

The Vale of Glamorgan Council

Cabinet Meeting: 3 July, 2017

Report of the Cabinet Member for Housing and Building Services

CCTV Service Provision

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide Cabinet with an update on the Council's current CCTV provision and to seek approval from Cabinet to conclude a legal agreement with Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) for the continued delivery of the service.

Recommendations

1. That Cabinet note the contents of this report.
2. That Cabinet approve the proposals for the increase in service cost as outlined in the report and provides delegated authority to the Director of Environment and Housing, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing and Building Services, to finalise the arrangements as outlined in the report for the conclusion of the inter-authority agreement with Bridgend County Borough Council.
3. That Cabinet note that the proposed arrangement with Bridgend County Borough Council is made in reliance on statutory powers available to the Council under the relevant provisions found within s111 Local Government 1972; s25 of the Local Government (Wales) Act 1994; s1 of the Local Authorities Goods and Services Act 1970; and s2 Local Government Act 2000 (LGA 2000) and Cabinet approve exercise of the 'well-being' power under s.2 of the LGA 2000.
4. That the Head of Legal Services, in consultation with the Director of Environment and Housing Services and the Cabinet Member for Housing and Building Services, be authorised to prepare, and execute the appropriate legal documentation to establish the agreement.

Reasons for the Recommendations

1. To provide Cabinet with an update on the current CCTV provision in the Vale of Glamorgan.
2. To ensure that the CCTV service is provided in accordance with the Vale of Glamorgan's requirements.

3. To advise Cabinet of the statutory basis upon which the Council will enter into an inter-authority agreement with BCBC in respect of the CCTV service.
4. To properly conclude all legal matters, formalising the partnership process.

Background

2. In June 2013 Cabinet approved the development of a business case for transferring the operational function of CCTV from the Vale of Glamorgan Council to BCBC.
3. The original business case made it clear that the proposal was for BCBC to provide the monitoring and operation of CCTV for the Vale of Glamorgan. It was envisaged that the Vale of Glamorgan, by its Community Safety Team, retain the responsibility for strategic development of the CCTV service. Under the proposal, BCBC were to be the single employing authority. Initially it was considered that a legal partnership agreement based on the powers available to the council under s.101/102 of the LGA 1972 was to be entered into between the two Councils for the commissioning of the service and that this would formalise the provision of services and be the basis for cost apportionment. Initially a contract was to be in place for a minimum of 5 years to ensure operational stability and security.
4. The proposals were further considered by Cabinet on 20th October 2014. It was suggested that the Service would be best operated from a single location and a decision was then made to relocate the service to Bridgend. Cabinet on the 20 October 2014 endorsed and approved the financial business case, giving delegated authority to the then Managing Director in consultation with the then Leader to finalise the arrangements (including cost apportionment and services to be provided for the commissioning of a joint service). Authority was also granted to enter into a legal Partnership Agreement based on the available powers in s101/102 of the LGA 1972, with BCBC, for the provision of the joint service.
5. The service was subsequently transferred on 1st April 2016. The formal contract for the CCTV services between the Vale of Glamorgan Council and BCBC was not finalised at the time of the service transfer date.
6. As part of the transfer, there was one affected Vale of Glamorgan Council employee and their employment transferred to BCBC with the service.
7. Subsequently, following a review of the service by the Safer Vale Manager, a range of issues were identified highlighting a number of operational difficulties and shortcomings. It was agreed that the service would be reviewed by officers involved in the running of the service, and that discussions should take place between the respective authorities with a view to reaching a final agreement as to how the service was to be operated, and in particular, how the costs of running the service and maintaining the CCTV equipment would be calculated.
8. Following discussions between this Authority and colleagues in BCBC, it was concluded that the basis of the proposed arrangement between this Authority and BCBC did not accurately reflect the legislative powers it sought to rely upon when Cabinet endorsed the business case when the matter was considered by them on the 20 October 2014. Consequently, our officers, in discussion with BCBC concluded the correct basis on which an inter-authority agreement should be entered into, amending the inter-authority agreement accordingly.
9. For the Vale of Glamorgan it had been agreed (as part of the business case) that the monitoring of the service and strategic lead would sit within the Community Safety team and the Safer Vale Manager would lead on this arrangement.

10. This report seeks to identify and conclude all matters associated with the inter-authority agreement to enable the agreement to be formally authorised.

Relevant Issues and Options

11. In September 2016 there were a number of cameras that were not fully operational. As at May 2017 all cameras are operational.
12. Since September a maintenance agreement has been negotiated with a contractor. It is intended that this will provide an improvement in CCTV service for the Vale of Glamorgan and negate the risk of priority cameras not being operational for any length of time. The Schedule of Vale of Glamorgan cameras has now been revised and incorporated into the draft agreement. In summary the maintenance contract will provide the following:
 - 15 CCTV cameras (identified by the community safety team as key cameras) to be covered by a fully compliant comprehensive service. This will provide the Vale of Glamorgan Council with attendance within 4 hours of a fault being reported, (24 x 7 x 365). An unlimited amount of calls can be made and the cameras will be repaired within the contract cost (as long as the equipment is not obsolete). The remaining cameras will also receive a call out facility; however the lead time will be greater.
 - All cameras to receive 2 inspections a year to ensure that the cameras are cleaned / tested and to identify any potential faults.
13. Within the original business case that was approved by Cabinet on 20th October 2014, it was agreed that the monitoring of the cameras would remain at the same level that was operated previously in the Vale of Glamorgan. This equated to 111 hours per week. Since the original business case was completed crime patterns and statistics have changed and there has been an increase in reported crime. Following discussions with BCBC an option to increase hours to 24/7 was considered, however this was not thought to be necessary. It would also have resulted in BCBC needing to recruit an additional member of staff at a cost of £30,000 per year. This option would have resulted in significant additional cost to the Vale of Glamorgan Council. It would also be noted that all cameras are recording throughout the 24/7 period so there would still be an option of obtaining CCTV evidence of any incidence after any event. It was established that an increase in 14 hours per week could be accommodated by BCBC within their existing staff structure based on an increase in cost to the Vale of Glamorgan Council of £6,000 per year (£8.24 per hour). Additional hours (outside of the 125 hours) can be purchased by the Vale of Glamorgan Council at an additional cost of £18.20 per hour.
14. Within the Vale of Glamorgan there have been discussions regarding increasing the number of CCTV cameras and reviewing the feasibility in linking these to the service provision. Equally BCBC required some stability regarding costs in the event that the Vale of Glamorgan made the decision to remove cameras. During negotiations with BCBC it was considered that the fixed number of cameras would be 77, however it would be feasible to add/remove a maximum number of 8 cameras (10% of the contract rounded up) without any impact on the cost that the Vale of Glamorgan will pay for the service. However a cost would be incurred if a request was made for reviewing specific CCTV footage and / or the transfer of data to any alternative media e.g. DVD, as this would require allocation of additional staff time. This additional requirement would be charged at £18.20 per hour. Therefore the number of cameras that will be included in the network schedule would be 77, with the maximum number of 85 and the minimum number of 69 without any cost implications.

15. Performance management information has been agreed with BCBC and this reflects the way in which BCBC monitors performance. Performance information will be reviewed and supplied on a monthly basis to the Vale of Glamorgan by BCBC and officers from both the Vale of Glamorgan Council and BCBC will meet formally each quarter to discuss and review levels of performance. Updates will be reviewed by the Community Safety Partnership who are the Strategic Statutory Partnership leading on Crime and Disorder reduction.
16. In order to provide a consistent CCTV service to partner agencies (South Wales Police and Business PACT) a process identifying the level of service provided and access to the control room/ability to obtain footage is being developed by the Vale of Glamorgan Council and BCBC officers. Consultation on this is taking place during June 2017.
17. In addition, discussions are progressing in respect of the potential installation of a viewing station based within the Vale of Glamorgan. This will enable police officers to review footage locally and also provides the facility for designated officers within the Vale of Glamorgan Council to monitor the quality of the camera images. It is anticipated that this will be implemented within 2017/18.

Resource Implications (Financial and Employment)

18. The total annual cost for the CCTV provision is £70,000. The current budget available is £64,000. The additional £6,000 arising from the increase in monitoring cameras from 111 hours to 125 hours per week and any other additional hours required will be funded by existing revenue budgets within the Directorate.

Sustainability and Climate Change Implications

19. The combined CCTV operation of a function provides a more sustainable service, the additional monitoring hours proposed and the improved maintenance arrangements should better support local communities by increasing public confidence in community safety.

Legal Implications (to Include Human Rights Implications)

20. It is proposed that the Council enters into an Inter-Authority Agreement with BCBC based on the statutory powers available, including the well-being power under section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000, which empowers local authorities to promote the economic, social and environmental well-being of its inhabitants of their areas. A local authority is empowered to use the power under s.2 to undertake activity which in the proper judgment of the council is appropriate in respect of achieving the above objectives.
21. S.111 Local Government 1972 enables local authorities to do anything which is calculated to facilitate or is conducive or incidental to the discharge of any of its functions. Section 1 of the Local Authorities Goods and Services Act 1970 enables local authorities to provide services to other councils and to other public bodies.
22. In addition s25 of the Local Government (Wales) Act 1994 is applicable as BCBC are supplying a service to the Vale of Glamorgan Council to enable it to discharge its functions.
23. In reliance on the above powers, the Council seeks to enter into an agreement with BCBC for the commissioning of the service to formalise the provision of the CCTV service and provide a basis for cost apportionment. There are employment law

implications in relation to this project. These have been taken account of and are reflected in the contract terms. Advice has been sought, historically as part of this project and provided in relation to these implications.

Crime and Disorder Implications

24. The primary function of CCTV is to prevent and detect crime and disorder. In order to understand the current demand the following police statistics will support an increase in monitored hours.
25. In the Vale of Glamorgan from April 2016 - March 2017, overall crime increased by 19.9% compared to 2015/16 figures. This is the highest increase in South Wales. The average increase across the South Wales region is 9.2%.

Equal Opportunities Implications (to include Welsh Language issues)

26. There are no specific Equal Opportunities implications associated with this report.

Corporate/Service Objectives

27. Contributes to outcome 9 of the Community Strategy 2011 - 21 and the Wellbeing Outcome 1: An Inclusive and Safe Vale of the Corporate Plan 2016 - 20.

Policy Framework and Budget

28. This is a matter for Executive decision by Cabinet.

Consultation (including Ward Member Consultation)

29. There are no specific implications for Ward members as a result of this report.
30. The Community Safety Partnership (Safer Vale) has been updated on the CCTV service development proposals.

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

31. Homes and Safe Communities

Background Papers

None

Contact Officer

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Officers Consulted

Victoria Davidson - Operational Manager - Legal Services
Sarah Burgess - Senior Lawyer
Mike Bumford - Accountant

Responsible Officer:

Miles Punter - Director of Environment and Housing Services