

Chichester District Council

CABINET

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CCTV Monitoring Contract

1. Contacts

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2. Recommendation

- 2.1 **That Cabinet approve option 2 in Para 6 .2 “To transfer monitoring of the Chichester CCTV service to Sussex Police when the current contract expires 31 March 2021”**

3. Background

- 3.1 Chichester District Council’s (CDC) CCTV service comprises of 63 cameras, 25 on-street and 38 in CDC owned car parks. There has been a monitoring centre in Chichester since the implementation of the CCTV service in 1996. Chichester is the only area in Sussex to still have its own monitoring centre except for Brighton and Hove who use theirs only for traffic management purposes.
- 3.2 In April 2018 Cabinet approved the contract for provision of staff to monitor the CCTV in Chichester District. This contract is due to expire on 31 March 2021. There is a provision in the contract to extend for another 2 years.
- 3.3 As part of a service review in 2019 the CCTV monitoring contract was identified as a potential saving. In addition it was proposed to look at reducing the maintenance and transmission costs by exploring a reduction in the number of cameras in the district. The CCTV transmission and maintenance contract is held by Sussex Police and is not due to be renewed until April 2022. Any early termination would incur costs which would far outweigh any potential savings therefore the reduction of cameras does not form part of this report and should be considered in the future.
- 3.4 During 2019 and 2020 Sussex Police upgraded their monitoring system for CCTV across Sussex and they now have the capability to monitor all cameras in the district including those in CDC car parks. Unlike the current hours of operation Sussex Police have the ability to monitor CCTV across Sussex 24 hours 7 days a week.

4. Outcomes to be Achieved

- 4.1 The current monitoring contract and associated costs for running the centre are in the region of £50,000 per annum and this would be a saving to the Council should the contract not be renewed.
- 4.2 Should the site become vacant the Council could consider other income generating routes for the site.

5. Proposal

- 5.1 It is proposed that the CCTV monitoring contract is not renewed when it expires on 31 March 2021 and that Sussex Police take over the monitoring of CCTV cameras.

6. Alternatives Considered

- 6.1 **Option 1** – Extend the monitoring contract by 2 years as per the option in the terms of the contract. This will not result in any savings to the Council.
- 6.2 **Option 2**- Transfer the monitoring of the Chichester CCTV service to Sussex Police when the current contract expires on 31 March 2021. This will result in savings in the region of £50,000 to the Council and the CCTV across Chichester would be monitored by Sussex Police as it is in all other areas of Sussex.
- 6.3 **Option 3**- Seek to fund the monitoring system through partner contributions. This has been considered. Sussex Police were approached and were not willing to contribute due to their ability to monitor the cameras from their control centre in Lewes. Parishes supported by CCTV have historically contributed to the costs of the CCTV service in general not including the monitoring contract but the majority have ceased their contributions in recent years due to financial constraints and would not be in a position to fund again.

7. Resource and Legal Implications

- 7.1 Following withdrawal from this contract consideration will need to be given to the future use of the control centre site and possible removal and re-location of equipment from the current site which may incur one-off costs. These implications are currently being explored and options identified.
- 7.2 There will be no charge from Sussex Police to monitor the cameras.

8. Consultation

- 8.1 Formal consultation is not required but a number of key stakeholders have been contacted for their views on the potential withdrawal of CCTV monitoring from a local monitoring centre. A number of concerns were raised by chiBAC the Chichester Business crime reduction Partnership (BCRP). The main area of concern was the potential time lapse in dealing with incidents in the city centre. Currently the CCTV operators are members of chiBAC and have radio links with stores in the City signed up to the scheme which allows for timely intervention. Sussex Police have reported to us they have well established links with BCRPs in other areas and would be happy to extend this to ChiBAC.

8.2 Additional concerns were raised that rates of shoplifting would increase, however crime data from the last 3 years shows that having a local CCTV monitoring centre has little impact on the levels of shoplifting.

8.3 The loss of local knowledge that the operators have accumulated over a number of years was also a concern. CCTV operators at Lewes HQ come from a variety of locations across Sussex and some have a good working knowledge of Chichester and in particular the City.

9. Community Impact and Corporate Risks

9.1 The CCTV service has a primary function around the improved safety and security within the district and it supports public perception that Chichester is a safe place. Shifting the monitoring of the service from a local centre to Sussex Police HQ should not have a significant impact on this.

10. Other Implications

Are there any implications for the following?		
	Yes	No
Crime and Disorder There may be a small increase in low level crime in the City centre. However similar areas to Chichester that do not have a local CCTV monitoring centre do not report higher levels of crime in their areas as a result.	x	
Climate Change and Biodiversity		x
Human Rights and Equality Impact		x
Safeguarding and Early Help? Currently we use the monitoring centre to look for missing people in real time. Sussex Police have assured us they will be able to offer the same level of service in relation to vulnerable and missing people.		
General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)		x
Health and Wellbeing		x
Other (please specify)		

11. Appendices

None

12. Background Papers

None