POLICY AND RESOURCES CABINET BOARD

19th FEBRUARY 2015

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF CORPORATE STRATEGY & DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

SECTION A – MATTERS FOR DECISION

WARDS AFFECTED - Aberavon, Briton Ferry East, Briton Ferry West, Bryn and Cwmavon, Glyncorrwg, Neath East, Neath North, Neath South, Port Talbot, Sandfields East, Sandfields West, Seven Sisters

CCTV SERVICE – OPTIONS

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:

The Council's Forward Financial Plan identifies savings targets to be made in the operation of the Council's CCTV service during 2016/2017 and 2017/2018. This report sets out for Members:

- i) The current level of service and associated costs.
- ii) A description of the options that have been considered to meet those savings targets and to inform a longer term strategy for the future operation of the Council's CCTV service.
- iii) Recommendations to progress the above.

BACKGROUND:

The Crime & Disorder Act 1998 places obligations on local authorities, the police, police authorities, health authorities and probation committees (amongst others) to co-operate in the development and implementation of a strategy for tackling crime and disorder in their area.

Part of the local strategy to improve crime and disorder across Neath Port Talbot has included development of a public space CCTV service over a number of years and the future of this service is the subject of this report.

i) National Context

The origins of CCTV provision for public space in the UK lie in the early 1980's. The use of CCTV systems expanded gradually but it was primarily funded as part of the "Safer Cities Initiatives" and similar schemes. Between 1999 and 2003 there was a major investment in public space CCTV through the Home Office funded Crime Reduction Programme (CRP); through a bidding process. The end of the CRP marked the end of a dedicated central funding regime for public space CCTV, although local authorities continued to access Home Office grant monies for general funding and crime reduction.

ii) Local Context

Public space CCTV was introduced in Neath Port Talbot in December 1996 where 30 cameras were monitored in Neath town centre on a 24/7 365 days per year basis. Various capital funding sources enabled the system to expand to the current level of in excess of 150 cameras covering Neath and Port Talbot. The operation of CCTV in the Authority is a discretionary service. The current recording and management system known as Synergy became operational in December 2007 within a new purpose built control room at the Quays. It is fully digital, with all incoming camera images continuously recorded on a large bank of hard disc recorders situated in the IT server room.

In January 2008, the control room was enhanced by the introduction of the Council's Out of Hours telephone service being transferred to the Control Room. The operators handle Out of Hours calls in relation to Highways together with calls for neighbouring authorities on behalf of the South Wales Trunk Road Agency (SWTRA). Calls are also taken in respect of Environmental Health issues and the Dog Warden Service.

Current Service and Costs

i) Current Service

Since June 2014, the service has been reduced to meet the savings targets identified in the Councils' Forward Financial Plan by introducing a reduced monitoring service and fewer staff.

Staffing has been reduced from the pre June level of eight fte and four part time staff with one Manager to six full time staff with the

management function of CCTV being combined with the management of the Councils Contact Centre at the Quays.

Cost savings as a result of the measures so far in terms of reduced monitoring and staffing amount to $\pounds 172,000$ per annum. Future savings targets included within the revised FFP are $\pounds 80,000$ in both 2016/17 and 2017/18.

The CCTV service is currently operating on the following reduced hours basis:

- Staffed and monitored between 19.00 and 07.00 during weekdays.
- Not monitored between the hours of 07.00 and 19.00 hours during weekdays although cameras are continuously recording during these hours.
- Staffed and monitored on a 24/7 basis during weekends and Bank Holidays.
- The Out of Hours telephone service is maintained together with the Alarm monitoring service for Sandfields and Pen Afan Primary Schools.

The decision to reduce the level of monitoring is consistent with a number of local authorities.

ii) Costs

The current cost of the CCTV Service can be summarised as follows:

Total	£185,610.00
• Staff	£90,000.00
• CDS – Maintenance	£24,800.00 (annual)
	£70810.00
• Virgin Media Line rental	£11,000.00 (annual) **
• BT Line Rental	£59,810.00 (annual) *

* The current BT Contract was agreed in 2014 for a five year period to obtain the maximum discount. Any cancellation would result in the contract having to be paid in full.

** The Virgin Media Contract relates mainly to the Cameras in Port Talbot Town Centre and is not tied in to any long term arrangement.

Line rental costs per area a	re as follows:
Neath Town Centre	£11,529.98
Milland Road CP	£1,732.87
Neath MSCP	£4,047.11
Seven Sisters	£2,651.55
Briton Ferry	£6,987.94
Port Talbot	£16,821.42
Sandfields	£13,976.12
Links to Circuits	£13,063.01
Total	£70810.00

The majority of the 96 public space cameras across the county borough are in excess of ten years old. The majority have been in place since the inception of the service in 1996. In order to continue the service on a long term basis, consideration should be given to having in place a budget to cover the cost of replacement parts. As the equipment gets older, the more difficult it will become to source parts and replacement will be inevitable. The cost of replacing a standard camera is approximately £4,300.00 plus VAT at the current rate. In addition to the CCTV monitoring the data capture table below shows the demands from the police and out of hours calls for the period October 2014- January 2015

Call Type	October	November	December	January
CCTV - CONTROL ROOM : CCTV PROCEDURE	-	3	9	-
CCTV - CONTROL ROOM : CONTROL ROOM VISITOR	15	10	17	15
CCTV - CONTROL ROOM : CREATE DISK	9	10	14	9
CCTV - CONTROL ROOM : FAULT REPORTING	2	10	10	2
CCTV - CONTROL ROOM : INCIDENT	41	49	40	39
CCTV - CONTROL ROOM : SCHOOL ALARM MONITOR	63	42	78	41
CCTV : Nitenet/Storenet	49	33	30	18
CCTV : Police	249	154	131	105
CCTV : SWTRA	2	1	-	2
OUT OF HOURS : BUILDING MAINTENANCE	41	30	39	16
OUT OF HOURS : DANGEROUS STRUCTURES	-	2	-	-
OUT OF HOURS : DOG CALLS	27	47	43	21
OUT OF HOURS : DUTY FITTER	2	7	2	3
OUT OF HOURS : ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OTHER	1	2	2	1
OUT OF HOURS : GENERAL INFO / ADVICE	36	59	81	33
OUT OF HOURS : HOMELESSNESS	1	-	-	-
OUT OF HOURS : IT ISSUES- INCOMING CALL	2	1	-	-
OUT OF HOURS : LIGHTING	3	11	4	2
OUT OF HOURS : NEIGHBOURHOOD	40	50	59	49
OUT OF HOURS : NOISE POLLUTION	3	3	3	2
OUT OF HOURS : NPT HOMES	14	19	28	9
OUT OF HOURS : PEST CONTROL	4	2	6	-
OUT OF HOURS : REFUSE AND RECYCLING	-	-	21	1
OUT OF HOURS : SWTRA	45	36	42	60

Other Research

The Police and Crime Commissioner in Dyfed Powys recently commissioned a review of CCTV in the Dyfed Powys area which involved consultation amongst partners and users of the CCTV service. The main points contained within the published report can be summarised as follows:

- As to the effectiveness of CCTV the conclusion of the review is that CCTV has no impact on violent crime where behaviour is impulsive and there is no time for rational decision making. However, where it is effective is in providing evidence, assisting investigative effort and the support of "better justice" outcomes.
- The Police together with the Crown Prosecution Service (Wales) are strong advocates of using monitored CCTV as it saves time and costs with enquiries such as missing persons. CCTV evidence provides a valuable aid in "not guilty" cases where CCTV evidence provides evidence to save investigative time and possible Court time.
- There is no case to support fully monitored CCTV in all areas of Dyfed Powys, particularly in the more rural areas. There is support from the majority of elected members and officers to support the continued use of active public space CCTV monitoring in the larger centres of population.

There is an option in adopting a passive service by default using a more intelligence based approach to deploying active monitoring

Long Term Strategy – Options

This section lists those options that have been identified to meet the savings targets identified in the Council's Forward Financial Plan and to inform a longer term strategy for the future operation of the Council's CCTV service. (It should be noted that any further reduction in costs alone will be marginal in the short term due to the terms and conditions of the BT contract and early termination penalties previously referred to). An initial Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken and will be updated as the options are further developed.

Options:

- **1 Doing nothing** and the service remains at current levels of staff and service as outlined earlier in this report. This option would leave a gap in the savings required in the FFP of £80,000 in both 2016/17 and 2017/18.
- 2 **Provide a partial (passive) service** camera's recording only on a 24/7 365/6 days per year basis. No staff in post to operate the cameras. Alternative arrangements for the out of hours service would need to be made and also for the residual work e.g. tape retrieval.

3 Reduce the number of cameras.

Analysis shows that the number of cameras used to record incidents are limited to twenty two "hotspot" cameras across the county borough (see Appendix 1) However, there are community safety benefits in retaining a broader coverage which has been highlighted in incidents such as the armed robbery which took place in Ladbroke's Briton Ferry. All offenders were caught and prosecuted largely due to the presence of CCTV in the area.

In addition, if the number of cameras were reduced the line rental contract with BT referred to earlier would need to be terminated and the Council would incur costs for early termination of that contract. Consideration would also need to be given to the costs associated with removing the cameras and associated mounting pillars/brackets etc. These would be "one off" costs and there is scope to reduce the service in terms of the number of cameras in the longer term.

4 Withdraw service altogether

If the Council was to withdraw the service, the line rental contract with BT referred to earlier would need to be terminated and the Council would incur costs for early termination of that contract this would be £59810 per year until 2019. There would also be the loss of six full time jobs, resulting in either redeployment or associated redundancy costs. Alternative arrangements for the out of hours service would need to be made.

5 Income Generation

At present the CCTV service receives no income from outside agencies/partners/businesses.

i) South Wales Police make no contribution to the service. However, the Council has recently received an offer of volunteers for the Control Room but this is not considered a viable option going forward.

Nationwide, very few police forces make a contribution to the CCTV budget; any contribution is nominal by way of the supply of data discs etc. Of the police forces that do make a contribution to the service, Thames Valley Police have recently announced that their present contribution of £225,000 per annum to Oxford City Council will be reduced to £50,000 by 2018.

In Dyfed Powys the recent Police and Crime Commissioner's report revealed that £44,000 was contributed to Carmarthenshire County Council by the Dyfed Powys Police and Crime Commissioner and a further £10,000 from the Community Safety Partnership.

- ii) An option to consider would be a licensee contribution to the service. The night time economy is reliant on the CCTV service as a means of monitoring, preventing and detecting any serious disturbance in the town centre. A number of premises use the Nightnet radio system to contact the CCTV Control Room on a regular basis and benefit from the service.
- iii) Neath Town Council has indicated that there is interest in helping to maintain the CCTV service in the town centre. The Council would, in principle, be prepared to pay a contribution for the service. Other, relevant town community councils could be approached to make a contribution.
- iv) There are other opportunities to levy a charge including increasing the charge to insurers/3rd parties for CCTV footage; together with developers and businesses.

6 Diversification

On initial examination, a combination of income generating measures could have a material impact on the net operating cost. Activity analysis reveals significant downtime for CCTV operators. Options for using the spare capacity have been explored.

Two options have been considered to offset the costs of running the Control Room:

i) Alarm Monitoring

The Council has responsibility for approximately four hundred buildings. Some of these buildings are equipped with a variety of intruder and fire alarm systems which are remotely monitored. Such remote monitoring is currently outsourced to security companies such as Chubb. It is a fragmented area of expenditure with few central contracts. The total cost to the Council is in the region of £200,000 per annum. A feasibility exercise was carried out in 2011 to investigate the possibility of the CCTV control room. It is considered this option should be revisited and this will include any set up or consequential costs. This proposal is supported in principle by the Council's property team.

ii) Careline Service

The Careline service is currently provided by Carmarthen County Council on behalf of Neath Port Talbot and a number of other authorities in the area. The service is a monitoring and support function rather than an Emergency Response Service. This option would require a dedicated call centre to be established and accredited by the Telecare Standards Agency. Staffing levels would also need to be reviewed and possibly increased to cover the demand. It is therefore not considered viable in the short term.

7 Outsource Completely

The service could be run by an outside agency. Given existing contractual commitments and TUPE issues there does not appear to be significant savings possible from this option. This option would normally only be viable in a start up situation.

8 Collaboration

Bridgend County Borough Council has recently agreed to manage the Vale of Glamorgan CCTV Service and are having discussions with other authorities with a view to a regional CCTV function. How viable this would be remains to be seen as the Bridgend Control Room is not suited to any expansion. There would be very limited cost benefit to Neath Port Talbot given contractual commitments the loss of jobs and the costs incurred in paying Bridgend BC to run the service.

The pros and cons of each of the above options have been summarised on the following table:

Option	Cost	Pros	Cons
1. Do Nothing	 No additional cost Gap in savings targets of £160,000 in FFP period. 	 Current service maintained Out Of Hours service maintained 	 Savings targets will not be achieved
2. Partial Service	 Line rental cost to remain Saving in staff cost £90,000 per annum Gap in savings target of £70,000 in FFP period. 	 Cameras recording on a 24/7 basis 	 Staff redundancy costs Staff redeployment Potentially negative publicity Alternative needed for Out of Hours service
3. Reduce Number of Camera's	 Individual Lines would need to be terminated at cost Obsolete cameras removed – at cost No savings realisable in short term 	 Long Term Cost Saving Camera's in place where needed 	 Loss of coverage in outlying areas Termination and removal costs
4. Withdraw Service	 Termination cost of £180,000 from 2016 (£59,810 per annum to 2019) Saving in staff costs of £90,000 		 Staff redundancy costs Staff redeployment Potentially negative publicity Alternative needed for Out of Hours Service Increase in crime

Option	Cost	Pros	Cons
5. Income Generation i) Police ii) Licensee	 Unlikely to receive any contribution to the Service from South Wales Police Potential Income to be agreed 	• New income stream	 Administration costs Reaching agreement with all Licensee's through a license fee
iii) Charging Town Councils	Potential income to be agreed	New Income Stream	• Equitable charging policy to be agreed.
6. Diversification i) Alarm monitoring	 Set up costs not yet known 	New income StreamSustains service and jobs	Set up costs not yet known
7. Outsource Completely	 Existing contractual agreements of £70810. per annum Additional unknown staffing costs 	Sustains service	 Job Losses Need to secure alternative out of hours service
8. Collaboration	 Existing contractual agreements of £70810 per annum Additional costs to the lead Authority 	 Benefits likely to be to the lead Authority Sustains service 	 No cost saving Job Losses No opportunity to use the existing Control Room in future

CONCLUSION:

There is some further scope to reduce the costs of CCTV to the Council. However, in the short term the scope for cost reduction alone is limited by the existing line rental arrangements and the need to maintain an out of hours service. There is scope to raise income to defray costs to the Council. Whilst research evidence suggests CCTV impact in crime prevention is patchy, there is strong evidence to support CCTV Services in the detection of crime and disorder and subsequent prosecution activity.

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT:

An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has been undertaken to assist the Council in discharging its Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act 2010. An overview of the EIA has been included in this report in summary form only and it is essential that Members read the Equality Impact Assessment, which is attached to the report at Appendix 2, for the purposes of the meeting.

RECOMMENDATION:

Having due regard to the Equality Impact Assessment the Head of Corporate Strategy and Democratic Services is authorised to develop options for placing the Council CCTV service on a sustainable basis further and to undertake consultation with relevant stakeholders to support further appraisal of the options available to the Council.

REASON FOR PROPOSED DECISION:

To develop further the proposals set out in the Council Budget 2015-16 - 2017-18 to make further savings in the cost of CCTV to the Council.

APPENDICES

CCTV Usage Neath and Port Talbot	Appendix 1
Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)	Appendix 2
BACKGROUND PAPERS:	
Special Council Budget Report	4 th February 2015
Budget Proposals Cabinet Report	1 st October 2014

OFICER CONTACT:

Mrs Karen Jones, Head of Corporate Strategy & Democratic Services, Tel no. 01639 763284, email <u>k.jones3@npt.gov.uk</u>

COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

CCTV OPTIONS

(a) Implementation of Decision

The decision is proposed for implementation after the three day call in period.

(b) Sustainability Appraisal

Community Plan Impacts:

Economic Prosperity	-	negative
Education and Lifelong Learning	-	neutral
Better Health and Well Being	-	negative
Environment and Transport	-	negative
Crime and Disorder	-	negative

Other Impacts:

Welsh Language	- neutral
Sustainable Development	- neutral
Equalities	- negative
Social Inclusion	- negative

(c) <u>Consultation</u>

The options will be subject to consultation with relevant stakeholders.

Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) Report Form

This form should be completed for each Equality Impact Assessment on a new or existing function, a reduction or closure of service, any policy, procedure, strategy, plan or project which has been screened and found relevant to Equality and Diversity.

Please refer to the 'Equality Impact Assessment Guidance' while completing this form. If you would like further guidance please contact the Corporate Strategy Team or your directorate Heads of Service Equality Champion.

Where do you work?
Service Area: CCTV
Directorate: CHEX

(a) This EIA is being completed for a...

Service/ Function	Policy/ Procedure	Project	Strategy	Plan	Proposal

(b) Please name and describe below...

A full review of the CCTV service to explore the options available to continue with the service in line with the Authorities FFP which is to reduce the budget by £80,000 for the years 2016/17 and 2017/18. The essence of the review is that the way the service is staffed, the age and number of cameras and the lack of contributions from partners and business have resulted in an expensive service that no longer matches current operating practices and legislation. The aim and purpose of the service is to promote public confidence by developing a secure environment for those visiting or using the area covered by the CCTV scheme.

(c) It was initially screened for relevance to Equality and Diversity on: 6th February 2015

(d) It was found to be relevant to...

Age	\boxtimes
Disability	\boxtimes
Gender reassignment	\boxtimes
Marriage & civil partnership	\square
Pregnancy and maternity	\boxtimes

(e) Lead Officer

Name: Jayne Banfield

Job title: Customer Services Manager

Race	\boxtimes
Religion or belief	\square
Sex	\square
Sexual orientation	\square
Welsh language	\square

(f) Approved by Head of Service

Name: Karen Jones

Job title: Head of Corporate Strategy and Democratic Services

Date: 11th February 2015

Date: 9th February 2015

Section 1 – Aims (See guidance):

Briefly describe the aims of the function, service, policy, procedure, strategy, plan, proposal or project:

What are the aims? To review the cctv service and identify areas where savings can be made or income generated to achieve the savings targets in the Authorities Forward Financial Plan for 2016/17 2017/18

The essence of the review is that the way the service is staffed, the age and number of cameras and the lack of contributions from partners and business have resulted in an expensive service that no longer matches current operating practices and legislation.

The aim and purpose of the service is to promote public confidence by developing a secure environment for those visiting or using the area covered by the CCTV scheme.

The CCTV service is aimed at ensuring the safety of all residents regardless of the protected characteristics.

Who has responsibility?

Karen Jones – Head of Corporate Strategy and Democratic Services.

Who are the stakeholders?

The General Public, South Wales Police, British Transport Police, Retail and Licenced Trade, Internal Council Departments, potential developers, Town and Community Councils in the relevant areas, SWTRA together with the staff in Council who run the service.

Section 2 - Information about Service Users (See guidance):

Please tick what information you know about your service users and provide details / evidence of how this information is collected.

Age	Race	\boxtimes
Disability	Religion or belief	\boxtimes
Gender reassignment	Sex	\boxtimes
Marriage & civil partnership	Sexual orientation	\square
Pregnancy and maternity	Welsh language	\boxtimes

What information do you know about your service users and how is this information collected?

Records are maintained within the CCTV control room which identifies/itemises the incidents that have occurred and captured on CCTV. Records are also maintained to record phone calls and visits to the control room, the data capture indicates peak demand periods and where intervention may be needed.

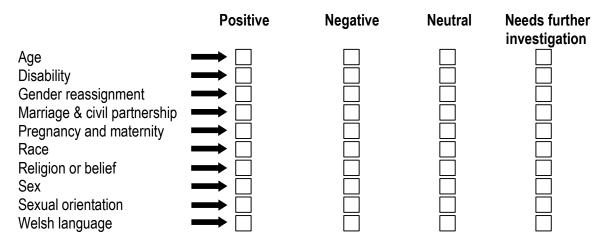
The general public are the subject of the CCTV system as cameras are recording 24 hours a day when an incident is captured the footage is retained until such time the Police or other agency require data for evidential purposes.

Any Actions Required?

In order to obtain more specific data regarding data relating to individual groups through the Police research unit is to be investigated together with any link to CCTV.

Section 3 - Impact on Protected Characteristics (See guidance):

Please consider the possible impact on the different protected characteristics. This could be based on service user information, data, consultation and research or professional experience (e.g. comments and complaints).



Thinking about your answers above, please explain in detail why this is the case? including details of any consultation (and/or other information), which has been undertaken to support your view?

- Option 1 Do Nothing This would have a positive impact as CCTV is for the benefit of all members of the community
- Option 2 Partial Service This would have a negative effect on certain groups as certain groups would feel less secure without the knowledge of having monitored CCTV
- Option 3 Reduce the number of cameras this would disadvantage groups in areas not covered by cameras, however the principal areas could remain covered.
- Option 4 Withdraw service This would have a negative impact on all groups as cctv benefits all members of the community
- Option 5 Income Generation No impact would be seen as the service would remain the same for all users
- Option 6 Diversification As Option 5
- Option 7 Outsource As with Options 5 and 6.
- Option 8 Collaboration As with Options 5 7.

South Wales Police have a research unit and enquiries are ongoing to determine what information is available. Anti-Social behaviour statistics are available by area only and not characteristic specific. The impact on equalities is indirect as the main impact on the provision or variation of the CCTV service is on Crime and Disorder and fair justice outcomes. It is known from research evidence that some groups with protected characteristics are over / under represented in victim and offender profiles.

What consultation and engagement has been undertaken (e.g. with the public and/or members of protected groups) to support your view?

Stakeholders include staff, trade unions, council officers, elected Members, Town and Community Council Members, retailers, traders, licensees, police, courts, CPS, general public, CCTV service providers.

The primary aim of the service is to provide reassurance and safety to all groups regardless of characteristics.

Any actions required (to mitigate adverse impact or to address identified gaps in knowledge)

None

Section 4 - Other Impacts:

Please consider how the initiative might address the following issues.

You could base this on service user information, data, consultation and research or professional experience (e.g. comments and complaints).

Foster good relations between different groups Positive or Negative depends on options selected	Advance equality of opportunity between different groups N/A
Elimination of discrimination, harassment and victimisation Positive or Negative depends on options selected	Reduction of social exclusion and poverty N/A

Please explain any possible impact on each of the above. The current service reduces the fear of crime and gives reassurance to all sectors.

What work have you already done to improve any of the above?

Is the initiative likely to impact on Community Cohesion?

How will the initiative treat the Welsh language in the same way as the English language?

Actions (to mitigate adverse impact or to address identified gaps in knowledge). This will be considered in detail as options are more fully developed.

Section 5 - Monitoring arrangements:

Please explain the arrangements in place (or those which will be put in place) to monitor this function, service, policy, procedure, strategy, plan or project:

Monitoring arrangements: Depending on the option taken forward existing monitoring arrangements by internal and external means will remain in place and new options sought for specific characteristic data.

Actions: Dependant on data collected and actions taken to address any issues in line with current and historical data.

Section 6 – Outcomes:

Having completed sections 1-5, please indicate which of the outcomes listed below applies to your initiative (refer to guidance for further information on this section).

Outcome 1: Continue the initiative...Image: Continue the initiative...Outcome 2: Adjust the initiative...Image: Continue the initiative...Outcome 3: Justify the initiative...Image: Continue the initiative...Outcome 4: Stop and remove the initiative...Image: Continue the initiative...

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For outcome 3, detail the justification for proceeding here

Section 7 - Publication arrangements:

On completion, please contact the Corporate Strategy Team for advice on the legal requirement to publish the findings of EIAs.

Action Plan:

Objective - What are we going to do and why?	Who will be responsible for seeing it is done?	When will it be done by?	Outcome - How will we know we have achieved our objective?	Progress
Formal Consultation Process	Head of Corporate Strategy and Democratic Services	July 2015	Following Policy and Resources Cabinet / Scrutiny Committee on 19 th February.	
Further research on impact for groups with protected characteristics will be undertaken during the consultation period.	CCTV Project Manager	July 2015	Following Policy and Resources Cabinet / Scrutiny Committee on 19 th February.	