

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

meeting date: JANUARY 5th 2021
title: RIBBLE VALLEY CCTV
submitted by: J. HEAP – DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
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1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To remind the Committee of the history and current status of the CCTV system.
- 1.2 To consider how to respond to demands for expansion of the system.
- 1.3 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities:
 - Community Objectives – To sustain a strong and prosperous Ribble Valley.
 - Corporate Priorities – To ensure best use of council resources.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In 1994 a paper was submitted to the Planning and Development Committee outlining a proposed scheme to install 6 CCTV cameras at various observation points in Clitheroe Town Centre in an effort to eliminate crime. 50% of the scheme was funded by the Rural Development Commission and the remaining 50% of the £42000 was funded by the council. Once the equipment had been installed the Ribble Valley business partnership undertook to take over the project.
- 2.2 In the event RVBC paid £23135, Rural dev commission paid £23365, £1000 paid by the police and British Rail giving £3500.
- 2.3 In 1999 the Whalley Chamber of Trade requested a financial contribution of £20k towards the installation of a self-contained CCTV scheme in Whalley.
- 2.4 In 2000 a small officer working group was set up to investigate the possibility of improving and extending the CCTV system. This included four additional cameras in Clitheroe, three cameras in Whalley and four cameras in Longridge. At his time there was discussion as to where the cameras should be monitored between the police station in Accrington and somewhere in Clitheroe. Due to reducing crime figures this proposal was not pursued. However, investigations to continue into providing the best systems for Whalley and Longridge.
- 2.5 A bid was submitted to Government Office North West towards the cost for the scheme being £644151. £572151 from the bid and the remaining £72k from LCC and RVBC. This bid was approved in Oct 2001
- 2.6 The scheme was substantially complete in 2002 and included the creation of a secure, certified monitoring station located by Clitheroe Market.

- 2.7 The current scheme comprises 34 cameras. 7 in Longridge, 3 in Whalley and 24(25 incl Whalley Road) in Clitheroe. All cameras are monitored in the CCTV suite by one contracted operative at any time over 24hours per day 7 days per week.
- 2.8 The current equipment in the CCTV could accept more cameras in the suite there will be limitations in what one operator could monitor.

3 **Issues**

- 3.1 In Clitheroe there is also a stand-alone system comprising a camera and a recorder located at the Castle toilets installed to detect acts of vandalism and anti-social behaviour
- 3.2 In the last 3 years there have been requests from two Parish councils for some form of cctv systems. Applications were made to the Community Safety Partnership for the funding and were accepted. The costs were in the region of £3500 per set up and this includes the camera and a recorder. These systems were requested due to problems arising on car parks, such as cars being damaged, ASB in the vicinity and general security.

Two systems were installed, at Sabden car park (with the recorder being located in the council toilets) and Chipping car park (with the recorder being in the village hall.)

- 3.3 In recent months parish councils have enquired about the provision of CCTV systems. It would appear that if a good case could be made by the parish then money might be available from either the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) or the Police and Crime Commissioners (PCC) fund.

4 **CONCLUSIONS**

- 4.1 The Town Centre CCTV has reached a point where it has to be decided whether or not changes are made to the monitoring practise of the cameras, increasing the number of operators and therefore annual recurring costs.
- 4.2 The alternative would be for more stand-alone systems being introduced

5 **RISK ASSESSMENTS`**

- 5.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications:

Resources – The current annual fee for one operative is £96800. Whilst it is unlikely that this figure would necessarily be doubled if the monitoring resource were to be increased to two people, the contract is primarily one of provision of personnel, so it is likely that the annual fee will increase substantially. In addition, the existing monitoring station would be unsuitable for two people, so there would be a capital cost (unknown at this time) of creating a new monitoring office.

- Political – CCTV provides a feel safe factor to the public and is received well
- Reputation – This project should only enhance the reputation of the Council.
- Equality & Diversity – Not applicable

6 **RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE**

- 6.1 Consider whether to investigate the creation of a new CCTV suite to allow more personnel to monitor so that the CCTV system can be expanded, or
- 6.2 Alternatively, consider whether any policy of expansions of CCTV coverage could be based on stand -alone systems.
- 6.3 Support in principle any bids from parishes for CSP or PCC funding for stand-alone systems, including officer technical support where appropriate.

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