
CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION PROVISION IN THE SCOTTISH BORDERS

Report by Service Director Assets & Infrastructure

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL

30 January 2020

1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 As requested by Members, this is a follow up to the Public Space CCTV Consultation report that was presented to Council on 26 June 2019.**
- 1.2 The report provides details of the consultation process that took place in relation to Public Space Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) provision in the Scottish Borders.
- 1.3 The report provides information around the financial implications for renewing or replacing the current Public Space Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) provision in the Scottish Borders.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 I recommend that Council:-

- (a) Notes that the consultation process is now complete;**
- (b) Notes the financial implications of renewing or replacing the current Public Space CCTV provision in the Scottish Borders;**
- (c) Continues with its current policy of maintaining the current Public Space CCTV provision until it is beyond economic repair; and**
- (d) Takes no further future action**

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 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. This report updates and validates this figure to present day costs.
- 3.5 Following a motion that was agreed by Council in June 2019, an outline timetable was defined which would allow a consultation plan to be implemented and a further additional CCTV report to be presented to Council in December 2019.

4 POLICE POSITION

- 4.1 The Police see CCTV as one tool that contributes to the perception of public security and the prevention and detection of crime, which reassures the public in areas that it is installed and adds to the overall community presence in that area.
- 4.2 While the Police are therefore supportive of continuing to provide a CCTV provision within the local communities, 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.
- 4.3 The current CCTV provision does not allow for the collection of any meaningful data in relation to the usefulness of the CCTV or whether it provides value for money. New systems could provide a platform for Police Scotland to capture relevant data relating to the use of CCTV in the borders region and the part it plays in the management of incidents.
- 4.4 Officers have unfortunately been unable to determine, or obtain, any substantive data or statistical information that demonstrates the frequency at which CCTV footage is accessed in any given community, the basis on which this footage might be used to support any legal action or community safety initiative or indeed its use in any successful prosecution. Police Scotland have been requested to provide a formal statement but unfortunately to date have been unable to do so.

5 STAKEHOLDERS

- 5.1 The National Strategy for CCTV in Scotland recognises that the benefits of CCTV are not confined to a single partner and that along with helping Local Authorities to do all they can to reduce crime and disorder and promote community safety, it also provides the Police with information in relation to crime and Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB).

6 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 In order to gain a wider perception of where public space CCTV sits within local priorities, Officers carried out a consultation of both members of the public and potential key partners and stakeholders in the form of surveys. This engagement allowed a greater understanding of Borderer's views on the value, locations and type of CCTV provision they would like to see operating in the area.

6.2 Public Survey

The public CCTV survey consisted of nine questions that gauged participant's awareness and understanding of the current provision while allowing them to provide an opinion on CCTV within the region. The Survey consultation ran for 6 weeks and was completed by 436 participants. Of the responses submitted, a little over half of participants (55%) strongly agreed that public space CCTV is an effective tool in reducing crime, just over half (57%) strongly agreed that public space CCTV is an effective tool for increasing public safety and exactly half of participants (50%) strongly agreed that public space CCTV makes you feel safe. The full results of the survey can be found in Appendix A.

6.3 Stakeholder Survey

The stakeholder CCTV survey consisted of thirteen questions and was aimed at current or future potential stakeholders such as Area Partnerships, Community Councils, Police Scotland and local business that are currently provided coverage by the CCTV provision. The Survey consultation also ran for 6 weeks, and from over 800 potential stakeholders surveyed only 73 chose to participate. Of the responses submitted a little under half of the participants (49%) think that their organisation benefits directly from the public space CCTV provision, under half (41%) of participants strongly agreed that Public Space CCTV is an effective tool in reducing crime and under half (44%) strongly agreed that CCTV is an effective tool in increasing public safety. The full results of the survey can be found in Appendix B.

6.4 Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour Analysis

Although not all incidences of crime and ASB committed are reported to Police Scotland, to determine whether the current public space CCTV provision is an effective tool in picking up both crime and ASB a study was carried out to look at what the current provision has or could have captured.

- (a) Based on the amount of crime and ASB occurring in the town centres where CCTV cameras are currently located, the table below shows the percentage of incidents that could have been captured on CCTV in percentage terms within a 50m radius of the cameras. Police Scotland have indicated that a 50m radius is the most useful for evidence gathering and CCTV monitoring

Town	No. of CCTV Cameras	% Occurring Within 50m Camera Radius	
		ASB	Crimes
Duns	7	18.1	8.1
Eyemouth	8	22.9	29.9
Galashiels	12	13.7	19.6
Hawick	16	7.3	8.6
Kelso	9	25.8	27.3
Melrose	5	8.1	14.5
Peebles	8	8.8	13.0
Selkirk	5	9.3	14.6
Totals	70	13.3	16.8

- (b) The results in the table indicate that, when considering the CCTV network as a whole, a very small average of 13.3% of ASB and 16.8% of crime reported in the 8 towns with a CCTV provision took place within a radius or 50m of the nearest CCTV camera.
- (c) The majority of crime and ASB in the 8 border towns is being committed out-with the traditional town centre areas that are currently covered by the CCTV provision.

7 CONSULTATION REVIEW OPTIONS

- 7.1 Following a previous consultation report to Council, officers were asked to examine and report on the financial implications of migrating the existing CCTV provision to an up to date, future proof provision. The options included:
- Replace the existing fixed provision in each town with a fixed HD fibre solution
 - Replace the existing fixed provision with a mixture of fixed and wireless re-deployable camera solution
 - Decommission and remove the Public Space CCTV provision
- 7.2 Although the costs associated with the financial implications have been provided by third party CCTV providers, detailed design costs would only be available once a strategic overview of the provision is carried out along with Police Scotland and a contract for any potential work is either tendered for or awarded.
- 7.3 Having considered the detail four options have been identified for consideration.

(a) Option 1 – Fixed

Invest in a new Internet Protocol (IP) based CCTV recording and camera system utilising the latest high capacity fibre optic network in underground ducts to support recording, playback and live viewing. Additional civils works to be carried out by Scottish Borders Council to install ducting in areas where cables are currently over ground and attached to buildings.

Option 1 Fixed - Capital Investment	
CCTV and associated infrastructure	£460,000 - £540,000
Civils Works	£140,000
Total	£600,000 - £680,000

Option 1 Fixed - Revenue Investment	
5 Years Maintenance	£190,000 - £225,000

A strategic overview of existing camera positions and a detailed design would need to be carried out to determine the exact provision required.

(b) Option 2 – Mixed

Invest in a new hybrid CCTV solution with a split of fixed and wireless technology using the latest high capacity fibre optic network in underground ducting and HD re-deployable cameras managed with 3G/4G connectivity.

Option 2 Mixed - Capital Investment	
CCTV and associated infrastructure	£540,000 - £665,000
Civils Works	£140,000
Total	£680,000 - £805,000

Option 2 Mixed - Revenue Investment	
5 Years Maintenance	£190,000 - £225,000

A strategic overview of existing camera positions and a detailed design would need to be carried out to determine the exact provision required, the number of fixed cameras in each town would be reduced to allow for a rapidly deployable and mobile CCTV provision that has a fully integrated management and recording system.

(c) Option 3 – Decommission and remove Public Space CCTV provision

Although the removal of the Council's CCTV capability would provide a saving in terms of ongoing revenue costs, the existing infrastructure and associated power supplies would require to be decommissioned and removed.

The costs associated with decommissioning and removing the current CCTV provision in all towns would be approximately £115,000.

(d) Option 4 – Continue with current policy

Continuing with the council's current policy of maintaining the Public Space CCTV provision until it is beyond economic repair would also provide a saving in terms of ongoing revenue costs. Systems would continue to operate until such time as they are no longer fit for purpose when they would then be decommissioned and removed.

The associated savings and decommissioning costs would be realised over a number of financial years, determined by the remaining service life of the existing CCTV provision in each location.

7.4 Potential Savings

Options 3 and 4 provide the opportunity to realise financial savings associated with the removal of the CCTV provision in the form of ongoing revenue and energy.

- (a) Revenue savings for option 3 of £40,000 per annum and energy savings of £4,000 per annum would realise savings of £440,000 over a ten-year period.
- (b) Revenue savings for option 4 would be dependant of the remaining life of the current infrastructure.
- (c) It should be noted that for Options 1 and 2, these are budget costs associated with some soft market testing with appropriate providers. A full procurement exercise would be required in order to determine firm fixed costs.

8 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 It should be noted that additional budget investment required for the options outlined in section 7 above, either for service development or decommissioning, are not included in existing budgets and would require budget growth through the financial planning process.

9 IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The Councils CCTV infrastructure is now at the end of its useful life and needs to be either replaced, removed or managed to decline over the next few years. There is insufficient funding to improve, upgrade or replace current systems.

9.2 Risk and Mitigations

- (a) Terminating the Councils CCTV provision potentially poses unknown risks in terms of the impact on crime and disorder, safeguarding and general community safety.

- (b) The removal of the public space CCTV provision, may also potentially lead to unknown reputational damage to the Council in the areas where a provision was previously provided.
- (c) The Council has recently funded a second Police Scotland CAT team (Sergeant + 6) at a further revenue cost to the Council of £285,000 per annum, therefore at a total cost of circa £570,000 per annum. These teams can be deployed in a variety of circumstances, to address issues of ASB, public disorder or crime in both uniformed and plain clothed situations.
- (d) Implementation of option 3 could result in improved monitoring of crime and ASB in the areas of the Scottish Borders where a public Space CCTV provision was previously deployed. Areas where it is perceived that crime and ASB have increased could benefit from an increased tactical response from the CAT teams using local intelligence to engage with communities through proactive policing, dealing robustly with issues that arise.
- (e) Should Communities wish to explore the options available for the installation of independent community led Public Space CCTV initiatives, council officers would be available to provide advice and support in helping them achieve this outcome. This would be in the form of liaison and technical advice with all associated costs being borne by the Community.
- (f) Since June 2018 Police Scotland have been trialling two mobile CCTV cameras that, in partnership with SBC, have been deployed at various locations throughout the Borders region to address specific community issues. The cameras have been used for overt applications within the existing SCB CCTV boundaries, however Police Scotland have been unable to provide any substantive information as to the impact of the trial to date.

9.3 Equalities

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

9.4 Acting Sustainably

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

9.5 Carbon Management

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

9.6 Rural Proofing

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

9.7 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.

10 CONSULTATION

10.1 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.

10.2 The Corporate Management Team have also 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
Alex Young	Street Lighting Team Leader

Background Papers: CCTV Provision in the Scottish Borders – Executive 16th April 2019

Closed Circuit Television Provision in the Scottish Borders, Consultation Report – Council 26th June 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.

Contact us at Alex Young, Council Headquarters, Bowden Road, Newtown St Boswells, Melrose. TD6 0SA. Tel: 01835 824000, Ext. 8104.

E-mail: ayoung1@scotborders.gov.uk