

**Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) Network****Report by Kevin Anderson, Executive Director - Place****Report for Decision****1 Recommendations**

Council is recommended to note the current position with the CCTV network and approve the following:

- (i) Officers to undertake a fully costed options appraisal on the existing camera estate and network to deliver an appropriate service, in consultation with Police Scotland, to the communities of Midlothian; and report to Council;
- (ii) Officers to re-establish a CCTV Officers Group, led by Protective Services, to review all public space CCTV operations across the Council and ensure the system is managed efficiently, consistently and legislatively compliant;
- (iii) Officers to revise the Code of Practice on CCTV operations; and report performance regularly to the Police and Fire & Rescue Board.

**2 Purpose of Report**

The purpose of this report is to outline the current position of the operation and management of Midlothian Council's closed circuit television (CCTV) system for public spaces and operational procedures in place; and seek a future Council decision on upgrading the existing system or procure alternatives, together with the implementation of a robust structure in CCTV operations and management, led by Protective Services.

**Date:** 09 August 2021**Report Contact:** Derek Oliver, Chief Officer - Place**Email:** [derek.oliver@midlothian.gov.uk](mailto:derek.oliver@midlothian.gov.uk)

### **3 Background**

- 3.1 The objectives of the CCTV System which form the lawful basis of processing open space CCTV data are:
- To reduce the fear of crime
  - To increase public safety and reassurance
  - To help with preventing and reducing criminal activity and disorder
  - To assist with apprehending and prosecuting offenders
- 3.2 The System is intended to contribute towards ensuring that Midlothian is a safe place to live work and visit. It is recognised that CCTV provision is not a statutory function of the Local Authority and that the System will not solve or eliminate all crime or fear of crime. However, it is an effective tool, enabling the collection of real time information to assist with investigations, apprehending and prosecuting offenders.
- 3.3 Midlothian Council's public space CCTV system inventory includes 56 cameras covering a number of main streets in Dalkeith, Penicuik, Bonnyrigg, Danderhall, Loanhead, Mayfield, Gorebridge, Roslin, Newtongrange and Sheriffhall Park and Ride. All cameras are identifiable and have signs indicating who is operating them and how they can be contacted.
- 3.4 In February 2018, as a result of financial pressures, Midlothian Council agreed through the Financial Strategy Report to manage a reduction of all open space CCTV activity and delete the Community Safety Team, which oversaw the CCTV system and operations. The existing cameras continue to operate until a fault develops and, if unable to be repaired at minimal cost, are thereafter switched off and signage added to indicate they are not active.

### **4 Current Position**

- 4.1 40 (71.4%) of the public space CCTV cameras are currently operational. 16 units are non-operational.
- 4.2 Issues around the cabling and analogue nature of the majority of the cameras means that the assets are limited in their use, lifespan and will deteriorate further without maintenance or upgrading.
- 4.3 The cameras are not monitored and only accessed for images after an event, on a suitably authorised request by Police Scotland.
- 4.4 The Council has trialled and purchased three redeployable wireless CCTV cameras, which are deployed in consultation with the Police or at identified flytipping hot-spots. These units can be accessed, monitored and adjusted using a mobile phone or laptop.

### **5 Options**

- 5.1 The existing CCTV camera estate requires to be assessed and a thorough exercise undertaken to provide an accurate costing to upgrade the system and make it fit for purpose, with locations appraised based on data and evidence. It is proposed to report back to Council with this information.
- 5.2 With alternative solutions now on the market to replace or supplement hard-wired CCTV cameras, the proposed Officer Group, led by Protective Services, can ascertain the most appropriate model for each location and/or task, in consultation with relevant service leads and Police Scotland.
- 5.3 A revised Code of Practice and reporting performance regularly to the Police and Fire & Rescue Board provides the necessary governance and scrutiny to the operations and management of CCTV going forward.

## **6 Report Implications**

### **6.1 Resource**

The assessment and options appraisal, together with the creation of an Officers Group and revised Code of Practice can be met within existing service budgets.

### **6.2 Digital**

Not applicable at this stage.

### **6.3 Risk**

Although not a statutory function to provide a CCTV system, the failure to address the deterioration and declining condition of the existing camera estate increases risks for not aligning with public safety objectives.

### **6.4 Ensuring Equalities**

Having a properly maintained and operational CCTV system is vital to Midlothian's community safety. The subject of this report has a positive impact in the environment and as such does not affect the wellbeing of the community or have a significant detrimental impact on equality, the environment or economy.

### **6.5 Additional Report Implications**

See Appendix A

## APPENDIX A – Report Implications

### A.1 Key Priorities within the Single Midlothian Plan

The route map outlines the phases of service recovery and transformation which will underpin the Single Midlothian Plan.

### A.2 Key Drivers for Change

Key drivers addressed in this report:

- ☐ Holistic Working
- ☐ Hub and Spoke
- ☐ Modern
- ☒ Sustainable
- ☐ Transformational
- ☒ Preventative
- ☒ Asset-based
- ☐ Continuous Improvement
- ☐ One size fits one
- ☐ None of the above

### A.3 Key Delivery Streams

Key delivery streams addressed in this report:

- ☒ One Council Working with you, for you
- ☒ Preventative and Sustainable
- ☒ Efficient and Modern
- ☒ Innovative and Ambitious
- ☐ None of the above

### A.4 Delivering Best Value

The report aims to deliver best value.

### A.5 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders

Consultation with Police Scotland will be imperative.

### A.6 Impact on Performance and Outcomes

The report aims to measure progress through outcomes.

### A.7 Adopting a Preventative Approach

The report is based on the creation of a wellbeing economy which prioritises prevention, fairness for people, the economy and the environment.

### A.8 Supporting Sustainable Development

New systems can be assessed to consider energy management and utilise sensor technology for utility consumption.