

Cabinet Meeting		Agenda Item: 8
Meeting Date	Wednesday 15 th March 2017	
Report Title	CCTV Partnership Agreement Extension	
Cabinet Member	Cllr Alan Horton, Cabinet Member for Safer Families and Communities	
SMT Lead	Emma Wiggins	
Head of Service	Charlotte Hudson	
Lead Officer	Stephanie Curtis	
Recommendations	1. That Cabinet approves the extension to the existing Memorandum of Agreement for the CCTV Partnership by 1 year to the 31 March 2018, with the option to extend by a further 1 year.	

1 Purpose of Report and Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report discusses the findings of the CCTV Services Review that was completed in October 2016 and the proposal to extend the existing CCTV Partnership Agreement to the 31 March 2018.

2 Background

- 2.1 Swale's Public Space CCTV Service is currently delivered through a Memorandum of Agreement for the CCTV Partnership with Medway Council, along with Maidstone Borough Council and Gravesham Borough Council, with the service delivered by Medway Commercial Group (MCG). The term of this Agreement was from 12 November 2012 to 31 March 2017.
- 2.2 A review of the current Public Space CCTV service was undertaken during 2016 to determine options for service delivery following the end of the current Agreement term in March 2017. This review looked at legislative requirements, equipment overview, benchmarking against other authorities and a market analysis. It also reviewed performance of the current Partnership agreement, including feedback from stakeholders. This also included detailed discussions with the other Councils within the Partnership regarding their intentions and requirements for their CCTV services.
- 2.3 Options for service delivery from April 2017 were also considered as part of this review. It also highlighted a need for further work to better understand any impact of possible future service changes (such as reduction in monitoring hours); benefits that could be brought from upgrading equipment; or working with the other Authorities within the existing Partnership for procurement of joint costs such as fibre lines; or developing our own monitoring centre.

- 2.4 The review also assessed the current level of service provided, which is felt to be good and meeting the service specification. The monitoring of the CCTV Partnership Contract was audited in August 2016 and a 'Sound' level of assurance was given.

3 Proposal

- 3.1 That Cabinet approves the extension to the existing Memorandum of Agreement for the CCTV Partnership by 1 year to the 31 March 2018, with the option to extend by a further 1 year.

- 3.1 Further review work will be undertaken within the next six months to understand the impact of any changes to the public space CCTV service. This will in turn allow for the determination of service requirements and delivery options beyond this proposed extension period. This would include options for wider collaboration with the authorities within the existing partnership, along with possible 'in-house' delivery. The wider review work will also include collation of further performance information to be able to assess wider impact of the service.

4 Alternative Options

- 4.1 To cease operating a public space CCTV service. This option is not recommended. Stakeholders and the public value the role of CCTV, although further work does need to be undertaken to fully demonstrate its outcomes. This can be undertaken in conjunction with the other authorities within the current Partnership.
- 4.2 Undertake a procurement exercise for the service. This option is also not recommended at this time. Although alternative providers exist, research has shown that these are not felt to be mature enough to compete with the existing provider at this current time or necessarily provide better value for money.
- 4.3 To bring the service back 'in house' with own monitoring centre. This option is not recommended currently, but could be explored further. It could increase control over the service and provide income to the Council, but would require a capital investment to establish. Further work is needed to explore this option for the future.
- 4.4 Create a Joint Venture Local Authority Trading Company (Teckal) Company for delivery of Partnership CCTV services. This option is also not currently recommended. The formation of a Teckal company was put forward in February 2016 by Medway Council as part of the formation of MCG. However through conversations with Legal Services and the other Councils within the Partnership, concerns exist regarding this proposal and a better understanding of its Business Plan.

5 Consultation Undertaken

- 5.1 Both Gravesham Council and Maidstone Council have also advised of their intention to extend the existing Partnership by one year whilst they undertake their own internal reviews of CCTV requirements, due to financial pressures. Both are also

keen to work in collaboration to achieve wider costs savings and improvements to service.

6 Implications

Issue	Implications
Corporate Plan	The proposals in this report delivers against the Corporate Priority ‘A Community to be proud of’
Financial, Resource and Property	<p>The recommended proposal would see a continuation of the existing annual CCTV Partnership Service costs of £221,967.</p> <p>The budgeted cost of the CCTV Partnership Service for 2016/17 was £221,967 and will remain at this for 2017/18.</p> <p>However, there is the opportunity to work more closely with Medway Council, Gravesham Borough Council and Maidstone Borough Council to identify collaborative opportunities such as reduced fibre line costs.</p> <p>Additionally, ongoing work to assess options for delivery for April 2018 will assess opportunities for cost saving and income generation.</p>
Legal and Statutory	Clause 3.18.2 within the current Partnership Agreement provides provision for its extension, subject to agreement by all parties.
Crime and Disorder	The main objective of the CCTV service is to prevent and detect crime and Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB).
Sustainability	<p>There is a Repair and Renewals fund within the existing CCTV Partnership Agreement budget that allows for upgrades of field equipment on a priority basis. This would continue during this extension period. The recording system for the service is also imminently due to be upgraded.</p> <p>The review has also considered the age of all equipment, with approx. a third of field cameras nearing the end of their life. Due to this and the increasing capabilities of newer equipment, the benefits of a wider upgrade process will also be considered as part of ongoing CCTV review work during 2017/18.</p>
Health and Wellbeing	No health and wellbeing implications have been identified at this stage.
Risk Management and Health and Safety	The existing Partnership Agreement has been in place for over 4 years. It is well established and meets the service specification. There is also a strategic risk assessment in place that is regularly reviewed. Therefore there would be limited risk to CCTV service provision in continuing this arrangement.
Equality and Diversity	No equality and diversity implications have been identified at this stage.

7 Appendices

7.1 None

8 Background Papers

8.1 None