
Report To:	Environment & Regeneration Committee	Date:	2 May 2019
Report By:	Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration and Resources	Report No:	ENV/27/19/MM
Contact Officer:	Martin McNab	Contact No:	01475 714246
Subject:	Public Space CCTV Provision		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To update the Committee on progress on the replacement of the public space CCTV system.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 The previous public space CCTV system dated back to the late 1990s when a number of such systems were installed across Scotland using community safety funding from the Scottish Government. It had been clear for some time that the system was nearing the end of its useful life. Some cameras had been vandalised and there was increasing difficulty in sourcing spare parts for the remaining equipment. This resulted in over a third of the original 49 cameras either not operating at all or operating at a significantly reduced capacity.
- 2.2 A number of options were looked at to replace the system including the possibility of a shared service with either Renfrewshire Council or the Glasgow Community Safety Partnership. While these would have undoubtedly involved a degree of loss of local knowledge they were considered to be a possible way of putting the system on a better financial footing in the longer term. In the event discussions on shared services or alternative hosting models proved abortive.
- 2.3 Options were then explored to replace the system with either a like for like hard wired system or possibly a wireless radio system with relays back to the viewing suite at Greenock Police Station. Neither of these options was affordable in terms of the available capital or revenue budgets however. Finally, following camera trials to test the likely effectiveness of the system, an option to run the system over the 4G mobile network was settled upon with footage hosted in the cloud. The replacement system is now operational barring the outstanding installation of a single camera. The benefits of the system are detailed in section 5 of this report.
- 2.4 This report is brought to Members for noting having previously been presented to the Local Police & Fire Scrutiny Committee.

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 That Members note the contents of this report.

Martin McNab
Head of Environmental & Public Protection

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Prior to the installation of the new system Inverclyde Council operated an ageing network of 49 public space cameras distributed throughout Inverclyde but concentrated in town centres. The network was originally funded through ring-fenced community safety funds and was expanded over a number of years as funds became available. Replacement was needed due to equipment condition and increasing fibre network charges. An assessment at the beginning of 2018 found that 33% of the cameras were not working to full operational standard.
- 4.2 A number of options were explored including potential shared or hosted services, radio wireless systems and the replacement of the existing system on a like for like basis. None of the initial options explored provided good value for money however.
- 4.3 In March 2018 the Education & Communities Committee agreed to the replacement of the public space CCTV system with a system run on the 4G network and hosted in the cloud. While this system had higher annual revenue costs due to the telemetry charges, the lower capital costs, £201K versus previous estimates of £321K, meant that the reduction in loan charges would make the system value for money.
- 4.4 CCTV is regulated in England and Wales by the Surveillance Camera Commissioner who publishes guidance on the use of all CCTV by public authorities on the use of CCTV including public space CCTV. While the remit of the Surveillance Camera Commissioner does not extend to Scotland the guidance is generally accepted to be good practice when installing or using CCTV systems. The guidance includes the need to carry out impact assessments balancing the need for privacy against various criteria including recorded crime and the incidence of antisocial behaviour. In Inverclyde we have used this guidance when approached for additional public space CCTV cameras to decide whether there is a justification for the cameras.
- 4.5 The CCTV system in operation prior to the upgrade had a total of 49 cameras. A number of these cameras could not be justified by the level and regularity of incidents recorded. It is accepted that CCTV cameras can provide a level of public reassurance but fixed cameras are very limited in the area they can cover. For areas where fixed cameras cannot be justified re-deployable cameras are a better option as they can be moved to cover hot spots or areas where public reassurance is required far more easily. Re-deployable cameras can also be used in areas where fly tipping is an issue to aid enforcement including enforcement at neighbourhood recycling points.

5.0 THE NEW SYSTEM

- 5.1 The system as installed has a total of 40 fixed cameras. At the time of writing 39 are installed and there is one outstanding to be installed. These cameras are those that can be justified under the criteria in the guidance with the majority in the town centres or at busy points on the road network. Analysis was carried out prior to selecting the cameras to be replaced of the number of incidents each camera had been involved in detecting and the other functions of the cameras, for example overseeing busy junctions.
- 5.2 Rather than transmitting along a fixed cable to the CCTV monitoring suite the cameras now record over the 4G mobile network to the cloud. CCTV monitoring staff can see the recording in real time and can pull footage from the cloud where a review is required. Previously the data was stored to a large bank of DVRs in the police station which is no longer required.
- 5.3 The cameras now only record when movement is detected. This is a great benefit for both Council staff and the police when reviewing incidents as previously large periods would have to be reviewed where nothing was happening. Now the system only records in clips with the result that the review process should be far faster.
- 5.4 In addition to the 40 fixed cameras, 4 re-deployable cameras have been procured which will enable monitoring of hot spots, fly-tipping sites and any other site where there is suspected illegal or antisocial activity. This would not have been possible with the old system which required end to end cable. Once installed the re-deployable cameras can be monitored in exactly the same way as the fixed cameras.

5.5 The 3 mobile CCTV vans driven by the community wardens are also to be fitted with cameras which will connect to the cloud and the monitoring suite. This will give far better coverage of incidents and will enable the cameras to be controlled and monitored by the CCTV operators remotely as well as by the wardens on site. Any incident can now be seen in real time as required and not just downloaded for later review. This will be a great benefit where there is a need for real time monitoring of footage, for example at events.

6.0 FUNDING

6.1 There is a mixed picture of revenue funding arrangements for public space CCTV systems across Scotland. This is in the main still based upon legacy funding arrangements prevailing prior to the formation of Police Scotland. In the area previously covered by Strathclyde Police for example the main funders are local authorities albeit there was an annual grant paid on a per capita basis by Strathclyde Police which has been continued, at a reduced level, by Police Scotland. By comparison in the former Grampian Police area public space CCTV systems are paid for and operated by the police. There have also been a number of partnership arrangements with varying financial and in-kind arrangements such as the Glasgow Community Safety Partnership and the Forth Valley partnership.

6.2 In Inverclyde the annual revenue costs of the CCTV system are projected at approximately £215K taking into account telemetry charges, direct staffing costs, electricity and other charges. Historically Strathclyde Police followed by Police Scotland contributed £30K per annum although this was not guaranteed on a long term basis and reduced to £29,500 for 2018-19. As stated above this is based upon a per capita grant irrespective of the nature and extent of the public space CCTV system operated. It should also be recognised however that the CCTV monitoring suite is based in the Greenock police office which is an obvious in-kind contribution.

6.3 The capital costs of the replacement of the system in 2018-19 amounted to just over £200K. These costs have been entirely borne by Inverclyde Council.

6.4 There have been a number of attempts made to introduce a national strategy for public space CCTV in recent years which would include a fairer overall funding arrangement and national minimum specifications. Unfortunately none of these has borne fruit owing to the costs of such an enterprise. It should be noted that the financial and procedural benefits of an effective, well maintained public space CCTV system accrue almost entirely to the criminal justice system.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Finance

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report £000	Virement From	Other Comments
N/A					

Annually Recurring Costs/(savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With effect from	Annual net impact £000	Virement From	Other Comments
N/A					

7.2 Legal

There are no legal issues arising from this report.

7.3 Human Resources

There are no human resources issues arising from this report.

7.4 Equalities

Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out?

X

YES (see attached appendix)

NO - This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a substantive change to an existing policy, function or strategy. Therefore, no Equality Impact Assessment is required.

7.5 Repopulation

In acting to detect crime, including environmental crime the system should contribute to making Inverclyde a more attractive place to live.

8.0 CONSULTATIONS

8.1 None

9.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 9.1 Public Space CCTV Provision - Update Education & Communities Committee March 2018 **EDUCOM/28/18/DH**
- Public Space CCTV Provision – Update Policy & Resources Committee March 2018 **PR/13/18/DH**
- Public Space CCTV Provision Education & Communities Committee January 2017 **EDUCOM/10/17/DH**
- Public Space CCTV Provision Policy & Resources Committee September 2016 **PR/20/16/WB/DH**