

Subject:	Upgrading CCTV across Rossendale	Status:	For Publication
Report to:	Cabinet	Date:	14 th March 2018
Report of:	Director of Communities	Portfolio Holder:	Barbara Ashworth
Key Decision:	X Forward Plan	General Exception	X Special Urgency <input type="checkbox"/>
Equality Impact Assessment:	Required:	Yes	Attached: Yes
Biodiversity Impact Assessment	Required:	No	Attached: No
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1.	RECOMMENDATION(S)
1.1	That Cabinet approves the receipt of the grant of £52,000 from the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for upgrading CCTV in Rossendale
1.2	That Cabinet approves the provision of match funding of £52,000 from Rossendale Borough Council's employment and transport reserves for upgrading CCTV in Rossendale
1.3	Approval to go out to tender for the contract to upgrade CCTV across Rossendale

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 To seek approval for the upgrade of CCTV across Rossendale, including receiving grant funding from the PCC and the provision of match funding from RBC reserves.

3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

3.1 The matters discussed in this report impact directly on the following corporate priorities:

- **A clean and green Rossendale:** our priority is to keep Rossendale clean and green for all of Rossendale's residents and visitors, and to take available opportunities to recycle and use energy from renewable sources more efficiently.
- **A connected and successful Rossendale that welcomes sustainable growth:** our priority is to ensure that we are well connected to our residents, key partners and stakeholders. We want to make the most of every pound we spend and we are always looking for new and innovative ways to make the resources we do have, work harder for us.
- **A proud, healthy and vibrant Rossendale:** our priority is to ensure that we are creating and maintaining a healthy and vibrant place for people to live and visit.

4. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

4.1 All the issues raised and the recommendation(s) in this report involve risk considerations as set out below:

- Not upgrading CCTV across Rossendale will limit the ability of the police to gather evidence of crime and anti-social behaviour and to reassure residents.
- Failure to accept the funding from the PCC will affect the Council's credibility and

reputation and reduce the likelihood of any further funding being made available.

5. BACKGROUND AND OPTIONS

- 5.1 The CCTV in Rossendale is of poor quality and difficult for the police to access as it records via an external removable hard drive that has to be retrieved by an employee from Rossendale Borough Council. As the CCTV cameras are not networked, it is not possible currently to join the recently launched East Lancashire CCTV Hub at Blackburn. CCTV is useful in reassuring the public and invaluable to the police enabling them to gather evidence, and where real time monitoring is available to track vehicles and pedestrians associated with crime.
- 5.2 In January 2017 the 101 Service Task and Finish Group of Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed the following recommendation be made:
- 5.3 *That Cabinet/Council support the need for an appropriate investment to upgrade to a more modern system which links into mobile technology. Joint funding should be explored in conjunction with the Police and Crime Commissioner and Lancashire Safety Partnership to provide safer CCTV infrastructure for the Borough.*
- 5.4 Following concerns from local residents about crime in Rossendale, particularly burglary in the town centre, the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) was invited to attend a public meeting in Bacup in February 2017 at which the poor quality of the CCTV in the town was raised as a major concern. The PCC invited the Council to submit an application for grant funding towards the cost of upgrading CCTV in Rossendale.
- 5.5 In conjunction with the CCTV Manager at Blackburn Council an outline specification and estimated costs were developed to upgrade the CCTV cameras across the borough. A total cost of approximately £104,000 was identified to upgrade the CCTV cameras and associated infrastructure across the borough and to link them to the CCTV hub at Blackburn. A funding bid was submitted to the PCC for £52,000 in May 2017 with the requirement that Rossendale Council provide match funding of £52,000. The application was subsequently approved by the PCC and funding of £52,000 provided for the CCTV upgrade.
- 5.6 A project group was set up which has been working with the Police, the CCTV Manager at Blackburn Council and a contractor to develop a detailed specification for the CCTV upgrade. The upgraded CCTV will be linked to the new hub at Blackburn which enables 24 hour monitoring of some or all cameras, plus maintenance. The project is monitored through the Council's Programme Board.
- 5.7 Once the specification is completed the next step will be to tender for the contract to upgrade the CCTV, as per Rossendale Borough Council's constitution, to ensure that best value is obtained and the maximum number of CCTV locations can be upgraded. The project group will ensure compliance with appropriate legislation including data protection and RIPA (Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act).

COMMENTS FROM STATUTORY OFFICERS:

6. SECTION 151 OFFICER

6.1 Financial matters are noted within the report. Expenditure is a capital cost for which Members have two financing options:

- Borrowing (via internal resources) requiring an annual budget charge based on the anticipated life of the asset thought to be 10 years (ie £5.2k per annum)
- Use of reserves namely the Transport and Employment Reserve.

Given the Council's financial challenges it is recommended that the latter option of the Transport and Employment Reserve is used to finance the project.

7. MONITORING OFFICER

7.1 All legal implications are covered in the body of the report. Robust governance arrangements around grant conditions will be in place to ensure full compliance with the terms of the funding agreement.

8. POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

8.1 Concerns about the poor quality of the current CCTV have been expressed for several years by the police and the public, particularly through the neighbourhood forums and the public meeting held with the PCC in February 2017. The sub-group of Overview and Scrutiny Committee which looked into community safety recommended investment to upgrade the CCTV equipment.

8.2 An Initial Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken and is attached at Appendix 1. This has identified that there are no negative equality impacts on any protected equality groups as a result of the proposed CCTV upgrade.

9. CONCLUSION

9.1 The CCTV across Rossendale is of poor quality which hinders the police and fails to provide reassurance to residents. The funding from the PCC with match from Rossendale Council will enable the CCTV across the borough to be upgraded to modern, networked equipment which links to the CCTV hub at Blackburn through which the cameras can be monitored live and high quality footage made readily available to the police. Tendering for the contract to upgrade the CCTV in line with the Council's constitution will ensure value for money. Upgraded CCTV will reassure residents and businesses and will help the police to gather evidence and address and reduce crime and anti-social behaviour.

Background Papers	
Document	Place of Inspection
Appendix 1 - Equality Impact Assessment	Attached