

CABINET
22 JUNE 2022

CCTV REPLACEMENT CAMERA PROGRAMME

Responsible Cabinet Member –
Councillor Mike Renton, Stronger Communities Portfolio

Responsible Director –
Dave Winstanley, Group Director of Services

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. This report outlines the outcome of a review of the CCTV system and requests the release capital funding to upgrade the analogue cameras and transmission equipment to improve the quality and efficiency of the system.

Summary

2. Darlington Borough Council operates a Public Space CCTV system throughout the Borough which primarily supports the Council Plan objectives of keeping the Borough safe. The network is linked to a control centre where the range of services provided have developed over the years, including the development of effective partnership working with the Police and other statutory agencies.
3. Since the introduction of the system in the 1990s the system has developed and grown with cameras installed at strategic locations to help reduce crime. The system has expanded from a 30-camera system to 122 public space cameras. The recent success in Safer Streets funding rounds has enabled further development of systems and initiatives to help keep the Borough safe to create the conditions and outcomes in the Council Plan.
4. A key action in the Council Plan was to review the CCTV system, this included a review of the network and transmission system, which identified the need to replace 74 older analogue cameras that are obsolete, quality is poor, and where the images from newer cameras would produce better outcomes. As with all system technology moves forward and the review identified an efficiency opportunity to move to a wireless network to replace the leased fibre circuits. This creates a financial saving that could be reinvested to part fund the proposals outlined in this report.
5. The Community Safety team have built extremely strong partnerships with the Police, including co-location and in 2021/22 the CCTV control room worked with the police on 1345 Police requests, that included providing 565 recordings and 654 requests to view footage. This system is not just a critical tool to help deliver Council priorities but also contributes all four key actions in the Police and Crime Plan; Prevent, Protect, Deter and Pursue. The Police and Crime Commissioner has given an in principal agreement to

contribute £25,000 a year for 10 years to the project in recognition of the outcomes CCTV provides for the community.

6. The upgrades to the system will cost £513,500 and this will be funded by prudential borrowing from savings created by not having to pay lease costs for communication lines and a contribution from the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Recommendation

7. It is recommended that:-
 - (a) Members note the contents of this report, and
 - (b) Release capital of £513,500 to undertake the upgrades to the CCTV system as outlined in this report.

Reasons

8. The recommendations are supported by the following reason, to replace the poor quality remaining analogue cameras and update the transmission network to assist in the detection of crime and ASB.

Dave Winstanley
Group Director of Services

Background Papers

- (i) Review of CCTV
- (ii) Programme for the upgrade of the public space CCTV cameras and transmission equipment

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CD

S17 Crime and Disorder	CCTV cameras help prevent and detect crime and anti-social behaviour, supporting the work of both the Council and Police.
Health and Wellbeing	Cameras around the town and in parks and open spaces contributes to these locations being safe places to enjoy and exercise therefore having a positive impact on health and wellbeing.
Carbon Impact and Climate Change	There is no impact on climate change.
Diversity	There is a positive impact on diversity as cameras contribute to the safety of areas.
Wards Affected	Wards that have CCTV cameras.
Groups Affected	No group is affected differently.
Budget and Policy Framework	There is no impact on the budget and policy framework.
Key Decision	No
Urgent Decision	No
Council Plan	CCTV cameras contribute to the Council's vision by preventing crime and anti-social behaviour, helping make Darlington a safe place to live, visit and invest.
Efficiency	There is no impact on the Council's efficiency agenda.
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	This report has no impact on Looked After Children or Care Leavers

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

9. Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) is part of everyday life within our towns and cities in the UK. Councils and law enforcement agencies rely heavily on surveillance as a tool to prevent and detect crime. It is now estimated that there are around 5.2 million CCTV cameras in the UK.
10. Darlington Borough Council operates a Public Space CCTV system throughout the Borough which primarily supports the Council Plan objectives of keeping the Borough safe. The benefits include:
 - (a) They act as crime deterrent.
 - (b) They provide peace of mind.
 - (c) They enable evidence detection.
 - (d) Help create conditions for success.
11. The network is linked to a control centre where the range of services provided have developed over the years, from control of traffic system to the development of effective strategic partnership working with the Police and other statutory agencies.

12. The control room also handles Lifeline calls and in 2021/22 took 91,569 calls providing assistance and reassurance to those vulnerable people needing support in staying independent at home.
13. Since the introduction of the system in the 1990s the system has developed and grown now supports 122 cameras located throughout the Borough (detailed in Table 1 below) of which a significant number are past the expected useful operating life. The quality of the pictures is well below what is expected from a modern camera.

Table 1

Location	Number of cameras
Town centre, Head of Steam, Skerne Bridge, Buckton's Yard, Clarks Yard	60
Town Hall and control room	23
Stanhope Park	6
South Park	7
North Lodge Park, Chesnut Street car park, Nightingale Avenue, Fulthorpe Avenue, Eastbourne Sports Centre, Denes Park play area, Springfield Park, Red Hall play area	8
Firthmoor	14
Abbey Road	4
Total	122

14. Within the Council Plan, one of the key actions is "review our approach to the use of CCTV in supporting community safety and work with partners to enhance the service further."
15. Work has commenced on updating our approach with one of the first actions being the Council has invested in 10 re-deployable cameras to tackle crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour. These cameras can be moved to different locations as and when required.
16. In addition, through the Home Office Safer Streets 2 Fund, the Council were awarded £230,400 to introduce 17 additional cameras in and around Darlington town centre (including subways). Included in this amount was £54,510 match funding provided the PCC. These cameras have only recently been installed.
17. The next phase was to review our fixed CCTV system and Eclipse Research were commissioned by the Council to assess the existing public space CCTV cameras and the transmission network, including the productivity and condition of individual cameras.

18. Of the 122 cameras, a significant number have been replaced over the years, however there are still 74 older style analogue cameras. The images from the analogue cameras are soft and of poorer quality than the newer Internet Protocol (IP) cameras. Therefore, it is proposed to replace all the remaining analogue cameras with IP cameras as detailed in Table 2 below:

Table 2

Location	Number of cameras to be replaced
Town centre, Head of Steam and Skerne Bridge and other cameras	19
Town Hall and control room	20
Stanhope Park	6
South Park	7
5G transmission (North Park, etc)	8
Firthmoor	14
Total	74

19. The second part of the of the replacement programme was to design a wireless network to replace the leased fibre circuits that connect the majority of the cameras to the control room, other than cameras connected wirelessly already. Moving away from leased circuits provides an annual saving that can be reinvested to support the replacement camera programme. In addition, the town centre wireless transmission network was negatively affected by the Council’s public Wi-Fi system that has been installed recently. There is also a lack of frequency diversification and misalignment of existing CCTV transmission equipment.

20. A further but unrelated consideration is several of the cameras and remote systems connected via the wireless hub on the roof of Northgate House, which has become a risk because of its uncertain future.

21. The proposed transmission network is to consist of wireless links using the 5GHz, 60GHz and 70-80GHz frequencies, which should have sufficient diversification to avoid the problems that were experienced when just 5GHz was used in the town centre. Where lines of site are not achievable, it is proposed to use either leased fibre circuits or the 4G/5G mobile telephone network.

Financial Implications

22. Currently a significant number of cameras use fibre connections back to the control room or hubs, which are leased at a revenue cost of £42,000 per annum for 44 circuits. By reconfiguring the system and utilising wireless transmission where possible and new fibre connections where required will produce an annual revenue saving of £33,000.

23. The capital cost to replace the 74 cameras including fibre connections and licences is detailed in Table 3 below:

Table 3

Location	Number of cameras to be replaced	Estimated cost (camera, transmission and ancillary equipment)
Town centre, Head of Steam and Skerne Bridge and other cameras	19	£175,500
Town Hall and control room	20	£48,500
Stanhope Park	6	£43,500
South Park	7	£35,500
5G transmission (North Park, etc)	8	£20,500
Firthmoor	14	£84,000
Professional fees		£20,000
Sub-total Cameras	74	£427,500
Contingency and inflation @ 20%		£85,500
Total Cost		£513,500

24. The total cost of the camera replacement programme and revised transmission network, with a combination of wireless transmission and leased fibre circuits is £513,500. This figure includes a 20% contingency and inflation allowance to mitigate the risk of the uncertainty in the current markets.
25. The Police and Crime Commissioner has given in principal agreement to a £25,000 annual contribution to the cost of the CCTV system. This contribution, alongside the annual revenue saving of £33,000, provides a budget of £58,000 to fund borrowing of £513,500 over 10 years with nil impact on the MTFP.

Legal Implications

26. The Council's CCTV Code Assessment Pack for Public Space CCTV and the documentation underpinning it will be updated as necessary to reflect the installation of the replacement cameras. This will ensure the Council's Public Space CCTV continues to comply with the Surveillance Camera Commissioner's Code of Practice and data protection legislation.

Procurement Advice

27. All procurement activity will be in line with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 and the Council's Contract Procedure Rules.
28. Where possible, pre-existing approved Contracts or Frameworks will be used in the first instance.