

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Subject: CCTV UPDATE
Meeting: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Date: 21 OCTOBER 2014
Author: DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 At the Executive’s last meeting, Members considered a report which outlined options, for the future provision of CCTV services in the Falkirk Council area. This will follow the dissolution of the Forth Valley CCTV Partnership on 31 March 2015. Members asked for further information on the provision of a managed Falkirk Council CCTV service.
- 1.2 Stirling Council has intimated that it is establishing its own local CCTV monitoring service. Clackmannanshire Council is currently preparing an options paper for its Members to consider, regarding the future provision of CCTV services. One option being considered is to procure a service from Falkirk Council.

2. CURRENT CCTV PROVISION

- 2.1 The monitoring and management functions of CCTV services are hosted by Clackmannanshire Council at Kilncraigs in Alloa. The current service encompasses the live monitoring of cameras. Falkirk Council currently has 88 cameras monitored by these arrangements. These cameras monitor the public realm in town centres, but do not include those covering buildings such as schools, offices etc. Cameras for the latter are subject to local arrangements. Monitoring services are provided by Enigma CCTV Ltd (Enigma), which a public limited company. These services are procured externally from Enigma and as such have no direct relationship with Falkirk Council. The current contract with Enigma was signed by all the partners within the Forth Valley CCTV partnership and made provision for employment opportunities for people with a disability. This contract is due to expire on 31 March 2015. The Falkirk Council contribution is as follows:

List of Services	2014/15 Budget (£)
The provision of monitoring services	159,930
Camera maintenance, rental of premises etc.	39,120
Contribution towards the cost of the CCTV Manager	15,870
Total Expenditure	214,920
Minus Income for external cameras we manage	11,200
Total Allocated Budget	203,720

2.2 Police Scotland makes an annual contribution of £150,000 to the Forth Valley CCTV Partnership. This will equate to £50,000 for the Falkirk Council area, assuming an equal split of the current contribution. The Police Scotland contribution is towards the total cost of the Forth Valley CCTV Partnership. The contribution to a Falkirk Council CCTV Service would be made on the same basis, and therefore would be cost neutral.

2.3 The CCTV system also supports the Shop Safe system which provides a live radio link between a number of shops in Falkirk Town centre. Within the Forth Valley CCTV Partnership this system is unique to Falkirk Council. The system allows shops to share information on shoplifting and is particularly valuable if a child becomes lost, since it also allows CCTV operators to focus cameras on a particular area to assist in the search.

2.4 An excerpt of the Forth Valley CCTV annual report for 2013/14, as it pertains to the Falkirk Council area, is attached at appendix 1. This contains an analysis of the number and nature of incidents recorded by CCTV monitoring operators during the year. The following analysis is provided in the appendix:

- Annual incidents by day of the week;
- Annual incidents by type;
- Annual incidents by month;
- A comparison of incidents by day of the week;
- A comparison of incidents by type; and
- A comparison of incidents by month.

2.5 In summary a total of 2448 incidents were recorded during 2013/14 in the Falkirk Council area, with the following breakdown by type of incident:

Incident Type	Number of Incidents	% of Total
Public Disorder	536	22
Theft	316	13
Missing Person	308	12
Suspicious Activity	288	12
Other (alarms, alcohol, drugs, assault, emergency services , road traffic, vandalism , warrants, wanted persons)	1000	41
Total	2448	100

Figures extracted from appendix 1- analysis by incident

2.6 Appendix 2 provides an analysis of the number of incidents recorded by type per month, covering the period April to September 2014. The total number of incidents for each month during the period is as follows:

Month	Total Number of incidents
April	199
May	208
June	188
July	214
August	181
September	199
Total	1189

2.7 Any suspicious incident or potential disorder is referred to the Police and informs their response. Immediately following any incident CCTV operators provide an instant recording of the incident which is fed to the review suite in Falkirk Police Station, which allows evidence to be assessed at an early stage.

3. ESTABLISHING A LOCAL CCTV SERVICE

3.1 At the Executive meeting in September, Members asked for more information on ‘The Managed Service’. The following summarises this option.

3.2 This option envisages relocating the CCTV service, currently hosted in Alloa, to the Falkirk Council area but with monitoring services continuing to be provided on a scaled down model currently offered by Enigma CCTV Ltd. This option assumes we will be able to host the service within either Falkirk or Grangemouth police stations, incurring no property costs as a result. Police Scotland has confirmed that this can be accommodated at Falkirk Police station. This option will however incur one off equipment relocation costs of £50,000. There is currently £50,000 in capital funding available which can be used for this purpose. A locally managed service would:

- Incur one off equipment relocation costs;
- Require us to conduct a procurement exercise, in compliance with European procurement law and the requirements of Best Value;
- Have the potential to avoid some redundancies, with possibly some existing staff able to transfer to the new arrangements under the provisions of TUPE.

3.3 Taking these implications into account the estimated costs of this option for the Council, based on current provision are as follows:

List of Services / Operation Requirements	Projected Cost (£)
The provision of monitoring services, based on the current budget and assuming no increase following a tendering exercise	160,000
Camera maintenance	39,120
Total Estimated Revenue Cost	199,120
One Off Equipment relocation and connection costs (first year only)	50,000

3.4 It should be noted this is the estimated total cost for Falkirk Council. Police Scotland will contribute an additional £50,000 annually to this, on the premise outlined at 2.2. In total the Council element with the police contribution added, represents the total cost of providing CCTV services in the Falkirk Council area, i.e. **£249,120 (estimate)**.

4. CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Members will recall that the last report proposed the following set of principles to guide the development of any new locally based service. The report provides further information to guide such deliberations. The principles are as follows:

- Securing Best Value,
- Minimising risk to the Council and our citizens; and
- Ensuring that we have both a viable and effective CCTV service, which is fit for purpose, post 31 March 2015.

5. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Members:

- 5.1 Note the information provided in section 2 of the report highlighting the number of incidents recorded by CCTV in the Falkirk Council area; and
- 5.2 Consider whether they wish to implement a managed CCTV service in the Falkirk Council area.

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DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES.

Date: 8 October 2014
Ref: MBCBA1014AW – CCTV Update
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LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. None

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers listed above should telephone Falkirk 01324 506046 and ask for Andrew Wilson.