

Report to the Cabinet

Report reference: C-046-2012/13
Date of meeting: 3 December 2012



**Epping Forest
District Council**

Portfolio: Safer, Greener & Highways
Subject: Loughton CCTV
Responsible Officer: John Gilbert (01992 564062)
Democratic Services Officer: Gary Woodhall (01992 564470)

Recommendations/Decisions Required:

- (1) To reallocate £25,000 per annum of the existing CCTV revenue budget to the capital programme;**
- (2) To renew and restructure the current network of CCTV cameras that cover High Road, Loughton and to extend the system northwards to cover the shopping parades both sides of the High road between Brooklyn Avenue and Traps Hill;**
- (3) In order to finance recommendation (2) above, to approve a capital budget of £45,000 in 2012/13 as follows:**
 - (a) the virement of £15,000 from the remaining Loughton Broadway CCTV capital budget;**
 - (b) the of £14,000 of Loughton related section 106 monies already received**
 - (c) £6,000 from the reallocated capital budget identified in (1) above; and**
 - (d) an additional £10,000 in the capital programme;**
- (4) To approve a further £15,000 per annum capital provision from 2013/14 onwards to provide a total capital provision of £40,000 per annum.**

Executive Summary:

The CCTV systems in Loughton are nearing the end of their useful life and do not provide an effective coverage of the entire High Road. This report sets out proposals to renew and extend the existing CCTV coverage to provide an updated system and to extend its coverage northwards as far as the junction of the High Road with Traps Hill. The costs of this proposal will be primarily from underspends/savings on the Broadway CCTV update and Town Centre Enhancement Schemes along with section 106 moneys already received relating to planning applications in the Loughton high Road area.

The report also seeks to regularise the split between revenue and capital expenditure during this and future years, and seeks additional capital expenditure from 2013/14 onwards to enable a continued expansion and update of CCTV systems across the District.

Reasons for Proposed Decision:

To enable the update and extension of CCTV systems in Loughton High Road to enable the Council to provide high quality CCTV evidential support to Essex Police and also provide reassurance to residents and users of Loughton High Road.

Other Options for Action:

To take no action and leave the CCTV systems as they currently are. This is not recommended since the systems are becoming increasingly unreliable and do not provide full coverage of the High Road.

Report:

1. The current budget for CCTV is just over £45,000 per annum. It is clear that £25,000 of this should be re-designated as capital expenditure, leaving £20,000 as revenue (CSB) being required to meet maintenance, licensing and telephony etc costs (**Recommendation (1)**).

2. The Loughton High Road CCTV system was completed in 2006 as part of the Town Centre Enhancement Scheme. The system currently comprises six cameras fitted to six dedicated columns stretching from Old Station Road to the junction with Brooklyn Avenue. This also includes an Automatic Number Plate Reader (ANPR) system part funded by Essex Police. Part of this joint funding agreement with the Police included the positioning of the digital recording system within the Police station in Loughton where the system still remains today.

3. The original six cameras are now approaching the end of their life span and are repeatedly being repaired. Currently five cameras are operational and two re-deployable cameras loaned from Essex police have been installed in the High Road to cover the area usually monitored by the sixth failed camera.

4. In the past, Essex Police provided a broadband telephone connection which allowed remote access to the CCTV system from the civic offices. However, this has since been withdrawn which has resulted in increased officer time attending Loughton Police Station to maintain the system and carry out downloads. In view of the successful upgrade of CCTV at Loughton Broadway, the aim is to now link both systems wirelessly to allow officers to also control and maintain the Loughton system from the Civic Offices.

5. Loughton High Road is the second busiest CCTV system in the District in relation to requests for downloads. In 2011 Safer Communities were asked to carry out 30 download requests on behalf of Essex Police and in the period January to October 2012 we have already provided 20 downloads. There is a vibrant night time economy in the High Road and there is an identified need for improved cameras which have a stronger day and night time capability to enhance image quality.

6. It had originally been intended to extend the High Road CCTV System within the third phase of enhancement scheme. However, this was not undertaken and there are therefore no cameras northwards from Brooklyn Avenue to the York Hill Junction. Safer Communities has been approached to investigate the possibility of extending the existing system in the High Road as we carry out the required refurbishment.

7. The refurbishment and extension of the High Road Scheme would include an increase in cameras from the current six to twenty three, including a mixture of static, moving

and mega-pixel cameras.. The installation would also include four new CCTV columns, subject to planning permission, extending the system to cover the shopping parades on both sides of the High Road between Brooklyn Avenue and Traps Hill. The repositioning of existing and new cameras would be based upon Crime Pattern Analysis (CPA) and other intelligence sources collated over the last two years, and all work would be carried out utilising existing infrastructure where possible **(Recommendation (2))**.

8. Attached at Appendix 1 is the current CCTV five year action plan which outlines the proposed maintenance and replacement regimes for the period ending march 2013. There are a total of 347 cameras in 36 locations, 17 of which can be accessed remotely. A capital budget of £40,000 per annum is required to deliver the current CCTV plan and its extension into future years.

Resource Implications:

The estimated cost of upgrading and extending the CCTV systems for Loughton High Road is £45,000. This capital expenditure can be met by:

- (1) a virement of £15,000 from the remaining Loughton Broadway CCTV capital budget;
- (2) the use of the £10,000 capital saving reported in the Capital Review on the 22 October 2012 in respect of the Loughton Broadway Town Centre Enhancement Scheme;
- (3) the use of £14,000 of Loughton related section 106 monies already received; and
- (4) re-designating £6,000 of the existing revenue budget as capital **(Recommendation (3))**.

The current budget for CCTV is just over £45,000 per annum. It is clear that £25,000 of this should be re-designated as capital expenditure, leaving £20,000 as revenue (CSB) being required to meet maintenance, licensing and telephony etc costs. For 2013/14 onwards it is estimated that £40,000 of capital expenditure per annum will be required to meet future CCTV demands therefore requiring an additional £15,000 per annum in the capital programme **(Recommendation (4))**.

Legal and Governance Implications:

All CCTV systems are installed and operated in full compliance with the Council's adopted CCTV Code of Practice, which itself is based upon national CCTV protocols. All CCTV systems are fully signed to ensure local awareness and, other than with a RIPA authorisation, are operated overtly.

Safer, Cleaner and Greener Implications:

CCTV forms a key component of the Council's approach to Safer Communities. It is seen as a very effective tool, amongst a number of others in:

- deterring criminal or anti-social behaviour;
- providing high quality to the police and other enforcement agencies for evidential purposes; and
- providing public reassurance in respect of public areas where there have been issues of criminal or anti-social behaviour

Consultation Undertaken:

Essex Police are supportive of these proposals.

Background Papers:

Council's adopted CCTV Code of Practice.

Impact Assessments:

Risk Management

The provision of high quality CCTV imagery is extremely beneficial in assisting the Police and providing public reassurance. For both to be maintained it is essential that systems are up to date, efficient and capable of providing a fast response to Police requests for evidential support. A failure to update or maintain systems may result in criminal activity going unnoticed and/or undetected.

Equality and Diversity

Did the initial assessment of the proposals contained in this report for relevance to the Council's general equality duties, reveal any potentially adverse equality implications? No

Where equality implications were identified through the initial assessment process, has a formal Equality Impact Assessment been undertaken? No

What equality implications were identified through the Equality Impact Assessment process?
N/A.

How have the equality implications identified through the Equality Impact Assessment been addressed in this report in order to avoid discrimination against any particular group?
N/A.