



**REPORT of
HEAD OF COMMUNITY AND LEISURE SERVICES**

**to
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING AS THE CRIME AND
DISORDER COMMITTEE
12 MARCH 2014**

**KING STREET, MALDON - CLOSED-CIRCUIT TELEVISION (CCTV)
INSTALLATION UPDATE**

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 Members are asked to note the progress of the installation of the new CCTV equipment to cover King Street and surrounding environs.

2. AREA FOR DECISION / ACTION

2.1 Background

- 2.1.1 The Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and Maldon District Council installed a CCTV system to act as a deterrent to criminal activity at the above location in 2010. This was delivered in partnership with Essex Police and the King Street Residents Association following an unusual peak in crime during 2008 and 2009 where it was considered by all parties that the crime levels were unacceptable. The cameras were seen as a useful tool for Essex Police to detect crimes and act as a deterrent. It should be noted that criminal damage and associated crime at this location has reduced significantly since 2010.
- 2.1.2 The initial scheme was installed in May 2010 at a cost of approximately £11,500. This was for the provision of two moveable dome cameras working on mobile phone (3G) technology on an agreed airtime tariff. Whilst these cameras produced reasonable images in low light conditions they have not obtained any images to secure convictions. In addition to this, the cameras have not proved reliable in terms of performance and have developed faults which have incurred additional revenue expenditure (£1,600) with the units being off-site for unacceptable periods of time. Following the expiration of the airtime package for the remote monitoring of these units, the manufacturer advised the Council that to continue with this facility would incur an annual cost of £1,400. The Council decided at this stage to review the operation of the units and seek advice.
- 2.1.3 The Community Safety Manager commenced in his role as part of the shared working agreement with Chelmsford City Council in April 2011. Whilst the service level agreement with Chelmsford was for the community safety management function, the officer agreed to review the use of CCTV since he had a level of expertise in this area of work having dealt with such applications since 1994. Following an initial review, it was agreed to repair the existing and seek financial resources for the financial year

2012 / 13 for a new system which would be both fit for purpose and improve surveillance of the surrounding environs. Whilst assessing the current site, considerations were made regarding the system being proportionate to the risk together with existing environmental factors.

- 2.1.4 The officer identified some outline proposals and the current CCTV suppliers for Maldon and Chelmsford were both asked for solutions and a budgetary costing. To ensure that new installation achieved the best line of sight, reduced street furniture and had a ready-made power source, it was agreed to use the existing street lighting column located on the junction of King Street and Warwick Drive and replace it with a new bespoke column. This could be achieved by seeking permission from Essex County Council similar to the process for the existing King Street installations. An initial email was sent to Essex County Council in August 2012 requesting consent for these works and despite a number of reminders permission was not granted until June 2013 following the intervention by an elected Member for the District and County Council.
- 2.1.5 A detail design was then undertaken, a specification prepared and the procurement process was carried out in accordance with Standing Orders. The quotation packs were sent out in June 2013 and were received back on 12 July 2013. The contract was awarded to ClearView Communications Limited for the successful tender of £6,021 + VAT. An initial site meeting was set up with the supplier and a programme of works was agreed. The supplier ordered the necessary equipment and whilst a majority of the equipment was readily available the CCTV column had a lead time of approximately six to eight weeks which was not unusual for a bespoke column. The estimated completion date for the project was November 2013. However, delays were experienced following the completion of the preliminary (base and column) with the statutory undertakers: UK Power Networks and British Telecom (BT). The transfer of service for the electricity was completed on 15 January 2014 with the old column and BT ductwork being completed the following day. Information Communication Technology (ICT) services ordered the necessary link with BT in December 2013 and at the time of writing they have agreed to carry out the installation of Broadband on 28 February 2014. The system is currently “live” and recording images which can be obtained by Officers accessing the network video recorder on site.

3. IMPACT ON CORPORATE GOALS

- 3.1 None.

4. IMPLICATIONS

- (i) **Impact on Customers** – The provision of CCTV is a visible deterrent and acts as reassurance to the community.
- (ii) **Impact on Equalities** – None identified.
- (iii) **Impact on Risk** – None identified.
- (iv) **Impact on Resources (financial)** – Funding for the scheme has been met from existing budget provision.

- (v) **Impact on Resources (human)** – This project has taken staff time to manage the installation, ongoing monitoring of the system will have a minimal impact upon the team.
- (vi) **Impact on the Environment** – None identified.

5. CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 Whilst the progress on the completion of the King Street CCTV system has experienced significant delays at no stage was the street left without any CCTV coverage because one of the existing units remained operational throughout. It should also be noted that at the time of writing this report that has been a significant reduction in criminal damage at the location since the unusual peaks experienced during 2008 and 2009. The new installation will improve coverage of the surrounding area and a fixed focus megapixel unit will be used to cover King Street which will enable detailed interrogation of images after incidents have occurred. Both of these units benefit from the use of infra-red lighting which will improve night time coverage. The Broadband connectivity will allow remote access at a fixed annual cost, thus reducing revenue expenditure, by Council Officers, Essex Police or monitoring stations via a service level agreement.

6. RECOMMENDATION

That progress on the installation of CCTV at King Street, Maldon be noted.

Background Papers: None.

Enquiries to: Spencer Clarke, Community Safety Manager, (Tel: 01621 875814).