following the replacement of all cameras following an insurance claim and the recent replacement of underground the cabling. 1 camera and associated cabling is in need of replacement.
Kelso	Installed in 1998 this system has 9 cameras and requires replacement. 3 cameras need replaced along with all of the cabling that currently runs over ground and has water damage causing most cameras to be intermittent during the winter months. All cameras were replaced in 2002
Melrose	Installed in 2002 this system is still in working order although the majority of cables are still run overground.
Peebles	Installed in 1999 this system consists of 8 cameras of which 1 currently needs replaced. The cabling currently works but is also in need of replacement. All cameras were renewed in 2007.
Selkirk	Installed in 2003 this system currently has 1 camera in need of replacement.

- 3.7 There are currently nineteen of seventy cameras that aren't fully operational; this number can increase intermittently depending on weather conditions in certain towns at certain times of the year. Other cameras have either intermittent faults or poor picture quality due to the condition of the cabling.
- 3.8 There is a current revenue budget of £40,000 per annum available for the maintenance of all eight systems, of which around £33,000 is a rolling maintenance contract.
- 3.9 Replacing the current out of date analogue systems with the same technology is not recommended as the technology is old and is becoming obsolete.
- 3.10 Replacing the current systems with the latest High Definition technology will require a large capital investment.

#### **4 POLICE POSITION**

- 4.1 The Police see CCTV as one tool that contributes to public security and the prevention and detection of crime, which reassures the public in areas that it is installed and adds to the overall perception of community in the area. The Police are therefore supportive of continuing to provide a CCTV provision within the local communities. Unfortunately the Police are not in a position to fund or to contribute to the funding of public space CCTV in the Borders.
- 4.2 In the Borders, the Police monitor CCTV on a reactive basis. They have 24 hour access to where the CCTV monitors are sited and gain access to review the recordings when investigating incidences.
- 4.3 Historically the Police have not collated data on the usefulness of the CCTV systems in the Borders, though they are very supportive of CCTV as an effective tool for their work.

#### **5 LOCAL POSITION**

- 5.1 The communities in some Borders towns value the CCTV systems as a positive contribution to creating safe environments within town centres and are keen to retain good CCTV coverage.
- 5.2 As the Council and the Police are not in a position to fund CCTV systems, then with the benefit of recent technological advances, communities could arrange for CCTV to be installed and maintained using their own resources.

#### **6 IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 As previously indicated there is a current revenue budget of £40,000 per annum available for the maintenance of all eight systems, of which around £33,000 is a maintenance contract.

Expenditure will be contained within the current available revenue budget, not installing new CCTV equipment or replacing life-expired systems but

continuing to maintain the current asset until they are beyond economic repair.

Once systems become beyond economic repair within the available budgets, agree to close these systems down immediately.

## **6.2 Risk and Mitigations**

Although the current public space CCTV provision is funded by Scottish Borders Council the budget allocation available to maintain the systems is insufficient and will eventually lead to them failing completely.

Removing the public space CCTV provision throughout the region could potentially decrease the overall perception of community in the area and impact the prevention and detection of crime.

There is the potential for negative press should the public perception remain that there are fully operational CCTV systems operating in town centres when the reality is they aren't fit for purpose.

Future mitigation for communities that wish to retain public space CCTV in would be for them to secure funding to install and maintain their own CCTV systems.

## **6.3 Equalities**

There will be no adverse impact on any of the quality strands as a result of the proposals.

## **6.4 Acting Sustainably**

There are no significant economic, social or environmental issues associated with this report.

## **6.5 Carbon Management**

Through allowing the existing CCTV systems to become life expired the reduction in energy consumed in turn reduce the carbon footprint of SBC.

## **6.6 Rural Proofing**

As this report is not a new or updated policy or strategy document it does not require to be rural proofed.

## **6.7 Changes to Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation**

There are no changes which are required to either the Scheme of Administration or the Scheme of Delegation as a result of the proposals in this report

## 7 CONSULTATION

7.1 The Chief Financial Officer, the Monitoring Officer, the Chief Legal Officer, the Chief Officer Audit and Risk, the Service Director HR, Communications and the Clerk to the Council have been consulted and any comments received have been incorporated into the final report.

### Approved by

**Martin Joyce**  
**Service Director Assets & Infrastructure Signature .....**

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**Background Papers:** None

**Previous Minute Reference:** None

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