

VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

COUNCIL: 25<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2022

REFERENCE FROM CABINET: 14<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2022

**“C876 CLOSED-CIRCUIT TELEVISION (CCTV) SERVICE - FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS (LRPS) (SCRUTINY – HOMES AND SAFE COMMUNITIES) –**

The Cabinet Member for Legal, Regulatory and Planning Services presented the report to provide Cabinet with an update on the current CCTV service and to sought approval for a number of service changes.

The Council's CCTV system was currently monitored by Bridgend County Borough Council under contract and the contract, which had already been extended, expired on 31st March, 2022.

Officers from the Council's Community Safety Team undertook a review of Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) which was concluded in July 2019 (the "Review"). The Review concluded that CCTV as a non-statutory responsibility of the Local Authority, costs the Council more than £90,000 per annum for a provision that was outdated and no longer fit for purpose. A number of the current cameras were not working due to outdated technology and in some cases an inability to source spare parts.

The Review also concluded that South Wales Police (SWP) were the main users of the CCTV system which prompted a series of discussions with SWP to agree a way forward for CCTV in the Vale of Glamorgan that embraced a collaborative approach given the Local Authority's commitment to partnership working and providing the Vale of Glamorgan residents with a service that will improve their security and feeling of safety.

During the same timeframe, a parallel drive by the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) was instigated to review CCTV across the whole of the South Wales Police Force area with the aspiration of implementing a consistent service across the board.

This prompted a series of discussions with the PCC regarding a partnership model for the future of CCTV whereby the Local Authority would invest in the upgrade of the cameras and monitoring equipment and the PCC would invest in the ongoing revenue implications of monitoring the cameras.

A condition of revenue funding from the PCC for the monitoring of the cameras was that the Vale CCTV service evidenced a collaborative approach with Cardiff. To this end, Cabinet approval was being sought for the Council to enter into an inter-authority agreement with Cardiff Council for the monitoring of the Vale CCTV system.

The rationale behind the new collaboration and move away from Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC), with whom the current contract would terminate on 31st March, 2022, was to mirror the new South Wales Police Basic Command Unit (BCU) footprint. A change in the footprint now had the Vale merged with Cardiff instead of Bridgend.

A budget of £348k was approved in the 2021/22 Capital Programme .

Prior to proceeding with the upgrade of the system the Council required commitment from the PCC that the revenue costs to cover the monitoring of the system would be met. Indicative confirmation of an agreement to fund the 24/7 monitoring of 45 static cameras across the Vale of Glamorgan was received in January and it was confirmed that this commitment would be sourced from base line PCC funding. A further business case had been submitted to the PCC for the scope of the funding to extend to 24/7 monitoring of the total 82 cameras being upgraded and installed across the Vale of Glamorgan.

The initial commitment on the 19th January, 2022 enabled the Vale of Glamorgan Council to proceed with the CCTV programme and due to timescales, Emergency Powers and a Financial Waiver were obtained to progress the order of the new cameras and associated equipment.

In terms of the future monitoring of the Vale CCTV system, Bridgend County Borough Council was upgrading the current CCTV system and the upgraded Control Room would be live from April 2022. Significant investment (which would have to be resourced by the Vale) was likely to be required to make the Vale's existing equipment compatible with the new system in Bridgend. Further the PCC funding for camera monitoring was conditional on the CCTV partnership mirroring the current Police BCU footprint.

Cardiff Council was also progressing with an upgrade of its Control Centres, where its two existing Control Rooms would be merged into a new purpose built suite which was expected to be operational in December 2022.

It was proposed that Cabinet approve a low-cost interim monitoring solution to be installed into the Civic Offices from April 2022 to June 2022. Following this, it was proposed that the monitoring of the cameras moved to the existing Cardiff Control Room where they would remain until the whole system was ready to move in December 2022.

The Cabinet Member said that the requested use of the urgent decision procedure was as a result of the timescales involved. Future monitoring would be around the clock and carried out by the Police.

The Leader was pleased that the PCC would be funding monitoring and that it made sense to be associated with Cardiff Council going forward as they were in the same BCU after the contract expired with Bridgend at the end of March 2022. He also thanked all concerned for the amount of work that had gone into getting to this position.

This was a matter for Executive decision.

Cabinet, having considered the report and all the issues and implications contained therein,

RESOLVED –

- (1) T H A T the position of the CCTV system upgrade programme and that the current CCTV monitoring arrangement with Bridgend County Borough Council terminates on 31st March, 2022 be noted.
- (2) T H A T the proposals for collaborative working with Cardiff Council and the Police and Crime Commissioner as set out in the Executive Summary above be agreed.
- (3) T H A T a temporary CCTV monitoring solution from April 2022 to be sited in the Civic Offices until June 2022 (that ensures continuity of CCTV service throughout the various upgrade stages be agreed.
- (4) T H A T authority be delegated to the Director of Environment & Housing Services and Monitoring Officer / Head of Legal and Democratic Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Legal, Regulatory and Planning Services to enter into an agreement arrangement with Cardiff Council in respect of the monitoring of the CCTV System in the Vale of Glamorgan and also into an agreement with the PCC in respect of the funding of such monitoring.
- (5) T H A T the Monitoring Officer / Head of Legal and Democratic Services be granted authority to prepare, negotiate execute and complete all legal documentation required in connection with the proposed arrangements detailed in the above recommendations.
- (6) T H A T the use of the urgent decision procedure as set out in Section 14.14 of the Council's Constitution be exercised as the existing contract with Bridgend County Borough Council expires on 31st March, 2022.**

#### Reasons for decisions

- (1) To inform Members of progress made to the upgrade of CCTV.
- (2) To agree, in principle, a change to the monitoring arrangements for CCTV that meets the partnership needs for collaboration across the Vale of Glamorgan.
- (3) To agree, in principle, the necessary interim CCTV monitoring arrangements.
- (4) To agree, in principle, the arrangements for negotiating and concluding the necessary agreements with Cardiff Council and the PCC.
- (5) To allow for preparation of all the necessary legal documentation required in connection with the proposals to be duly executed for when all other recommendations are agreed.

**(6) To begin the necessary interim CCTV monitoring arrangements from 1st April, 2022.”**