

Cabinet –15 March 2017

Walsall Public Space CCTV

Portfolio: Councillor Julie Fitzpatrick – Community, Leisure and Culture

Related portfolio: Councillor Diane Coughlan – Social Care

Service: CCTV

Wards: All

Key decision: Yes

Forward plan: Yes

1. Summary

- 1.1 The council has undertaken a full review of its CCTV capability and found that it is not fit for purpose. The technology is outdated, it is analogue not digital, and in a poor state of repair. Spares for the system are rapidly reducing in availability due to the equipment becoming obsolete.
- 1.2 The council began the review of its CCTV system in July 2015. This was followed by an options appraisal which was completed in March 2016. This options appraisal identified that Centro (now the West Midlands Combined Authority under its corporate branding of 'Transport for West Midlands') provided a good strategic fit for the council and a value-for-money solution.
- 1.3 Discussions have been ongoing with Transport for West Midlands and Cabinet are now being asked to make a decision on the future delivery of CCTV within the borough.
- 1.4 This is a key decision as to be significant in terms of its direct effects on communities in an area comprising two or more wards in the borough.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Cabinet approve the establishment of an Agreement for the provision of Walsall's fixed and mobile CCTV service and retail radio with the West Midlands Combined Authority under its corporate branding of Transport for West Midlands, for a period of seven years, from 30 June 2017.

- 2.2 That the Agreement referred to in 2.1 will be in accordance with Public Contracts Regulation 2015, 12(7) which gives an exemption from open market competition.
- 2.3 That Cabinet delegate authority to the Executive Director for Change & Governance, in consultation with the portfolio-holder for Community, Leisure and Culture, to enter into an agreement as set out in recommendation 2.1 of this report and to subsequently authorise the sealing of any deeds, contracts or other related documents for such services.

3. Report detail

- 3.1 CCTV has a fundamental role to play in supporting the safety of communities and providing reassurance to residents and businesses during both daytime and night-time economies.
- 3.2 It is well documented that many councils are looking at the costs of maintaining provision. Indeed, the Surveillance Camera Commissioner highlighted this in a speech last year and mentioned the potential to maintain systems through working in partnership and adopting new approaches.
- 3.3 However, the commissioner also stated the need to maintain standards through ensuring surveillance is delivered in accordance with the Code of Practice and by those trained and qualified to do so.
- 3.4 Adopting new technology and ensuring systems are fit for purpose are also key, as authorities have been criticised for retaining broken and ineffective equipment. In the commissioner's consultation document for the forthcoming National Surveillance Camera Strategy for England and Wales, the Government states its full support of the overt use of surveillance cameras in public places, reiterating the need for it to be proportionate, effective and compliant.
- 3.5 It is essential that agencies are equipped to respond to new and emerging threats to our communities and that the tools available to them are reliable and effective.
- 3.6 CCTV supports agencies in tackling a number of these threats, such as business crime, town centre anti-social behaviour (ASB), threats to cohesion such as demonstrations and marches and counter-terrorism/extremism. It also acts as a deterrent against those who would commit crime and has been highlighted in public surveys as contributing to people feeling safe, particularly in places such as car parks and public spaces.
- 3.7 As agencies look at ways to respond to these threats, the ability to link with neighbouring areas in an effective and timely manner is also essential and has proved to be vital in piecing together intelligence in recent high-profile cases.

- 3.8 The council's CCTV service currently consists of around 90 fixed cameras and 26 mobile cameras that are monitored 24 hours a day, seven days a week, from a control room based at the Streets Corner site. The scheme covers the whole of the borough and location of the cameras is based on historic crime or ASB hotspots.
- 3.9 A retail radio scheme is also operated alongside CCTV, which links together retail outlets, the CCTV control room and West Midlands Police.
- 3.10 This scope of this report does not include Urban Traffic Control (UTC), Clean and Green or local schemes.
- 3.11 Although a financial investment was made in 2009 to digitalise the recording system, there are parts of the system, particularly the fixed and mobile camera capacity, that have not benefitted from significant capital investment for some years.
- 3.12 The need to secure cost-effective sustainability of this service has been under discussion for almost two years, with a full independent technical review of the current system taking place, as well as exploration of possible options, which have included the retention of an 'in-house' only service or seeking an externally-based commissioned provider.
- 3.13 An effective CCTV system not only contributes to the prevention and detection of crime and disorder, but also supports the economic wellbeing of our town centres by providing reassurance to businesses, residents and visitors.
- 3.14 It should also be noted Walsall remains a Prevent priority area.
- 3.15 In September 2015 the council undertook an evaluation of its CCTV system. An external organisation was commissioned to undertake the evaluation. The report found that:
- 3.15.1 the system incorporates obsolete equipment resulting in higher repair costs and increased camera down time;
 - 3.15.2 staffing levels in its current form were insufficient;
 - 3.15.3 there were lighting issues alongside the cameras; and
 - 3.15.4 the positioning of the cameras was not evidenced-based and often in the wrong location.
- 3.16 In March 2016 the council completed an options appraisal. This options appraisal considered various options, primarily based on strategic relevance and cost. The options reviewed included the following:
- 3.16.1 Retain the existing service – With the level of deterioration of the technology this was not considered a viable option.

- 3.16.2 Do nothing, cease service – This would impact on the confidence of residents and have a negative impact on crime prevention.
- 3.16.3 Review the existing service – This would require increased investment in terms of capital and revenue at a time of financial pressure.
- 3.16.4 Reduce service provision – This would impact on the confidence of residents and have a negative impact on crime prevention.
- 3.16.5 Retain upgrade and enhance Streets Corner operation – This would require increased investment in terms of capital and revenue at a time of financial pressure.
- 3.16.6 Outsource – This would require increased investment in terms of capital and revenue at a time of financial pressure.
- 3.16.7 Partner with Centro (now the West Midlands Combined Authority under its corporate branding of ‘Transport for West Midlands’ – ‘TfWM’) – The appraisal found that this may improve the quality of the service at a reduced cost and supports a shared service model. **The Recommended Option.** Or
- 3.16.8 Partner with others – This would require increased investment in terms of capital and revenue at a time of financial pressure.
- 3.17 The TfWM option will provide a strategic fit for the council and the police enabling joined up CCTV coverage with TfWM services and currently Solihull and East Staffordshire councils. TfWM operate in excess of 1000 cameras, with over 40 already in Walsall. This integration is expected to increase.
- 3.18 The council has undertaken further work with TfWM to ensure the deliverability of CCTV at a reduced cost to the current cost of council provision.
- 3.19 The annual cost of the service including the costs to TfWM will be £327,707 compared with a budgeted in-house cost of £398,298. A part-year saving of £32,480 will be delivered in 2017/18 and a full-year saving of £70,591 from 2018/19.
- 3.20 TfWM currently have arrangements to monitor CCTV with Solihull and East Staffordshire councils. As TfWM is now the host company for the Combined Authority, there is an opportunity to create a strategic regional CCTV operation.
- 3.21 It is proposed that both fixed and mobile camera stock and monitoring and the retail radio operation would be transferred to TfWM. In addition, the contract proposed will enable inclusion of existing local CCTV sites including any use of Open Access technology within libraries.

- 3.22 Transfer of provision would not result in any reduction of current coverage. Indeed, the required technical upgrades would deliver a more effective and efficient service. Decisions on moving and replacement of cameras would be driven by evidence-based analysis provided by the police through TfWM.
- 3.23 Local viewing of cameras would be available to authorised personnel through the web, downloaded to fixed and mobile devices.
- 3.24 The development of a small viewing suite within the Civic Centre will provide a vital in-house resource which will support the council and its partners, particularly on town centre issues. In addition, funding has provisionally been secured from the Community Safety Partnership to fund a link to the Gold Command Suite at Tally Ho! should any transfer of provision take place. This is vital for coordinating partner responses to local threats
- 3.25 Any agreement with TfWM will have the ability to incorporate future developments such as CCTV associated with Open Access library systems.
- 3.26 We have consulted with the office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) over the provision of CCTV. The PCC sees this as very much a local issue. We will, however, continue to work with them.

4. Council priorities

- 4.1 The provision of an effective, efficient and sustainable CCTV service supports the delivery of all of the priorities within the Walsall Plan:

- 4.1.1 Pursue inclusive economic growth.

Resilience against crime and disorder within town centre locations, reassurance for shoppers, businesses, visitors. Key to delivering car park security. Protecting communities at times of threat. Night-time economy. Informing allocation of resources to ensure they are placed where most needed. Supports business confidence.

- 4.1.2 Make a positive difference to the lives of Walsall people.

People feel more confident about coming into town centres – reassurance, access to town centre services, out and about, accessing leisure and fitness facilities.

- 4.1.3 Safe, resilient and prospering communities.

Critical to supporting safety of the borough and tackling threats to cohesion.

- 4.1.4 Make a positive difference to the lives of Walsall people.

Families visit town centres, leisure centres, libraries and feel safe.

5. Risk management

- 5.1 Failure to upgrade the CCTV system and its continued deterioration will lead to a failure to tackle crime in an efficient and effective way, thereby leading to a reduction in public and business confidence. This may lead to an increase in isolation of our vulnerable residents and impact upon the potential growth of the business community.

6. Financial implications

- 6.1 The following table details the financial saving available by transferring the service to TfWM:

REVENUE	2017/18 £	2018/19 £
Budget	398,298.00	398,298.00
Staffing	75,539.77	109,113.00
Maintenance of cameras and lines	28,500.00	28,500.00
Telephone (data uplink and calls)	84,894.00	84,894.00
Management costs	26,200.00	26,200.00
10 mobile camera units	40,000.00	40,000.00
Total payable to Centro including mobile units	255,133.77	288,707.00
Community safety operative G6	32,000.00	32,000.00
Link to Streets Corner	7,000.00	7,000.00
Retain existing staff for 16 weeks	71,684.00	-
Total costs for CCTV service	365,817.77	327,707.00
Deficit/(Surplus)	(32,480.23)	(70,591.00)

CAPITAL	2017/18 £	2018/19 £
Systems integration	64,278.00	
CCTV and retail radio transmission	85,250.00	
Walsall link at Civic Centre	10,000.00	
Video Wall Integration	25,000.00	
Install Link to Police	12,500.00	
Total capital costs including link to Police	197,028.00	
Budget available for CCTV	250,000.00	100,000.00
Remaining budget for upgrade of CCTV equipment	52,972.00	100,000.00

- 6.2 The remaining capital will be used to provide new cameras, with about one third of the camera positions due to be in place in the first year.

7. Legal implications

- 7.1 The ceasing of an in-house CCTV service and the provision of services by an outside organisation will have implications for council staff (currently six), who are protected by the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 1981 (TUPE). Appropriate consultation would need to take place with such staff and their representatives.
- 7.2 Responsibilities under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) will not change, with the council remaining the RIPA authority, and the existing framework will remain in place. Any agreement with TfWM will need to record the council's remaining responsibilities for RIPA.
- 7.3 Appropriate data-sharing arrangements need to be in place prior to the commencement of any arrangement.
- 7.4 The future arrangements, if Cabinet approves the relationship, will be through an agreement for which Legal Services will need to be instructed, to advise about the most appropriate form of agreement and a realistic timetable to consider the arrangement, negotiate terms and put an agreement in place.

8. Procurement implications/social value

- 8.1 The Public Contracts Regulations 2015, Regulation 12, contain provision for contracts between public sector organisations. In particular, situations of inter-authority cooperation, where a horizontal arrangement exists between contracting authorities to provide the public services, an exemption from Public Contract Regulations 2015 may exist.
- 8.2 It is proposed to enter into the Agreement referred to in this report, in accordance with Public Contracts Regulation 2015, 12(7), subject to the following conditions fulfilled:
- a) the contract establishes or implements a co-operation between the participating contracting authorities with the aim of ensuring that public services they have to perform are provided with a view to achieving objectives they have in common;
 - b) the implementation of that co-operation is governed solely by considerations relating to the public interest; and
 - c) the participating contracting authorities perform on the open market less than 20% of the activities concerned by the co-operation.

9. Property implications

- 9.1 The current CCTV service is delivered from Streets Corner. The removal of this service has no significant impact on the use of the facility. The proposed small facility at the Civic Centre will be accommodated within the existing area occupied by the Community Safety team.

10. Health and wellbeing implications

- 10.1 Cameras will be located at sites of need based on evidence from police and the council. The location of cameras will improve the confidence of local communities and therefore their wellbeing. This improvement in confidence is particularly important in areas of high deprivation, therefore the replacement of cameras will initially focus on areas of high deprivation.

11. Staffing implications

- 11.1 Transfers of any council staff (six) to TfWM will be covered by the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 1981 (TUPE).
- 11.2 The success of any transfer of this nature depends on appropriate consultation with staff. Meetings have taken place with staff during the process and further meetings will take place with staff and their representatives going forward.

12. Equality implications

- 12.1 There are no equality implications. However an equality impact assessment has been completed.

13. Consultation

13.1 Consultation has taken place with the following internal services:

- Library Services - to ensure that any future service delivery arrangements could accommodate Open Access technology.
- Highways - to ensure alignment of strategic thinking with UTC.
- Money/Home/Job - to ensure that any future service delivery arrangements could accommodate more localised CCTV arrangements.
- Clean and Green - to ensure alignment with their compliance activities.
- Facilities Management - to ensure that any future service delivery arrangements could accommodate site security arrangements and temporarily managing the service whilst in transition.
- Community Safety - to discuss arrangements for managing any future contractual arrangements.

Author

Paul Gordon – Head of Business Change

☎ 07792 920257

✉ paul.gordon@walsall.gov.uk

Signed:

Signed:

Paula Furnival
Executive Director

Councillor J Fitzpatrick
Portfolio-holder

10 March 2017

10 March 2017

Signed:



Julie Alderson
Executive Director

10 March 2017