

REGENERATION, CULTURE, AND ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

13 JUNE 2019

UPDATE ON CCTV AUDIT

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Summary

This report provides information on the progress of the CCTV improvement programme being carried out by Medway Council.

1. Budget and Policy Framework

- 1.1 In November 2015, Cabinet agreed to commence and establish the Alternative Delivery Model for the Medway Council Control Centre (MCCC), being a Local Authority Trading Company (LATCo), with Medway Council being the Majority Shareholder; MCG commenced trading from 1 April 2016.
- 1.2 Medway Commercial Group Ltd (MCG) is now responsible for delivering CCTV.
- 1.3 Whilst the CCTV hardware remains in the ownership of Medway Council, the repair and maintenance responsibility rests with MCG.
- 1.4 If hardware is considered beyond economical repair it is the responsibility of Medway Council to take appropriate action.

2. Background

- 2.1 Following the meeting of Regeneration, Culture, and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee on Thursday, 6 December 2018 on the results of the CCTV audit, work commenced on the CCTV improvement programme.
- 2.2 The CCTV improvement programme is focusing on cameras in public spaces, specifically retail environments, transport hubs and areas of the night time economy. This totals 175 cameras that were reviewed. Not included in the programme are cameras specific to areas such as waste recycling sites, multi-storey car parks, individual buildings and Medway Tunnel.

2.3 The improvement plan is intended not only to repair or replace faulty hardware, but also to rationalise the placement of cameras in order to comply with the Information Commissioner's Office code of practice, whilst offering the best value for money.

2.4 The update on the progress of the programme is attached as Appendix 1.

3. Advice and analysis

3.1 The Regeneration, Culture, and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee requested that a full report be provided on work stream 1, 2 and 3 of the CCTV improvement programme. It should be noted that the review is ongoing.

4. Risk management

4.1 There are reputational risks to the Council for not pro-actively ensuring an appropriately functioning CCTV estate. This report reflects the importance of constructive dialogue with MCG and also the importance of a coordinated and collaborative approach.

Risk	Description	Action to avoid or mitigate risk	Risk rating
Legislation	Ensure that the CCTV Code of Practice is followed	Ensure that CCTV cameras are annually reviewed as to their effectiveness	High
Community Safety	Reduction in cameras could increase fear of crime and lessen chances of identifying offenders	Thorough annual reviews to ensure that CCTV is located in the most high risk areas	Medium

5. Consultation

5.1 CCTV is discussed at quarterly meetings of the Community Safety Partnership.

5.2 Kent Police have been consulted on the list of cameras to be reviewed and the sites for rationalisation.

6. Financial implications

6.1 A capital allocation of £80,000 has been assigned, along with £25,000 from the Section 106 fund for Chatham town centre improvements. This totals £105,000 available budget for the project.

7. Legal implications

7.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

7.2 The Council has no statutory duty to provide CCTV.

8. Recommendations

8.1 The Committee is requested to note the positive progress that has been made on the CCTV improvement programme as it draws to a close.

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Appendices

Appendix 1 – CCTV Improvement Programme Update May 19

Background papers

Surveillance Camera Code of Practice (Home Office)