

AGENDA ITEM: 10 Pages 81 – 86

Meeting	Cabinet Resources Committee
Date	4 th April 2012
Subject	CCTV Camera Transmission
Report of	Cabinet Member for Safety and Resident Engagement
Summary	This report seeks approval to continue renting BT Redcare circuits for camera transmission to LB Barnet's CCTV control room, until 31 st March 2013, pending a review of future CCTV provision within the Borough

Officer Contributors	Paul Lamb, Community Protection Group Manager
Status (public or exempt)	Public
Wards affected	All
Enclosures	None
For decision by	Cabinet Resources Committee
Function of	Executive
Reason for urgency / exemption from call-in	Not applicable

Contact for further information: Paul Lamb, Community Protection Group Manager, 020 8359 ext. 7491

1. RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 That the rental of circuits from BT Redcare for the transmission of camera images to the CCTV control room be extended until 31st March 2013, up to a maximum of £140,000, to allow adequate time for a review of CCTV to be completed including appraisal of options for a future transmission strategy.**

2. RELEVANT PREVIOUS DECISIONS

- 2.1 Cabinet, 17 March 2003, agreement of the priority areas for CCTV over a three year period up to and including 2006/07.
- 2.2 Cabinet Resources Committee, 28 July 2004, CCTV Tenders Acceptance, approval of the use of BT Redcare for the installation of fibre optic cabling to link cameras to the control room.
- 2.3 Cabinet Resources Committee, 26 September 2005, amendments to the CCTV installation programme.
- 2.4 Cabinet Resources Committee, 27 July 2006, approval of a revised CCTV installation programme.
- 2.5 Cabinet Resources Committee, 21 March 2007, approval of CCTV installation programme 2007/08.
- 2.6 Cabinet Resources Committee, 8 August 2008, approval of CCTV installation programme 2008 – 2012.

3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 CCTV contributes to making Barnet 'A successful London suburb' in particular by working with the Police to keep Barnet a safe place.
- 3.2 The provision of CCTV represents a significant investment of resources. To ensure 'Better services with less money' it is vital that best value is obtained from that resource.
- 3.3 The 'Sustainable Community Strategy for Barnet 2010 – 2020' has a priority of creating 'Strong, Safe Communities for everyone' which means reducing crime and anti social behaviour and ensuring residents feel safe.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

- 4.1 Although the implementation of each CCTV scheme, including the use of BT Redcare circuits as the transmission media of data, was approved by Cabinet Resources Committee, there is a risk that the on going revenue costs of line rental are not compliant with the Council's procurement rules that require regular tendering above certain financial thresholds. Approval is therefore sought to continue with the rental arrangement in 2012/13 whilst a review of CCTV is completed, including agreement of a future transmission strategy.
- 4.2 If the rental of circuits from BT Redcare is not continued it will not be possible to transmit images to the control room and hence there would not be a CCTV service. This would represent a reputational risk to the Council and its partners and adversely impact upon perceptions and actual levels of safety and crime across the borough. Alternative

transmission strategies are now available but without proper consideration of these options, including the costs involved and ensuring the best fit with the overall CCTV system development, best value will not be assured.

5. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

- 5.1 It is recognised that the operation of CCTV may be considered to infringe upon the privacy of individuals. The operation of the CCTV service is therefore governed by its own code of practice, notified to the Office of the Information Commissioner, and its own operational procedures, to ensure compliance with legislative requirements including Human Rights and Data Protection. The scheme is employed as a proportional response to identified problems and is used in so far as it is necessary in a democratic society, in the interests of national security, public safety, the economic well being of the area, for the prevention and detection of crime and disorder and for the protection of rights and freedoms of the community.

6. USE OF RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS (Finance, Procurement, Performance & Value for Money, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

- 6.1 Previous reports related to CCTV, which have been approved by Cabinet Resources Committee, have stated that 'BT Redcare is the only company who have a suitable network of ducts to provide cost effective links to the control room'.
- 6.2 BT Redcare has informed the Council that the annual charge for the line rental of BT Redcare circuits in 2012/13 will be £138,232, representing a 5% increase from 2011/12. There is sufficient budget within the CCTV cost centre to meet this increased charge.
- 6.3 Technological developments over recent years mean that there are now a variety of transmission methods available which can be provided at reduced cost. The review of Community Safety incorporates a review of CCTV which will include evaluation of the most effective and efficient transmission option as part of the overall technical system solution. It is anticipated the CCTV element of this review will be completed during 2012/13.

7. LEGAL ISSUES

- 7.1 Public space CCTV systems must be operated in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 and the principles as set out in the Human Rights Act 1998. London Borough of Barnet's CCTV Code of Practice sets out how the authority will comply with these requirements and principles. The Council is required to notify the Office of the Information Commissioner of the operation of the CCTV system.
- 7.2 Covert 'Directed' surveillance will only be conducted if formal authorisation is provided in accordance with the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000.
- 7.3 Section 163 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 creates the power for local authorities to provide CCTV coverage of any land in their area for the purposes of crime prevention or victim welfare.
- 7.4 As the rental value for BT Redcare Circuits falls below the relevant financial threshold set under Regulations 8 of the Public Contracts Regulations 2006, for EU procurement rules, the rental is not subject to the Public Contracts Regulations 2006. However, the Council should have due regard to Regulation 8(19) of the Public Contracts Regulations 2006

which provides that a contracting authority should not enter into separate contracts nor exercise a choice under a valuation method with the intention of avoiding the application of the Regulations to those contracts.

- 7.5 The parties will be required to sign a formal agreement which will document the terms and conditions for the continuing rental service.

8. CONSTITUTIONAL POWERS

- 8.1 Council Constitution, Part 4, Contract Procedure Rules, section 5 Authorisation and Acceptance Procedures. Contract Procedure Rule 5.8 – Contract Procedure Rules may only be waived on the decision of a Cabinet Committee and only where that Committee is satisfied, after considering a written report by the appropriate officer, that the waiver is justified because:

5.8.1 the nature of the market for the works to be carried out or the supplies or services to be provided has been investigated and is demonstrated to be such that a departure from the requirements of Contract Procedure Rules is justifiable; or

5.8.2 the contract is for works, supplies or services that are required in circumstances of extreme urgency that could not reasonably have been foreseen; or

5.8.3 the circumstances of the proposed contract are covered by legislative exemptions (whether under EU or English Law); or

5.8.4 there are other circumstances which are genuinely exceptional

- 8.2 BT Redcare currently have the only fibre network that can economically transmit images back to the control room and pending a review of the CCTV service that includes review of alternative transmission strategies, a waiver from Contract Procedure Rules is requested as set out in Contract Procedure Rule 5.8.1.

- 8.3 This is a key decision as CCTV has a positive impact upon perceptions of safety across the borough. If there was not a CCTV service it would be detrimental to community confidence as well as representing a reputational risk to the Council.

9. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 9.1 CCTV has developed in Barnet incrementally since 2001, supported initially by Home Office funding and later from local capital allocations, grant funding and contributions from partners. Cabinet approved the installation of each scheme as part of an overall programme formulated by conducting an analysis of crime and disorder to identify priority areas.

- 9.2 Prior to 2003, twenty cameras were monitored from a control room in Elstree, operated by private contractors on behalf of Hertsmere Borough Council. Since 2003, the system has operated from our own purpose built control room, which now monitors 131 fixed cameras. The control room has capacity for 105 monitors, 3 full operator positions and 2 traffic enforcement positions. The table below details the camera locations:

Location	Number of cameras	Public Space type
Tally Ho Nth Finchley	12	Town Centre
Finchley Central	7	Town Centre
Mill Hill B/Way	5	Town Centre
New Barnet,	5	Town Centre
Apex Corner	4	
East Finchley	8	Town Centre
Whetstone	4	Town Centre
Edgware	8	Town Centre
Colindale, The Hyde	2	Town Centre
Golders Green	5	Town Centre
Grahame Park Estate	3	Housing
A5	9	TFL / Traffic / Town Centre
Hendon	8	Town Centre
East Barnet	7	Town Centre
Hampden Square	2	Local Shops
High Barnet	12	Town Centre
Burnt Oak	13	Town Centre
Cricklewood	4	Town Centre
Friary Park	2	Park
Claremont Way	1	Industrial estate
Temple Fortune	6	Town Centre
Mutton Brook	4	Traffic / Walkway
TOTAL	131	

- 9.3 The control room is now at capacity and no new schemes can be added unless other schemes are ceased. In addition the system is approaching end of life. Therefore, CCTV is included in the review of Community Safety. The aim is to identify and agree an efficient and effective technical solution going forward including appraisal of various future business models.
- 9.4 Images are transmitted to the control room via rented circuits from BT Redcare. When schemes were approved, approval was also obtained to use BT Redcare as they were the only supplier with a fibre network extensive enough to economically and reliably provide transmission back to the control room. This situation remains the same, although Virgin Telewest have developed their network across Barnet incrementally subject to commercial requests. Connecting to this network would require substantial capital investment in the short term to provide the additional cabling in the street and works within the control room itself. The option to rent circuits from an alternative provider is therefore uneconomic in the short term. However, it should be considered as part of the review of CCTV services and evaluation of future transmission strategies that could realise efficiency savings dependent upon cost benefit analysis. Other alternatives, such as wireless transmission, will also be considered as part of the review but this again would be subject to substantial capital investment in the short term, hence the need to consider as part of a full evaluation of the CCTV service.
- 9.5 The operation of Barnet CCTV has been notified to the Office of the Information Commissioner in accordance with legislation.

10. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 10.1 None

Legal – PD
CFO – MC/JH