

BOROUGH OF KETTERING

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Report Originator	John Kinloch -	<i>Fwd Plan Ref No:</i> -	
Wards Affected	ALL	24 th March 2020	
Title	CCTV Update on Capital Expenditure		

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 Information on the upgrading of several CCTV cameras in the Borough by means of capital funding.

2. INFORMATION

- 2.1 Throughout Kettering and the A6 Towns there are a total of 62 CCTV surveillance cameras distributed as follows:-

Kettering	Number of cameras
Town Centre streets	18
Car Parks	9
Other parts of town	23
Burton Latimer	4
Desborough	4
Rothwell	4

- 2.2 Cameras are monitored from a control room located in the Newlands Centre, which also manages the shopping centre cameras, under contract. This is operational round the clock. Police have access to the cameras and use the material recorded to investigate crimes, anti-social behaviour, trace missing persons and monitor the movements of known offenders. There is a further link to the town centre radio network which retailers use and the control room also manages access through the bollards in the town centre.
- 2.3 The majority of the cameras are currently analogue (hard wired) to the control room and have been installed for approximately 20 years. The system is reaching the end of its lifespan and we are at the stage where cameras need to be replaced, particularly as spares become harder to source.
- 2.4 Cameras have been replaced at certain times with more robust equipment, which is still analogue. The positioning of the cameras has not significantly altered since they were initially installed, with the majority of the locations remaining valid. Town centre patterns of use have however changed and there is a need and opportunity to provide higher quality images than were possible when first installed.

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- 2.5 A decision was taken to conduct a review of the CCTV system in 2017. However, the review was put on hold when the local government review was announced, since there would need to be a series of decisions taken about CCTV management by the new unitary council which would span the whole of CCTV throughout North Northamptonshire.
- 2.6 The early stage of the review did however allow us to review each camera in turn for operational use, location, general operating abilities, colour rendition and maintenance. It has become apparent that the cameras in the town centre were ageing and becoming less effective due to frequency of break downs, so the review was timely. This review also identified that when the new county lighting programme launched, the increased lighting created glare that has prevented accurate colour rendition, therefore making everything look greyscale.
- 2.7 A new Wi-Fi camera with night vision technology was installed in Meadow Road park as part of the redevelopment project there. This new camera is proving to be very useful and has already been used to assist in an arrest of a burglar. This camera utilises newer technology to transmit the images.
- 2.8 The new camera technology makes them more efficient and user friendly with better quality images available during daytime and at night. This made us think about how these cameras could make a difference. There were some early issues in determining if the Wi-Fi signalling would be able to cover the town, but after some reviewing and surveys this can be achieved. The use of Wi-Fi as a digital transfer method to complement the existing analogue system also offers a potential of saving of up to £20,000, as we would not require a number of existing BT links, which cost up to £1500 per camera per year.
- 2.9 The capital budget of £50,000 will allow provision for 17 Wi-Fi linked cameras to be introduced in Kettering. Candidate locations were chosen by reference to the existing quality of the cameras, including night-time operational use; effectively the cameras along Silver Street, Horsemarket, Montague Street, Sheep Street, Market Street, Gold Street and High Street. These areas are also those with the highest footfall and cover the majority of the town centre.
- 2.10 The replacement cameras will allow the existing cameras to be fully serviced and refurbished and then re-deployed, both elsewhere within the network and as spares to cover any future breakdowns.
- 2.11 If the introduction of Wi-Fi in the town proves to be effective, we can look at the options available to link the A6 towns and remoter Kettering cameras onto the Wi-Fi network, but this is a larger overall project, with greater technical barriers to overcome. Nevertheless, these areas can benefit from the redeployed refurbished cameras.
- 2.12 Some images showing picture quality will be shown at the meeting.

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2.13 There is always the possibility that there may be some areas that don't have CCTV coverage and that there may be a need, this will be considered within the wider review and as Wi-Fi becomes more widely used. Camera locations will remain under review and consideration will also be given to use of mobile cameras for hot spot locations for specified time periods.

3. CONSULTATION AND CUSTOMER IMPACT

3.1 The new cameras will enhance the coverage and quality of the images therefore increasing public confidence within the Borough. The police use the camera footage on a regular basis to assist with incidents and to assist them in identifying and bringing offenders to justice.

4. POLICY AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Priorities within the Crime and Disorder Strategy are tackling anti-social behaviour, criminal damage, serious acquisitive crime and alcohol related violence, and the CCTV system impacts upon all these areas.

4.2 The CCTV system currently costs £213,780 per annum in running costs.

5. LEGAL AND EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Under section 17 of Crime and Disorder Act 1998, the council has a general responsibility to do all it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder. Investing in newer CCTV capacity meets that obligation.

6. CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There will be some energy savings from the new cameras.

7. RECOMMENDATION

7.1 To note the information provided on the capital funding for some CCTV cameras.
