

## **SOUTH HOLLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**Report of:** Rob Walker – Executive Director Place

**To:** Performance Monitoring Panel - 1 December 2015

**(Author:** Emily Holmes – Communities Manager)

**Subject:** Update Report on new CCTV system

**Purpose:** To provide an update to Councillors on progress with the new CCTV system

### **Recommendation:**

- 1) That the content of this report is noted.

### **1.0 BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 In February 2014 Cabinet considered the future provision of CCTV (Closed Circuit Television) Services in South Holland. This was informed by the Effectiveness of CCTV Task Group (May 2010). It was agreed to enter into a partnership with Boston Borough Council to transfer the operation of the CCTV service to Boston Borough Council for an improved monitoring service.
- 1.2 In order for the monitoring to be undertaken by Boston Borough Council's monitoring station, the existing equipment in South Holland, which was out dated and no longer fit for purpose, needed replacing. A contract was already in place with a provider who undertook this work in Boston and as such they were engaged by Boston Borough Council to prepare a proposal.
- 1.3 Parish Councils and local police teams were engaged to review the local need and location of the cameras within the scheme. A proposal was submitted in December 2014 and subsequently an order was placed.
- 1.4 A number of surveys were carried out to inform the proposals, determine the equipment needed and to identify installation locations to then get the necessary permissions to install the cameras on a mixture of private and publically owned buildings.
- 1.5 The main infrastructure links were installed between Spalding and Boston as the links needed to be operational for the cameras to then connect to in order to transmit images. Despite surveying and testing, once the link was installed and commissioned there was not adequate signal strength between the two locations and alternative solution was needed. This was resolved in May 2015 but did cause a delay to the scheme implementation. The main link from South Holland to Boston is now fully operational.
- 1.6 Camera installation work continued over the summer. 24 CCTV cameras are now installed. There are 18 in Spalding, 4 in Holbeach and 2 in Crowland.
- 1.7 15 of the 18 Spalding cameras are now monitored from the Boston Control Room. The remaining 3 have been delayed due to the need to reconfigure the signal transmission route and install additional transmitters. This is due to be resolved in the near future and footage from these cameras is available if needed.

- 1.8 Transmission of the images from the Holbeach cameras to Spalding is still to be resolved. The planned wireless infrastructure link was installed but did not have sufficient line of sight to maintain the signal strength needed. Contractors are investigating all alternative solutions.
- 1.9 The Holbeach system is operational. An interim local recording solution has been installed and footage from incidents is available and accessible. Holbeach Parish Council has been made aware.
- 1.10 The height required to transmit images from Crowland to Spalding to obtain line of sight has meant that wireless transmission is not possible. This was identified when all links were resurveyed following the initial challenges with the main link. As such, in June 2015 an order was placed with BT to install a BT Fibre connection to replace the Crowland to Spalding wireless link. A provisional date of 23 September for this work to take place was given by BT. To date BT has not confirmed when the work will take place due to additional works taking place further along the exchange which needs to happen first. They are asked weekly for updates. An interim local recording solution has been installed and footage from incidents is available and accessible. Crowland Parish Council has been made aware.
- 1.11 Both Holbeach and Crowland Parish Councils have full contact details for South Holland District Council officers and can request information or seek clarification at any time.
- 1.12 Sutton Bridge Parish Council did not wish to be part of the new scheme as they did not feel it would contribute to improved police response times. Long Sutton Parish Council is not currently part of the scheme but have indicated that they would like to have a look at the system and the control room at Boston Borough Council. This is being arranged.
- 1.13 Local Police colleagues have been kept regularly updated so that footage can be accessed by them where needed.
- 1.14 Once the system is fully operational and monitored in the control room, data on the number of incidents will be available. The CCTV coverage has already monitored and supported the investigation of suspicious activity, anti-social behaviour, cycle theft, public disorder, shop lifting and traffic collision and been used in missing person reports. It was also used to monitor crowd numbers and dynamics at the Pumpkin Festival.
- 1.15 All organisations involved in this scheme are working to resolve the outstanding issues and are in weekly contact to move things forward.
- 1.16 The cameras are operational in all 3 towns, providing coverage, recordings and available footage when needed.

## 2.0 **OPTIONS**

- 2.1 Do nothing.
- 2.2 Note the content of this report.

## 3.0 **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 Councillors requested an update on the scheme.

#### 4.0 **EXPECTED BENEFITS**

4.1 Councillors will be fully briefed on the current situation.

#### 5.0 **IMPLICATIONS**

##### 5.1 **Constitution & Legal**

5.1.1 .It is in the opinion of the Report Author that there are no implications from this report. The scheme itself will be governed through partnership arrangements. It will also consider The Protection of Freedoms Act 2012, The Data Protection Act 1998, the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000, the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 and Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

##### 5.2 **Contracts**

5.2.1 It is in the opinion of the Report Author that there are no implications from this report. The scheme itself will be governed by partnership arrangements which will take into account Boston Borough Council's existing contract and involve future service level agreements with parish councils.

##### 5.3 **Corporate Priorities**

5.3.1 The scheme itself supports Corporate Priority 'To develop safer, stronger, healthier and more independent communities while protecting the most vulnerable'.

##### 5.4. **Crime and Disorder**

5.4.1 The national CCTV Strategy maintains that CCTV plays a significant role in protecting the public and assisting the police in the investigation of crime.

##### 5.5 **Equality and Diversity / Human Rights**

5.5.1 Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights protects an individual's right for a private and family life. When CCTV systems are operated by or on behalf of a public authority, the wider human rights issues and in particular article 8 will need to be considered.

##### 5.6 **Financial**

5.6.1 The new CCTV Scheme has both capital and revenue costs to consider.

5.6.2 The capital investment will total £108,475

5.6.3 Revenue costs are for the monitoring of the footage and the maintenance of the cameras. Ongoing revenue costs for communications have been reduced due to the transfer to the wireless system. Parish Councils will contribute to the revenue costs once the system is fully operational.

5.6.4 No revenue costs for monitoring will be paid until the system is fully operational.

##### 5.7 **Risk Management**

5.7.1 The scheme has not progressed as quickly as any stakeholder involved would have liked. There is a risk of disengagement of parish councils currently part of the scheme however, parish councils have been kept informed of progress and have direct contact details of officers if they have further queries. They will not be asked for a financial contribution to the revenue costs until the scheme is fully up and running.

## 5.8 Stakeholders / Consultation / Timescales

5.8.1 Lincolnshire Police colleagues have been kept informed of progress for operational reasons and access to footage for incidents.

## 6.0 WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED

6.1 The Scheme currently operates in Crowland, Holbeach and Spalding.

## 7.0 ACRONYMS

7.1 CCTV - Closed Circuit Television

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Background papers:- None

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### Lead Contact Officer

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**Key Decision:** No

**Exempt Decision:** No

**This report refers to a Discretionary Service**

**Appendices attached to this report:** None