

Meeting of:	Cabinet
Date of Meeting:	Monday, 14 March 2022
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	Homes and Safe Communities
Report Title:	Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) Service - Future Arrangements
Purpose of Report:	To provide Cabinet with an update on the current CCTV service and to seek approval for a number of service changes.
Report Owner:	Cabinet Member for Legal, Regulatory and Planning Services
Responsible Officer:	Miles Punter - Director of Environment and Housing
Elected Member and Officer Consultation:	Head of Service for Housing and Building Services Finance Support Manager Senior Lawyer Network Manager Elected Member for Legal, Regulatory and Planning Services
Policy Framework:	This is a matter for Executive decision by Cabinet.
Executive Summary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council's CCTV system is currently monitored by Bridgend County Borough Council under contract and this contract, which has already been extended, expires on 31st March 2022. • Officers from the Council's Community Safety Team undertook a review of Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) which was concluded in July 2019 (the "Review"). The Review concluded that CCTV as a non-statutory responsibility of the Local Authority, costs the Council more than £90,000 per annum for a provision that is outdated and no longer fit for purpose. A number of our current cameras are not working due to outdated technology and in some cases an inability to source spare parts. • The Review also concluded that South Wales Police (SWP) are the main users of the CCTV system which prompted a series of discussions with SWP to agree a way forward for CCTV in the Vale of Glamorgan that embraced a collaborative approach given the Local Authority's commitment to partnership working and providing the Vale of Glamorgan residents with a service that will improve their security and feeling of safety. • During the same timeframe, a parallel drive by the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) was instigated to review CCTV across the whole of the South Wales Police Force area with the aspiration of implementing a consistent service across the board. 	

- This prompted a series of discussions with the PCC regarding a partnership model for the future of CCTV whereby the Local Authority would invest in the upgrade of the cameras and monitoring equipment and the PCC would invest in the ongoing revenue implications of monitoring the cameras.
- A condition of revenue funding from the PCC for the monitoring of the cameras is that the Vale CCTV service evidences a collaborative approach with Cardiff. To this end, Cabinet approval is being sought for the Council to enter into an inter-authority agreement with Cardiff Council for the monitoring of the Vale CCTV system.
- The rationale behind this new collaboration and move away from Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC), with whom the current contract will terminate on the 31st March 2022, is to mirror the new South Wales Police Basic Command Unit (BCU) footprint. A change in this footprint now has the Vale merged with Cardiff instead of Bridgend.
- A budget of £348k is approved in the 2021/22 Capital Programme .
- Prior to proceeding with the upgrade of the system the Council required commitment from the PCC that the revenue costs to cover the monitoring of the system would be met. Indicative confirmation of an agreement to fund the 24/7 monitoring of 45 static cameras across the Vale of Glamorgan was received in January and it was confirmed that this commitment would be sourced from base line PCC funding. A further business case has been submitted to the PCC for the scope of the funding to extend to 24/7 monitoring of the total 82 cameras being upgraded and installed across the Vale of Glamorgan.
- The initial commitment on the 19th January enabled the Vale of Glamorgan Council to proceed with the CCTV programme and due to timescales, Emergency Powers and a Financial Waiver were obtained to progress the order of the new cameras and associated equipment.
- In terms of the future monitoring of the Vale CCTV system, Bridgend County Borough Council is upgrading its current CCTV system and the upgraded Control Room will be live from April 2022. Significant investment (which would have to be resourced by the Vale) is likely to be required to make the Vale's existing equipment compatible with the new system in Bridgend. Further the PCC funding for camera monitoring is conditional on the CCTV partnership mirroring the current Police BCU footprint.
- Cardiff Council is also progressing with an upgrade of its Control Centres, where its two existing Control Rooms will be merged into a new purpose built suite which is expected to be operational in December 2022.
- It is proposed that Cabinet approve a low-cost interim monitoring solution to be installed into the Civic Offices from April 2022 to June 2022. Following this, it is proposed that the monitoring of the cameras moves to the existing Cardiff Control Room where they will remain until the whole system is ready to move in December 2022.

Recommendations

1. That Cabinet notes the position of the CCTV system upgrade programme and that the current CCTV monitoring arrangement with Bridgend County Borough Council terminates on 31st March 2022.
2. That Cabinet agrees the proposals for collaborative working with Cardiff Council and the Police and Crime Commissioner as set out in the Executive Summary above.
3. That Cabinet agree a temporary CCTV monitoring solution from April 2022 to be sited in the Civic Offices until June 2022 (that ensures continuity of CCTV service throughout the various upgrade stages).
4. That Cabinet provides delegated authority to the Director of Environment & Housing Services and Monitoring Officer / Head of Legal and Democratic Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Legal, Regulatory and Planning Services to enter into an agreement arrangement with Cardiff Council in respect of the monitoring of the CCTV System in the Vale of Glamorgan and also into an agreement with the PCC in respect of the funding of such monitoring.
5. That the Monitoring Officer / Head of Legal and Democratic Services be granted authority to prepare, negotiate execute and complete all legal documentation required in connection with the proposed arrangements detailed in the above recommendations.
6. That the use of the urgent decision procedure as set out in Section 14.14 of the Council's Constitution be exercised as the existing contract with Bridgend County Borough Council expires on 31st March, 2022.

Reasons for Recommendations

1. To inform Members of progress made to the upgrade of CCTV.
2. To agree, in principle, a change to the monitoring arrangements for CCTV that meets the partnership needs for collaboration across the Vale of Glamorgan.
3. To agree, in principle, the necessary interim CCTV monitoring arrangements.
4. To agree, in principle, the arrangements for negotiating and concluding the necessary agreements with Cardiff Council and the PCC.
5. To allow for preparation of all the necessary legal documentation required in connection with the proposals to be duly executed for when all other recommendations are agreed.
6. To begin the necessary interim CCTV monitoring arrangements from 1st April, 2022.

1. Background

- 1.1** The Vale of Glamorgan currently has 78 cameras positioned across the County. Of these cameras, 12 are installed in Penarth, 4 in Llantwit Major with the remaining 62 cameras located in Barry.
- 1.2** Several of the cameras were installed in 1998 when the Vale of Glamorgan Council received Home Office funding for the installation of CCTV. The purpose of CCTV was for reducing crime and disorder, monitoring hot spot areas, and reducing the fear of crime amongst the community. Since installation, some of the original cameras have been upgraded, but many of them consist of the original equipment which have constant issues.
- 1.3** The original control room for CCTV was based in Barry, however following Vale of Glamorgan Cabinet approval (Cabinet Minute C2492 refers) on 20th October 2014 the operational function of CCTV was moved to Bridgend and provided by BCBC from 1st April 2016.
- 1.4** Under section 30 of the Protection of Freedom Act 2012, a surveillance code of practice was issued by the Secretary of State in 2013. The code states that as part of the regular review of the proportionality and effectiveness of a surveillance camera system, there should also be an assessment of whether the location of cameras remains justified in meeting the stated purpose and whether there is a case for removal or relocation
- 1.5** To adhere to the code of practice and to ensure appropriate scrutiny of resources, the Vale undertook a review of its CCTV provision with the report findings finalised in July 2019.
- 1.6** CCTV is a non-statutory service for Councils, meaning that Councils do not have a legal duty to provide CCTV. Following initial discussions generated by the Review, on the 18th February 2019, and severe challenges on the Council's revenue budgets, Cabinet approved a saving by removing the £76,000 allocated to the CCTV Service from the budget. In making this decision it was felt that the onus for providing and monitoring CCTV should be shared with the Police and the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) office and both were approached with a request for revenue funding to support CCTV monitoring.
- 1.7** A subsequent update of the review was concluded in April 2021. Both the original review and its subsequent update concluded that the existing cameras are all analogue and obsolete. As such, they are becoming harder to support as manufacturers are no longer making the equipment and parts to support this type of camera. When the camera parts fail the only way to repair the cameras is by using parts recovered from cameras that have been taken down elsewhere, however this solution is not sustainable.
- 1.8** The Local Authority make very little use of the CCTV footage. This is a direct reflection of the current system's functionality and camera locations. The four

cameras located at St Paul's Avenue, Penarth and St. Luke's Avenue in Penarth on Local Authority housing stock are subsidised by the tenants. South Wales Police (SWP) are the predominant users of the Vale of Glamorgan's system.

- 1.9** The Vale of Glamorgan Council is, however, committed to effective partnership working and recognises the importance that a CCTV system brings to security and feelings of safety to residents of the Vale of Glamorgan.
- 1.10** Following the decisions by the Council to remove the CCTV monitoring funds, Discussions have been ongoing with SWP and the PCC, to establish a way forward for the future of CCTV across the Vale of Glamorgan.
- 1.11** These discussions were being held at the same time as a drive, by the current PCC, to establish reviews across the whole South Wales Police Force area of all CCTV provision and create a consistent and more integrated system across the footprint.
- 1.12** The discussions culminated in an agreement that the Local Authority would provide the capital investment for the upgrade of the system in the Vale and the PCC would invest in the revenue costs for a system provided the new system demonstrated a collaborative approach with Cardiff (in line with the SWP Cardiff and Vale BCU footprint).

2. Key Issues for Consideration

- **The Upgrade**

- 2.1** Vale of Glamorgan Officers have held ongoing biweekly meetings with Cardiff Council colleagues to review opportunities and scope development options for the future of CCTV in the Vale.
- 2.2** An external CCTV consultant was employed to look at the current system and redesign a new system. Due to time specific projects, Emergency Powers and a Financial Waiver were sought to implement the consultant's recommendations.
- 2.3** Cardiff Council is implementing a project plan to support the upgrade of its Control Room function which includes within it the options and implications for including the Vale of Glamorgan Council within the development.
- 2.4** The Vale of Glamorgan Council has an approved Capital Programme Budget of £348k of which there is £345k remaining for the upgrade of CCTV.
- 2.5** In addition to this, a bid via the Welsh Government Town Centre Regeneration Fund of £245k has been submitted for the upgrade of cameras relating to the Vale Town Centres.
- 2.6** It was agreed that due to timescales, the programme would be separated into two phases.
 - **Phase 1 - Purchasing of Cameras and Equipment**
- 2.7** This includes the replacing 76 of the existing cameras in their existing locations.

- 2.8** Relocating two cameras; removing one camera from a building in Penarth and replacing with a camera on the opposite street and moving one camera from its current location in Central Park, Barry, to a new location within the same park.
- 2.9** Purchasing four new cameras (for later installation on Kings Square, Penarth esplanade and a camera at either end of Eastgate/High Street in Cowbridge).
- 2.10** Installing new poles in strategically determined positions to build in readiness for the installation of redeployable cameras for our repeat known hot spot areas.
- **Phase 2 - Installation**
- 2.11** This phase is dependent on the Transforming Towns grant as the grant will release internal monies to be carried forward for phase 2.
- 2.12** Installing and implementing new fibre links and connectivity solutions. There is currently a 16-week lead in time for the installation of fibre links. Phase 2 is currently being designed between the CCTV external Consultant, the Network Manager for the Vale ICT Department and the Community Safety and Partnership Team Manager.
- 2.13** During Phase 2 Community Safety Officers would potentially look to purchase additional redeployable cameras given the successful outcomes the redeployable cameras have demonstrated so far.
- 2.14** Establish a viewing room at Barry Police Station. This viewing suite will enable Community Safety staff and local Police Officers the opportunity to review cameras rapidly to develop joint solutions to hotspot and other ASB issues.
- 2.15** To date, the Vale of Glamorgan has purchased cameras and monitoring equipment to the value of £310,030.75 and have committed revenue funding to the value of £11,150 for the implementation of phase 1 of the project.
- **Future Monitoring Arrangements**
- 2.16** The current inter-authority agreement with Bridgend for the monitoring of the CCTV system which is being delivered through an extension to the contract until 31st March 2022.
- 2.17** Bridgend Council is currently undergoing an upgrade of its CCTV system and Control Room. The current Vale system will not be compatible with the new Bridgend Control Room, which is anticipated to be ready in April 2022. Remaining with Bridgend is likely to incur significant upgrade costs that would have to be covered by the Vale Local Authority and the PCC's funding is specifically predicated on a partnership with Cardiff Council.
- 2.18** Cardiff Council is currently preparing an upgrade to its two existing Control Rooms to combine these into one, new, purpose-built Control Room. It is anticipated that this Control Room will go live in December 2022.
- 2.19** Should Cabinet approve the monitoring of Vale cameras by Cardiff Council, it is proposed that the cameras are monitored in one of the existing Cardiff Control Rooms from June 2022 through an ICT solution, until the whole system move to the new Control Room in December 2022.

2.20 In the interim it is proposed that Cabinet support the implementation of a monitoring solution in the Civic Offices, Barry from April 2022 to June 2022 to enable continuity of service through the upgrade. The costs to cover this interim monitoring arrangement in the Civic Offices are yet to be confirmed, however it is understood that these costs will not be significant, and they form part of the costs that are required for the establishment of a satellite viewing suite in Barry (which falls under phase 2 of the CCTV upgrade schedule.)

2.21 The termination of the contract with Bridgend has an implication for one member of staff who was transferred to Bridgend from Barry in 2017 under the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) (TUPE) regulations. Legal advice is currently being sought regarding whether the TUPE regulations still stand and what the requirements are of the Vale Council in relation to this employee's contract with the transfer of the monitoring service to Cardiff Council.

- **Funding Contribution and Options**

2.22 Initially, due to the funding available the Vale were in a position to upgrade 43 cameras was based on the initial amount of Capital available to the Local Authority for the cameras to upgraded and renewed.

2.23 A subsequent Local Authority commitment was given to upgrade the entire existing camera stock, based on additional funding opportunities through the Town Centres Transforming Towns grant.

2.24 A delegated authority request is being drawn up for inclusion of the Town Centre Transforming Towns Grant in the CCTV Programme. Internal monies will be requested to be carried forward into 2022/23 to fund phase 2 of the CCTV Programme. The earliest this delegated authority request can be circulated is the 28th February 2022.

2.25 Agreement was given from the PCC for the provision of a revenue funding commitment to the monitoring of the CCTV system. This funding will come from baseline funding and is therefore not likely to cease unless priorities are realigned under the representation of a new Police and Crime Commissioner.

2.26 A further business case is being submitted to the PCC for the scope of the revenue funding to be expanded to include all 82 cameras in the 24/7 monitoring arrangement.

2.27 If this business case is refused, the PCC has committed to funding the revenue costs associated with the 24/7 monitoring of 43 cameras and the Local Authority will top up the remaining revenue through Year 1 Revenue funding.

2.28 Irrespective of this, there will be on going revenue implications for the Vale Council for the provision of CCTV, including fibre rental, electricity, movement of deployable cameras and maintenance. These costs will be explored as we enter phase two of the CCTV development. It is anticipated that full costs will be available during 2022-2023.

- **Future Development**

- 2.29** The move to a new bespoke CCTV Control Room with new monitoring equipment, will enable the Vale to evidence CCTV activity and provide residents of the Vale with high level data reports relating to CCTV. This will ensure the Vale's compliance with Principle 3 of the Surveillance Camera Commissioner's Surveillance Camera Code of Practice, that there is as much transparency in the use of a surveillance system as possible and that this transparency should be secured through the publication of data and crime statistics relating to CCTV.
- 2.30** It is hoped that with a more effective system that the Safer Vale Partnership can review opportunities to assist in reinvigorating links with Business PACT and Pub Watch which have been impacted due to Covid-19.
- 2.31** In 2022 two new pieces of legislation are due to be passed: the Serious Violence Duty and the PROTECT duty. The implementation of a new CCTV control room, with improved monitoring and data collection, will enable the Vale Council to be in a strong position in addressing key requirements of the legislation.
- 2.32** A new system will install all new Vale of Glamorgan Cameras on a CCTV specific network and be removed from the existing Council Network which is in keeping with expected IT security standards.

3. How do proposals evidence the Five Ways of Working and contribute to our Well-being Objectives?

- 3.1** Long Term: The review of the CCTV service will provide a long-term solution for the CCTV service whilst also considering the long-term sustainability of the Council budget.
- 3.2** Preventative: The proposal will consider how the CCTV service can be rationalised and improved to provide a resource which is better able to prevent crime and disorder in the Vale of Glamorgan.
- 3.3** Integration & Collaboration: The partnership review and subsequent proposal will meet the well-being objectives of the Council: Providing decent homes and safe communities.
- 3.4** It also meets the well-being objectives of South Wales Police. This is through the multi-agency board set up to determine a service model that meets the needs of both public bodies.
- 3.5** Involvement: Residents of the Vale of Glamorgan were consulted as part of the CCTV review and further consultation will be undertaken on proposed changes to the service.

4. Resources and Legal Considerations

Financial

- 4.1** The approved budget in the 2021/22 Capital Programme for the upgrade of CCTV is £348k. Emergency powers have been used to commit £310k of the budget. Potential external funding could become available for this scheme in 2021/22. If this occurs it will be requested at a later date to carry forward internal monies into next financial year to fund phase 2 of the project.
- 4.2** A delegated authority request is being drawn up for inclusion of the programme in the Town Centres Transforming Towns Grant. Following approval of the delegated authority to accept the Town Centres Transforming Towns Grant, the £212,716.50 will be repaid into the Capital Programme to be allocated in 2022/2023 for the implementation of phase 2 of the CCTV Programme. The earliest this delegated authority request can be circulated is the 28th of February 2022.
- 4.3** An additional revenue cost of £11,150 has been sourced through Regulatory Reserve.
- 4.4** Revenue funding for the full monitoring service has been earmarked for 2022/23 but will not be finalised for future until full costs and the total PCC contribution are known.

Employment

- 4.5** A member of staff currently working in the Bridgend Control Centre was employed under a TUPE arrangement. This will have an impact on any withdrawal from BCBC and collaboration with Cardiff Council. The advice of legal services will be sought in respect of this individual.

Legal (Including Equalities)

- 4.6** Lawyers for each Authority are about to commence discussions and negotiation as to the appropriate agreements and documents required to govern the proposed arrangement between them. Based on the previous arrangement with Bridgend, an Inter-Authority Agreement based on s111 Local Government 1972, s25 of the Local Government (Wales) Act 1994, s1 of the Local Authorities Goods and Services Act 1970 and s2 Local Government Act 2000 is likely to be suitable in respect of the commissioning of the service, formalising the provision of the service and setting out cost implications.
- 4.7** An agreement will also be required to govern the arrangements for securing and payment of funding from the PCC. Legal Services have been consulted in respect of the proposals and will be instructed to consider appropriate arrangements for this and to liaise with the PCC and Cardiff Council in due course with a view to formalising the arrangement in an agreement.

5. Background Papers

None.