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Meeting	Cabinet Resources Committee
Date	4 November 2013
<b>Subject</b>	<b>CCTV Camera Transmission</b>
Report of	Cabinet Member for Safety and Resident Engagement
Summary of Report	This report seeks approval to continue renting BT Redcare circuits for camera transmission to LB Barnet's CCTV control room, until 31 March 2014, pending appointment of a new provider within the Borough

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Officer Contributors	Michael Kelly, IOM/CCTV Manager, Community Safety
Status (public or exempt)	Public
Wards Affected	All
Key Decision	No
Reason for urgency / exemption from call-in	N/A
Function of	Executive
Enclosures	None
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## **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 31 March 2014, up to a maximum of £150,000, to allow ongoing operation of the borough's CCTV service until completion of the appointment of a new provider who will deliver the service from 1 April 2014.

## **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.
- 2.7 Cabinet, 29 November 2010 (Decision item 6) – approved the One Barnet Framework and the funding strategy for its implementation.
- 2.8 Cabinet, 14 September 2011 (Decision item 5) – approved the Safer Communities Strategy.
- 2.9 Cabinet, 20 February 2012 (Decision item 6) – approved the Business Planning Report 2012/13 – 2014/15 which included within the report the five projects to be developed through strategic outline cases.
- 2.10 Cabinet Resources Committee, 20 June 2012 (Decision item 6) – approved the Strategic Outline Case for the strategic review of Community Safety.
- 2.11 Cabinet Resources Committee, 18 April 2013 (Decision item 10) – approved the commissioning of a cost effective CCTV service and technical platform.

## **3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS**

- 3.1 Crime reduction and community safety are top priorities for Barnet residents. One of the new Corporate Plan outcomes is “to promote family and community well-being and encourage engaged, cohesive and safe communities”.
- 3.2 The Council is a provider and commissioner of community safety services but

also has a more significant local leadership role. Through chairing the Safer Communities Partnership the Council exerts strategic leadership, holds other agencies working in Barnet to account and is the driving agent of development in the system.

- 3.3 Citizens will feel safer and there will be less fear of crime as a result of confidence in CCTV to prevent and detect crime.
- 3.4 Reducing crime and anti-social behaviour remains a key priority in providing strong and safe communities for Barnet residents and CCTV coverage facilitates the monitoring and sanctioned detection of these.

#### **4. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES**

- 4.1 Risks associated with the CCTV technical platform are managed and reported in accordance with corporate risk and project management processes and will also be reported through existing democratic processes.
- 4.2 Although the implementation of each CCTV scheme, including the use of BT Redcare circuits as the transmission media of data, has previously been approved by Cabinet Resources Committee, there is a risk that the ongoing 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 2013/14 until the current procurement exercise is completed, a new provider is contracted and a new service is in place on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014
- 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 as such 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 means are now available and these will be implemented by the new provider.

#### **5. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

- 5.1 The Council and all other organisations exercising public functions on its behalf are required under the Equality Act 2010, to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act; advance equality of opportunity between those with a protected characteristic and those without; promote good relations between those with a protected characteristic and those without. The relevant protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation. It also covers marriage and civil partnership with regard to eliminating discrimination.
- 5.2 The operation of the CCTV service is 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 insofar as it is necessary in a democratic society, in the interests of national security, public

safety, the economic wellbeing 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 BT Redcare is currently the only company that has a suitable network of ducts to provide cost effective links to the control room under the current analogue system.
- 6.2 BT Redcare has informed the Council that the annual charge for the line rental of BT Redcare circuits in 2013/14 will be £146,000 which represents no uplift on costs from 2012/13. There is sufficient budget within the CCTV cost centre to meet this charge.
- 6.3 Future cost reductions will be achieved through the ongoing procurement exercise and the new technical platform required therein.

## **7. LEGAL ISSUES**

- 7.1 Under s.6 of the Crime & Disorder Act 1998, the Council with other partner authorities (chief of police, fire and rescue authority, probation service, PCT and Local Health Board) has a duty to formulate and implement a strategy for the reduction of crime and disorder in its area (including anti-social behaviour adversely affecting the local environment), a strategy for combating the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in the area and a strategy for the reduction of re-offending in the area. Under s.17 of the above Act, it is also a duty of the Council (and other partner agencies, including police, fire & rescue, Greater London Authority, Transport for London) when exercising its functions to have due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder (including anti-social behaviour), misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances and re-offending.
- 7.2 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.
- 7.3 Covert 'Directed' surveillance will only be conducted if formal authorisation is provided in accordance with the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000.
- 7.4 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.
- 7.5 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 The Constitution, Responsibility for Functions, Paragraph 4.6 sets out the powers of the Cabinet Resources Committee.
- 8.2 Council Constitution, Contract Procedure Rules, section 15.1 states that all applications for a waiver of Contract Procedure Rules must be submitted to Cabinet Resources Committee specifically identifying the reasons why a waiver is sought, including justification and risk.
- 8.3 A waiver of CPRs is required in accordance with section 14.3 of the CPRs as the contract has been extended before.
- 8.4 The points noted above apply to this contract extension given that BT Redcare have the only fibre network that can economically transmit images from cameras back to the CCTV control room. A contract waiver is therefore requested to extend the contract until a new technical platform is in place.

## **9. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 9.1 The Council's CCTV service makes an important contribution towards delivering Barnet's Safer Communities Strategy, by helping the Council and Police to prevent and tackle priority issues such as anti-social behaviour, violence and theft and by making a significant impact on residents' perception of safety.
- 9.2 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.
- 9.3 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.
- 9.4 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 with some equipment now obsolete. As such a new service, including a new digitally-networked, technical platform is being procured.
- 9.5 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.

9.6 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

<b>Cleared by Finance (Officer's initials)</b>	<b>JH</b>
<b>Cleared by Legal (Officer's initials)</b>	<b>SD</b>