

EXTRACT FROM THE MINUTES OF HALSTEAD LOCAL COMMITTEE 8TH JULY 2009**27 UPDATE ON CCTV PROVISION IN HALSTEAD**

Mr T Wilson, Head of Finance, distributed correspondence between the Leader of the Council and the Mayor of Halstead (and response), and a Highlight Report dated 30th June 2009. An apology on behalf of Councillor Mrs Schmitt, Cabinet Member for Communities, was given.

Members were advised of further events since the letter from Councillor Butland of 24th June 2009 to Halstead Town Council had been sent, in particular a review of the 'Out of Hours' service operated by the Duty Officers at Causeway House, Braintree. At present this service includes an agreement with Greenfields Community Housing that, from 1st October 2009, will not be tendered for and result with a loss of income of £58,000 per annum. One of the options to mitigate this is to stop the manning of Causeway House during the evening and nighttime shifts. This would impact on the Duty Officer being available to monitor the CCTV cameras. Therefore, options are being investigated on how the cameras can continue to be monitored.

A third party had been approached to monitor the CCTV cameras on a 24/7 basis with a quote of £81,000 for Braintree and £47,000 for Halstead. A further quote had also been included for the monitoring service between 6.00pm and 2.00am each day, and 9.00am to 5.00pm on Saturday and Sunday with prices of £17,000 for Braintree and £10,000 for Halstead.

Mr Wilson stated that the running costs of the CCTV equipment at Halstead – the BT link between the cameras and the office at Causeway House – is estimated at £9,100 per annum. It was noted that Witham Town Council already meets the monitoring and running costs of its CCTV system.

The response letter from Councillor Hume was referred to, which stated that he was unable to give any assurance that Halstead Town Council would meet the running costs or monitoring costs. The response was provided in advance of formal discussion and decision by the Halstead Town Council – as no meetings were scheduled in the timescale given for the response. It was noted that the District Council would not be letting the contract for the provision of the Halstead cameras until this issue is resolved.

Members expressed their strong concerns to the situation and during the following discussion the following issues were raised:

- that Halstead residents are being asked to pay for both Halstead and Braintree (as Braintree is not parished)
- the Council Tax payer has already funded CCTV for Braintree and this will continue
- the subtle differences between the Witham and Halstead CCTV scenarios, and the probability that residents are paying a third for what already exists in Braintree
- the earlier promise from Councillor Mrs Schmitt for Halstead to have CCTV
- as the District Council are providing the Capital investment for the equipment, they are responsible for its running and maintenance costs
- concerns to the amount of the 24/7 quotes, as a fixed ongoing cost

- the opinion that capital costs were agreed, not revenue costs
- to install a CCTV system similar to that at Sible Hedingham, that provides a recording system
- it is not only the people of Halstead who will benefit from CCTV, but agencies and organisations that use footage as evidence, i.e. anti-social behaviour (ASBO) cases
- certain residents of Halstead, i.e. the elderly, who are afraid to be on the High Street in the evening
- some views that CCTV is not solely the answer for 'job culture' and ASBO issues, but also the use of Community Wardens and PCSO's

The provision and monitoring of the Braintree CCTV cameras will not stop and it was requested that the Halstead scheme be included in the option appraisal process of the 'Out of Hours' service at Causeway House, Braintree.

That it be **RECOMMENDED TO CABINET:-**

That Braintree District Council funds

- (1) The monitoring service cost of the Halstead CCTV cameras
- (2) The annual running costs of the cameras (currently estimated at £9,120)