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**CCTV PROVISION IN THE BORDERS**

**Report by Service Direct Commercial Services**

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**Police, Fire and Rescue, and Safer Communities Board**

**13 February 2015**

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**1 BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 CCTV systems are a vital tool in relation to town centre management, community safety and counter-terrorism. These policy issues are vital in the Scottish Borders particularly given:
- The significance of promoting the use of towns and town centres both during the day and in evenings.
  - The importance of safety and security to attracting visitors and to supporting the quality of life of local people.
  - The establishment of the Borders Railway which could lead to a step change in the number of additional visitors and people coming in to Scottish Borders.

1.2 The Council currently operates a number of CCTV systems in towns across the Borders. Questions have arisen as to the viability of the Council continuing to provide and fund the service, particularly since the prime reason for having them installed is to assist the Police with investigations into criminal activity. There is an argument therefore that CCTV provision is a Police Scotland matter and the Police should at least fund these systems.

1.3 Generally the systems are analogue and with recent technological advances they are becoming out of date. The systems are in various states of repair as summarised in the table below:-

1.4

Town	Comments
Duns	1 camera needs replaced. System beyond life expectancy (over 14 years old). Wiring in working order.
Eyemouth	Some cameras have corrosion. Wiring in good order. Estimated cost of replacement of affected cameras £12.5k.
Gala	System and wiring in working order. Upgraded in 2008.
Hawick	Cameras all new following an insurance claim. Wiring in working order but needs upgrading. Hawick community want to extend the system.
Kelso	System requires replacing. Kelso community want to replace the system. Estimated cost with a similar type of analogue system £75k. This cost may substantially reduce if more recent technology is adopted.

Melrose	System and wiring in working order.
Peebles	Cameras beyond life expectancy (10 years old). Wiring in working order but needs upgrading.
Selkirk	1 camera needs replaced. Wiring in working order.

- 1.4 The revenue running cost of the systems is around £40,000 per annum and there is provision of £23,000 in the capital programme for CCTV replacement.
- 1.5 Replacing analogue systems with the same technology is very expensive. For example, the estimated cost of replacing Hawick's CCTV system with a replacement analogue system is £75,000. However with recent technological advancements and access to broad band and WIFI systems, CCTV costs have dramatically declined. This has made them affordable to businesses and for domestic use for security purposes where before, they were beyond the means of most parties. This development potentially makes CCTV systems viable for communities to fund without dedicated financial support from the Council.

## 2 CONSIDERATION

- 2.1 I recommend that the Board considers putting forward a view on whether the Council withdrawing from the direct provision of CCTV which would mean the Council:-**
- (a) Ceasing to install new CCTV equipment or replace life-expired systems.**
  - (b) Re-allocating the £23,000 for CCTV replacement in the capital programme to other projects.**
  - (c) Continuing to maintain current CCTV systems within the existing revenue budget until they are beyond reasonable economic repair.**
  - (d) Along with the Police, working with communities that wish to install, extend or replace CCTV systems to help them find CCTV solutions 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.**
  - (e) Where appropriate and viable, offering the use of Council premises for the siting of CCTV monitoring equipment provided the requirements of the Police are met.**

### **3 POLICE POSITION**

- 3.1 The Police see CCTV as a Community Safety tool to offer far more than simply the prevention and detection of crime. It provides public reassurance, protects the most vulnerable members of the community and “keeps people safe”. CCTV contributes towards the Police and Local Authorities meeting Single Outcome Agreement, in particular outcomes 9, 11 and 15, ensuring that members of the community live their lives free from crime, disorder and danger. It also supports Local objectives around tackling antisocial behaviour, violence and drug / alcohol related incidents. It is a critical tool in Scotland’s infrastructure used to counter Terrorism.
- 3.2 Unfortunately the Police are not in a position to fund CCTV systems, though they are happy to advise communities about CCTV installation. This includes advice on the protocols around CCTV management to ensure that it can be used for Police investigation purposes and it would be essential for communities to meet these requirements.
- 3.3 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.
- 3.4 The Police have not collated data on the historic usefulness of the CCTV systems in the Borders, though they are very supportive of CCTV as an effect tool for their work. In particular they have advised that generally anti-social behaviour in Borders town centres is an issue (breach of the peace, vandalism, urinating, minor assault and shoplifting) and CCTV helps act as a deterrent and with investigations into incidents. However in not having data to support their position, the Police do not have a strong body of evidence to back their case for the retention of CCTV.

### **4 LOCALITY POSITION**

- 4.1 The communities in some Borders towns value their CCTV systems and see it as a positive contribution to creating safe neighbourhoods. In particular Hawick and Kelso are keen to ensure that they retain good CCTV coverage.
- 4.2 If the Council were no longer in a position to fund CCTV systems and the Police are not in a position to do so either, then with the benefit of recent technological advances, those communities could arrange for CCTV to be installed and maintained using their own resources. The Police would assist them with advice and where appropriate, the Council could offer use of their premises for CCTV recording facilities. With the advent of new technology it may be possible for communities to use WIFI technology to allow such monitors to be located on Police premises. Any CCTV installation and its monitoring and management would have to comply with appropriate legislation, making it essential for communities wishing to install CCTV to consult with the Police and reach agreement with them on these issues.

- 4.3 Local communities may be able to have access to the Scottish Wide Area Network (SWAN) broadband infrastructure, however this may only be viable if the monitoring of cameras were to be centralised. If local storage of the images is required (as is current practice in the Borders) it is likely to be more cost effective to link into locally based storage through cable, wifi or radio link.

## **5 PROPOSED WAY FORWARD**

- 5.1 In light of the above it is proposed that the Council:-
- (a) Ceases to install new CCTV equipment or replace life-expired systems.
  - (b) Re-allocates the £23,000 for CCTV replacement in the capital programme to other projects.
  - (c) Continues to maintain current CCTV systems within the existing revenue budget until they are beyond reasonable economic repair.
  - (d) Along with the Police, work with communities that wish to install, extend or replace CCTV systems to help them find CCTV solutions 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.
  - (e) Where appropriate and viable, offer the use of Council premises for the siting of CCTV monitoring equipment provided the requirements of the Police are met.

## **6 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 As previously explained the revenue running cost of the systems is around £40,000 per annum and there is provision of £23,000 in the capital programme for CCTV replacement.
- 6.2 If the proposed way forward were to be adopted, the revenue running cost would gradually reduce as the current systems become beyond economic repair to be replaced as required with community funded systems (installation and ongoing maintenance costs). The Police would continue to monitor systems on a reactive basis (as with current practice).
- 6.3 The £23,000 capital would be re-allocated for other works in the capital programme.

## **7 CONSULTATION**

- 7.1 The Chief Financial Officer, the Monitoring Officer, the Chief Legal Officer, the Service Director Strategy and Policy, the Chief Officer Audit and Risk, the Chief Officer HR, and the Clerk to the Council have been consulted and

their comments have been incorporated into the final report.

**Approved by**

Andrew Drummond-Hunt

**Service Director Commercial Services      Signature .....**

**Author(s)**

Name	Designation and Contact Number
Andrew Drummond-Hunt	Service Director Commercial Services

**Background Papers:** None

**Previous Minute Reference:** None

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