

Arun District Council

REPORT TO:	Housing and Wellbeing Committee – 12 September 2023
SUBJECT:	Public Facing CCTV Upgrade
LEAD OFFICER:	Carrie Reynolds – Communities and Wellbeing Manager
LEAD MEMBER:	Councillor Carol Birch, Chair of Housing and Wellbeing Committee
WARDS:	All
CORPORATE PRIORITY / POLICY CONTEXT / CORPORATE VISION:	
IMPROVING THE WELLBEING OF ARUN: Promote and support a multi-agency response to tackle the causes of health inequalities in Arun To plan and implement services and resources to help our community to thrive. Provide infrastructure that supports wellbeing.	
FULFILLING ARUN'S ECONOMIC POTENTIAL: Work closely with our towns and other organisations on strategies which support vibrant and attractive town centres	
DIRECTORATE POLICY CONTEXT:	
Section 17 of the Crime & Disorder Act 1998 makes it clear that the responsibility for reducing crime is not the sole responsibility of the Police. A partnership approach should be taken to local crime reduction. Therefore, it is a statutory requirement that local authorities ensure that crime and disorder reduction is given the same consideration as all other statutory obligations within their decision making processes. The provision and monitoring of CCTV is a tool that both Arun District Council and Sussex Police use to monitor, reduce and prevent crime.	
FINANCIAL SUMMARY:	
An upgrade cost of £30,000 to the CCTV across Arun to ensure the continuation of maintenance and transmission of the service	

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To outline the urgent requirement to undertake technological upgrade work on the public facing CCTV across Arun to ensure continuity of service and reduce ongoing maintenance and transmission costs.
- 1.2 To inform Members of the intended change to give the Local Authority the Data Controller responsibility for CCTV (currently with Sussex Police) from 1 April 2025.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Housing and Wellbeing Committee:

- 2.1 Approve the upgrade work totalling £30,000, allocated from existing budgets, to ensure that CCTV remains in operation across Arun and is compatible with ongoing monitoring and surveillance via Sussex Police. Resulting in reduced annual costs to maintain current CCTV system.
- 2.2 Note that external funding is being explored via the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, which could cover 50% of the costs and the Safer Streets funding via the Sussex Police Crime Commission. Arun District Council will seek to apply, accept, and draw down appropriate funds to cover the cost of the upgrade.

3. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 3.1 Arun District Council is currently in a partnership with Sussex Police for the provision and operation of public facing CCTV. This partnership agreement means that Sussex Police are responsible for all aspects of CCTV handling, including data control and arranging the maintenance of hardware. The annual costs of maintenance and transmissions are then forwarded on to local authorities. It should be noted that all of the public facing CCTV units within Arun are owned by the Council.

The transmission of CCTV images occurs via BT operated infrastructure. However, BT are retiring all of its current digital and analogue circuits that resource CCTV. An alternative option put forward by BT will result in a major rise in costs to the local authority to in excess of £100,000 per annum for transmission alone.

The current combined cost of transmission and maintenance for CCTV across Arun is £20,000 per annum. Sussex Police have sourced a provider, Chroma Vision to provide a wireless solution at a reduced cost. Following on from the upgrade, Sussex Police will be handing back Governance and Data Control to the Local Authority.

3.2 Indicative Costs

Current Arrangement:

2023/2024: £20,000* transmission / maintenance

New Costs:

2023/2024: £30,000 upgrade & £20,000* transmission/ maintenance

2024/2025: £9,000 transmission/ maintenance

2025/2026: £9,000 transmission/ maintenance

Costs if remain with BT system:

2023/2024: £20,000* transmission/ maintenance

2024/2025: £100,000 transmission/ maintenance

2025/2026: £100,000 transmission/ maintenance

* NB: £20,000 costs for transmission and maintenance during 2023/2024 have already been allocated within the relevant budget, it does not need to be found in addition to the upgrade expenditure.

Effectively this is an invest to save scheme, initial investment being paid back via ongoing reduced transmission and maintenance costs over 3 years.

4. DETAIL

4.1 Upgrade

The current CCTV network is provided by BT. BT will not be supporting any CCTV system operated via digital or analogue circuits from 1 April 2024. BT are willing to provide an alternative solution from 1 April 2024 at a significant increase in cost to the Local Authority. Our annual cost is currently £20,000 and this is estimated to rise to more than £100,000 if BT remain the provider.

Chroma Vision are the current Technology Solution experts, working with Sussex Police and they have identified an opportunity to change the hardwired system to a wireless, cloud-based system. Chroma Vision have provided an estimated cost to this upgrade of £30,000 and both they and Sussex Police have confirmed that this upgrade can be completed by 31 March 2024.

The costs associated in upgrading the CCTV technology amounts to capital expenditure. Whilst this is necessary if the Council wishes to continue utilising our public facing CCTV systems, officers will continue to explore additional funding opportunities. The current costs provided for upgrade are an estimate, more detailed costs will follow on from a survey carried out on the current network configuration.

4.2 Transmission and Maintenance

The upgrade to the current hard-wired system will allow for cheaper ongoing annual maintenance and transmission costs. These have been estimated at £9,000 per annum, compared to £20,000 previously, provided by Chroma Vision. There is ongoing contact with Arun's IT team who are assessing areas where additional cost saving may be achieved.

4.3 Data Governance

With all aforementioned changes, Sussex Police are also looking at their own cost saving measures. One of these will be to transfer the data control responsibility back to local authorities. The initial proposal had been made that this would take effect from 1 April 2024. Following extensive discussions between partners, became clear that the majority of Council's would be unable to fulfil this requirement at such short notice.

Therefore, Sussex Police have agreed to retain the governance responsibility for public facing CCTV, where required, until 1 April 2025. After this date, the suggestion is that governance management is become Arun District Council's responsibility with a need to implement our own Public Facing CCTV Data Governance and Policy and Data Sharing Agreement with Sussex Police. Arun District Council have raised concerns over the request to give the Local Authority data control and is seeking clarification and resolution.

Sussex Police are prepared to create a policy and data sharing agreement for Arun District Council over 2024-2025 ready to adopt from 1 April 2025. Arun District Council will be required to have a named Data Controller and 1-2 Admin Holders if Control moves to Arun DC from 1st April 2025, should governance be handed back to the local authority.

The responsibility for Data Governance and Control has not yet been resolved and there are ongoing discussions with Sussex Police.

5. CONSULTATION

- 5.1 Consultation has taken place between Sussex Police, Chroma Vision, District and Borough Council's across Sussex and all relevant departments within the Local Authority.

6. OPTIONS / ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

- 6.1 The Community Safety Team have assessed each of the cameras across the District and considered whether all remain necessary. Sussex Police data regarding the usage of each camera unit indicates that all are in regular use. Therefore, is it recommended that all 19 cameras are upgraded and maintained.
- 6.2 Arun District Council could seek its own solution to the provision of CCTV, by procuring its own equipment supplier and maintenance contractor. However, given the short timeframe and using the premise of scale of economy, it is recommended to work with Sussex Police and Chroma Vision to adopt the proposed solution, working with our IT team to ensure all technology upgrades comply with our own systems.

7. COMMENTS BY THE GROUP HEAD OF FINANCE/SECTION 151 OFFICER

- 7.1 Consulted with Service Accountant: confirmation that funding is expected to be identified from existing budgets, not yet identified.

8. RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1 N/A

9. COMMENTS OF THE GROUP HEAD OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE & MONITORING OFFICER

9.1 Consulted with Information Governance Manager and Interim Legal Services Manager. Queries and concerns raised over Data Ownership and Control and clarification being sought with Sussex Police.

10. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPACT

10.1 From 1 April 2025 a named Data Controller and Admin Holders will be duly identified with adequate training provided.

11. HEALTH & SAFETY IMPACT

11.1 N/A

12. PROPERTY & ESTATES IMPACT

12.1 Upgrades to physical CCTV equipment and software required.

12.2 It is noted that the Council adopted a new CCTV Policy on 10 November 2022. However, this particular policy was related to systems that fall into two principal categories. Firstly, those installed across the Council's estate. Secondly, the CCTV surveillance cameras it may require as regulator be installed in privately owned places such as taxis.

13. EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) / SOCIAL VALUE

13.1 N/A

14. CLIMATE CHANGE & ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT/SOCIAL VALUE

14.1 N/A

15. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPACT

15.1 CCTV is an integral part of the reduction, monitoring and enforcement of crime and policing across the District and we have a duty under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to act as a key partner in local crime reduction.

16. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACT

16.1 All CCTV operation is managed within clear policies with all human rights considered.

17. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION / DATA PROTECTION CONSIDERATIONS

- 17.1 Governance and surveillance for CCTV will be covered within the CCTV policy and this policy will cover Subject Access Requests and Freedom of Information Requests.
- 17.2 Clarity will need to be sought on data governance and data control across 24/25 prior to agreement from Arun District Council to take on management and data control of public facing CCTV.

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BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

None