

Community Services Committee

Report Title:	CCTV
Meeting Date:	16 July 2024
Contact Officer:	Cassie Pinnells, Community Services Manager

Purpose of the Report

To **consider** a proposal for the installation of a wireless radio transmitter onto the Town Hall to aid connectivity of the CCTV system.

To **note** the update regarding the approved proposal for future administration of the South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse CCTV provision.

Wireless Radio Transmitter Request

1. The equipment to run the Thame CCTV cameras is housed within the Town Hall
2. SODC's Community Safety Team have requested a small wireless radio box no larger than 130mm² be placed on the back of the Town Hall. Below is the outline request and requirements:

Town Hall:

Conduit and wireless radio position shown in yellow, cables to be run through existing basement on existing containment to the main BT rack.

Galvanised metal conduit shall be used for the route where required, this can always be painted at a later date although has not been allowed as part of the quotation. Where possible CDS will follow existing cables and neatly dress the cable to match.

The bracket to be mounted on the town hall can be sprayed to match the colour required, same as above would apply to the wireless link.



3. One of Thame's CCTV cameras has been out of action for some time, , investigations have discovered that cabling/ducting damage is below ground, most likely caused by nearby utilities works. Unfortunately, digging up the collapsed cabling is a significant job, with the preferred cost saving option for a wireless link to transmit data between the camera and the Town Hall. To progress the preferred option, Thame Town Council need to approve the request from the Community Safety Team, who will undertake all requirements, including relevant permissions from South Oxfordshire District Council.
4. To note the District Council are waiting for costs to supply and install a new column for damaged CCTV column/camera within the High Street.
5. To note investigations are taking place with the Community Safety Team, TVP and TTC Officers for a Shop Watch scheme to be relaunched which would include connection to the CCTV Operating room.

Future Administration of CCTV

6. Currently, South Oxfordshire District Council and Thame Town Council are under contract until 31st March 2025 for the provision of the Town Centre CCTV Scheme. Under this agreement Thame Town Council contributes one third of the Annual Revenue Costs which increase per annum by RPI.
7. Following a review of all Thames Valley CCTV provision. A proposal for the district council to enter into a CCTV partnership with Thames Valley Police which will see the creation of a CCTV hub for Oxfordshire. The agreement is that the four CCTV control rooms in Oxfordshire which monitor the public space CCTV cameras will merge into one control room. This will be based in Abingdon police station and the current control room will be expanded to accommodate this.
8. Under the proposal, the district council will hand over all monitoring equipment to Thames Valley Police who, as the main user of CCTV, will take responsibility for repair and maintenance of the system. The staff will also be transferred to Thames Valley Police.
9. Bringing the current control rooms together will provide benefits for all partners. More CCTV operators in the control room will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the monitoring and provide a more resilient service with more 'real time' monitoring, no lone working and capital investment from Thames Valley Police.
10. In terms of governance, a Board will be put in place to govern the Thames Valley CCTV Partnership, chaired by the Police Crime Commissioner and with attendance from both Thames Valley Police and local authorities. Any future requests for new cameras will be considered by this Board.
11. The proposal will also lead to revenue savings which will be passed on to all stakeholders.

The district council will continue asking the town councils to contribute one third of the district's costs, although these will be significantly less than the current rates (approx 50% based on the proposed figures from TVP). Currently, Thame Town Council budget to

pay between £2,965 per quarter, with a maximum cap of £3,674. It should be noted that Officers monitor charges if any CCTV cameras are not working to ensure payments are adjusted to reflect the loss of service and when employment costs were reduced due to staff shortages. As such our actual costs have been between £5,249 and £7,377 for the past two years.

Resource Appraisal

12. Under the current CCTV Agreement, the District Council are responsible for maintenance and repair of the CCTV and for the monitoring arrangements.

Risk Assessment

13. The town centre community safety is considered a priority for residents, businesses, and visitors.

Legal Powers:

- The Protection of Freedoms Act 2012
- General Power of Competence, Localism Act 2011 s1

Recommendation

- i) To approve the request for the installation of a wireless radio transmitter onto the Town Hall to aid connectivity of the CCTV system. Subject to South Oxfordshire District Council obtaining the relevant permissions.***
- ii) To note the update regarding the approved proposal for the future administration of the South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse CCTV provision.***