

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

17 March 2020

Joint report of the Director of Central Services and Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Street Scene, Leisure and Technical Services

Part 1- Public

Executive Non Key Decisions

1 REVIEW OF COMMUNITY SAFETY

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 A review of community safety, including the provision of CCTV was considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the 28 August 2019 and the 10 October 2019. The recommendations arising out of that review were subsequently considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 16 October 2019, and thereafter by Council on 29 October 2019.
- 1.1.2 Members agreed that in respect of the Community Safety Partnership growth to the Borough Council's budget for 2019/20 and 2020/21 should be accepted and that the provision of the Community Safety Services should be retained at the current level of resource.
- 1.1.3 In relation to CCTV provision Members agreed that a decision regarding the level of operation be deferred in order for the Borough Council to write to the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) and Clarion Housing regarding their level of financial contribution towards both the operation of CCTV and the level of financial contribution to the Community Safety Unit.
- 1.1.4 For clarity the recommendation made by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to Cabinet was that the CCTV operation be maintained at its current level.
- 1.1.5 The Borough Council has now received a response from both the PCC and Clarion on these matters.
- 1.1.6 The Police and Crime Commissioner replied as follows: "The question of funding for CCTV is one that has been raised on a number of occasions by the Districts. If Council's wish to use the Crime Reduction Grant that I provide them to support their CCTV network then this is not an issue. This is already taking place in a number of areas with around £110,927 allocated from this grant to support CCTV during 2019/20. However, CCTV provision is not a core function for the Police and it is up to Local Authorities to decide what the CCTV service looks like going forward".

- 1.1.7 Members will remember that the Community Safety Partnership currently receives (2019/20) a total of £30,771 from the PCC's Crime Reduction Grant which is already allocated towards a number of community safety projects such as domestic abuse support, addressing neighbour disputes and providing outreach work for young people.
- 1.1.8 Since the meeting of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 10 October the Leader, Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Chief Executive have met with the Chief Constable to further discuss the Police position. A further meeting has subsequently taken place attended by the Chief Executive, the Head of Service for Licensing, Community Safety and Customer Services, the deputy Chief Constable, and the Chief Inspector. Discussions are ongoing and it is appropriate for these to be reported back to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee before Cabinet make their final recommendations.
- 1.1.9 The response received from Clarion was that they are unable to contribute financially for CCTV provision unless the benefits to their residents can be evidenced. However, it is clear that none of the areas and/or estates where they have homes are covered by the static CCTV cameras provided by the borough. They state that they continue to support the positive work that the Community Safety Partnership continues to deliver and do work closely with the Borough Council and other statutory agencies to manage both anti-social behaviour and other related activities in the areas where they have homes.

1.2 Legal Implications

- 1.2.1 As set out in the report to Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 10 October 2019.

1.3 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

- 1.3.1 As set out in the report to Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 10 October 2019.

1.4 Risk Assessment

- 1.4.1 As set out in the report to Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 10 October 2019.

1.5 Equality Impact Assessment

- 1.5.1 To ensure that the Borough Council has due regard to equality duties an Equality Impact Assessment will be undertaken if it is opted to make any changes to the current CSU provision. This would need to be reported back to Cabinet to allow the impact of any recommendations to be fully considered. It is not considered that the provision of CCTV is a function that impacts upon a specific group with protected characteristics in any different way to end users and any service changes recommended would have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act.

1.6 Policy Considerations

- Customer contact
- Communications
- Community

1.7 Recommendations

1.7.1 Members are requested to

- 1.7.2 (a) note the responses received from both the PCC and Clarion
- (b) agree that this matter be referred back to a future meeting of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee for further consideration in the light of both the responses of the Police & Crime Commissioner & Clarion, and the ongoing discussions with the Police set out in this report.

Background papers:

Overview and Scrutiny Committee report dated
10 October 2019
Overview and Scrutiny Committee Scoping report
dated 29 August 2019

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