

CCTV in Town Centres in the Braintree District

Agenda Item 6

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Background Papers:- CCTV Cabinet Report – July 2005, Responsible Authority Group Report – March 2005, Home Office Reports – Feb 2005, CCTV in Braintree Review by Davington Solutions – September 2004

Financial Implications: - Allocated capital budget of £107.5k will be insufficient to meet the proposed scheme. The additional amount will need to be funded from this year's capital program via the Local Area Committee allocation.

Equalities Implications:- None

Legal Implications:- None

Options: Detailed in the report

Risks: Detailed in the report

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The current static CCTV monitoring system in Braintree has now reached the end of its useful life and needs upgrading to digital. The camera controls also need replacing as they are obsolete and spares are problematical to resource.

Consultation with Essex Police crime Reduction officer has resulted in the following changes to town centre schemes.

Braintree 2 additional cameras.

Halstead a new 4 camera scheme.

In Witham Town Centre, no additional cameras are needed.

Witham Town Council now requires 3 additional cameras outside the town centre and is to pay for these directly.

The cost of the schemes is £185,000 against the total budget available of £107,500.

Witham Town Council who originally were withdrawing from CCTV monitoring at Braintree are now reconsidering their position due to contractual difficulties. There may be reconnection costs.

To implement these changes/ upgrades/ new schemes additional capital funding of £77,500 is required.

Local Area Committees were allocated £50k each for 2007/8.

Additional Revenue costs will be incurred on the new equipment for Witham would be only £750 while Halstead because it is a new scheme the revenue costs would be £8,000

DECISIONS

1. To upgrade the CCTV monitoring system in Braintree, install a new system in Halstead and upgrade communications with the Witham scheme.
2. To request contributions from each Area Local Committee in the sum of £26,000 from their 2007/8 capital allocation, towards the cost of the combined changes.
3. To suspend financial regulations regarding competitive tendering and authorise a negotiated contract sum with the incumbent supplier
4. The Cabinet Member for the Public Protection and Healthy Living is given delegated authority to vary the proposals following further discussions with Witham and Halstead Town Councils

1. Background

The Braintree Town Centre CCTV system currently has 9 cameras in the town centre, 2 around Causeway House and 2 within Causeway House. Subsequently a system of 8 cameras was installed in Witham Town Centre, funded by the Home Office.

The current monitoring system of the static CCTV system is analogue and has now reached the end of its useful life. Spares for the control equipment of Braintree's cameras are difficult to source and the quality of some images from all cameras can also be poor.

The cameras are monitored at Causeway House by duty officers when they are not engaged in other work.

The Council has £107,500 capital resources available to upgrade the system.

A meeting was held in February 2007 of key parties in the district including Witham and Halstead Town Councils to assess future requirements; however there was no consensus of opinion.

Discussions have continued since then and Witham Town Council has indicated that they were intending to provide their own monitoring arrangements in future, which due to contractual difficulties they are now reconsidering their position and timing.

Reconnection costs are the responsibility of Witham Town Council; however, as British Telecom has failed to date to terminate the communications link, this could be negligible.

2. Consultation

The Crime Reduction Office for Braintree Police has been consulted on the proposals and fully supports the upgrading/expansions detailed in this report and would also support any further increase.

3. Proposals

Following further discussions and consultation with Essex Police Crime Reduction officer it is now proposed to: -

- Upgrade the current static CCTV monitoring system in Braintree from analogue to digital.
- Add 2 additional cameras in Braintree.
- Install a new 4 camera scheme in Halstead.

- No changes in Witham Town Centre, but their re-inclusion in the scheme, including upgrading of communications/ control. (This will allow the new cameras required by Witham to be monitored as part of their overall scheme digitally, as well as allow them the opportunity to take a fresh look at their future needs).

4. Funding

The total capital required for the above recommendations is £185,000 against a budget of £107,500.

No additional capital has been earmarked for these schemes; however, £50,000 of BDC capital budget was allocated to each Local Area Committee for its allocation. These projects fall within the expenditure type the allocation was made for.

Notes

- a. Additional revenue costs will be subject to negotiation with the Town Councils.
- b. Minor project implementation costs will be met from existing BDC budgets.