

## **Enhancement of Yeovil CCTV**

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### **1. Purpose of the Report**

1.1 To gain support, authorisation and funding to be able to proceed with the Yeovil CCTV enhancement, giving coverage of the two pedestrian subways at the Hospital Roundabout in Yeovil.

### **2. Forward Plan**

2.1 This report was a late entry to the District Executive Forward Plan as the urgency for implementation was increased after the Area South Committee expressed a wish for completion at the earliest opportunity.

### **3. Public Interest**

3.1 Yeovil Town Centre has a network of fully integrated public CCTV cameras which are monitored at the control room in Bridgwater, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. All footage from each camera is recorded and stored for evidential purposes.

3.2 Over the years there have been many incidents taking place in the pedestrian subways under the Hospital roundabout. This area is a blind spot for the existing cameras. A notable incident was reported in February this year of an aggravated sexual assault.

3.3 This being one of the most used walkways into and out of the town centre and given the serious nature of this incident and the on-going issues of Anti-social behaviour and crimes, including; graffiti, theft, assault and robbery it has been identified that to help prevent further incidents and to make the sub-ways feel safer for users, and provide evidence for Police to investigate incidents, that monitored CCTV would help.

3.4 The Area South Committee gave their support for the project on 2<sup>nd</sup> June and expressed an interest in seeing the installation completed as soon as possible. They also expressed a wish for a bid for the full funding required to be lodged with the SSDC Capital fund.

3.5 This report is looking to gain the support, authorisation and access to funding from the District Executive to carry out the installation and have a total of five new cameras installed at the subways linked into the existing systems so that they can be monitored in a similar way to the other cameras in Yeovil. Although much of the preliminary work to identify suitable equipment, installation requirements and potential costs, has been completed, formal authorisation and funding is now required to take the project forward and engage suppliers.

### **4. Recommendation(s)**

#### 4.1 That the District Executive:-

1. Support and authorise the further development of this project by allowing officers to access the level of funding required to complete and run the project.
2. Agree that the installation and monitoring of the five cameras are installed as a matter of urgency.

### **5. Background**

- 5.1 Yeovil Town centre has a long established fully networked and monitored CCTV system consisting of 24 cameras, in public areas, that are controlled by the operators at the Bridgwater monitoring station. Most of the CCTV units have the facility to pan, tilt and zoom (PTZ) giving the operators full control over the visual content of the cameras being monitored. The controllers are linked to the business community and local police through the successful Radio Link Scheme and have a direct link to Police control. The existing cameras are strategically placed throughout the town covering many of the major thoroughfares and car parks. The Quedam Centre operates their own stand-alone system but having the ability to communicate with the larger business community and the Bridgwater monitoring centre using Radio Link. There are also various other stand-alone systems in the town controlled by the businesses and organisations that set them up, some of which are monitored by themselves or just linked to recording equipment.
- 5.2 In addition to the full time monitoring provided by the Bridgwater control room, all of the footage from the public system cameras is recorded and stored, for a calendar month on a rolling basis, on the newly updated recording machines that are housed at Petters House. These were fully funded by the Police Crime Commissioners, Partnership Funds 2013 to improve quality and access. This will now allow the Police to create a network access to the system so that the recordings will be available on the Police network 24 hours a day rather than sending an officer to Petters House during opening hours, previously they had to send someone over to Bridgwater. This feed is currently being explored by the Police who will arrange and fund the installation.
- 5.3 In May 2014 there were 91 total incidents for which the camera operators were directly involved and 24 Police arrests in which they assisted.
- 5.4 It has been identified for some time that the two underpasses serving the Hospital Roundabout have been targeted for crime and Anti-social behaviour. Most apparent is the continuing vandalism in the form of damage and graffiti that appears on a regular basis for all to see. More worrying is the regularity of petty crime and more serious assaults. The most recent notable case was reported in February this year of an aggravated sexual assault which was well publicised.
- 5.5 There is now some evidence that people are diverting from the route through the underpasses and avoiding the connecting unlit walkway between them. It is apparent that there are people crossing the main A30 road both day and night but this is especially notable after dark.
- 5.6 There has been some liaison with County Council Officers, in respect of the structures, to look at the possible solutions. As part of the Eastern Corridor improvements there is opportunity to carry out some improvement work on both of the underpasses to make them more user friendly and help reduce the fear of crime. This work is being scoped within the project and is likely to include better lighting, removing dead corners, improving access routes and paintwork etc.

## **6. The Project Overview**

- 6.1 The preferred solution being proposed is to fit a fixed, vandal resistant, camera at each end of the two subways (4) with a PTZ unit (Pan, Tilt & Zoom camera) (1) on a pole covering the open area linking the entrances. This is seen to be the best possible way of ensuring that all the areas are covered and will supplement the PTZ unit already in place on Princess Street that covers the Princess Street entrance.
- 6.2 The new PTZ will be at a sufficient height to not only cover the entrances and walk ways but also be able to see across the dual carriageway to the banked path on the other side that leads to the Kingston entrance. It will also be capable of viewing across the roundabout and the immediate surrounding areas.
- 6.3 The visual images from the five cameras would feed back to the collection hub and allow for operation of the PTZ camera through a newly installed BT duct and cabling.
- 6.4 The fixed units being mounted in the subways will need to have trunking for the cables to run through and is thought that this trunking could be installed within the existing lighting installation and be fully removed from view and tampering.
- 6.5 Pricing of this installation has been problematic with budgetary pricing indicated below. Actual costs will need to be controlled within the budget with final spend reported.
- 6.6 The steering group has considered various options including the use of a non- monitored system with footage being recorded on locally installed recorders. This was not seen as a solution as it minimises the opportunity to prevent incidents and gave no opportunity to intervene in real time. Other operating systems were also considered including wireless communication and the use of internet broad band links, but the reliability, costs, operational requirements and security did not make for a suitable solution. For this reason it was thought prudent to build on the already reliable operating system that covers the rest of Yeovil town centre.

## **7. Financial Implications**

- 7.1 This outline has been shared with County Council officers who have given valuable input to defining the solution and agree that such an installation would complement planned improvements to be carried out under the Eastern Corridor improvement works and help encourage use of the sub-ways. To this end we have an understanding that as part of the project County Council would arrange for the trunking to be fitted in the structures and hardwire the cameras. A mounting base would also be provided for the pole on which the PTZ camera is to be fitted. This work is essential and will be carried out at no charge to the project creating a substantial saving in the set up costs. It is uncertain to when the County might be able to carry out this work and if we rely on this it could hold up the time frame in which the installation can be completed. There has also been an indication of funding assistance with the actual set up costs as indicated below.

### **A) Estimated total project costs**

The total installation is likely to cost in the region of £29,000 of capital expenditure.

- 7.2 Ongoing annual revenue costs to cover the BT line rental, maintenance and monitoring is to be £5,700 if all five cameras are to be monitored, as in option A below, reducing to £3,600 if the four fixed cameras are not included as in option B.

Capital Costs £	
BT Installations	11,000
PTZ Camera & fit	3,000
Cameras 4 & fit	8,000
SSE Power Pole & fit	7,000
Total	29,000

Annual Revenue £		
	A	B
BT Line Rental	1,200	1,200
Monitoring x (5)	4,300	x (1) 2,200
Maintenance	200	200
Total option	5,700	3,600

7.3 If members approve to allocate £29,000 from Usable Capital Receipts to this scheme the loss in interest based on longer term rates is £900. If the £10,000 contribution from Somerset County Council, Yeovil Town Council and contributions from other partners is received, this will be paid back into capital pot to reduce the allocation made.

7.4 The revenue costs for 2014/15 of £6,600 as a result of this allocation will need to be taken from revenue balances as there is not enough money in the current budget to cover the additional costs. This additional budget will then be added to the medium term financial plan for 2015/16 and beyond.

#### B) Secured

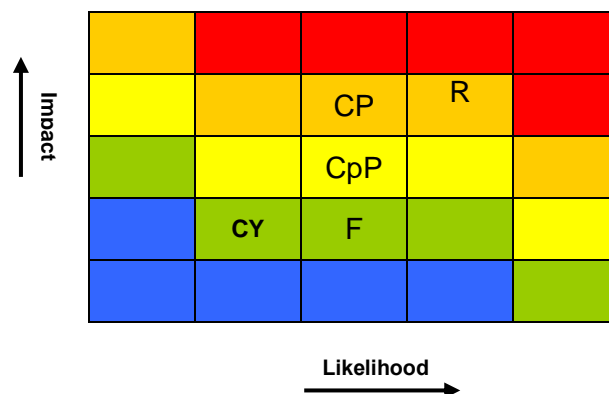
To date there has been indication from the County Council of a 50% contribution towards capital funds up to a maximum of £10,000 in addition to the structural work, to be carried out in kind, as indicated above.

#### C) Required

A further £19,185 of capital funding is now required and either £5,700 or £3,600 of annual revenue depending on how many of the cameras are monitored.

7.5 Given District Executive support and authorisation to cover the full cost of the project, officers would be able to instruct suppliers immediately, gain the relevant permissions and ensure the earliest completion possible. Any Additional funding forthcoming from other sources would then be used to offset the costs or fed back to reserves.

### 8. Risk Matrix



## Key

Categories	Colours <i>(for further detail please refer to Risk management strategy)</i>
R = Reputation	Red = High impact and high probability
CpP = Corporate Plan Priorities	Orange = Major impact and major probability
CP = Community Priorities	Yellow = Moderate impact and moderate probability
CY = Capacity	Green = Minor impact and minor probability
F = Financial	Blue = Insignificant impact and insignificant probability

## 9. Corporate Priority Implications

9.1 The Council plan states:

- Work in partnership to deliver investment and development that local people value with a particular emphasis on Yeovil
- Enhance the vitality of town centres
- Ensure, with partners, that we respond effectively to community safety concerns raised by local people

## 10. Carbon Emissions and Climate Change Implications

10.1 There are no direct implications for South Somerset District Council although there will be a slight increase in power required to operate the additional units in Yeovil and monitoring in Sedgemoor.

## 11. Equality and Diversity Implications

11.1 A full equality analysis has been undertaken and an action plan to promote and publicise the CCTV cameras when installed is attached to this report.

## 12. Privacy Impact Assessment

12.1 Personal data will be collected through the system in the form of moving pictures of individuals. This could be considered sensitive by certain individuals. Bridgwater monitoring staff have access to the live images. The Police are the only persons with access to the recordings. The footage will be controlled in line within our already operating systems and procedures. Recordings are deleted automatically on a rolling basis every 30 days. Only Police required evidence footage is kept for longer by the Police. No SSDC member of staff has any access to the system images. There will be signs erected to indicate that CCTV is in operation.

## 13. Background Papers

<http://www.southsomerset.gov.uk/councillors-and-democracy/meetings-and-decisions/agendas-and-minutes/agendas-and-minutes.aspx?mid=5322>

Area South Committee Agenda 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2014

Area South Committee Minutes 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2014