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**REPORT TO: ECONOMIC GROWTH, HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE ON 6 OCTOBER 2020**

**SUBJECT: PUBLIC CCTV**

**BY: DEPUTE CHIEF EXECUTIVE (ECONOMY, ENVIRONMENT AND FINANCE)**

**1. REASON FOR REPORT**

- 1.1 To inform the Committee of the current state of repair of the public space CCTV system and the potential extra expenditure required to repair the current faults.
- 1.2 To inform Committee of the potential ongoing maintenance costs.
- 1.3 This report is submitted to the Economic Growth, Housing and Environmental Sustainability Committee following a decision of Moray Council on 17 June 2020 to agree a simplified committee structure as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. In the case of this Committee, the combining of the delegated responsibilities of Economic Development and Infrastructure, Community Services (Housing and Property) and Finance (budget, capital and revenue monitoring) (paragraph 9 of the Minute refers).

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 **It is recommended that the Committee agree to undertake a trial of necessary works to reinstate live feeds, from outlying populations which will remove the need for the matrices.**

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The public space CCTV system, although operated by the police is owned and financed by the Council. There is an annual budget of £17000 for maintenance and £5500 for hardware repairs.
- 3.2 There are two major issues with the current system - live feed of pictures and age and repair of the system.

- 3.3 The systems live feed currently relies on two matrices delivering the public space CCTV pictures. These matrices are old and are working at or just above their maximum capacity and have been estimated at £30,000 to replace. One of these matrices has failed and a temporary repair made earlier this year has also failed. This has resulted in reduced capacity of public space CCTV. There are also other faults developing due to the age of the equipment and the lack of appropriate spare parts. The current budget is insufficient to deal with a significantly aging system where the cameras are so old they cannot be repaired but have to be replaced.
- 3.4 The system is no longer providing live feeds other than from Elgin cameras but is still recording the images which can be assessed later if necessary. This means the direction of where the camera is facing cannot be identified and any issues with the image e.g. lens' misted with condensation cannot be addressed at the time.
- 3.5 An alternative live feed delivery system has been investigated which will remove the need for the matrices thus reducing the potential ongoing data and repair maintenance costs. A potential system has been identified but it is not guaranteed to work and there is an offer of a trial which if it fails will not incur any costs to the council. An indicative cost for the trial works if successful at one population centre is £1400. This is dependent on being able to connect into a Moray Council broadband connection. If this broadband connection is not available then a secure digital radio link would be required and would incur extra cost. If the trial is successful this system could be rolled out to the other 3 population centres (Forres, Lossiemouth and Keith) at a similar cost for each. This could be met within the current whole budget for CCTV as detailed above. Limited repairs could also be accommodated within current budget. The public space CCTV provision will be included in the ongoing strategic community safety review as per 3.7 below.
- 3.6 The figures are all based on being able to access Moray Council's internet connections with an upload speed of at least 10mbps.
- 3.7 As part of the strategic review of community safety it will be necessary to review CCTV provision, operation and maintenance and although the system is utilised and operated by Police Scotland and it provides an effective deterrent and source of evidence the review will need to determine the ongoing requirements for the system.

#### **4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

##### **(a) Corporate Plan and 10 Year Plan (Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP))**

Provision of CCTV assist with meeting the priorities of building a better future for the children and young people of Moray and improving wellbeing.

**(b) Policy and Legal**

The National Strategy for CCTV in Scotland 2011 recognises that local partners are best placed to decide the level of investment in CCTV systems. It is simply one of a number of tools available to local partners to help them to address local community safety issues and it is local partners that must decide whether or not CCTV would be the most effective of those tools in any given situation. Any changes to the current system would require a review.

**(c) Financial implications**

The quote for the trial is £1400 for one population centre. To fully reinstate live pictures from all 4 population centres that have public CCTV would have an indicative cost of £5600. The trial would be at no cost to the Council if it fails.

**(d) Risk Implications**

Complete failure of Public Space CCTV.

**(e) Staffing Implications**

Time from Environmental Health and Trading Standards Manager/ Environmental Health Technical Officer to monitor contract and assess success of trial.

**(f) Property**

N/A

**(g) Equalities/Socio Economic Impact**

The use of CCTV footage has the potential of interfering with an individual's rights under the Human Rights Act 1998. The extent to which this is done lawfully will need to be decided on a case by case basis.

**(h) Consultations**

Depute Chief Executive (Economy, Environmental and Finance), the Head of Economic Growth and Development, the Legal Services Manager, the Equal Opportunities Officer, Lissa Rowan (Committee Services Officer) and the Chief Financial Officer have been consulted and comments received have been incorporated into the report.

**5. CONCLUSION**

**5.1 The public space CCTV is old and has reduced functionality due to the amount and costs of recently developed faults.**

**5.2 An alternative delivery option which may reduce current and further repair costs is being explored**

**5.3 The current budget meets the anticipated spend if the trial is successful.**

Author of Report: Karen Sievwright (Environmental Health and Trading Standards Manager)

Background Papers:

Ref: