

10. Enhancement of Yeovil CCTV

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Purpose of the Report

To gain members support to acquire funding for and agree the installation of monitored CCTV covering the two underpasses serving the Hospital Roundabout and the immediate surrounding area.

Public Interest

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.

Over the years there have been many incidents taking place in the subways that are a blind spot for the existing cameras. The most recent notable incident was reported in February this year of an aggravated sexual assault.

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, that monitored CCTV would help.

This report is looking to gain the support and authorisation from the elected members to pursue the funding, installation and monitoring of five new cameras. Although much of the preliminary work to identify suitable equipment, installation requirements and potential costs, has been started formal authorisation is now required to take the project forward and identify funding so that a full survey can be confirmed and suppliers engaged.

Recommendations

That the members:-

1. Authorise the further development of this project by allowing officers to seek the level of funding anticipated to complete and run the project;
2. Agree that the installation and monitoring of the five cameras are installed when the funding is identified.

Background

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 are able 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.

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.

In May 2014 there were 91 total incidents for which the camera operators were directly involved and 24 Police arrests in which they assisted.

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.

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.

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.

The Project

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 (1) on a pole in 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.

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. There may be a need to remove some vegetation and possibly some tree removal, replanting or cutting back but as yet this has not been fully determined and will be included in the full operational survey.

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.

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.

Pricing of this installation is problematic and although budgetary pricing is indicated below, figures will be firmed up and confirmed once the authorisation is given and full operational site survey carried out.

Financial Implications

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. 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 £29,185 of capital expenditure.

Ongoing annual revenue costs to cover the BT line rental, maintenance and monitoring is to be £5700 if all five cameras are to be monitored, as in option A below, reducing to £3600 if the four fixed cameras are not included as in option B.

Capital Costs £	
BT Installations	10,500
PTZ Camera & fit	3,000
Cameras 4 & fit	8,185
SSE Power Pole & fit	7,500
Total	29,185

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 (A)	5,700	(B) 3,600

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 £3600 of annual revenue depending on how many of the cameras are monitored.

Given the members support further funding avenues will be explored to achieve the funding required.

Corporate Priority Implications

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.....

Carbon Emissions & Adapting to Climate Change Implications (NI188)

There is little implication to carbon emissions although there will be a very slight increase in power consumption.

Equality and Diversity Implications

There are no implications for equality and diversity.

Background Papers: *There are no background papers to refer to.*
