

REGENERATION, CULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

17 OCTOBER 2019

MEDWAY COMMERCIAL GROUP LTD FURTHER SCRUTINY

Report from: Richard Hicks, Director Regeneration, Culture,
Environment and Transformation & Deputy Chief
Executive

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Summary

This report outlines plans for further scrutiny of Medway Commercial Group Ltd.

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 Ltd 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 At the Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 6 December 2018 when considering a report on CCTV provision, the Committee requested that MCG be invited to a future meeting of the Committee for further scrutiny.
- 2.2 Since the meeting in December 2018, the Committee have received update reports on CCTV provision on the following dates:

28 March 2019 – Update on CCTV review

13 June 2019 – Update on CCTV Audit

2.3 In addition, Committee Members received a confidential briefing note on CCTV camera locations on 2 August 2019.

3. Latest position

3.1 The Acting Chief Executive of MCG will be in attendance at the meeting on 17 October 2019 to answer any specific questions the Committee may have on CCTV issues. Members are also advised that, at the request of the Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee, a Member development session has been scheduled for 30 October 2019 to provide a briefing on the three commercial bodies established by the Council (Medway Commercial Group, Medway Norse and Medway Development Company) and an opportunity to discuss and develop the framework for scrutiny of risk and commercialisation with reference to guidance on this produced by the Centre for Public Scrutiny.

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. Financial implications

5.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

6. Legal implications

6.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

6.2 The Council has no statutory duty to provide CCTV.

7. Recommendations

- 7.1 To take the opportunity to raise any outstanding questions relating to CCTV with the Director and MCG.

Lead officer contact

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Appendices

None

Background papers

None