

EX6. CCTV/Digital Alarms Hub – Update

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Housing Services which updated the Executive on progress towards upgrading the public realm CCTV and delivery of an in-house Digital Alarms Hub, and to seek a decision on the way forward.

The Executive was previously advised that the active monitoring of the CCTV was provided by Enigma CCTV with 4 employees delivering 84 hours of active monitoring. The contract with Enigma CCTV had expired and as an interim arrangement the Council and Enigma CCTV were maintaining service delivery on a rolling monthly basis. To enable an integrated Falkirk Council CCTV/Digital Alarms Hub monitored by Falkirk council employees, the contract with Enigma would require to be formally terminated. Discussion would then require to take place with Enigma on whether TUPE applied to those employees currently monitoring Falkirk CCTV services.

Work had been undertaken to identify a suitable location for the ICT datacentre, which was currently located within the Municipal Buildings. Relocation of the datacentre would incur costs associated with new network connections and a 24/7 power supply (generator). The new CCTV/Digital Alarms Hub would also require a datacentre, network connections and 24/7 supply generator. A budget of £250k had been identified for this.

To enable CCTV image transmission to the CCTV/Digital Alarms Hub each camera would require a form of connectivity e.g., fibre cables, wi-fi, 4G. Connectivity was key to this project and would be the single, most expensive element of the project.

To deliver this project there was a requirement to establish a management structure for the new in-house CCTV/Digital Alarms Hub. Having assessed the requirements a permanent CCTV/Digital Alarms Hub Business Lead post was being created to establish and implement the project. This post would subsequently manage and further develop the service to maximise return on investment. The CCTV/ Digital Alarms Hub Business Lead would also be responsible for identifying any further staffing requirements and for bringing forward proposals regarding this. The post was being implemented and funded from within existing resources.

Councillor Bouse moved that the Executive:-

- (1) agrees to formally terminate the contract with Enigma CCTV and work with the company to ensure TUPE is appropriately applied for the Enigma CCTV employees currently providing the 84 hours active monitoring services to Falkirk Council;
- (2) notes that an integrated CCTV/Digital Alarms Hub will be created by co-locating this with the ICT datacentre and other relevant Council and related services;
- (3) agrees that, where appropriate, all Council Service CCTV and alarm monitoring will be integrated with the new CCTV/Digital Alarms Hub;

- (4) notes that, relevant partners will be approached to engage in partnership working with this project to maximise efficiencies and savings and deliver increased resilience and safety for our communities, and
- (5) notes the appointment of a CCTV/Digital Alarms HUB Business Lead.

As an amendment, Councillor Bissett, seconded by Councillor Nimmo, moved the terms of the motion with the addition that the Executive:-

- (1) recognises that there are anti-social behaviour hotspots throughout the district, and that mobile CCTV cameras can be a useful tool in detecting and preventing these behaviours;
- (2) notes their use in the Stirling Council area where 15 are deployed and are considered a valuable asset in reducing anti-social behaviour and the outcome of a recent pilot in Bowhouse Square in in Grangemouth where police and retailers agreed that it had reduced the incidence of anti-social behaviour, and
- (3) agrees to request a further report to the next meeting of the Executive setting out the number of units that would be required in Falkirk, whether and to what extent the funding agreed by Council already will allow for mobile units to be procured and setting out any alternative sources of funding.

Councillor Bouse, as the mover of the motion, with the consent of the Convener, agreed to incorporate the terms of the amendment into the motion. The amendment accordingly fell.

Decision

The Executive:-

- (1) agreed to formally terminate the contract with Enigma CCTV and work with the company to ensure TUPE is appropriately applied for the Enigma CCTV employees currently providing the 84 hours active monitoring services to Falkirk Council;**
- (2) noted that an integrated CCTV/Digital Alarms Hub will be created by co-locating this with the ICT datacentre and other relevant Council and related services;**
- (3) agreed that, where appropriate, all Council Service CCTV and alarm monitoring will be integrated with the new CCTV/Digital Alarms Hub;**
- (4) noted that, relevant partners will be approached to engage in partnership working with this project to maximise efficiencies and savings and deliver increased resilience and safety for our communities;**

- (5) noted the appointment of a CCTV/Digital Alarms HUB Business Lead;**
- (6) recognises that there are anti-social behaviour hotspots throughout the district, and that mobile CCTV cameras can be a useful tool in detecting and preventing these behaviours;**
- (7) notes their use in the Stirling Council area where 15 are deployed and are considered a valuable asset in reducing anti-social behaviour and the outcome of a recent pilot in Bowhouse Square in in Grangemouth where police and retailers agreed that it had reduced the incidence of anti-social behaviour, and**
- (8) agrees to request a further report to the next meeting of the Executive setting out the number of units that would be required in Falkirk, whether and to what extent the funding agreed by Council already will allow for mobile units to be procured and setting out any alternative sources of funding.**