

**REPORT FROM: CORPORATE DIRECTOR**

**TO: EXECUTIVE**

**DATE: 11th DECEMBER 2015**

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## **CCTV**

### **PURPOSE OF REPORT:**

To provide a further update on progress with the radio Ethernet system and the Blackburn monitoring hub and the responses from Town Councils.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- (1) That the responses from the Town Councils be noted.
- (2) That the progress with the development of the Blackburn CCTV hub be noted.
- (3) That authority be given to give appropriate notice on the existing contracts with BT Fibre Optic Rental, Burnley Borough Council and Technology Solutions
- (4) That the placing of contracts for the radio Ethernet work with Technology Solutions and Thorne Access and Security Limited be approved.
- (5) That officers undertake further work on the process for transferring equipment to the town councils and report further.
- (6) That a meeting with representatives of the town councils be held in early January.

### **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

To pursue the Council's objective of providing a cohesive, effective and cost efficient CCTV system funded by the town councils.

## Background

1. This report is an update to that submitted to the Transfer of Services and Facilities to Town and Parish Councils at its meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2015.
2. At its meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> August the Executive resolved as follows:
  - a. That the Council's objective be to provide and manage a cohesive, effective and cost efficient CCTV system for Pendle with financial support from the town councils of Barnoldswick, Earby, Colne, Nelson and Brierfield, with a target start date of 1st April 2016.
  - b. That the following be agreed in principle subject to further investigation and the agreement of the Town and Parish Councils:-
    - i. that the existing fibre optic system be replaced by a digital radio Ethernet system;
    - ii. that the Council move to the proposed new East Lancashire monitoring hub at Blackburn.
    - iii. that the help points be phased out as they become obsolete.
    - iv. that reports on progress be submitted to the Transfer of Services and Facilities to Town and Parish Councils Committee and that the committee be authorised to hold negotiations with the Town Councils regarding their financial support and related matters.
3. Subsequently full Council on 15<sup>th</sup> October approved a saving of £87,000 in 2016/17 for changes to CCTV provision and funding arrangements. This is in addition to a saving of £20,000 in the budget for 2015/16.
4. As Members will appreciate the proposal as approved by the Executive is for a single scheme approach with the new Blackburn hub. All costs including both ongoing revenue and future capital costs would be met by the individual Town Councils as Pendle is ceasing its financial support.
5. There is some scope for individual town councils to take on future management and responsibility for their own scheme in their own town; and it is not necessary that all five town councils agree to provide funding for the Council to sign up to become part of the Blackburn monitoring hub. However this must be on the basis that there is no additional cost falling on this Council.
6. A meeting was held with representatives of the five Town Councils on 17<sup>th</sup> September when the proposal was explained and discussed. Further information has been provided to individual Town Councils as requested.
7. The annual financial contribution sought from each town council under the single scheme proposal is
  - Colne £18,147
  - Nelson £18,147
  - Brierfield £7,591
  - Barnoldswick £9,698
  - Earby £4,525

At the time of writing Earby and Barnoldswick have responded formally to say that they are willing to pay their contributions but wish to explore the possibility of a local monitoring station. Nelson and Brierfield have informally indicated that they are in principle willing to pay their contributions. Colne have declined to contribute and wish instead to investigate and build their own Colne-based system which will be monitored locally and on a voluntary basis. A further update will be given at the meeting.

### **Progress on the Radio Ethernet System**

8. In July 2014 the Council commissioned a report to explore the implementation of a radio Ethernet based system to replace the current dependency upon BT fibre optic circuits in Nelson, Colne and Brierfield (Barnoldswick and Earby already utilise wireless technology).
9. That report concluded that with some adaptations to the system this was technically feasible and would result in savings: only the BT uplinks to the new hub from the three towns would be retained and form part of the revenue costs outlined above. Opportunities would exist to review the equipment and upgrade from analogue equipment to IP (Internet Platform) digital cameras which would give greater flexibility, improved performance and future proof the system to a much greater extent than current equipment. We would not be intending to bring back cameras already mothballed except in exceptional circumstances.
10. As we would need to give 3 months' notice to BT to withdraw from contracts, the intention would be to carry out this work between December and April 2016.
11. As well as the upgrading the Nelson and Brierfield equipment the opportunity would also be taken to do some work on the Earby and Barnoldswick equipment to do away with expensive relays and decoders.
12. Because of the technical and specialised nature of the work and the short timescales involved the Corporate Director and Financial Services Manager have agreed to waive the requirement to seek tenders under Contract Procedure Rules 5.2 (a) and (b) and place the contracts with the two companies who currently look after the systems. This is Technology Solutions in respect of the Nelson and Brierfield equipment and Thorne Access and Security Limited in the case of the Earby and Barnoldswick equipment.
13. The work will be funded from £133,000 currently available from the original Performance Reward Grant awarded to the Pendle Community Safety Partnership to upgrade the CCTV system.

### **Progress on the Blackburn monitoring hub**

14. A Project team made up of officers from the five participating Councils (Blackburn with Darwen, Preston, Hyndburn, Burnley and Pendle) has overseen the development of the scheme. Reports on the technical feasibility and costings conclude the scheme to be viable. Negotiations are underway with other potential users of the system which could reduce costs further.
15. It is expected that this week Blackburn with Darwen's Executive will give approval to move to implement the scheme. Separate procurements will be undertaken for the work to build the new control room and transfer services to the new site, and for the new equipment required. The aim is to establish the new system from April which may be ambitious but everything will be done to achieve this.
16. We have argued that establishing an access point for Police to review footage in Pendle (possibly Nelson Police Station but to be negotiated ) to save them travelling to Blackburn or

Burnley is important particularly in the light of further planned reductions in police numbers and this has been acknowledged in principle by the Project team.

### **Ownership and future replacement of equipment**

17. In relation to the ownership of the system the preferred option would be to transfer all the equipment to the individual Town Councils whether they wish to be part of the Blackburn hub scheme or wish in some way to run a stand-alone system for their own area. This should happen before April 2016. Further work will be required on this.
18. Over the years Pendle has replaced cameras and equipment incrementally and the system is in good working order apart from the Help Points which are obsolete and it has been agreed not to replace them. There has been substantial funding secured to build the new hub in Blackburn and this will future proof central systems for the foreseeable future.
19. The proposed conversion from fibre optic to Ethernet radio technology in Nelson and Brierfield will also provide an opportunity to renew equipment as required.

### **Actions regarding existing contracts**

20. In view of the responses from four of the town councils that they are willing to join in the scheme action on existing contracts will be required as follows to protect the Council's position pending completion of the work to be carried out on the Blackburn hub and the move to radio Ethernet.
21. BT Fibre Optic Rental – we are on a rolling contract with a 90 day notice period so we would need to give notice by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015 to terminate the main part of the contract
22. Burnley Borough Council –under the terms of the original agreement we are obliged to give a 12 month notice of our intention to pull out of the partner arrangement .In practice we will now need to inform them that Colne will not be in the scheme after 31<sup>st</sup> March
23. Technology Solutions – this company looks after the main systems in Brierfield, Nelson and Colne and the contract is with Burnley and we share costs with them. Again a 90 day notice period applies and the notice would need to be given by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015 that Colne will not be in the scheme after 31<sup>st</sup> March.

### **Conclusion**

24. As Members will appreciate the development of the Blackburn hub and the work on the Radio Ethernet system will move quickly in the next few months. Further reports will be submitted to the Executive and Transfer of Services and Facilities to Town and Parish Councils Committee. It is suggested that a further meeting with the town councils be held in early January.

### **IMPLICATIONS**

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| <b>Policy:</b>    | CCTV is one of the community safety measures employed to control crime and disorder in our town centres and helps deliver the Council's commitment under Crime and Disorder legislation.   |
| <b>Financial:</b> | The capital spend is available in existing budgets in the form of Performance Reward Grant. The savings outlined in relation to the revenue costs of the proposed new Blackburn monitoring hub are indicative at this stage but not likely to vary significantly. There is a |

saving to be made in the 2015/16 budget of £20k and a saving of £87k in 2016/17.

<b>Legal:</b>	Agreements will need to be drawn up with the respective town councils once negotiations on their financial contributions and other issues are concluded and with Blackburn with Darwen Council for services provided by the new hub when finalised.
<b>Risk Management:</b>	The report addresses the issue of securing the future provision of CCTV within the Borough.
<b>Health and Safety:</b>	There are no immediate health and safety impacts of this report.
<b>Sustainability:</b>	The recommendations in this report will create a sustainable future for CCTV.
<b>Community Safety:</b>	CCTV systems in the Borough play an important role in managing crime in our town centres and maintaining public confidence. Evidence recorded by CCTV contributes to the arrest and prosecution of offenders and can act as a deterrent to criminals in town centre areas.
<b>Equality and Diversity:</b>	None