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# **CONSULTATION REPORT CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION PROVISION IN THE SCOTTISH BORDERS**

**Report by Service Director Assets & Infrastructure**

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## **SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL**

**26 June 2019**

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### **1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This is an interim report to provide details of a consultation plan that will examine the options for renewing or replacing the current Public Space Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) provision in the Scottish Borders.**
- 1.2 Given the significant capital and revenue expenditure required to modernise current systems on a like for like basis, quantify whether this will deliver a value for money outcome for the Council given other budget constraints.**
- 1.3 Following the consultation period, a second report could be presented to Council at a future meeting outlining the options and associated costs.**

### **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 I recommend that Council notes:-**
  - (a) Officers believe that expenditure on new CCTV systems will not provide value for money, and**
  - (b) the consultation plan and the timescales involved in the consultation process; and**  
**Agrees either:**
  - (c) that a second report outlining the options and costs associated with renewing or replacing the current Public Space CCTV provision in the Scottish Borders could be presented to Council in December 2019 if required;**  
**or**
  - (d) that no further action is taken**

### **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 The Council currently 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.
- 3.3 The Council's current position with regard 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.
- 3.4 For information, previous work undertaken by Officers in 2018 indicated that the likely total capital cost of replacement, on a like for like basis, while utilising more modern digital technologies, could be in the region of circa £600,000. There would be potentially additional costs associated with related civils works and infrastructure in the region of £250,000.
- 3.5 A follow up report could update and validate this figure to present-day costs, however given the anticipated capital expenditure of circa £1m, plus a requirement for future on-going enhanced revenue expenditure, officers do not believe that this will provide value for money. In addition, there is currently no identified budget, either capital or revenue.

### **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.
- 4.2 While the Police are therefore supportive of continuing to provide a CCTV provision within the local communities, unfortunately Police Scotland are not in a position to contribute to the funding of public space CCTV in the Borders, either in terms of the initial capital investment or on-going revenue costs.

### **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.

### **6 PROPOSED WAY FORWARD**

- 6.1 Following a recent motion that was agreed by Council, an outline timetable has been defined which would allow a consultation plan to be implemented and a further additional CCTV report to be prepared for Council if required.

- 6.2 The additional report could outline options and costs associated with renewing or replacing the existing public space CCTV provision for each community which already has an existing CCTV system in place. Extension of the current town systems, adding additional town coverage or utilising alternative technologies, such as mobile CCTV solutions, will not be considered.
- 6.3 The detailed proposed consultation plan and timescales are attached in Appendix A. If required a report could be presented to Council by December 2019.
- 6.4 Council Officers could undertake, based on a consistent specification, an element of 'soft' market testing from multiple suppliers in order to ascertain current pricing models in relation to both the required initial capital investment and consequential on-going revenue requirements, and which would also include the cost to remove any redundant systems.

## **7 IMPLICATIONS**

### **7.1 Financial Implications**

Officers do not believe the proposals in respect of further investment that would also incur ongoing revenue costs represent best value for money. There is currently no revenue or capital budget reflected within the Financial Plan 2019 -2029 beyond the existing small allocations.

### **7.2 Risk and Mitigations**

In the time taken to gather the required information the existing public space CCTV infrastructure will continue to deteriorate in condition.

### **7.3 Equalities**

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

### **7.4 Acting Sustainably**

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

### **7.5 Carbon Management**

It is anticipated that there are no significant implications from the proposals contained in this report.

### **7.6 Rural Proofing**

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

## 7.7 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.

## 8 CONSULTATION

- 8.1 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 .....**

### Author(s)

Name	Designation and Contact Number
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**Background Papers:** CCTV Provision in the Scottish Borders – Executive 16<sup>th</sup> April 2019

**Previous Minute Reference:** None

**Note** – You can get this document on tape, in Braille, large print and various computer formats by contacting the address below. Alex Young can also give information on other language translations as well as providing additional copies.

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