

DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
RESOURCES DIRECTORATE	ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE	5 JANUARY 2021	7
TOWN CENTRE CCTV, MOBILE VEHICLE REPLACEMENT AND REQUESTS FROM TOWN AND PARISH COUNCILS FOR CCTV			

PUBLIC ITEM

This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting.

SUMMARY

To provide an update to members on the regulatory requirements of CCTV and the steps which need to be taken prior to a decision being made from a budgetary perspective in upgrading cameras and replacing the CCTV vehicle.

To advise members of two requests for support with the provision of CCTV in Town and Parish Council areas and to seek initial views on these proposals. To also discuss the need for an assessment process for future applications for support of this nature, for example one which would include a requirement for a legitimate aim for the use of the cameras in terms of a pressing need to be established prior to any applications, and where this has been demonstrated and a request for funding made, that this is on the basis of match funding being provided by the council concerned.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To note the position with respect to the town centre CCTV and mobile vehicle replacement initiative
2. To offer the support of the Committee to the Budget Working Group for the funding sought by both Kirkham Town Council and Newton-with-Clifton Parish Council for CCTV within their respective localities subject to both councils being able to demonstrate a pressing need for each camera and providing a copy of an associated data impact assessment
3. That a further report be brought back to the committee on guidance to be proffered to the Budget Working Group against which to consider future bids for funding for CCTV from other Town and Parish Councils

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

5 November 2019 – 1. That the Committee considers the report and supports the rationalisation of the 2 CCTV vehicles to one in order to provide a viable service in 2020/21; and 2. That Officers are requested to investigate the costs of replacement CCTV vehicles with a view to submitting a future capital bid in 2021/22 and exploring other funding opportunities in the meantime

CORPORATE PRIORITIES	
Economy – To create a vibrant and healthy economy	✓
Environment – To deliver services customers expect	✓
Efficiency – By spending money in the most efficient way	✓
Tourism – To create a great place to live and visit	✓

REPORT

1. Fylde Council is responsible for three town centre CCTV systems in St Annes, Lytham and Kirkham. The cameras are a key part of the council's corporate objective of reducing anti-social behaviour, crime and disorder.

The cameras are maintained by Blackpool Council and monitored by Wyre Council. Active monitoring takes place at peak times over the weekends and more busy evenings in the week but the cameras record footage 24/7 and the Lancashire Constabulary have the ability to download footage through agreed protocols. The monitoring can detect incidents as they occur and alert the Constabulary accordingly.

2. The cameras in St Annes and Kirkham are analogue cameras which were installed circa 2008. They are still in good working order but would benefit from being replaced with IP cameras. The four cameras in Lytham were upgraded to IP cameras in 2015 which provides a better-quality image and the footage stays in colour at night, rather than reverting to black and white. Camera locations are provided in the 'link to information' section.

3. The Budget Working Group has discussed the age of the cameras following a request from St Annes Town Council to upgrade the cameras within the town. Any upgrade of the analogue cameras would also encapsulate the town of Kirkham as well. However, as a first stage, should the Council wish to upgrade the cameras in both St Annes and Kirkham, the Governance Team would have to carry out an assessment to ensure compliance with the Surveillance Camera Commissioner's 12 guiding principles.

4. One of the key principles is that the Council must have a legitimate aim to meet a pressing need for the cameras and this would have to be demonstrated and supported by stakeholders including the Lancashire Constabulary. CCTV is classed as high-risk processing and therefore any upgrades will be also subject to a data protection impact assessment. Further information has been provided in the 'link to information' section on the 12 guiding principles and data protection impact assessments.

5. Fylde Council has also been working in partnership with the Lancashire Constabulary through the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) in terms of the provision of the current surveillance camera network. The CSP previously met the costs of two second hand mobile CCTV vehicles and associated equipment several years ago. These vehicles were passed to the Constabulary. However, one of the vehicles is no longer in use and the remaining vehicle and associated equipment are coming to the end of their life. As the CSP no longer has such funds at its disposal, the council is also being asked to consider if it would also be willing to meet the costs of a replacement vehicle and associated equipment.

6. However, as with the town centre cameras this will be subject to the Surveillance Commissioners 12 guiding principles and a data protection impact assessment. The Police and Crime Commissioner has also been approached, through the CSP, to ask if he would be willing to provide any funding towards this project but has indicated that he would need to see a business case in the first instance. However, it is likely that any contribution, if forthcoming, would be small in nature and it is brought to members attention that the cost of this project could be in excess of 200k.

7. In order to progress this matter an initial discussion has taken place with the Lancashire Constabulary who are supportive of the replacements/upgrades subject to the necessary assessments being undertaken in terms of compliance with the regulatory framework for CCTV, and the costs being met by the council. The local Geographic Police Inspector is progressing a piece of analysis to determine if the police will advise that there is a legitimate pressing need in terms of every camera location for both the St Anne's and Kirkham systems, together with an assessment of the pressing need from an evidential base for the mobile CCTV vehicle. An initial crime mapping exercise has been undertaken by the police and this is to be considered further at a meeting due to take place early in the New Year.

8. In addition, the attention of members is also drawn to two requests which have been received for CCTV by the Council's Budget Working Group. The Working Group has referred these requests to this committee for further consideration. One bid is from Kirkham Town Council to have a new camera in the Memorial Gardens in Kirkham. The total cost of the camera is circa £14k as a new electricity supply will have to be connected to the area. The Town Council are seeking 6k towards the cost of this. The area is suffering from ASB related issues which is why the camera is being sought. Guidance has been offered to put together a case for a pressing need for the camera together with the data protection impact assessment. The second request is from Newton-with-Clifton Parish Council who are seeking £3k as a contribution towards a camera. Correspondence from the Clerk to the Parish Council in support of this request is set out below:

"Some ten plus years ago members originally petitioned on behalf of parishioners for CCTV equipment to be installed in proximity to the above park. Council liaised with the Fylde council's Community Safety Partnership (FBC), sourced related funding from parishioners and a CCTV camera was in situ c.2008.

Subsequently FBC removed the camera, as it had developed a number of faults and was ultimately assessed as uneconomic to repair. There were often malfunction issues with the original CCTV installation together with complications relating to the capability of monitoring and downloading CCTV images.

However, as a consequence of an increased incidence of anti-social behaviour at Newton Hall Park council is again considering redeploying a CCTV council.

Given the infrastructure already in place, electricity supply, camera post with mounting bracket fittings &c from the original installation, the cost of new CCTV cameras, lighting, recording box etc should not be prohibitive. An indicative FBC funding amount is £3000, it is anticipated this sum will be matched by the parish council, moreover it is anticipated that additional funds will be raised by parishioner contributions. It has also been suggested that the project could perhaps be considered for inclusion in FBC's/Friends of Newton Community Park community park improvement programme (CPIP)".

The key difference between the cameras sought by the Town and Parish Councils and those of our own Town Centre CCTV cameras is that they are not monitored, but stand-alone cameras, with the ability to download the footage if required

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	The contributions requested by the respective Town and Parish Council's would be a part of the 2021/22 budget proposals if supported by members
Legal	CCTV is a highly regulated activity for for any new or replacement camera a pressing need must be demonstrated, and a data impact assessment undertaken
Community Safety	CCTV is a part of a package of measures used to combat anti-social behaviour and crime
Human Rights and Equalities	See comments in the legal section
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	NA
Health & Safety and Risk Management	See comments in the legal section

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BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
NA		NA

