

The background of the slide features a large, light blue watermark of the University of Victoria crest. The crest is a shield divided into four quadrants. The top-left quadrant shows a building with a flag. The top-right quadrant shows a stag's head with antlers. The bottom-left quadrant shows a three-masted sailing ship on the water. The bottom-right quadrant shows an eagle with its wings spread. Above the shield is a crown with four floral motifs. Below the shield is a banner with the motto 'ANE FOR A'.

Agenda Item 7

Council of the Future - CCTV

Falkirk Council

Title: Council of the Future - CCTV
Meeting: Executive
Date: 24 August 2021
Submitted By: Director of Corporate and Housing Services

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update in relation to CCTV as requested at the Executive meeting on 9 March 2021.

2. Recommendations

2.1 It is recommended that the Executive:

- i. Note the content of this report; and**
- ii. Note a further update on CCTV will be provided later in the year.**

3. Background

- 3.1 The Council's digital strategy, Digital Falkirk, was agreed by Members in September 2020. One of our ambitions within this strategy was to implement a digital hub for community alarms, CCTV and expand the co-ordination of these services. As a result, the CCTV project was developed as part of our transformational change programme, supporting delivery of our priority of Innovation.
- 3.2 On 9 March 2021, the Executive considered an updated report on the provision of CCTV services in the Falkirk Council area. In addition to noting the content of the report, the Executive requested that a further report be submitted in August 2021 to provide an update in relation to progress made towards digital CCTV and the implementation of the Digital Alarms Hub.
- 3.3 Since March 2021 the following activities have been completed:
- Installation of the new digital CCTV monitoring platform, temporarily located at Falkirk Police station;
 - Installation of 5 x fixed CCTV cameras – see para 4.2
 - Purchase of 15 x mobile CCTV cameras;
 - Discussions with the Westfield Bridge project team to scope requirements for CCTV provision;
 - The completion of a Data Protection Impact Assessment;
 - Procurement and contract award to upgrade all existing fixed CCTV cameras across the Falkirk Council area;

- Discussions with colleagues in Roads Services for the provision of traffic management to support fixed CCTV installation and;
- Discussions with Police Scotland to enter a formal partnership with the new CCTV/Digital Alarms Hub.
- Delivered CCTV briefing session to Members on 16 August 2021

4. Considerations

4.1 The newly installed CCTV Monitoring Platform has enabled existing service delivery/CCTV monitoring to be maintained whilst allowing the upgrade of existing cameras in a phased manner. This phased approach has allowed the CCTV Operators to become fully familiar with the new system which means that the team will be well prepared for the new technology / functionality when this is switched on. In addition, 5 x fixed digital CCTV cameras have been installed across the Falkirk Council area to replace existing, failing cameras as follows:

- Falkirk / Camelon - Sheriff Court
- Falkirk / Camelon - Beefeater Roundabout
- Falkirk - Asda
- Falkirk - Williamson Street
- Falkirk - High Street (outside M&S)

The locations noted above were agreed in consultation with Police Scotland and were chosen as they are considered to be priority areas for crime and anti-social behaviour prevention/detection. Following installation in May 2021, the high quality images of these high definition cameras have already provided vital evidence to support criminal prosecution that would have previously gone undetected due to the previously poor quality of images.

4.2 The Executive report dated 9 March 2021 indicated that 9 x Mobile CCTV cameras were required - 5 of these would be used to address gaps in the fixed camera provision where it had been agreed that there is a requirement for a camera but, due to connectivity and/or power supply issues and costs, there is no opportunity to install a fixed camera, (separate to the 5 x fixed cameras detailed at para 4.1), and 4 cameras would be used in a mobile way, as directed by the Police and Housing Services to address /support prevailing issues. Since then interest in CCTV provision has increased and to date 15 x mobile CCTV cameras have been purchased to be utilised/installed as follows:

- 5– to be installed in fixed locations as part of the upgrade rollout programme funded by CCTV project. 3 cameras have temporarily been installed in areas where anti-social behaviour has been an issue:
 - Inchyra Park
 - Stenhousemuir Town Centre
 - Stenhousemuir, Kinnaird Village

These temporary arrangements will help Police Scotland to determine the business case for the purchase of mobile cameras to be owned and directed by them.

- 3 – Housing Services, cameras received, funded by Housing Services. 1 x camera currently installed at Sunnyside Street
- 5 – Helix Park – funded by Falkirk Community Trust, (see para 4.4), awaiting delivery
- 2 – Zetland Park, funded by the Zetland Park Project (see para 4.4), cameras received and installed.

These cameras are mobile and can be easily moved to any location where they are required. Each camera has a built in SIM card, similar to those in mobile phones, which provides the internet connection. They do, however, require to be powered and therefore installed in a place where this can be achieved e.g., a lamppost or a building. Working with colleagues in Housing Services, Police Scotland and Streetlighting, the process for installation of cameras has been streamlined to enable fast installation/re-location.

- 4.3 Discussions have also been ongoing with colleagues in the Waste Strategy team who already have 5 x mobile CCTV cameras to support detection of littering and fly tipping. Each of these cameras is expected to reach end of life over a 2-3 year period from 2022 and the team plans to purchase replacement cameras to the same specification as those purchased as part of the CCTV project as these are of greater quality, are more economical and will be able to be fully integrated into, and monitored by, the new monitoring platform.
- 4.4 Following recent antisocial behaviour at Helix Park and Zetland Park reported on social media, the CCTV project team contacted Falkirk Community Trust and the Zetland Park Project Team to provide insight into the CCTV new offering. As a result of this discussion, 5 x mobile CCTV cameras have been ordered for Helix Park with installation expected in early August 2021 and 2 x cameras have already been installed at Helix Park. This not only provides CCTV cover for the park but removes a significant CCTV blind spot in the CCTV coverage of the Falkirk area.
- 4.5 The Project Team have also contacted relevant officers with regards to the proposed Westfield Bridge project to ensure CCTV is considered as part of the plans for this development and this will further improve CCTV coverage in the area. It is anticipated that the requirement for CCTV will be included in the detailed specification by the newly appointed contractor.
- 4.6 A Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) has been completed with particular regard to security and protection of CCTV data. New CCTV signage has been created and the DPIA enables appropriate CCTV governance measures to be in place which not only protect sensitive public data but also allows for CCTV images to be shared appropriately and CCTV cameras to be deployed without delay. Work is now ongoing to create appropriate information sharing agreements and operational procedures, which will further enhance security and ensure that CCTV can function as “business as usual” once this project is completed.

- 4.7 Following a competitive tender exercise, a new contract has been awarded to upgrade the remaining fixed CCTV cameras across all of the Falkirk Council area. At this time the Project team are optimistic that replacement will begin in August 2021 and be completed by Christmas 2021. This will be entirely dependent on external factors which cannot be identified until work commences. Issues that may cause delays include faulty underground cabling, connectivity upgrades and traffic management arrangements.
- 4.8 Members approved capital funding of £980k for this project. Spend to date is £180k which has been for the CCTV Management platform, the 5 replacement fixed cameras already installed as per para 4.2 and 5 of the mobile CCTV cameras to be used in other fixed locations. The remaining budget of £800k will be incurred in the 21/22 financial year and will mainly be on the cost of upgrading/replacing the remaining, fixed cameras and transmission costs. In line with para 4.7, the actual cost of upgrading/replacing the fixed cameras will not be known until the camera replacement activity is underway. When this work is complete it will be clear whether there is any remaining budget available and, if appropriate, this may be used to purchase additional cameras.
- 4.9 For a number of years Police Scotland have worked in partnership with Falkirk Council in relation to CCTV and have contributed £32k per annum towards revenue costs. Whilst developing the new Minute of Agreement detailing the enhanced services which Police Scotland can expect to receive from Falkirk Council / CCTV Digital Alarms Hub as part of the proposed Partnership Working arrangements going forward, a benchmarking exercise was undertaken with other Councils to establish the level of contribution each of them receive from the Police. The table below summarise the limited information received:

Partnership Name	Funding amount	Volume of Cameras	Contribution per camera monitored
Falkirk	£32,000	80	£400.00
Argyle & Bute	£29,500	40	£737.50
Stirling	£51,000	55	£927.27
Renfrewshire	£42,022	58	£724.52

The current Police contribution to Falkirk Council equates to 13% of the £240k per annum revenue cost of delivering the Service and is very low compared to other Council/Police arrangements. The contribution proposed in the new Minute of Agreement is £60k which is 25% of annual cost of delivery. Police Scotland are considering the proposals in the draft Minute of Agreement and we await their response.

- 4.10 When the new digital monitoring system is fully live and operating effectively consideration will be given to approaching other bodies with a view to offering CCTV monitoring services and/or receiving a funding contribution towards the cost of delivery of the service. Initial discussions will take place with Scottish Canals in August 2021

4.11 Discussions have taken place with the Facilities team to ensure that any future premise CCTV, either upgraded or newly purchased, is compatible with the centralised monitoring service / technology to enable integration. Similarly, discussion have taken place with Streetlighting recommending that future lamppost replacement consists of photocell sensors which will enable 24/7 power to any mobile camera installed rather than relying of battery back- up. A further cost / benefit analysis will be required by streetlighting and it is noted that most lamppost lights have already recently been replaced.

4.12 Next Steps:

- Re-locate the CCTV Monitoring Service and co-locate this with existing Out of Hours alarm and telecare monitoring services at The Foundry, Larbert - estimated entry date October 2021
- Begin integration of Council Premise CCTV with centralised CCTV monitoring service
- Subject to an updated Data Protection Impact Assessment and operational procedures, work with Partners to implement Artificial Intelligence (AI) / Analytics and Automatic Number Plate Recognition technology (ANPR).
- Scope requirements to create a commercial offering to 3rd parties for CCTV and alarm monitoring services located in the Falkirk Council area
- Further explore future emerging technologies to reduce littering in the Falkirk Council area such as "Litter Cam"

5. Consultations

5.1 Consultation has taken place with Roads, Streetlighting, Facilities, Waste Strategy, Housing Services, Police Scotland and Falkirk Community Trust.

6. Implications

Financial

6.1 If Police Scotland do not agree to the proposed funding arrangements the £54k revenue savings identified in the original report cannot be achieved.

Resources

6.2 There are no resource implications as a direct result of this report.

Legal

6.3 A full Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) has been completed.

Risk

6.4 There are no risks identified as a direct result of this report.

Equalities

- 6.5 An initial draft Equalities & Poverty Impact Assessment (EPIA) has been carried out and no issues have been raised to date. This will be reviewed as the project progresses.

Sustainability/Environmental Impact

- 6.6 There is no requirement to undertake a sustainability/environmental impact assessment as a result of this report.

7. Conclusions

- 7.1 Thanks to the CoTF change programme the CCTV/Digital Hub project is progressing well and the installation of new digital cameras is already proving to be a success. Contacts at Falkirk Police are keen to work in partnership and are seeking the requested funding contribution.

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List of Background Papers:

The following papers were relied on in the preparation of this report in terms of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973:

- **CCTV - Mobile Cameras, Executive Report, 17 November 2020**
- **CCTV – Mobile Cameras, Executive Report, 9 March 2021**