

## **FUTURE PROVISION OF CCTV IN CARMARTHENSHIRE**

### **Introduction**

The Council owned CCTV system is to be replaced by a new system being introduced by the Heddlu Dyfed Powys Police (HDPP). This report outlines the current system, planned new system and implications the Council needs to consider.

### **Existing Council CCTV system**

The Council owns an 87 camera system which covers Llanelli (39), Carmarthen (31), Ammanford (14) and Burry Port (3), with the majority of these based in the town centres.

At the Council's Executive Board on the 11 May 2015, it was:

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to confirm the proposal supported by Council on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2015 [resolution 4.1.4 thereof refers] to "withdraw the remaining funding for live CCTV monitoring and cease the service generating a potential further saving of £104k; CCTV cameras will remain on and recording but any reviewing of recorded footage would have to be undertaken by the Police".

As a result, since July 2015 the cameras have not been proactively monitored but continue to be recorded for the police to review footage if required. There was an informal agreement with the Police that maintenance relating to the upkeep of the camera equipment would be funded by the Police on a case-by-case basis. However, due to reductions in funding and a change in direction by the new Dyfed Powys Police and Crime Commissioner (appointed May 2016) regarding the re-introduction of a new CCTV system across the Police force area, the existing cameras have not been proactively maintained and, as a result, only 32 cameras (of the 87) are currently working.

### **New Heddlu Dyfed Powys Police (HDPP) CCTV system**

When elected in May 2016 one of the Dyfed Powys Police and Crime Commissioner's pledges was to reinvest in the CCTV system across Dyfed Powys. As a result, the Heddlu Dyfed Powys Police (HDPP) CCTV Project, which was approved in 2017, will see a reinvestment in a modern CCTV infrastructure which will be centrally monitored (by the Police) and will consist of 116 camera sites in 17 towns across the Heddlu Dyfed Powys Police Force area. 46 of those cameras will be in Carmarthenshire, located as follows:

- Llanelli (19);
- Carmarthen (17);
- Ammanford (10).

45 of these cameras will be at existing CCTV locations with 1 new camera location to be added in Ammanford. The location of these cameras have been determined as a result of crime pattern analysis which demonstrates an operational requirement for a camera at that site.

The new cameras are due to be installed by the end of July 2018. A briefing document has been produced by the Police outlining the vision, scope and timescales for the HDPP CCTV project which will be delivered in 4 Stages (attached as Appendix 1). The introduction of the new system in Carmarthenshire is included in Stage 1 (along with Builth Wells, Newtown and Saundersfoot). Stage 2 will cover Ceredigion and the remainder of Powys and Stage 3 will cover the remainder of Pembrokeshire. Stage 4 of the project is yet to be confirmed, but will be scoped over the next few months. This will consider if there is an option to further increase the number of camera sites in each county. This is dependent on the capacity of the system, available budget and crime pattern analysis of identified additional sites.

### **Memorandum of Understanding**

The HDPP CCTV Project Team have drafted a Memorandum of Understanding for the Police and Council relating to the new system. Key considerations for the Council are as follows:

- HDPP have requested consent to utilise designated lighting columns (6) and/or CCTV poles (27) owned by the Council for the purpose of installing the new CCTV cameras. The lighting columns are owned by the Highways Division and the CCTV poles are owned by the Community Safety Team. In addition, it is recommended that the CCTV poles are transferred from the Community Safety Team to the Highways Division. There is no allocated budget for the management of the CCTV poles.
- The Council is asked to agree to fund the electricity fees associated with the HDPP CCTV system. The Council currently pays these costs for the existing 87 cameras and costs circa £6,200 per annum. Based on funding the 46 cameras to be included in the new system, an approximate annual cost of between £3,000-£3,500 would be incurred. In addition, it is recommended that £4,000 of revenue budget is transferred to the Highways Division to fund the electricity costs of the HDPP CCTV system.
- The Council would remain responsible for the on-going maintenance and repair of street furniture (poles and columns).

### **Council cameras not being taken on by the HDPP CCTV system**

A total of 42 existing Council cameras are not included within the initial scope of the HDPP CCTV new system. Based on information provided by the Police in January 2018 only 15 of these cameras are currently working. The current system is now almost 20-years old and is therefore dated compared to the new HDPP CCTV system which is being introduced.

The Council will need to take a decision on the future use of the remaining 42 cameras.

If continuation of the cameras is agreed, funding will need to be allocated to get the camera working (if currently not working) and to ensure on-going maintenance of camera and running costs of BT links for the system back to the designated base where footage would be reviewed. Cameras would continue to feed back to a police station but would not be monitored as part of the new system at Headquarters, just reviewed retrospectively if needed, or alternative recording arrangements could be

put in place by the new owner. The BT links that have been established to enable viewing at police stations currently incur an annual fee. The current Carmarthen links run from Friars Park Police Station which is due to be vacated by the Police by the end of 2018. If the system is to continue those BT links at Friars Park would need to be moved to other police premises which would incur a further capital cost. This could also be an issue if planned changes at Llanelli Police Station progress.

Certain Council departments have been identified as being directly affected by the change in system:

- Leisure (Ian Jones);
- Highways and Transport services (Stephen Pilliner, Meirion Jones and John McEvoy).

Officers in those departments have been notified of the proposed scheme and of the cameras which are not included within its scope. They have been asked to confirm if they would wish on-going CCTV coverage at the locations that affect their services.

Leisure Services have indicated an interest in maintaining certain cameras at Llanelli Leisure Centre and Millennium Coastal Path and Parking Services have indicated that they would want to maintain 3 cameras at the multi-storey car park in Llanelli. A final decision would need to be made once the associated costs are known.

No contact has yet been made with the relevant town councils (Llanelli Town, Llanelli Rural, Ammanford, Carmarthen and Pembrey & Burry Port) who will be interested and/or affected by the change in CCTV system. The County Council will need to inform these partners so that they can begin discussions relating to the cameras affected and seek agreement of future use of assets. This is likely to be a particular issue in Burry Port as the current system includes 3 cameras, none of which are included in the new HDPP CCTV system.

Once Council departments and Town Councils have identified any cameras which they would like to maintain, costs for repairing any cameras/links currently not working will need to be obtained in order for final decisions to be made.

Any cameras which are no longer needed would need to be disposed of (along with removal of any wall brackets and poles used exclusively for hosting the CCTV camera) as they are of no residual value due to their age and technological improvements. Disposal arrangements, including costs, will need to be confirmed but the works could be undertaken by the Council's Highways Department.

There are two options to consider:

#### Option 1

Shut down and de-commission the remaining 42 Council cameras. Discussion with any Council departments and Town Councils affected by this change would need to be taken forward. If any Council departments or Town Councils want to ensure future CCTV coverage they will need to make their own arrangements in terms of establishing new kit and arrangements for monitoring recorded footage. Any new systems would be the responsibility of the relevant Council department or Town Council. There is a possibility that additional cameras could be introduced as part of the HDPP CCTV system, this will be considered as part of Stage 4 of their programme in 2019. The Police and Crime Commissioner has also indicated that one-off capital funding may be available for services/organisations wanting to develop stand-alone systems where current coverage may be lost.

## Option 2

County Council commissions a review of the cameras outside of the scope of the HDPP CCTV system. The review would ascertain the costs of bringing the cameras that Council departments or Town Councils wish to retain back into service along with the maintenance and running costs of the system. Decision on future continuation would then need to be made.

## **Transfer of assets**

As a result of the Police moving premises from Friars Park Police Station, Carmarthen to Headquarters a small number of assets from the existing Council system have already been formally transferred to the Police. This consists of two plasma television screens and a digital recorder.

## **Recommendations**

1. To note the proposed approach and implications for the Council of the introduction of a new HDPP CCTV system.
2. The Council agrees to allow HDDP to utilise designated lighting columns and CCTV poles to host the new HDPP CCTV system.
3. The Council agrees to fund electricity fees associated with the HDPP CCTV cameras.
4. That ownership of the CCTV poles is transferred from the Community Safety Team to the Highways Division. An allocation of the budget for electricity costs is transferred and that the Highways Department be responsible for paying related electricity costs.
5. To agree future approach for remaining Council cameras, either  
Option1  
Shut down and de-commission the remaining 42 Council cameras  
or  
Option2  
County Council commissions a review of the cameras outside of the scope of the HDPP CCTV system. The review would ascertain the costs of bringing the cameras that Council departments or Town Councils wish to retain back into service. This may include renewal of cameras due to dated/out of service technology.
6. Discussions are held with affected Council departments and Town or Community Councils regarding the chosen option.