

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

26 January 2021

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

Part 1- Public

Matters for Recommendation to Council

1 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - REVIEW OF CCTV

Members are invited to give further consideration to the recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee dated 3 December 2020 in respect of CCTV.

In the event that Members are minded to take forward the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Members are also requested to consider whether the recommendations present an opportunity to identify funding to support wider Community Safety Partnership initiatives e.g. Domestic Abuse Volunteer Services (as identified at the previous meeting of Cabinet on 14 October 2020).

1.1 CCTV

1.1.1 At the previous meeting of the Cabinet on 14 October 2020 Members considered an update on the progress made since the review of community safety, including the provision of CCTV, had been initially considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in 2019. A decision regarding the future level of CCTV operation had been deferred pending correspondence with the Police and Crime Commissioner and Clarion Housing regarding their level of financial contribution.

1.1.2 Following discussions with the Deputy Chief Constable, the Leader advised that Kent Police greatly valued the CCTV network/operation across the County. However, they recognised the difficult financial pressures faced by local authorities and as CCTV was the responsibility of district/borough councils Kent Police would not object to the cessation of live monitoring by Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council.

1.1.2 It was therefore resolved by Cabinet that

- (1) the responses received from the Police and Crime Commissioner and Clarion Housing be noted; and

- (2) in light of the response of the Police and Crime Commissioner and Clarion Housing and the ongoing discussions with Kent Police the matter be referred back to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 3 December 2020 for further consideration.
- 1.1.3 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee of 3 December 2020 therefore gave further consideration to the provision and operation of CCTV within the Borough and were provided with updated statistics related to operational analysis and the number of incidents recorded to aid deliberation.
- 1.1.4 Members had detailed discussion on the options set out in the report and recognised the value of CCTV in supporting crime prevention and public safety. However, Members also acknowledged the significant financial pressures faced by the Borough Council and discussed the benefits of live versus passive monitoring; the potential of new technology to reduce costs and which option represented best value for money. It was also recognised that community safety initiatives could be enhanced to maintain residents' confidence, safety and act as a crime deterrent.
- 1.1.5 The Committee recommended to Cabinet that
- a passive only CCTV operation be provided, with a saving of circa £100,000 contributing towards the Borough Council's overall savings target within the Medium Term Financial Strategy. Due to the existing agreement, 2 years written notice was required to be given;
 - a further piece of work be undertaken to review the appropriate locations for passive only cameras; and
 - a further detailed analysis be undertaken to include any possible exit costs and reported to Cabinet prior to a final decision.
- 1.1.6 Prior to a final decision being taken in respect of the principle of moving to a passive only CCTV operation, it is intended that the further work identified at bullet points 2 & 3 above be undertaken and reported back to Cabinet.
- 1.1.7 Given the correlation between the operation of the CCTV system and our wider community safety functions, Members may wish to consider whether the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (if agreed) offer an opportunity to identify funding towards other community safety initiatives. For example, Members will recall that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee of 8 October 2020 reviewed domestic abuse services within the Borough and recommended that the Safer and Stronger Communities Manager:
- Work with the domestic abuse organisations operating within Tonbridge and Malling to explore and develop options around the new initiatives proposed with the report; and

- Review the financial support offered to the Domestic Abuse Volunteer Support Services and recommend, if appropriate, a level of funding that could be provided by the Borough Council, subject to the view of Cabinet.

1.1.8 These recommendations were agreed by Cabinet on 14 October 2020 (Decision notice D200076CAB).

1.2 Legal Implications

1.2.1 As set out in the report to Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 3 December 2020.

1.3 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

1.3.1 As set out in the report to Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 3 December 2020.

1.4 Risk Assessment

1.4.1 As set out in the report to Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 3 December 2020.

1.5 Equality Impact Assessment

1.5.1 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
- Crime & Disorder Reduction

1.7 Recommendations

1.7.1 Members are requested to note the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee dated 3 December 2020, as listed in 1.1.5 above.

1.7.2 Prior to a final decision being taken by Cabinet, it is RECOMMENDED that Officers are asked to undertake the following further work and report back to Cabinet:-

- a review of the appropriate locations for passive only cameras. This would include statistics on the number of times live monitored CCTV has been used by all agencies within the Community Safety Partnership and an

analysis of the impact of moving to passive CCTV on those key cameras which are subject of the most reports;

- a detailed financial analysis to include any possible exit costs;
- an evaluation as to whether any savings achieved could contribute to ongoing funding of the Community Safety Partnership priorities and resources

Background papers:

Nil

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