

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLANNING and TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD

21 February 2012

Report of the Director of Planning, Transport and Leisure

Part 1- Public

Matters for Recommendation to Cabinet - Non-Key Decision (Decision may be taken by the Cabinet Member)

1 CCTV

This report provides an update on some imminent upgrade of ageing equipment within the CCTV Control Room for which budgets are available.

1.1 Context

- 1.1.1 Members will be aware that, with a few exceptions, our town centre CCTV and car park cameras are monitored jointly with Tunbridge Wells Borough Council (TWBC), in the shared CCTV Control Room in the Town Hall in Tunbridge Wells.
- 1.1.2 All cameras from TMBC are fed through fibre optic cables to a collection Hub in Sovereign Way East Car Park in Tonbridge town centre. The signals are then fed through 'trunk' fibre optic cables to the CCTV Control Room. For the purposes of our agreement with TWBC, the Hub in Tonbridge is part of the CCTV Control Room and all costs (revenue and capital) associated with it are shared equally with TWBC as if it were physically part of the Control Room.
- 1.1.3 The CCTV Control Room was designed and the installation supervised by the consultant MFD International Ltd. in the late 1990's and at the time it was a state-of-the-art facility. Technology has moved forward rapidly since then and much of the original kit has been replaced, when necessary, with more sophisticated and often cheaper new equipment. However this has been on a piecemeal basis and inevitably we now have a system which, although functions adequately has fallen below the more efficient and higher quality standards which are common place today.
- 1.1.4 MFD was re-engaged towards the end of last year to assist in the technical evaluation and financial assessment of a number of options to update the system and which might reduce the cost of the CCTV service. MFD's study has had close regard to some uncertainty of the CCTV Control Room remaining in the Tunbridge Wells Town Hall and the need to minimise any potentially abortive costs generally or associated with a potential relocation. However officers at Tunbridge Wells

currently advise that there are no immediate plans to relocate services away from the Town Hall, although this could change in the medium or longer term.

1.2 CCTV Review

- 1.2.1 The review has been completed and there is nothing at all in MFD's report to suggest that there are any savings to be gained by TMBC if the monitoring were to be carried out at an alternative location or with different partnership arrangements. In analysing the options various approaches were considered including sharing with other authorities and the various ways forward considered by the Management Team.
- 1.2.2 There is no technical or operational reason why the control room should not remain where it is and be improved to sustain the appropriate quality of service. However, there is now an immediate need to replace some remaining video cassette recorders (VCRs) and for health and safety reasons we should look to improve the operator positions with a new console and operator control interfaces.
- 1.2.3 This would improve the operation of the Control Room by allowing the operators to access all recorded material, continuous and incident recordings, from both the TMBC and TWBC cameras on a common system.
- 1.2.4 Although the VCRs recording images from the TMBC cameras are currently located in the CCTV Control Room, replacement digital video recorders (DVRs) for our cameras need to be installed within the Tonbridge Hub. Fortuitously, this avoids much of the relocation costs should the decision be taken at later date to monitor the images from an alternative control room.
- 1.2.5 This work requires an estimated capital expenditure, including fees, of £282K which would be split equally between the two Councils in line with our partnership agreement with TWBC. Allowance has been made for our share of this estimated cost (£141K) within the capital plan renewals budget.
- 1.2.6 MFD will now develop a detailed specification for the renewal of the ageing equipment and will include a brief for them to manage and commission the works using our current CCTV maintenance contractor because this is no more than an enhanced version of what we have been doing through time. It is anticipated that this work will begin early summer and will be complete by September.
- 1.2.7 The current CCTV service provides 24-hour monitoring of Tonbridge town centre and our car parks. In looking forward at operational aspects of the service we will need to critically consider arrangements for monitoring during the forthcoming year, in consultation with Tunbridge Wells Borough Council in preparation for the review of the current monitoring contract. Clearly the primary considerations will be to maintain the high levels of service that have proved successful as part of our efforts in addressing the reduction of crime and anti-social behaviour. However, as always we will need to consider the most efficient way of deploying the CCTV system. Our discussions with Tunbridge Wells Borough Council on this aspect of

the service have just commenced and I will report back to the Board with some options.

1.3 Legal Implications

1.3.1 This procurement process will be carried out in accordance with the Councils Contract Procedure Rules.

1.4 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

1.4.1 The cost identified for the capital replacement of the CCTV equipment has been estimated at £282,000. This cost would be split 50/50 with TWBC so our portion of these costs would be £141,000. This has been allowed for within the existing capital renewal budget and will be delivered through the terms of the current contractual arrangements with the incumbent contractor. The approach has been tested through an operational and value for money analysis by external consultants.

1.5 Risk Assessment

1.5.1 Improving the effectiveness and building resilience into the CCTV service will make a positive contribution to deterring and preventing crime and anti-social behaviour.

1.6 Equality Impact Assessment

1.6.1 See 'Screening for equality impacts' table at end of report

1.7 Policy Considerations

1.7.1 Reduction of crime, anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime.

1.8 Recommendations

1.8.1 That the Cabinet be recommended **TO ENDORSE** the process of replacing and renewing the current CCTV equipment.

The Director of Planning, Transport and Leisure confirms that the proposals contained in the recommendation(s), if approved, will fall within the Council's Budget and policy Framework.

Background papers:

contact: Andy Edwards

Nil

Steve Humphrey
Director of Planning, Transport and Leisure

Screening for equality impacts:		
Question	Answer	Explanation of impacts
a. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper have potential to cause adverse impact or discriminate against different groups in the community?	No	CCTV can make a contribution to ensuring the personal safety of all people in the public realm by providing well-overlooked spaces
b. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper make a positive contribution to promoting equality?	N/A	
c. What steps are you taking to mitigate, reduce, avoid or minimise the impacts identified above?		N/A

In submitting this report, the Chief Officer doing so is confirming that they have given due regard to the equality impacts of the decision being considered, as noted in the table above.