

CCTV PARTNERSHIP JOINT COMMITTEE
15 JANUARY 2020

***PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

TITLE OF REPORT: EAST HERTS CCTV GOVERNANCE REVIEW

REPORT OF: HEAD OF HOUSING AND HEALTH, EAST HERTS COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: NEIGHBOURHOODS, EAST HERTS COUNCIL

COUNCIL PRIORITY :

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To inform the Committee of the work which has recently commenced between East Herts Council and the Town Councils for Hertford, Ware and Bishop's Stortford regarding the way CCTV is governed within the district of East Herts. A number of options are being considered, some of which could potentially have implications for the Hertfordshire CCTV Partnership, hence, members of the Joint CCTV Executive Committee are being given an early briefing.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1. That the Committee notes the work being carried out by East Herts Council and the Town Councils of Hertford, Ware and Bishop's Stortford to review the CCTV governance arrangements within the district of East Herts.
- 2.2. That the Officer Management Board be asked to review any emerging options in detail and refer any substantive issues and implications to a future Joint Executive CCTV Committee for consideration.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1. To keep the Committee fully informed of the work recently started in East Herts to review how decisions on the operation and strategic direction of CCTV cameras in Hertford, Ware and Bishop's Stortford town centres is managed and to direct the Officer Management Board to identify any substantive implications for the CCTV Partnership as they emerge and refer these to the Joint Executive CCTV Committee for consideration.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1. To bring final proposals to the Joint Executive CCTV Committee rather than to provide this early briefing – REJECTED as the Officer Management Board believes it is important that members are informed about the deliberations in East Herts at this early stage as, ultimately, specific proposals could have implications for the CCTV Partnership.

5. CONSULTATION WITH RELEVANT MEMBERS AND EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

- 5.1. The Officer Management Board has been kept informed of the work in East Herts by East Herts Council's Head of Housing and Health. This report now seeks to inform the Joint Executive CCTV Committee of the work conducted thus far.

6. FORWARD PLAN

- 6.1 This report does not contain a recommendation on a key Executive decision and has therefore not been referred to in the Forward Plan.

7. BACKGROUND

- 7.1. Prior to East Herts Council joining the Hertfordshire CCTV Partnership, the cameras in Hertford town centre and some in Ware and Bishop's Stortford were provided and managed by the town councils for those areas. When East Herts Council joined the Partnership, the governance of the cameras was combined and a single charge was levied by Stevenage BC to East Herts Council; this provided all to benefit from economies of scale. Consequently, East Herts Council recharges the town councils in proportion to the number of cameras in each of the towns. Thus, in effect, East Herts Council acts as the umbrella organisation for the town councils.
- 7.2. As time has passed, the details of the governance arrangements within the district of East Herts have become less clear. For example, while not a matter directly for the CCTV Partnership to consider, it is worth noting that there has recently been a lack of clarity within East Herts as to which body(ies) have the ultimate say on camera replacements and the introduction of new cameras. On occasion, this has also proved confusing for the CCTV Service provided by Stevenage BC.
- 7.3. Given this local situation, East Herts Council's Executive Member for Neighbourhoods recently asked that officers of the district council and the three town councils jointly consider options for (re)creating a more direct governance link between the town councils and the CCTV provider for the Partnership, that is, Stevenage BC, with the aim of streamlining decision-making about operational matters, notably camera maintenance and replacement, and more strategic matters including the number and siting of cameras in the town centres.

8. RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

CCTV Governance in East Herts

- 8.1. In October 2019, officers of East Herts Council and the Town Councils for Hertford, Ware and Bishop's Stortford met to begin to consider governance options. No firm proposals have yet been made, however, three broad options have emerged. These are discussed in the table below:

Potential option	Pros and cons	Issues for the CCTV Partnership
Status quo	<p>Pros</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established approach <p>Cons</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Doesn't address confusion about ultimate responsibility for operational and strategic decisions 	<p>None</p> <p>although some continued possible confusion about decision-making in East Herts that could impact operational matters managed by Stevenage BC</p>
CCTV 'board' established within East Herts to oversee management of CCTV, with East Herts Council remaining a partner of, and East Herts representative to, the Hertfordshire CCTV Partnership	<p>Pros</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides a mechanism within East Herts for clarifying decision-making between the different local government tiers Maintains the existing relationship between East Herts Council and the Partnership <p>Cons</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retains the current 'distance' between those ultimately responsible for the CCTV in their towns (the town councils) and the CCTV Services provider (Stevenage BC) Retains the need for East Herts Council to recharge the town councils, a mechanism that could otherwise be simplified 	<p>None</p> <p>although it is likely that potential confusion for Stevenage BC about decision-making in East Herts would be removed as East Herts Council would be able to give a clear view formed collectively by the East Herts CCTV 'board'</p>
A direct contractual relationship is formed between the town councils and the CCTV Partnership	<p>Pros</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides a direct relationship between those ultimately responsible for the CCTV in their towns (the town councils) and the CCTV Services provider (Stevenage BC) Removes the need to recharge between East Herts Council and the town councils <p>Cons</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adds to the number of contractual relationships to be managed by the CCTV Partnership and, in particular, Stevenage BC Could bring into question East Herts Council's membership of the CCTV Partnership (although the district council could remain a client/partner by virtue of its own cameras) which could possible impact more broadly on the Partnership 	<p>Depending on the nature of any new relationships agreed between the town councils and the CCTV Partnership, this option could have implications for the workload of the CCTV Services provider (Stevenage BC) and the governance of the Partnership (including legal and financial implications)</p>

- 8.2. The Officer Management Board briefly considered the emerging options at its meeting on 9th December 2019. The Board, and East Herts Council more specifically, recognises that amended governance arrangements within East Herts *could* potentially have wider implications for other Partnership members. Therefore, the Officer Management Board is recommending the Joint CCTV Executive Committee requests that the Board reviews any options in detail as they emerge and refers any substantive issues and implications to a future Joint Executive CCTV Committee for consideration.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1. The Terms of Reference for the Joint CCTV Partnership Committee afford members the responsibility *'To discuss and agree the strategic and policy issues relating to the jointly owned and operated CCTV Control Room and Monitoring Service'*. While the matters discussed in this report do not have any immediate legal implications, the review currently underway in East Herts has the potential to impact on the wider working of the Partnership and so it is appropriate to brief members at this stage.
- 9.2. Any future proposals regarding the governance of CCTV in East Herts that could potentially have substantive implications for the Partnership will be brought to a future Committee meeting. Legal advice will be provided at the time as appropriate. It is to be expected that East Herts Council will only decide whether or not to proceed with any future proposals having taken into account its legal obligations under the existing Partnership Agreement and related documentation.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1. There are no financial implications for the CCTV Partnership arising simply from the governance review taking place in East Herts.
- 10.2. Any future proposals regarding the governance of CCTV in East Herts that could potentially have substantive implications for the Partnership will be brought to a future Committee meeting. Financial advice will be provided at the time as appropriate. It is to be expected that East Herts Council will only decide whether or not to proceed with any future proposals having taken into account its financial obligations under the existing Partnership Agreement and related documentation.

11. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1. None arising directly from this report.
- 11.2. It is noted, however, that any change to cameras, including the number of cameras and management and governance of those cameras, by any of the partners has the potential to affect the other partners. The Partnership Agreement puts conditions in place to try to manage these implications and risks.

12. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1. In line with the Public Sector Equality Duty, public bodies must, in the exercise of their functions, give due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

12.2. There are no specific equalities implications in relation to this report.

13. SOCIAL VALUE IMPLICATIONS

13.1. The Social Value Act and “go local” requirements do not apply to this report.

14. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

14.1. There are no direct HR implications arising from this report.

15. APPENDICES

15.1. None.

16. CONTACT OFFICERS

16.1. Jonathan Geall, Head of Housing and Health, East Herts Council,
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17. BACKGROUND PAPERS

17.1. None