

7 September 2017

CCTV Update

Ward(s) All

Portfolio: Cllr I Shires – Community, Leisure and Culture

Executive summary:

This report follows on from discussions at this committee's meeting of 6 April 2017 and provides members with an update on the transfer of the council's CCTV service to Transport for West Midlands (TfWM), part of the West Midlands Combined Authority.

Reason for scrutiny:

The Chair of the Corporate and Public Services Scrutiny Committee has asked for an update report on the latest position regarding CCTV and the attendance of a senior representative from TfWM to this meeting.

Recommendations:

That, Corporate and Public Services Scrutiny Committee note the report.

Background papers:

None.

Latest position:

It has been confirmed that a representative from TfWM will be in attendance at this meeting.

The Cabinet, at its meeting on the 15 March 2017, made the following recommendations in relation to delivering CCTV.

“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.

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.

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.”

Officers have been supporting the preparatory work that has been required to effect the transfer, working collaboratively with TfWM colleagues to ensure the process runs smoothly and effectively with minimal disruption to the service. There has been a delay in the starting date of the contract due to extended lead in times.

Work is also on-going to support staff during the time of transition. This transfer is covered by the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations. However it is not expected that any staff will transfer to TfWM. We are ensuring that members of staff impacted by this transfer (four) are supported appropriately within the regulations. Suitable alternative employment is available within the service area.

The technical transfer from its current location should take place week commencing 25 September 2017. At this stage, it is difficult to speculate on the length of any break in service at the point of transfer but, given previous experience of working with other areas, TfWM are hopeful this should be no more than a few hours. Information will be given to town centre businesses, etc. nearer the time. Retail Radio should transfer seamlessly and will provide a point of contact during any down time.

Police have also been advised of this approximate timescale and will be kept informed as the process develops. Making the transfer at the beginning of the week will ensure there is no break in service during the critical night-time economy periods.

We will continue to work with TfWM to explore other opportunities to upgrade other council-owned CCTV, specifically in our buildings, in order to improve security, monitoring cover and longer-term financial efficiencies.

Future sites of cameras will be agreed through a working group comprised of partners including police, enforcement, legal and locality managers. Decisions on locations will be based on evidence supplied by the council and partners including crime data.

Resource and legal considerations:

There are no resource or legal considerations attached to this specific report.

Citizen impact:

The council CCTV system will provide greater reassurance to the public and improve the response to crime in the borough.

Environmental impact:

Not applicable.

Performance management:

Clear key performance indicators (KPIs) will be put in place as part of the new contract arrangements. The council will monitor the performance of these KPIs and the contract through the Community Safety team.

Equality implications:

There are no equality implications attached to this specific report.

Consultation:

Consultation with appropriate departments took place on the report that went to Cabinet on the 15 March 2017.

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