
Public Space CCTV and Town Centre Connectivity

Report by Director of Strategic Commissioning & Partnerships

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL

25 January 2024

1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

1.1 The report updates members on progress made on developing the CCTV proposal and provides an overview on next steps around Borders wide connectivity including town centres, presented to Council on 28th of September and the timeline for a full business case being brought back to Council for approval in February 2024.

1.2 The report from 28th September 2023 set out the potential options, benefits and future opportunities available to Scottish Borders for investment in Public Space CCTV and Town Centre Wi-Fi and gained agreement to proceed with a scheme for seven Borders towns for CCTV.

1.3 The report outlined the state of the current provision of CCTV and detailed the benefits and other considerations for potential investment.

1.3.1 Benefits included:

- Many of the CCTV systems are approaching a point of disrepair.
- Current analogue systems will become obsolete as of 2025.
- Public safety and detection of crime.
- The ability to collect meaningful data, for both Police Scotland and the Council.
- Using the investment in CCTV to scope out further use cases for the technology and better understand the market, looking at solutions such as cloud-based CCTV and 5G connectivity.

1.3.2 Considerations included:

- The options submitted by CGI, including the outline financial implications.
- A move to a principle of investment and modernisation to reflect community priorities.
- Development of a fully defined proposal and costed business case with funding arrangements coming back to a subsequent Council meeting for final approval.

- Consultation be undertaken with other towns and communities to determine views, practicalities and priorities for potential future CCTV and Town Centre Wi-Fi investment opportunities.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 I recommend that the Committee:

- (a) Note progress made in developing proposals with CGI and the receipt of comparative costs for CCTV for the Scottish Borders;**
- (b) Note progress on bench marking and understanding of the market, carried out with partner organisations, specialist advisors and other local authorities;**
- (c) Note engagement with community owned CCTV models in the Borders and proposals developed by Hawick Community Council; and**
- (d) Note development of the CCTV proposals to further Scottish Borders Council's aspirations as a "Smart, connected rural region" and considering Town Centre Wi-fi in a future connectivity plan to complement future investment opportunities in connectivity and technology offered through the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal.**

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Scottish Borders Council currently operates sixty five* Public Space CCTV cameras located in Duns, Hawick, Galashiels, Kelso, Peebles, Eyemouth and Melrose. Further to this, 2 mobile camera systems are also utilised and owned by Police Scotland.
- 3.2 Selkirk and Newcastleton have both established a different model, which Scottish Borders Council does not operate but is accessible to Police Scotland through access agreements with the community as the data controller
- 3.3 Hawick Community Council has been considering the town CCTV and have drafted an outline proposal which has been shared with Scottish Borders Council.

4 PROGRESS UPDATE - CCTV

- 4.1 A cross departmental Project Team, including Police Scotland, has been stood up to interrogate the current proposals and understand the current usage and data arrangements for the system, and develop the use cases for the CCTV install.
- 4.2 Data Governance arrangements have been explored and a full Data Protection Impact Assessment will be developed if Council decides to proceed with upgrading CCTV systems. There has been consideration given to the learning available from the mobile CCTV deployment project led by Safer Communities & Homelessness and from other local authorities' data controller models. This will be further developed for current data use cases, with consideration of likely future opportunities beyond crime prevention.
- 4.3 Insights and understanding of the usage and set up of existing community operated installs have been gained through conversations with representatives from both Selkirk and Newcastleton.
- 4.4 Proposals developed by Hawick Community Council have been passed to Scottish Borders Council and are being reviewed and considered by CGI in the developed proposals.
- 4.4 Current CCTV locations overlaid with criminal and antisocial behaviour incidents has been requested from Police Scotland to inform the requirements of new cameras.
- 4.5 Officers have consulted Police Scotland's [national policy](#) to determine the agencies digital aspirations and confirmed with representatives that there are no standard specification requirements for CCTV or requirement to change the data access arrangements to an integrated digital solution at this time. Systems under consideration will provide scope for future

*previous reports cited seventy cameras – for clarification, this included five cameras in Selkirk, sixty five cameras are within scope in the seven towns

integration if required.

- 4.6 Publicly available reports have been consulted to inform the project and inform the CCTV functionality and specification, particularly with regards data usage in Machine Learning and AI applications, such as facial recognition. These include; The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) , Scottish Government and the Scottish Community Safety Network. Links to these reports can be found in the Background Papers section of this report.

An outline specification has been supplied to CGI to develop a proposal which outlines the cost and technical benefits of the proposal, and will come back to Council as a full business case at the 21st February 2024 Council meeting.

5 PROGRESS UPDATE – CONNECTIVITY

- 5.1 Town Centre WIFI will be encapsulated into the wider connectivity project for further consideration.
- 5.2 Consultation has been undertaken with the Scotland 5G Centre as a strategic partner to the Digital Programme on the opportunities to maximise the investment from replacing the CCTV infrastructure and the use of video data beyond crime prevention.
- 5.3 Analysis of connectivity models, and the pros and cons of fibre connectivity versus advanced wireless technology, is being thoroughly investigated to ensure the proposal is fit for purpose now and for future usage.
- 5.4 Given Scottish Borders Council's unique opportunity to leverage further investment in connectivity through the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal, CCTV proposals are being considered as a "phase 1" on which connectivity can be built. It is proposed that Town Centre Wi-fi and additional connectivity benefits to the community will be developed as future phases to ensure a joined-up approach across the region and maximise the potential to support a range of digital interventions to benefit the region.
- 5.5 Scottish Borders Council is currently developing a project implementation strategy for a pilot site for 5G Small Cell technology as part of the successful Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal consortium bid to the DSIT 5G Innovation Region fund. Learning from this programme and that of our partner local authorities will be applied to future development of the foundational CCTV infrastructure.
- 5.6 Data Driven Innovation opportunities for the economic development of the Borders region were outlined in a paper by Edinburgh University under the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal and the use of data derived from CCTV and how that could be utilised in the future will be developed as part of the scoping of the project.

6 SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES

- 6.1 Widespread engagement work that is being undertaken within the wider agenda of Place Making has been considered in the development of the solution, and how opportunities for IoT devices such as CCTV to support emerging priorities of communities in the future.

7 IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Financial

A comprehensive business case is being developed and will encompass a robust financial business case including initial capital outlay and ongoing revenue costs as well as identifying other non-financial benefits. The costs indicated within the 28th September report are being interrogated and comparison of alternative suppliers is underway.

This investment would form part of the Council's delivery of the Digital Strategy and as such the business case requires to be prioritised against other potential digital investments to ensure value for money can be demonstrated.

Consideration is being given to the future investment opportunities through the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal monies to support building upon the Council outlay.

7.2 Risk and Mitigations

The risks for Scottish Borders Council of not evolving the CCTV systems currently available are significant. Communities consistently raise the need to feel safer, and that CCTV is a key priority for them. Some of the CCTV systems in place are already at the end of their usefulness, and the current analogue system for the seven existing towns will be obsolete when the switch from to digital takes place in 2025.

7.3 Integrated Impact Assessment

A full IIA will be undertaken prior to proceeding with proposals and will be brought with the full business case.

7.4 Sustainable Development Goals

CCTV and town centre Wi-Fi should complement the Digital Strategy for SBC, which in turn seeks to promote and enhance the Council's commitment to Sustainable Development goals.

7.5 Climate Change

The options being proposed within this report should allow an overall positive impact on climate change. In many cases, the availability of effective and widespread CCTV should reduce the need for a physical presence to undertake some surveillance, monitoring and inspection work. It may make targeted response more possible, reducing the need for travel. Cloud-based storage solutions reduce the need for physical storage space. Town centre Wi-Fi may enhance the ability of communities to access remote services and information.

Additional benefits in relation to climate action may be realised through future development of the CCTV system to provide insights into key indicators such as environmental monitoring, air quality analysis,

destination and traffic management and other reporting generated through video analytics.

7.6 Rural Proofing

The initial proposal is targeted at town centre locations across the Scottish Borders. However, further phases may include exploration of wider CCTV and Wi-Fi coverage to benefit more rural areas. Indeed, a major opportunity of these digital solutions, is that further scaling up could offer rural communities possibilities that have never been available or feasible previously.

The research and understanding gathered in the development of the proposals will help inform the opportunities for connectivity to deliver on our aspirations for the region and target inward investment to the areas of need in rural communities.

7.7 Data Protection Impact Statement

The enhancement of CCTV will need to be accompanied with a robust and thorough approach to data protection. Updated protocols will be required given the increased availability and volume of data, and also to ensure that any new Cloud-based solutions are consistent with the arrangements of SBC and any partners. Ultimately, there should be an overall improvement in the ability to securely manage CCTV-generated data. SBC will need to work closely with data protection professionals within associated partner agencies and with communities to ensure that the benefits from these proposals are delivered without any compromise to data protection standards. A full Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) will be undertaken, which will identify all additional measures that are required.

7.8 Changes to Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation

It is not anticipated that there will be any changes to the Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation arising from this report.

8 CONSULTATION

- 8.1 The following consultees have all been consulted: Director of Finance, the Director of Corporate Governance), the Chief Officer Audit and Risk, the Director People Performance & Change, the Clerk to the Council and Corporate Communications.

Approved by

Jen Holland
Director of Strategic Commissioning & Partnerships

Author(s)

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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

Closed Circuit Television Provision in the Scottish Borders – Council 30 September 2020

Public Space CCTV and Town Centre Wi-Fi – Council 28th September 2023

The Information Commissioner’s Office (ICO) - <https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/uk-gdpr-guidance-and-resources/cctv-and-video-surveillance/guidance-on-video-surveillance-including-cctv/>

Scottish Community Safety Network. - <https://www.safercommunitiesScotland.org/wp-content/uploads/SCSN-CCTV-Summary-Report-.pdf>

Scottish Government - <https://www.gov.scot/publications/public-space-cctv-scotland/>

Previous Minute Reference:

[Minute from 28 September 2023](#)

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

Contact us at Jamcdonald@scotborders.gov.uk