

WELWYN HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL
CABINET 1 NOVEMBER 2016
REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR (FINANCE AND OPERATIONS)

CCTV CONTRACT RE-TENDER

1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 In 2013 the Council entered into a service level agreement with St Albans and City District Council (SADC) to contract Videcom to maintain and monitor our network of cameras monitoring public spaces.
- 1.2 The current service level agreement/contract terminates in March 2018.
- 1.3 The network of cameras provides a vital service to the community safety partnership across the borough.

2 Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 That Cabinet agrees to set up a member procurement board of five members (on a ratio of (3:1:1) to oversee the review and possible procurement of a new CCTV contract or service level agreement.

3 Explanation

- 3.1 A Member Procurement Board was involved in the original joint procurement with St Albans City and District Council (SADC) for a 3 year contract (extended by a further 2) for CCTV monitoring which expires on 31st March 2018.
- 3.2 The Council has a network of CCTV surveillance system with cameras covering selected locations, monitored at a central control room within St Albans city centre. This is managed under a contract and service level agreement between WHBC and SADC. Consequently, much of the operational management of the system lies with SADC.
- 3.3 SADC own their own control room, but employ a contractor (currently Videcom) to monitor the images and maintain the cameras.
- 3.4 The Council share the costs of the monitoring officers with SADC on a fixed price basis, the Council pays roughly £80,000 per year for the monitoring of the network and the contract management plus a further £20,000 (roughly) for the annual maintenance of the system. On top of this the Council committed to providing a biennial capital budget of £100,000, in order to implement a full system upgrade, for the length of the contract.
- 3.5 The Council currently has 26 cameras within Welwyn Garden City and Hatfield Town Centre, as well as two Cluster camera units in Welham Green and Moors Walk. There are also two individual units on Bishops Rise (Hatfield) and Lawrence Hall End (Welwyn Garden City).

- 3.6 The CCTV provided within the current contract/SLA with SADC is provided for the purpose of improving community safety. The cameras are provided to deter crime and anti-social behaviour and to help apprehend those individuals who commit criminal acts or disorder.
- 3.7 The CCTV system is a valuable tool in tackling crime and the fear of crime but it is dependent upon partnerships to be truly effective. These include partners within the Council such as the Community Safety team (including the street wardens) and Anti-social Behaviour team. External partners include the Town and Parish Councils, and SADC.
- 3.8 The CCTV operators work closely with the police, giving and receiving information to assist the police in targeting criminal and anti-social activity.
- 3.9 The current network and the current contract providers (Videcom) have been an excellent partner to the Community Safety Partnership. They have provided us a great service over the past few years by ensuring that the pro-active nature of the officers in the control does assist in catching criminal behaviour as well a community safety support to local residents and businesses.
- 3.10 Another option open to the Council is to tender the service ourselves, but this is not considered cost effective, due to costs of re-locating the fibre optic cables which currently transmit the images to the SADC control room. On top of the cabling investment in a specific office would need to be made as well as equipment to monitor and store the footage.

Implications

4 Legal Implication(s)

- 4.1 There is no requirement to have CCTV in public spaces, but the system supports the council's statutory duty to work with partners under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and subsequent amending legislation. Once a CCTV network is in place there is a legal duty on that organisation to follow both data protection legislation and the duty place on that organisation by the Surveillance Camera Commissioner under the Regulation of investigatory Powers Act 2000 and all amending legislation.

5 Financial Implication(s)

- 5.1 There is no direct cost implication associated with this report, however it is worth noting that a future report detailing the costs of a new CCTV contract will be brought to this committee for consideration.
- 5.2 Current costs are roughly £20,000 in maintenance and roughly £80,000 on monitoring of the network and the contract management. As well there is a biennial capital contribution of £100,000 to developing the CCTV network. These costs are likely to slightly alter in any new agreement but it is hoped not too significantly.

6 Risk Management Implications

- 6.1 Reputational: If we delay the commissioning of a new contract there could be a period where no contractor is responsible for monitoring the current public space CCTV network – so the system would be ineffective.

6.2 Reputational: Public space CCTV plays a vital role in enhancing the positive perception of community safety for our residents and businesses within the town centres and other key locations, not only does it act as a deterrent it provides an invaluable service for our partners in detecting crime and criminals.

7 Security & Terrorism Implication(s)

7.1 The provision of CCTV within the main public spaces of our borough provide a more controllable and hopefully safer environment for our residents and businesses.

8 Procurement Implication(s)

8.1 Any procurement would be undertaken in accordance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.

8.2 The Procurement Manager will provide advice on the procurement process.

9 Climate Change Implication(s)

9.1 There are no direct climate change implications relating to this report.

10 Link to Corporate Priorities

10.1 The subject of this report is linked to the Council's Corporate Priority Maintain a safe and healthy community, and specifically to the achievement of 1.1 Work with partners to keep people safe and is linked to a statutory requirement, under Crime and Disorder Act 1998 legislation.

11 Equality and Diversity

11.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has not been carried out in connection with the proposals that are set out in this report, as it is not relevant at this stage. However a full EIA would be completed as part of developing a new specification prior to tendering the contract.

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Date	18 October 2016

Background papers to be listed (if applicable)

Appendices to be listed